

MIM Notes



February 15, 2003, Nº 276 The Official Newsletter of the Maoist Internationalist Movement (MIM) Free

Amerika marches toward

Quality, not just quantity

Message to radical reformists and the anti-war movement

In Montreal, a marcher witnessing MIM's newspaper distribution on January 18th turned around while still marching forward to say we should not give MIM Notes to marchers but instead the people on the streets just watching. While we did give out papers to anyone passing by and gawking, we do not agree with the "you're preaching to the converted" line.



Our politicians try hard to convince us that voting every two years is what politics is. On the one hand, electoral politics bore people to death. On the other hand, lever-pulling also provides simple enough release for those who

want to return to uninterrupted shopping and Nintendo.

Likewise, marching is not the goal in itself. By participating in a march, one does not free oneself from greater

Continued on page 4...

'State of Union' is old news

Bu(II)shit detector:
Former inspector
Ritter explains details

by MC5, January 30 2003

Bush's "State of the Union" address January 28th and subsequent war-mongering on dutiful CNN and other media outlets may have had some effect on public opinion. It appears that the public is not used to hearing George Bush attempt to argue facts of weapons of mass destruction in Iraq, and many have momentarily given him the benefit of the doubt now that he has mentioned some concrete details.

However, the points being addressed by Bush and the media lapdogs have all arisen before. On points of politics and history, Bush claims to want Hussein out for using chemical weapons in the past, but Reagan and Bush Sr. gave Saddam Hussein aid and took him off the list of countries sponsoring terrorism, precisely when he used chemical weapons against his internal enemies and Iran as Marine Scott Ritter notes on page 20 of his new book, "War on Iraq: What Team Bush Doesn't Want You to Know" (Context Books, New York, 2002).

Ritter's book also anticipated all the detailed questions on weapons coming up right now. On points of weapons of mass destruction, for example, using what is for it an unusual pop-up ad on its website on January 30, the New York Times raised questions concerning anthrax, botulinum toxin, sarin, mustard gas and VX nerve agent.

The New York Times has failed to provide any context while mentioning these horrible weapons:

*Ritter says there was VX nerve agent, but it would have degraded by now if Hussein had hidden it. He would need a new factory and he does not have it. (pp. 36-7)

Continued on page 8...

Korea: Déjà vu all over again

Review by mim4@mim.org
2 February 2003

Reading of the standoff between the Clinton administration and north Korea over the latter's nuclear reactor at Yongbyon in Bruce Cumings' 1997 book *Korea's Place in the Sun*, one is reminded of Mao's dictum, "Make trouble, fail, make trouble again, fail again... till their doom—that is the logic of the imperialists and all reactionaries..." Cumings quotes extensively from bourgeois-mouthpiece editorials written ten years ago that could have appeared today, as they use the same, tired, non-specific invective.

For example, Cumings chides the fishwrap hacks of the early nineties for

manufacturing the appearance of north Korean aggression by claiming that the north's army was concentrated near the demilitarized zone between north and south Korea—without noting (a) that this was not out of the ordinary or (b) the south's army and the 37,000 American troops in Korea were also concentrated near the demilitarized zone (pp. 468-470). Compare that to the recent wire report "U.S. Satellites See N. Korea Activity," which contained no new information but alleged the north had "11,000 artillery pieces" "that could rain between 200,000 and 300,000 shells per hour on South Korea." No mention is made of south Korean firepower or the fact that the Americans have access to

nuclear artillery shells (and missiles and bombs). A shorter follow up story, "Pentagon: N. Korea Not Mobilizing Army" repeats the "11,000

artillery pieces" mantra verbatim.(1)

More striking—and more disturbing for those of us who don't want to see the capitalists nuke the humyn race into oblivion—Cumings' book reminds us that the earlier conflict also sprang from American nuclear threats. In January 1993, Bill Clinton authorized "Team Spirit" military exercises in Korea, based on a plan to invade the north which called for tactical nuclear strikes on "hard targets" like underground bunkers. Then the United States announced it was retargeting nuclear weapons from the former USSR to north Korea. North Korea responded by withdrawing from the Nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty—justifiably, since "it is a basic principle of the nonproliferation regime that countries without nuclear weapons not be threatened by those that possess them." North Korea rejoined the Treaty after "Team Spirit" stopped (pp. 474-475).

The Bush Administration made similar public threats in its Nuclear Policy Review, leaked last March.(2) The Review named north Korea as a potential nuclear target and talked of the need for

Continued on page 6...

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Letters

Chinese professor writes in

Dear MIM:

I am an economics professor in Beijing. On the one hand the students, all seem to know what happened at the 16th Congress. On the other hand there is no real forecasting that communism will spread greatly again. I know that Chinese communism has evolved in many ways. The view of students is that the Communist Party of China is improving China. The students are also realistic enough to point out problems. (They all know the rumors about the leaders' different girlfriends. So nothing is really secret.) Any one I have asked believes Nepal will eventually be communist. Though I have read one time in the Western media that China does not want that. But I very much doubt that idea.

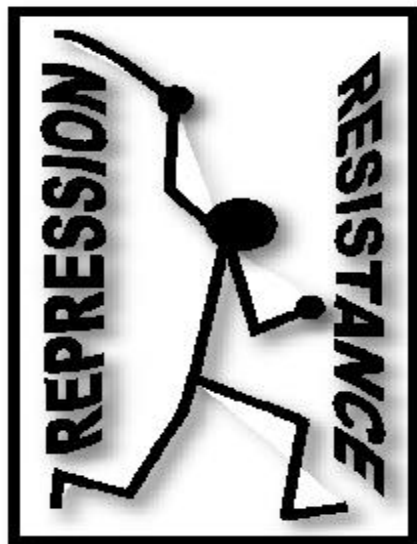
—December 2002

International Minister replies: There are times when capitalist countries enjoy sustained booms. The province of Taiwan, southern Korea and Japan did in the post- World War II era. For the students to observe that this is the case in state-capitalist China may be correct.

We do not say at MIM that capitalist countries never have booms. Once a country has had thorough land reform, a boom is possible. In China's case, the post-Mao leadership managed to make a deal with the u.\$ imperialists for a profitable trade relationship. It is part of

the imperialists' strategy of "peaceful evolution" of China and in our opinion it has worked already.

With regard to Nepal, it's not a matter just of the Western press. It's China's own official press calling the revolution in Nepal "ultraleft" and "terrorist." When it suits China or Putin's Russia, they would sell anybody to the u.\$ imperialists. However, some day in the future, when the Chinese people are sure they've had as much capitalist boom as they can enjoy, they will turn to socialism again, and at that time, they will know what Mao meant when he said socialism was "the only way out" for China.



Editor, MC206; Production, MC12

MIM Notes

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

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

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

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

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A call for MIM Notes sponsors and distributors!

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

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

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

Make anonymous money orders payable to "MIM." Send to MIM, attn: Camb. branch, PO Box 400559, Cambridge, MA 02140. Contact MIM in regards to this campaign by writing mim3@mim.org

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 do distribution, we suggest starting at 200 and working your way up higher. If you are not willing to do distribution, 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.

What is MIM?

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

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

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

Paying For Oppression

New Jersey prisoners may have to pay for incarceration

A New Jersey Prisoner brought to RAIL's attention a Bill that, if passed, would increase the oppression of prisoners and further consolidate national oppression. In essence, the bill would make prisoners responsible for paying for their own incarceration, and if unable, would give the state the right to seize and/or sell the property of inmates to cover the expenses.

An explanation of the bill, in typical bourgeois terminology states that NJ Senate Bill No. 373 "would make adult inmates in State correctional institutions responsible for their own support and maintenance and authorizes the State to place liens against the property and income of these inmates for the total cost of their care and maintenance."(1)

The explanation of the bill goes on to say that based on 1999 statistics, every year spent in prison would mean a debt of \$25,000 to the state. It also mentions that "it would be necessary to enforce any liens placed against the inmate's property and financial assets." That is, those who cannot afford to finance their own oppression would be forced to pay through confiscation of property etc.

Since the majority of New Jersey inmates are Black (63%), and since

"Hispanics" make up 18% of inmates, (2) New Jersey incarceration, just like incarceration throughout the rest of the country, represents one of the pillars of the oppression of the internal semi-colonies. Further, the fact that most inmates are poor or have relatively low incomes means that these debts will make it even more difficult for released prisoners to be able to survive.

Because of the rapid growth of the prison industrial complex and the increasing costs of keeping large numbers of people locked down, the state is seeking a way to alleviate its financial burden by passing it on to most oppressed and impoverished sections of the population. This absurd "solution" highlights the hypocrisy of the humanitarian rhetoric of the U.S. government and proves the futility of liberal "anti-crime" efforts. Obviously if rehabilitation were part of the imperialist prison system, the state would not send released inmates back into a situation where, owing to their huge debts and lack of income, they would be forced to commit crimes again. This situation would be further heightened if Bill 373 passes since it would mean 5-digit debts

for every year of prison.

RAIL looks to the Chinese socialist prison system under Mao Zedong as an example of how prisons can be used for rehabilitation—not national oppression. The Maoist prisons relied on study and self-criticism, and job training, to transform inmates who committed real crimes against the people, into productive members of society. RAIL understands that a real solution to crime cannot be attained under imperialism since Amerika's prisons main purpose is to perpetuate national oppression—not deter crimes.

RAIL is launching a campaign to stop Bill 373 from passing in the New Jersey Senate. See our petition on MIM's Website (3), or contact the following people to demand that the bill not be allowed to pass:

Senator Nicholas J. Sacco (primary sponsor):
9060 Palisade Avenue
North Bergen, NJ 07047
(201) 295-0200
SenSacco@njleg.org

Senator John H. Adler (primary

sponsor):

231 Route 70 East
Cherry Hill, NJ 08034-2421
(856) 428-3343
SenAdler@njleg.org

Senator Anthony R. Bucco (co-sponsor):

75 Bloomfield Ave.
3rd Floor
Denville, NJ 07834
(973) 627-9700
SenBucco@njleg.org

Senator Peter Inverso (Chair of the Senate Law and Public Safety Committee):

3691 Anottingham Way.
Hamilton, NJ 08690
(609) 586-1330
SenInverso@njleg.org

Notes:

1. www.njleg.state.nj.us/2000/Bills/S0500/426_F1.HTM
2. www.state.nj.us/corrections/offender_statistics/2001/2001_annrac.pdf
3. www.etext.org/Politics/MIM/ agitation/prisons/campaigns/nj/nj.html

Former security housing inmate exposes Cal. prison brutality

MIM and RAIL, working with other prison activist groups, have been waging a battle against the torture units called Security Housing Units (SHU) in California prisons. The SHU is segregation housing where prisoners are kept in their cells 23 hours a day, for years at a time. The SHU is used as punishment for prisoners who fight for their legal rights and protest guard abuse. Thousands of men are locked up in the SHU in California. Our petition campaign has already yielded thousands of signatures. And we are gaining support across the state.

Recently a former SHU prisoner contacted us to get involved. He scheduled a protest date at his college and sent us the following report:

"As for the petitions I only got to do it for about a hour, because I had to go see my parole officer. In that hour I did get about 54 signatures! Most people were real responsive to that and there were those who are sadists. I had one Corcoran C/O tell me that she hated that place because of all the horrible things that go on in there! She signed it! One lady told me that we had that coming and was glad there was such a place to put us in. Straight Nazi!"

This activist also sent the following report on life in the SHU to help expose conditions there and build the campaign to abolish the SHU.

Life within the Department of Corrections is not what most people think. It is a cruel and violent environment, full of manipulation tactics,

scare tactics, and physical abuse. The average person will probably say, "Good, that's what they get", "put a bunch of convicts together and they'll kill themselves." Truth be told this is not only done by the inmates, more commonly by the guards on orders of the administration officials.

Due to my constant struggle to fight the oppressive conditions, I was given an Indeterminate SHU term. In the process I was robbed by the CO's. They took all my valuable property, TV, Wedding Ring, Clothes, and other stuff.

More than likely it was given to their snitches. I filed a 602 [grievance] only to be given a 115 for forgery. A good way to clean up their crimes, blame me for it. Isn't that the story of my life.

Well, in the year that followed I received accommodations in a unlawful AD-SEG. Housed in a temporary AD-SEG for a year, only because I contested every infraction and injustice committed by the guards. Most of the 602s never made it out of the building, those that did were largely ignored. Every dirty trick they could think of was used to keep us

quiet. For the most part it worked on those who have no self-dignity.

Food served as a form of punishment on a daily basis. The games played with our food ranged from not giving us our food while it was still hot to withholding it from us. The guards allowed the food to sit there and collect dust from the vents or pass it out without wearing gloves or hair nets. Then there's always a little something extra in there for you to snack on (finger nails, dirt and what not).

These by no means are the real abusive
Continued on page 8...

New book sheds light on Huey's internationalism

Even mistaken, Huey Newton was better than contemporary pseudo-communists

The Huey P. Newton Reader
David Hilliard & Donald Weise, eds.
NY, NY: Seven Stories Press 2002
363 pp. hardcover
reviewed by MC5, January 2003

Huey Newton's wife and David Hilliard own the copyright to this book. Because not long ago it was very difficult to find the Black Panther writings in book form, we are thankful that yet another book has come out, even if it is \$35.

Most of the material is old and the new material comes from the period in which we at MIM believe the Black Panthers

were already in serious decline. A number of difficult turns in the struggle from 1969 found the Black Panthers increasingly disoriented, and if we are to believe Hilliard and others, Newton was personally disoriented by drugs in addition to the murders of his comrades and the confused interventions of the Vietnamese comrades at the time.

Having said all that before in previous MIM literature and having dealt with



much of the current book in our document "On the internal class structures of the internal semi-colonies,"(1) I would like to approach this subject from another angle. Hilliard's introduction makes the valuable observation that Huey Newton's writings on inter-communalism presaged "globalization" discussion today. In fact, Huey Newton's observations are more pointed and far-sighted than those today by authors of *Empire* Hardt and Negri.(2)

In the 1980s, the "Revolutionary Communist Party" was busy denigrating the Black Panthers, but today now that Newton is dead, they tend to most often mention the Black Panthers as having offered their leader Avakian secret membership. Another important claimant to the legacy is the African People's Socialist Party (APSP), and this book

Continued on page 5...

Message to the anti-war movement

Continued from page 1...

political responsibility to oneself and the world. Nor should the apathy of others justify one's own self-satisfaction with marching. A progressive outlook requires non-stop efforts at self-improvement.

The marchers in the anti-war movement are often new to politics. Not much separates them from those not marching. More importantly, even relatively political people can raise their level of political participation and skills, their quality of politics so-to-speak.

In politics, most people are all used to blaming leaders and doing nothing. This actually leaves the ruling class in place and even makes organizing difficult for non-rulers as well. An example is the Boston Phoenix coverage of the DC demonstration against the war. Posing as "alternative" bourgeoisie while having links to the Democratic Party, the Boston Phoenix said that the mentions of the Leonard Peltier case and Mumia Abu-Jamal's case at the DC rally were "self-indulgent" by the neo-Trotskyist activist leaders of the rally, who we at MIM disagree with but not the way the Phoenix does. Political cynicism has spread so far that now working on behalf of Leonard Peltier or Mumia Abu-Jamal is "self-indulgent." Listening to the Boston Phoenix cynics, one would think that these two political prisoners were writing checks or sending bon-bons to the activists who mention them at anti-war rallies. In contrast, we would argue that people supporting Leonard Peltier and Mumia Abu-Jamal just happen to know something about politics that the Phoenix liberals do not.

The Phoenix has made it clear in past articles that 911 has separated its writers from the world's radicals. The Phoenix called on Bush to turn to a liberal internationalist base in this period of turmoil to conduct war. Now the Phoenix is opposing the Iraq War, or is it? Where were they when Bush started the whole "pre-emptive" strike schtick—still trying to get Bush's pragmatic internationalist ear? The Phoenix sang a different tune after 911, but now it tells us that it was "left" all along: "On one side are purists who believe that almost any projection of US military and economic power beyond no-strings foreign aid and debt forgiveness is wrong. To many of this persuasion, the Al Qaeda attacks were 'blowback'—deeply tragic, but inevitable and thoroughly comprehensible. On the other side of the American left are pragmatists who can decipher the public mood and draw distinctions between a war of defense against Al Qaeda and the impending conflict against Iraq." What can we say but that the Phoenix is deeply out to lunch, raising the usual: "Will purists turn off deeper public opinion?"(1)

Alternative soul brother of the Phoenix the Village Voice said, "If the last march, in October, was the largest antiwar protest since the Vietnam era, Saturday's

march was easily as big?—or bigger. The networks nearly ignored October's demo, while several liberal critics, such as David Corn, called it 'a pander fest for the hard left' and expressed concern that the organizer of both marches, the International ANSWER Coalition, would 'prevent the antiwar movement from growing.'"(2)

Fellow alternative travelers at the LA Weekly piped in that defending "convicted cop killers like Mumia Abu-Jamal and H. Rap Brown as Workers World does, we said, was hardly the way to win over the millions we need to stop Bush." LA Weekly columnist Marc Cooper has made criticizing those who would dare connect 911 to Amerika's crimes abroad in any way something of a cottage industry.(3)

Yet, if the "alternative" bourgeoisie making its money on escort services and persynal ads equaled the activity of more dedicated anti-war people, there would no longer be an issue to discuss. Bush would have to back down and reorganize for a future fight. So we have to ask "pragmatic" toward what end, toward ending the war or selling newspaper ads or getting Democrats into power. We would suggest the Phoenix and Voice are often more concerned with the latter causes while drawing distinctions that are useful only in electoral politics, not in solving the actual problems facing the world right now.

Perhaps the "alternatives" should note that in just the past month, the United States threatened to attack a nuclear power in Korea; following U.S. logic, India's Defense Minister said India could afford to absorb some nuclear hits while Pakistan would be wiped out in such a war and people across the world are saying that an invasion of Iraq will trigger more terrorism and war. In such circumstances, it hardly matters if we turn off "deep" American public opinion. What matters is that we achieve the goals we have—peace. If Amerikkans are not ready to hear it, it does not mean we can afford to dump the goal! Amerikkans may find learning internationalism extremely painful—and we believe so painful it is only possible amidst violence—but it remains true that peaceful internationalism is necessary for species survival. That's either true or not. Getting a majority of Amerikkans on one's side does not necessarily do anything. Already a majority opposes intensifying the existing Iraq war without UN backing. Yet, that has done no good.

If every half-assed liberal or neo-liberal did half as much political work as the average radical, there'd be nothing to discuss: The Iraq War could not happen. The Phoenix has admitted that the more numerous but lazy liberals have not much anti-war activism to their credit: "Gitlin argued that the 'cynics of the hard left have moved to the front of the current antiwar movement.'" MIM would say it's true: a tiny minority has led the

If every half-assed liberal or neo-liberal did half as much political work as the average radical, there'd be nothing to discuss: The Iraq War could not happen.

movement and liberals have made few contributions except to provide big names from Hollywood and Jesse Jackson to show up at rallies and give speeches.

The Democratic and Republican parties do not dominate by the ardour of their political activists. In fact, strictly by the numbers, the Democrats, Republicans, Libertarians and people calling themselves "socialist" are four camps of people with roughly equal numbers. Looking at Yahoo! group memberships, one can see that the largest are not necessarily the Democrats and Republicans. These two parties dominate through use of their government power, money, media and habit. The Libertarians recently pointed out that their website gets more traffic than the Democratic Party's.

That's right: let's be clear there is an issue of quality. Tens of millions pull the levers for Democrats and Republicans, but that fact is of no use to the peace movement. If 200,000 people had shown up in DC waving Mao's Red Book while calling for an end to the war, we can be sure the overall political situation would be such that there'd be some concerted efforts by Bush to compromise on the war with the Boston Phoenix wing of the "alternative" bourgeoisie, a.k.a. an underground section of the Democratic Party. They'd be working on how to save face, not coercing the entire UN into going Bush's way. After all, Bush is less likely to send the military abroad if half a million Maoists could stroll into DC in the meantime. It's sad that MIM has to spell that out, but after generations of television and softcore pornography "reading," the country has forgotten the relationship established since the American Revolution of 1776 between demonstrations and power.

The Boston Phoenix and others are constantly calling for watering down without regard for what is necessary in these dangerous, imperialist-militarist times. Kudos to Adrian Brune for recognizing that she preferred to go home on the "Peter Pan bus that screened a shiny, happy teen flick" instead of a political activist bus. Now if she would only wonder why even teen flicks are

more interesting than politics, she would know why Phoenix liberals cannot be taken seriously when the goal is peace.

We can only give the Phoenix's Richard Byrne credit for his analysis of the media: "On the ABC affiliate, the three dozen counter-protestors received *more* airtime than the approximately 110,000 antiwar marchers. Coverage time on the local CBS affiliate was roughly equal." We do not mind adding that some "alternative" city papers did not cover the DC rally at all—the Philadelphia "City Paper" and the Baltimore "City Paper," judging by their web pages for instance. Byrne concludes we have to compromise with the mainstream media so they do better next time. We at MIM conclude we have to build our own.

That brings us to the next point. If the people in just one of the many marches gave as much money to print MIM Notes as we MIM members do, MIM Notes circulation would already be one billion. It again raises the question of depth of commitment beyond marching occasionally and voting. If the mainstream media chooses to give equal time to a small knot of yahoos, it does not have to matter. MIM Notes with a circulation of a mere 20 million would cover things correctly and politics would suddenly look a lot different, and that's not to mention the other institutions MIM is building.

Compromising when you do not have power is not pragmatic: it is completely unrealistic. Bush is not going to give in because he receives a mixed message from people who vote sometimes. The lesser-evil as the Phoenix perceived by covering the radical versus liberal split more than the counter-protestors is to side with the most radical internationalists to be found.

People who want to see Bush and the Democrats forced to turn in a different direction are going to have to see the MIM pole grow to a position of public prominence: that is pragmatism. Getting weasel words together is not pragmatism: it does nothing to improve the people and their movements. Until we can guarantee everyone an honest living under socialism, do not take away the job of bourgeois politicians: leave the weasel wording and compromises to them and join the people working for thoroughgoing internationalism, the only real guarantee of security and peace. If you want to go on voting for liberals and attending silent candle-light vigils, do it, but give us your money. That would be real pragmatism.

Notes:

1. www.bostonphoenix.com/boston/news_features/top/features/documents/02664251.htm
2. www.villagevoice.com/issues/0304/kaplan.php
3. www.laweekly.com/ink/03/04/dissonance-cooper.php

Wash. Post invokes Stalin to oppose anti-war movement

On January 21st, the Washington Post desperately slandered the anti-war movement and Stalinism in an article by Michael Kelly titled "Marching with Stalinists." The Washington Post is one of the premier political newspapers of the United States and certainly should know things about history, such as Trotsky, Stalin etc., right? Think again.

Editor of the "Atlantic" and Washington Post columnist Kelly said, "International ANSWER (Act Now to Stop War and End Racism) is a front group for the communist Workers World Party. The Workers World Party is, literally, a Stalinist organization. It rose out of a split within the old Socialist Workers Party over the Soviet Union's 1956 invasion of Hungary — the breakaway Workers World Party was all for the invasion."

The New York Times echoed the sentiment on January 24th in an article by Lynette Clemetson: "Some of the group's chief organizers are active in the Workers World Party, a radical Socialist group with roots in the Stalin-era Soviet Union."

On January 23rd, MIM wrote the ombudsman at the Washington Post the

following letter:

"Dear Washington Post Ombudsman: We defenders of Stalin at the Maoist Internationalist Movement are deeply aggrieved by your naming the Workers World Party 'Stalinist' for their support of the invasion of Hungary in 1956 in Michael Kelly's column: <http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/articles/A25043-2003Jan21.html> We would have written Kelly, but we do not see his email address.

"Bush Sr. supported Stalin's attack on Hitler: does that make Bush Sr. a 'Stalinist'? When the West invaded Germany after World War II did it become 'Stalinist'? Would the Allies have reacted favorably if a Nazi movement stirred to seize power in their zones of Germany in the 1950s? Do you think Eisenhower would have stood there and allowed it to happen to avoid your calling him 'Stalinist'? Were you aware that Hungary also sided with Hitler during the war?"

"Hopefully you realize that one foreign policy decision does not make one 'Stalinist.' The Workers World Party is descended from a Trotskyist party and to this day refers to Trotsky favorably, not

Stalin. If you need proof, read their documents such as: <http://www.workers.org/marcy/perestroika/glossary.html> They also quote the bourgeois and Trotskyist line on the Hitler-Stalin pact here: <http://www.workers.org/marcy/1991/sm910627.html>

"You can call us schismatic, but if you are going to try to get into the details, try to get the schisms right! As it stands, your article is the crudest sort of red-baiting.

"Sincerely, International Minister Maoist Internationalist Movement"

As of February 2nd, there was no reply from the Washington Post, so we sent another letter:

"Dear Washington Post Ombudsman: On January 23rd, I sent you the message below and I have heard no reply from anyone.

"You can check the Workers World Party website for yourself. Here is an example: 'Khrushchev's report placed Stalin in the dock of history as a mass murderer, as one who had exterminated hundreds of thousands of loyal communists, leading cadres of the party and of the military, and had resorted,

through his agents, to physical torture, mass deportations, and the destruction of inner-party democracy, among many other crimes. ...

"Of course much, in fact most, of what Khrushchev had reported on had long been known in the West and certainly in the Soviet Union.' <http://www.workers.org/marcy/cd/samclass/class/pcnvrt02.htm>

"The Workers World Party has never been 'Stalinist.' You should admit that you are simply out of your waters when it comes to these questions.

"Sincerely, International Minister Maoist Internationalist Movement"

It was obviously Kelly's intention to scare people into not supporting the anti-war movement. Yet in trying to get involved in the issues he revealed either an astonishing ignorance or an equally astonishing willingness to lie. The fact that the New York Times joined in on the inaccurate politics shows that the East Coast Establishment political newspapers do not know what they are talking about. People should rely on the Internet as opposed to mainstream newspapers. It's possible to get accurate information on the Internet.

New book sheds light on Huey's internationalism

Continued from page 3...

goes further to justify the kind of eclectic politics that the APSP has taken up. More and more material from the BPP in the mid-1970s shows up as the background for the APSP. (We at MIM are not able to verify all this material, not having seen it before.)

Newton himself came to refer to the period that we at MIM uphold as "revolutionary cultism." Hence, in this collection we see the whole justification for a right-ward turn in strategy in the 1970s as a matter of getting back in touch with the people—going to church, working with Black capitalists to promote their businesses and pushing candidates.

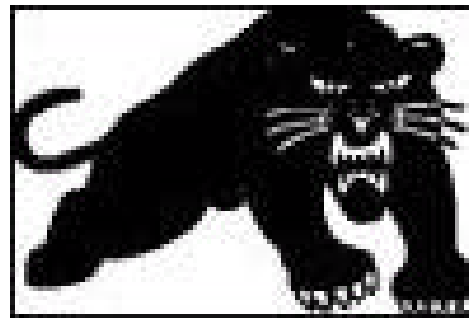
Although he increasingly focused on his theory of intercommunalism, Newton continued to have scattered quotables on other questions such as "democracy." "Democracy in America (bourgeois democracy) means nothing more than the domination of the majority over the minority. . . . Our children still die, our youth still suffer from malnutrition, our middle-aged people still suffer from sickle-cell anemia and our elderly still face unbearable poverty and hardship they reach the twilight period of their lives with nothing to sustain them through these difficult times. Where is the democracy in any of this for Black people?" (p. 212)

As we noted before,(1) Huey Newton believed that the lumpen-proletariat was going to become the majority of society and make revolution. It's 2003 and it has not happened yet, but the strategy of the 1970s hinged on that analysis of Huey

Newton's. With such a force coming forward, Huey Newton believed it was important to stay in touch with the Black people and not get too far ahead of them. He believed he was responsible for the party's getting too far ahead in the 1966 to 1969 period. Nonetheless, just as he evaluated the 1966 to 1969 period, we can sum up today the aftermath and we hope that all dialectical materialists following Huey Newton's thought will recognize and account fully for the fact that the lumpen did not become the majority, and thus by Newton's own analysis, there was no majority revolutionary vehicle. We also then have to question whether his strategies accomplished what he wanted or merely ended up catering to the enemy classes, since no lumpen majority arose.

Newton thought that most people of his day were bought off but that the lumpen was going to increasingly dominate inside u.s. borders. In this sense, the sense of reality as it actually developed, MIM remains in line with Huey Newton's thought. At the same time, even in decline, it stands out that Huey Newton was leagues ahead of people like Avakian and the APSP.

Today, Avakian's party says the majority of surplus-value comes from within u.s. borders and opposes the dictatorship of the proletariat by placing its hopes on the labor aristocracy majority. In contrast, Huey Newton went too far with his inter-communalism theory, but it was much more correct—even basically correct—when we compare it to what the white nationalists (RCP) and Black nationalists (APSP) are saying today as they rename labor



aristocracies "proletariat."

We at MIM still call ourselves "internationalist" while Newton said it was time to move beyond internationalism. Yet we will point out that Avakian calls himself internationalist while Newton was actually moreso in his theory of intercommunalism.

Huey Newton was correct that times had changed from the era of colonialism and nations containing land masses that were difficult to reach from other nations. Newton pointed out that the whole globe can now be circled in less than a day with modern transport, so it became possible for u.s. imperialism to truly dominate the whole world and make one global "empire."

"In order to plan a real intercommunal economy we will have to acknowledge how the world is hooked up. We also have to acknowledge that nations have not existed for some time. . . . I do not believe that history can be backtracked. . . . The United States, in order to correct its robbery of the world, will have to first return much of which it has stolen. I don't see how we can talk about socialism when the problem is world distribution. I think this is what Marx meant when he

talked about the non-state." (pp. 172-3)

Since in that speech at Boston College in 1970 and several other places Newton made it clear that his theory of intercommunalism started from the standpoint of asking how to abolish exploitation, we recognize his work as basically correct. In contrast, Avakian and open social-democracy is not working to end exploitation, because it does not acknowledge exploitation's existence as part of its tactics pursuing the exploiter majority.

While Newton made an ultra-left error in saying Mao did not have a state, that organized armed force was not a state and that world distribution necessitated a leap to communism's "non-state," his focus on u.s. empire and ending its exploitation was correct and made it possible to count his theory as friendly to MIM's. What he called a non-state and "uniting against a common enemy" we called "joint dictatorship of the proletariat of the oppressed nations over imperialism." MIM is talking about the same thing, just without the idea that there is no state except the U.s. state that Newton pushed. Newton's idea on states went too far, but on the other hand, his instinct that most people using the word "socialism" meant national socialism of one kind or another was correct. None but the National Bolsheviks (neo-Nazis) are better fitted to benefit from Avakian-type "theory."

Notes:

1. www.etext.org/Politics/MIM/contemp/internalclass3.htm
2. www.etext.org/Politics/MIM/bookstore/books/commie/hardt.html

Korea: Déjà vu all over again

bunker-busting nuclear weapons. North Korea cited this “open declaration of nuclear war” when it again withdrew from the Nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty on January 10 of this year.(3) Thus, in each case, American saber-rattling preceded any discussion of a north Korean nuclear weapons program. (It wasn’t until last November that U.S. Assistant Secretary of State James Kelly claimed north Korean officials told him they were developing nuclear weapons—something the north has strongly denied (4), although you’d never know that reading the New York Times.)

Cummings does a public service reviewing the history of U.S. nuclear weapons in Korea, which the United States acknowledges were there at least from 1958 to 1991 (pp. 477-483). This sordid story includes several near-misses, including after the famous 1976 axe fight in the demilitarized zone. Evidently the commanding U.S. general received permission to delegate authority to launch artillery and rocket strikes, “yielding the possibility that tactical nuclear weapons might be used without central command and control” (p. 481). Cummings also mentions the “formidable” south Korean nuclear weapons program begun in the seventies, something government mouthpieces fail to note when they rail against north Korea’s alleged program (p. 482). Cummings quotes American government sources, making it clear that “Korean lives were hostage” to American nuclear policy aimed at containing north Korea, China, and even its allies in south Korea and Japan (p. 480).

Cummings is a bourgeois internationalist and believes economic cooperation between north and south Korea and the United States can avert war. There is some truth to this—at least as far as cooperation between the north and south is concerned—and this makes Cummings preferable to say, George Bush. However, Cummings overlooks the inherent rapaciousness of U.S. imperialism. This leads him (for example) to overestimate the significance of the 1994 “Agreed Framework” deal where north Korea promised to shut down its nuclear reactors in exchange for fuel oil, more modern reactors, and peace negotiations from the United States. “[By the turn of the century, i.e. now] if all goes well, the United States and the DPRK [north Korea] should finally have established full diplomatic relations and the North’s energy program should be in full compliance with the energy regime.”(p. 486)

The United States reneged on almost every promise it made in the “Agreed Framework.”(4) Nuclear reactors which were supposed to go on-line this year are far from completion (only the concrete foundations are there). No peace talks or talks on normalizing U.S.-north Korea relations have been held. The United

States had been supplying north Korea with fuel oil (when the north shut down its reactors it became dependent on outsiders for its energy needs) but the Bush regime stopped these shipments at the end of last year—another factor behind north Korea’s decision to restart its reactors.

Cummings’ rosy predictions have failed because the United States saw an opportunity in the north’s distress, caused in part by loss of subsidies from the former Soviet Union and natural disasters—and exacerbated by U.S. policy. For example, due to lack of electrical power, the north’s fertilizer production fell by more than 80% in the nineties, severely hampering its modern agricultural sector.(4) Why compromise when you can starve ‘em out and have it all? Notably much of the foot dragging on the “Agreed Framework” occurred during the Clinton administration.(5) Although Clinton may have been too clever to put north Korea in the “axis of evil” or whine about how much he “loathes” north Korean leader Kim Jong Il, his fundamental policy towards north Korea was not much different than Bush’s.

Nor are the Americans’ aggressive moves solely aimed at the north. These provocations provide them with an excuse to keep increasingly unpopular American troops in south Korea—or even increase them.(6) The American imperialists also seem to be wary of a unified Korea as a competitor. MIM has argued that the Americans are willing to share their booty with European and Japanese imperialists in order to promote “peaceful” joint exploitation of the Third World—but that’s no guarantee the Americans are willing to offer that deal to emerging capitalist powers in Asia.(7) Some imperialists clearly do not want that. Since the “Asian financial crisis” the United States has withdrawn some of the privileges granted south Korea and Taiwan (e.g. in terms of access to the U.S. market), and even called for the IMF to break up some of Korea’s large capitalist firms.

Ironically, however, U.S. machinations may drive the north and south together but out of the U.S. orbit—a possibility which has some at the New York Times nervously wringing their hands.(8) Completion of railway links between north and south will give south Korean capitalists greater access to Chinese and Russian markets, while strengthening north-south ties. Not coincidentally, the United States has obstructed the completion of these railway links.(9)

Aside from these contemporary issues, *Korea’s Place in the Sun* provides a useful overview of the Korean war and south Korea’s economic development. Cummings line on the Korean war is basically correct: it began as a civil war with roots in indigenous social conflicts (e.g. peasants vs. landlords) and was

transformed into an American war of aggression (p. 298). The puppet south Korean regime had almost completely collapsed by the time the United States landed its troops in Pusan (pp. 267-268). Cummings also devotes a sub-chapter (pp. 243-247) to American support for the unpopular Rhee regime during the guerrilla war in south Korea that preceded the conflict with the north.

MIM has written elsewhere (9) that one of the reasons for the capitalist economic success of the “Four Tigers” (e.g. Korea and Taiwan) was communist-inspired land reform (in the case of Korea, the Korean Communists actually carried out much of the land reform during the war). Cummings’ chapter on the post-war south Korean economy (pp. 299-336) gives another reason for its particular success: war profiteering. Then-president Park Chung Hee essentially sold the United States south Korean troops to use in Vietnam. “After several months of negotiations, the Koreans squeezed a large pile of cash and aid commitments out of Washington, estimated at \$7.5 million per division... [A]bout \$1 billion in American payments went to Korea in the period 1965-1970. Scholars estimated that this arrangement annually accounted for between 7 and 8 percent of Korea’s GDP in the period 1966-1969 and for as much as 19 percent of its total foreign earnings...

“Vietnam became a frontier for Korean enterprise... Vietnam absorbed 94 percent of Korea’s total steel exports and 52 percent of its export of transportation equipment... All this underlines the way in which warfare in East Asia was handmaiden to economic growth in the period 1935-1975.”(pp. 321-322)

Cummings later argues that the Korean path to capitalist success is a model for other Third World nations (p. 325). He’s missed the point of his own research, however. Most countries will not be given tons of dough by Uncle Sam along with access to American markets. South Korean leaders were fortuitously able to extract a “rent” from the Americans, basically because they were on the front lines of the revolutionary struggle. Other countries (e.g. the Philippines) have tried to do follow the Korean path and failed. As inflated as it is, the U.S. market is not big enough to suck up surplus product from more than a few select countries.

Although he’s somewhat sympathetic to the Korean Communists’ struggles against feudalism and foreign domination up to the Korean war, Cummings’ chapter on post-war north Korea is mostly disposable. More than two-thirds of the chapter is devoted to gossip, psy-war and psychoanalysis—the same kind of “to understand north Korea you have to understand Confucianism” crap that he correctly dismisses out-of-hand in the case of the south (pp. 300, 398-419). We do learn some interesting facts from the other third. For example, contrary to

Cummings own claims about the bankruptcy of the “self-sufficient model” for economic growth, the north Korean economy grew faster than the south’s from the end of the war until the middle seventies (pp. 423-424).

Bruce Cummings, *Korea’s Place in the Sun*, New York: W.W. Norton & Co, 1997. 527 pp. hb.

Notes:

1. Associated Press, 31 Jan 2003.
2. MIM Notes 255, 1 Apr 2002.
3. Korean Central News Agency, 10 Jan 2003, www.kcna.co.jp.
4. www.zmag.org/elich_korea.htm
5. Cummings also misread Jimmy Carter’s 1994 peace mission which led to the “Agreed Framework.” Cummings suggests that by announcing a potential deal live on CNN, Carter placed pressure on then Korean leader Kim Il Sung. Gregory Elich, on the other hand, argues persuasively that the live broadcast was meant to put pressure on the Clinton administration, which was gunning for war. “A State Department official later reflected, ‘The shocking thing about the Carter visit wasn’t that people were disappointed that someone was going. It was when he got the freeze, people here were crestfallen’” (see note 4).
6. “Admiral seeks deterrent force in Korea crisis,” New York Times, 1 Feb 02.
7. “Imperialism and its Class Structure 1997,” <http://www.etext.org/Politics/MIM/mt/imp97/index.html>.
7. “Seoul looks to new alliances,” New York Times, 26 Jan 2003.
8. See e.g. MIM Theory 4.
9. “U.S. Accused of Blocking ‘Sunshine Policy,’” Los Angeles Times, 15 Jan 2003.

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

Book review: *Korea's Place in the Sun*

Korea's Place in the Sun: A Modern History
by Bruce Cumings
W.W. Norton & Company, 1997
527 pp. pb.

MIM solicited and edited the following review from a Pennsylvania prisoner. We provided the prisoner with the book free of charge, thanks to a donation from a supporter. A review by MIM focusing on recent events starts on page 1 of this issue.

While most of the world only knows of Korea with the beginning and ending of the Korean War, Cumings explores the pre-Korean War period including the interests and power struggles of other nations affecting Korea, and the post-Korean War period including two military coups and several popular rebellions.

Cumings starts with an early history of Korea and in just the first two chapters covers in more detail of Korean history than is readily available in most history books. Korea has long been known as the "Hermit Kingdom," but most historians do not discuss the reasons why Korea struggled to become and stay the "Hermit Kingdom." Instead, they simply gloss Koreans "xenophobic." Cumings concludes Korean desire for isolation was the direct result of past foreign incursions into Asia, including examples such as "the Little War with the Heathen" (as the New York Herald called it), which involved one hundred French and American marines. Such invasions dating back as early as China's Opium Wars of 1839-42 molded Korea's attitudes towards foreigners.

Cumings third chapter covering 1905 to 1945 or the pre-Korean War period is perhaps the most thought-provoking part of the book. It details the deliberate undermining of Korea by other nations (China, Russia, Japan, British and the United States), all wanting a division of the Korean Peninsula into spheres of influence. When these negotiations failed, in 1904 Japan launched a surprise attack on the Russian fleet at Port Arthur. This led to the treaty signed in 1905, brokered by Theodore Roosevelt. Diplomatic notes exchanged between Roosevelt and the Japanese acknowledged a trade-off between the Philippines and Korea: Japan would not question American rights in its colony, and the U.S. would not challenge Japan's new protectorate. As long as the direction of Japanese imperialism was toward Korea and Manchuria, which pushed it away from the Philippines or the many British colonies, it had the blessing of London and Washington. Korea was simply used as a bargaining chip.

The Korean independence movement was so strong that the Japanese realized their repressive rule was out of date and began a "cultural policy" of tutoring Koreans for a distant day of independence (much as the United States

did in the Philippines). This, of course, was only a tool of subversion, so the Japanese could corral, co-opt, and moderate independence activists. Despite the many hardships Korean militants founded such groups as the Korean Communist Party (KCP), Uibyeong, Korean Provisional Government (KPG) and many more, all practicing internationalism and resistance.

Cumings points out that this resistance was not monolithic. "Japanese progress attracted many Koreans before 1905 and enticed or subverted all too many thereafter; colonial officials used divide-and-rule tactics, although more so after 1919 than before; far more Koreans serviced the colonial dictatorship than most would like to admit."

Modernization and exploitation went hand in hand under Japanese colonialism, which led to Koreans eating millet while exporting high quality rice to Japan. Korean enterprises were held back (the Japanese directly owned 70% of the businesses in Korea). The Japanese also used slave labor and forced 100,000-200,000 women and girls into sexual slavery as "comfort women."

Cumings dispels the notion that U.S. involvement in Korea began with the war that came in 1950. The critical period that led to national division and opposing states that still exist today was the years from 1943 to 1953, after WWII when Korea gained independence from Japan. There was no Korean justification for dividing Korea. Again the United States used Korea as a bargaining chip, this time as a buffer between them and their Cold War enemies, the USSR. The Americans ignored Koreans' needs to such a degree that they used the Japanese in Korea to retain control. South Korean opposition was suppressed and the peasant tenants' needs of redistribution of land blocked. The United States backed the landowning class, who during the colonial period profited while everybody else suffered.

While American "history" textbooks blame the North for a "sneak" attack and invasion, Cumings correctly concludes the Korean War was a civil war is based on internal contradictions of land, wealth and ideologies.

The Korean Communists fought a war on all fronts: Conventional, guerrilla, and political war over the people's committees and land reform. In other words, this was a people's war, like the subsequent war in Vietnam, and it also called forth an appalling American response. From the first days of war the Americans contemplated the use of atomic weapons in this "police action." The North has always been under the threat of nuclear annihilation, including the use of high radiation cobalt bombs for the effect of creating a "no-mans land" for at least 60 years cutting the Korean peninsula in half with a radiation band.

Regarding China's participation in the

war, Cumings argues that China entered the war not just to protect its border. Rather, Mao Tse-tung determined early in the war that if the North Koreans faltered, China had an obligation to come to their aid because of the sacrifice of so many Koreans in the Chinese revolution and the anti-Japanese resistance.

In conclusion, Cumings notes: "The true tragedy was not the war itself, for a civil conflict purely among Koreans might have resolved the extraordinary tensions generated by colonialism, national division and foreign intervention. The tragedy was that the war solved nothing, only the status quo ante was restored, only an armistice held the peace. Today the tensions and problems remain."

South Korea's economy was based on the U.S. willingness to indulge countries like Korea sitting on the fault lines of the cold war. Cumings points out that Syngman Rhee was a master at wheedling so many direct grants out of the U.S. that by the end of the 1950s they accounted for five-sixths of all Korean imports. The largesse of the U.S. was extreme, accounting for \$12 billion in the years of 1945-65, and for 100 percent of the ROK government budget in the 1950s. Rhee used the U.S. funds to create a modernized Korea and used anti-Japanese rhetoric to deflect attention away from the many Japanese collaborators who served in his government.

However the U.S. always wanted a "normalization" between Korea and Japan in an effort toward economic stability amongst its allies in Northeast Asia. It wasn't until Park Chung Hee's 1961 coup that this was realized. In this

normalization, and at a time when Korea's exports were 200 million, the ROK received from Japan a direct grant of 300 million, loans of 200 million, and private firms put in another 300 million in investments. Park used this influx of funds to realize his slogan "Chol un Kungnyok" (steel= national power). Park was also very adept at wheedling grants and loans exploiting such situations as the Vietnam War (see parallel review by MIM on page 1).

Those who praised South Korean development rarely spoke of the dark side of Korea, that despite having "the Miracle on the Han" South Korea had one of the most repressive and unstable political systems in the world. Park Chung Hee came to power in a coup and was ousted by a coup. Chun Doo Hwan, his replacement and head of the Military Intelligence, reinstated full martial law. Chun later agreed to permit election of the next president by direct popular vote but only after massive protests calling for democratic reforms. Roh Tae Woo was elected. However, under Roh the military co-existed with the ruling bloc while it exercised veto power over opposition groups. Roh arrested dissidents using the National Security Law at a rate of 3.3 per day during 1989. Roh's successor jailed Roh and Chun for the coup in December 1979 and the Kwangju massacre, where the military (with U.S. backing) killed over 1000 anti-dictatorship protestors. Present day Korea still has the National Security Law, under which any person who praises or encourages "anti-state activities" can be prosecuted, and North Korea remained defined as an "anti-state organization."

Cambridge rallies continue over three days

CAMBRIDGE, MA, January 20—Celebrating Martin Luther King's birthday, over 300 people demonstrated in freezing temperatures in Central Square before attending a sermon at Saint Peter's Episcopal Church on Massachusetts Avenue. MIM handed out over 100 copies of MIM Notes.

The demonstrators carried signs especially appropriate for Martin Luther King Day, such as "Stand with King in the spirit of peace." Another demonstrator carried a sign saying "war sucks."

The rally was an example of many events that continued over three days at a pace not seen outside of occasional student outbursts such as that at nearby Harvard University on behalf of the 10 dollar an hour minimum wage. There are many movements that can sustain a one



A Cambridge banner.

demonstration event, but sustaining energy over consecutive days is more difficult. If the situation with Iraq continues into the spring without decisive U.S. victory, we can predict that it should be a hot one politically based on the upswing in determination and numbers seen in the streets.

Former inspector Ritter explains Iraq arms details

* Regarding biological weapons, if the united States were so concerned it would not have supported Richard Butler and Dick Spertzel in their refusal to conduct biological weapons inspections because of fear they would prove Iraq right.(p. 43)

* Iraq has anthrax somewhere as Bush mentioned in his "State of the Union" speech, but it is useless.(p. 42) Bush was disingenuous when saying that the anthrax could kill millions of people. Not accounting for it does not change the fact that it cannot be effective anymore. Most of his details in the speech refer to things from the UN inspections up to 1998, things already addressed by Ritter.

The New York Times also talks about some aluminum tubes and attempted uranium purchases by Iraq,(1) but Ritter points out that a real nuclear weapons program is not a matter of some aluminum and uranium. It takes tens of billions of dollars and Ritter says the process emits substances detectable by Big Brother—U.S. spy technologies. Talking about how "high intelligence" in England supposedly caught someone trying to buy uranium makes great theater, but it is dishonest when that same "high intelligence" knows that more goes into making a nuclear bomb. What the New York Times leaves out is discussion

of whether or not Ritter is correct that the Uncle Sam would have to know if Iraq were producing nuclear weapons.

The New York Times is also not talking about the context for why no one believes there is an Iraq and Al-Qaeda connection. No where does it mention that Iraq's laws call for a death sentence for proselytizing for Bin Laden's religion.(p. 49) The failure to at least mention the facts suggesting the unlikely nature of an Al-Qaeda/Iraq connection proves the "biased" nature of most of the mainstream media ready to put forward sensational connections between people who have sworn to kill each other in the past.

It's a measure of the fear-mongering times that conservative Republican Scott Ritter who voted for Bush in 2000 has been called a "traitor" in what is a conflict between conservatives and neo-conservatives. Ritter believes that politically the u.s. imperialists should stick with the old formula of allying with monarchies in the Arab oil-producing countries. Throwing out Hussein and really allowing democracy would make Iran too powerful, says Ritter, because the majority of Iraqi people (unlike Saddam Hussein) come from the same religious group as Iran. Neo-conservatives talk about occupations and "revolution" in the Middle East and they have the upper hand in the form of

Donald Rumsfeld, Richard Pearle and Paul Wolfowitz.(p. 66)

MIM does not put forward the line that weapons proliferation is impossible in Iraq. Quite the contrary, we hold that capitalism makes weapons proliferation a global inevitability. Ritter, Bush, Cheney—despite their intra-ruling class fight—all have what we could call the "Sum of All Fears" paradigm, to mention a movie that the public may be more familiar than the politics involved behind the Iraq War.(2) An example would be Ritter's statement: "The manufacture of chemical weapons emits vented gases that would have been detected by now if they existed. We've been watching, via satellite and other means, and have seen none of this. If Iraq was producing weapons today, we'd have definitive proof, plain and simple." (p. 37) For these rulers, it's a matter of tracking individual weapons and plants, the same way a department store has video cameras to watch shoplifters.

All of this makes interesting reading. For example, Ritter explains how Butler designed some inspections to have no value other than provoking the Iraqis so that the united States would have an excuse to bomb Iraq in 1998.

Ritter ends the book saying he puts U.S. interests first and not sympathy for the Iraqi people. Yet, he should know that the world is now too small for there to

be a meaningful difference between Iraqi and U.S. people when it comes to weapons proliferation and war. As he said himself, "if either the United States or Israel were to use a nuke against Iraq, I guarantee within ten years the United States would be struck by a terrorist nuclear bomb."(p. 65) Ritter says Iraq, Iran and Pakistan will cooperate with terrorists and give them nukes if the United States pushes too hard. That is exactly the sort of reason amongst many others like it that world citizens need to arise—proletarian internationalists. Nations trying to exist at the expense of other nations will inevitably produce the final extermination of the species.

Notes:

1. See countless articles parroting Bush's line on the nefarious aluminum tubes. In a report issued the weekend before Bush's speech, the head of the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) said he found no evidence that Iraq had processed the tubes for use in a nuclear program. He noted that the tubes had immediate uses in conventional weaponry. The Washington Post (29 Jan 2003) devoted three paragraphs at the end of an article to the IAEA's analysis; the New York Times (27 Jan 2003) gave it a half sentence.

2. See MIM's review in MIM Notes 275 or online at www.etext.org/Politics/MIM/movies.

Former security housing inmate exposes Cal. prison brutality

conditions they impose. For all the hard work I put in to stop the oppressive conditions, I suffered several torture sessions. Around May 2001, my cell mate and I were placed on the yard for over 4 1/2 hours in 104 degree heat with no shade or a way to cover up. Our protests were ignored by the guard who told us "you punks want yard well here it is." I suffered severe sun burns to my back, arms, legs and chest. Unable to move for a week I kept asking for medical attention, only to be told it's about time you get some color. I had not seen sun light in about 4-5 months prior to that. Even the MTA just walked by laughing at me.

Once I was better I filed a 602 for medical attention (to date the 602 has still not been responded to). I filed many 602's in the year that followed only to be ignored. For my complaints I was treated the same again a few months later, but this time it was a 10 hour stint. The only good thing is that it was not as hot that day or who knows, I could have died! The 602 process is in dire need of revamping and implementation of some type of monitoring system.

In the SHU we hardly go out to the yard, but once a week. That's if the guards aren't acting like pricks and holding the cages. The law is that we are to get something like 10 hours a week, however that is not the case at Corcoran

SHU. There one is lucky to see the light of day twice a month.

The worst injustice in Corcoran SHU is the taking of books! It not only is an injustice to the Prisoners, but to the community as well. By taking the books CDC hope to keep the inmate population underfoot and ignorant to the injustices that they face on a daily basis. It is a plain attempt to impede the rehabilitation of any inmate who wishes to better himself through education. With no educational material CDC hopes to keep the inmates preoccupied with mind dulling nonsense. What do they fear that the inmate might learn? A better form of living for himself and his family? That is one question that we all need to ask ourselves, Why is education so dangerous to these people? It is job security that's what it is! Keep them locked up or coming back, anything to have that next check.

While I was in the SHU I had several books and [drawings]. These items are often up for grabs when one leaves the cell. I went to yard one day to have my artwork stolen by a guard who I would not give one to. He had asked me for one for some time, but I would rather use it for T.P. than to give it to one of them. Well, this C/O went in to my cell and took them all when I was at yard that day. I tried to file a 602 only to be told that it was contraband and that, that C/O did not work my unit that day. I and others say

him in the unit, but who is going to believe us?

Thank god for the military training I have or else I do not know if I could have handled that SHU's total lack of human contact (out side the ass beating by the guards). I was not in contact with another person since 2000. I can only say that I am so happy to be out of there and don't have to go through that again. I could sit here and tell you all the horrible thing that go on in there, but I would rather forget some of them.

We constantly update MIM's coverage of the U.S. war on our web site, with news and opinion, agitation materials, articles in English, Spanish, French, Chinese and Russian!
Read and distribute the newspaper -- and get the latest:
[www.etext.org/ Politics/MIM](http://www.etext.org/Politics/MIM)



Peru: Toledo's Electoral Circus

By **El Diario Internacional**

Translated by **Studies for the Liberation of Aztlan and Latin America**

A brief description of the participants

In theory there is no problem demonstrating that the electoral process is a mere tool of manipulation for the groups holding state power. We have thus stated that elections are periodically staged for the purpose of concealing the unpopular character and anti-democratic essence of the State and the imposed political system. We've also said that the different types of elections, presidential, parliamentary, local and by referendum are intended as the crux of State schemes and campaigns which are designed to alienate and swindle the poor masses. Depending on the specific conditions of each country, the electoral process serves as an escape valve for the great social tension within the system (El Diario Internacional No. 62).

In particular, an ingenious plan for controlling the population and above all for covering up the severe crisis which the government of Alejandro Toledo is currently undergoing is the call to elect a mayor and the municipal elections held on November 17, 2002. There is little doubt that this Sunday's elections function to distract the masses in the midst of immense accumulated social strife which continues to mount and can only result in a time-bomb that will detonate in the face of those who currently control the State. These elections whose participants are ex-fujimoristas, known traffickers in politics and all manner of fugitives bear the same characteristics as those carried out by the previous mafia government. For example, the elections are marked by the militarization of the country, where the military continues to be the seat of power. According to the Minister of the Interior, almost 95 thousand police have been mobilized to "safeguard the comedians." The Minister Gino Costa said that surveillance would "be intense by air and land employing MI-17 helicopters, Yankee-12 planes and video" (Declarations, Gino Costa Santolalla, November 16, 2002). Another example is the aberrant fact that the corrupt and criminal military will be one of the institutions charged with safeguarding the purity of these elections. To achieve this goal and by edict of the National Council on Elections the military will receive copies of each electoral ballot. And in further coincidence with the fraudulent elections in the times of Fujimori and Montesinos, a delegation of 60 "observers" from the OEA were moved to Peru in order to "certify" electoral "purity."

The Candidates

If someone fails to grasp swindling and manipulative nature of these elections or

happens to harbor doubts about the criteria used in judging their character he need only review the history of the principal candidates. To begin with we must mention Michel Azcueta who is the principal candidate of "Possible Peru," a political group owned by Alejandro Toledo. Azcueta has a robust political curriculum and in 20 years has walked in and out of every political group in Peru. He was part of the organization known as "United Left". As a member of the "Left" he rallied votes for the presidential campaign of Alan Garcia Perez in 1985. Also with the "Left" he supported the electoral campaign of Alberto Fujimori (1990) and was in the service of the State when the Fujimori Mafia seized power. Later he appeared as a militant in the organization "Unity for Peru", which was led by Javier Perez de Cuellar and when this international functionary failed a presidential candidate, Azcueta had no problem declaring himself a militant of "We are Peru," an electoral organization led by right-winger Alberto Andrade, currently Mayor of Lima. Then in the midst of the crisis facing the Fujimori mafia, Azcueta changed sides again and emerged in support of the candidate Alejandro Toledo (2000). But the story doesn't end there as Azcueta still has time to affiliate himself with the party of "Camotillo el Tinterillo" [Stage name for candidate; see below -Trans.] who is now a candidate for the district of Lima.

Rolando Breña Pantoja is another one of the candidates and leader of what is known in Peru as "Patria Roja." This figure is the candidate of the movement called "New Left Movement" which is a second helping of whatever is left over from "United Left." It is well known, and we have treated it as such in an earlier article (El Diario Internacional No. 62) that "Patria Roja" is part of the legal and official left in the country and that like Michel Azcueta, Pantoja was travel companion to Alan Garcia Perez and Alberto Fujimori. The leaders of "Patria Roja" don't hold anything back when proclaiming that they've been at the forefront of organizing the paramilitary bands (both urban and rural tours) used by the military as part of their counterinsurgency campaigns. For "Patria Roja" the electoral manipulation of the masses is something necessary to their miserable political existence in the official field. Their proclamation that "political power grows from the barrel of a gun" is something like a musical verse which serves as topping for their electoral campaigns. For these elections "Patria Roja" has forged an alliance which corresponds to its unscrupulous and mobster-like nature. It has united itself with something calling itself "the communist party of Peru" (Unity). This organization survives because of deception and swindling. The CPP-Unity

climbed on the bandwagon of General Juan Velasco in 1968 and said that this military figure led the people of Peru "towards socialism." They have traded in all popular struggles and different governments have found in this organization their greatest ally in breaking up worker's struggles. This party was on the side of Garcia Perez and Alberto Fujimori. It supported the electoral campaign of Alejandro Toledo. During the 60's they survived from money from the ex-Soviet Union and when the Soviet Union collapsed, they officially declared bankruptcy.

Of the remaining candidates we can only say that they stem from Fujimorismo and from the filthiest right-wing trenches in the country. Here we'll find "Andean Renaissance" led by the comedian Tulio Loza, known by his stage name "Camotillo el Tinterillo." This character

has played the jester to each regime in turn and in between jokes and buffoonery of every kind he put himself on the side of each leader. Another of the candidates in these elections comes from "National Unity," a right wing group whose candidate for the mayoral chair in Lima is non other than Luis Castañeda Lossio, and ex-high functionary of the Fujimori government, accused of having looted Peru's social security. Alberto Andrade also appears as a candidate in these elections, current mayor of Lima and leader of the group "We are Peru." Andrade, who declares himself an admirer of Toledo seeks a re-election and gives but a sideways glance at accusations that link him to corruption in Lima's municipal fund. As competition, "Unity for Peru" created by Javier Perez de Cuellar also appears.

El Diario Internacional Brussels, November 16, 2002



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.

ABC report ignores facts about NY prisons

The following is a letter from a prisoner in NY addressed to ABC television reporter John Stossel regarding an issue that has been of continued concern in New York prisons, the "loaf." As detailed below, the loaf is used as a tool of social control in NY prisons. MIM supports the prisoners who took this issue to court as we support the guarantee of adequate food to all people. While this issue has been mocked in the bourgeois media, we take this opportunity to provide the other side of the story in the people's media. For more reporting on this topic, from a revolutionary perspective, see MIM Notes #118 and #253 (available on MIM's web site at www.etext.org/Politics/MIM).

John Stossel
ABC-Amerikkan Broadcast
Network
New York, New York
www.abc/john_stossel.com
December 5, 2002

Mr. Stossel:

Your recent manipulation of a "SERIOUS" issue "the loaf..." is appalling. This draconian torture method directly effects prisoner's health and your interview was deficient, and insultingly unprofessional by (NOT) bringing both positions of DOCS and Prisoners' concerns to the Public. Your interview further insults the intellect, integrity and sense of responsibility your profession is supposed to have whenever reporting on an issue. As well as, the viewers whom watched and voted on an issue without "FULL DISCLOSURE OF THE FACTS."

In many instances, prisoners are being abused with this form of torture by guards whom claimed to have been assaulted by prisoners. Your praising the sample loaf provided, which was probably fresh and warmed especially for your visit, is despicable. Usually, the loaf is baked 3-4 times a year and stored frozen. You made no mention that each prisoner on the loaf MUST be medically assessed daily for heart rates, blood pressure and weight. You further neglected to state to your viewers that single portions unit loafs are served "once" daily. No other food or portions are provided.

Yet, "You seemed surprised!" As a result of your reprehensibly inferior broadcast, viewers were duped into making comments like, "The Founding Fathers of the USA (I hope they are in heaven) must be looking down at us aghast at this perversion of what they meant as (cruel and unusual)!" Are these the same Founding Fathers that condoned and propagated Slavery for more than 400 years??? I think so. Also, to systemically and automatically agree with an Agency (Department Of corruption) which has a long history of abuse, lies, and inhumane atrocities since its inception is sloppy, unworthy journalism. Where was the prisoners view in this report???

One example of deception for profits: The Department Of Corruption lied publicly in seeking approval to build "Upstate Prison Complex." It was reported in Court documents that "Upstate" was to house the 'Most Dangerous' in the NYS prison system.

Under Lock & Key

News from Prisons & Prisoners

Since its completion, Upstate plantation has not housed, "The Worst of the Worst." It has, however, housed many non-violent infractions such as; drug-use, minor out of place and movement violations, minor disobeying direct order infractions. All contrary to its official statement to the Legislature and Courts for permission to build and its "alleged" purpose.

Furthermore, the Department of Corruption continues to violate Correction Law, New York Code of Rules and Regulations, and State Directives on criteria for placement and housing of Special Housing Unit (SHU) Prisoners by forcing SHU prisoners to Double Bunk with general population KEEP-LOCK status, regular cell confinement, prisoners. The contradictions in SHU verses Keep-Lock status are many. They range from the Right to Contact Visitations, Possessing Personal Property, and the Use of Mechanical Restraints; ie: Hand-cuffs, Waist-Chains and Leg Shackles whenever SHU prisoners exit the cage. Even during visitations. Thus, arbitrarily imposing additional sanctions not stipulated in administrative dispositions violates the RIGHT TO DUE PROCESS of prisoners for the sole purpose of filling Upstate. By doing this, the State creates additional liabilities upon tax-payers by housing the Non-Violent with the Violent.

In closing, "Where is professional journalism on these issues?" Noticeably absent! Upstate remains operational and under capacity without regard for the appropriate humane treatment of prisoners in order to boost the Northern tier economy on the backs of minority youth from the inner-cities. I'm sure your viewers would appreciate the truth concerning these issues? Looking forward to your professional journalistic response.

A prisoner of Consciousness...

PS: 20/20 aired this piece on September 13, the anniversary of Attica Riots. It should be remembered that NO prisoners killed the guards at Attica. ALL WERE KILLED BY STATE TROOPERS. NOT PRISONERS. SAD, BUT TRUE! May the spirits of the many prisoners that sacrificed so much be forever remembered with reverence.

EPA head supported CO rampage

All, or virtually all, politicians are down with the government's prison program. Here in NJ the former governor was an eyewitness to prisoners being dragged from their cells and savagely beaten by "GOON SQUADS" in one of the state prisons, and she (Gov. Christie Whitman) turned a blind eye. The prison was on a lock-down status at the time. Now this barbaric bitch is Bush's cabinet leader of the EPA on Capitol Hill. Those pigs terrorized that NJ prison for 30 days non-stop, randomly selecting prisoners to beat down,

because of the action of ONE prisoner who allegedly killed a pig, who was a known racist. DOZENS of prisoners who were beat have filed a joint civil suit against the state DOC for that pig rampage.

The same governor, during her tenure, secured the NJDOC vendor (commissary) contract for her husband's vendor business for all NJ state prisons. This commissary consists of generic products at inflated prices, much of which is past its expiration date. To top it off, we are charged a 10% surcharge for this overpriced garbage. Plus they charge us a 50 cent transaction fee for all money transactions. In addition they have cut back our inmate pay wages and before doing all of this, they take a cut of all our money, state-pay and incoming money, if you get it. Meanwhile the price of living continues to rise. They also charge us a \$5.00 medical co-payment to see the doctor, which 95+ is a complete waste of money cause they don't do NOTHING for you.

To illustrate this, in a recent NJ newspaper article, it was disclosed by the NJDOC commissioner, that out of the 24,000+ inmates in NJ, approx. 25% (ie. 6000) have Hepatitis C, and this was already known and nothing was being done about it. Of all these inmates ONLY ONE is right now being treated, and ONLY because that inmate filed a lawsuit to get treatment.

Ain't nothing else needs to be said. These actions against humanity can never be justified. Forget politics and litigation, compromising and negotiation, only one thing is going to stop this merry-go-round from hell... it's all out revolution... We can't alter history, but we can determine the future...

—A NJ Prisoner, December 2002

Indiana prisoners fight repression

History has time and time again showed us that oppression breeds resistance. This means that if you continue to mistreat a person, group or race of people and deny them their fundamental rights as human beings, they will eventually rise against the tyrant that created these conditions.

This is what happened at the Indiana State Prison (ISP) on January 9, 2003 in the Administrative Segregation Unit in D-Cellhouse on the Eastside in D- A/S. Over 40 prisoners in one of the units came out of their respective cells for recreation on their tier. None of these prisoners were armed (did not carry any weapons), and they were caged into and locked on the tier. These prisoners expressed that they were fed-up with the abuse and relentless cruelty being inflicted on prisoners in their unit on a daily basis at the hands of racist and sadistic prison officials. These prisoners demanded to see a prison captain to address violations prisoner human, civil and constitutional rights.

Instead, Major James Kimmel shows up and when prisoners attempted to talk to him, kimmel told them to fuck themselves and that he had nothing to discuss with them. He warned that if they didn't lock themselves back up in their cells the prison officials would use force. Kimmel then ordered guards to shoot tear gas canisters and rubber-coated bullets at unarmed prisoners who were clearly NOT a danger to the guards (they were locked up in the tier!). This particular unit was then placed on lock-down.

The racist Michigan City Newspaper printed an article in their January 11, 2003 issue about this incident, but from the article it appears the officials at ISP once again misinformed the public about the real causes behind the incident: It was the ISP administration who created the conditions that caused prisoners to stand against officials.

Since 1998 prisoners have filed hundreds of complaints with the ISP administration, with IDOC Central Office, with state representatives and congresspersons — each complaint about the many and endless

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.

violations carried out at this unit. But nothing has been done to stop them.

Here are some of the violations that prisoners have reported:

- (1) Low quality (unwholesome) and inadequate sustenance.
- (2) Collective punishment
- (3) Excessive retaliatory lock-downs
- (4) Retaliation for filing suits, exercising speech and engaging in social and progressive activities.
- (5) Religious persecution
- (6) Censorship of mail
- (7) Inadequate hygiene, clothing and bedding.
- (8) Substandard medical care
- (9) Indefinite administrative segregation without objective means of procuring release.
- (10) Denial of recreation without statutory authorization and denial of lavatory access during recreation and inadequate recreation time.
- (11) Arbitrary denial of visitation and telephone access.
- (12) Denial of education and rehabilitation programs.

The prisoners in this unit are denied the rights of basic human existence by the officials in both IDOC and ISP. This is why prisoners harbor resentment and why they acted with a sense of desperation in hopes of drawing attention to the human rights abuses being inflicted upon those housed in D-A/S.

On January 9, 2003 the Michigan City News dispatch did not report our side (the prisoner's side of the story), denying us the right to give our voice to the public.

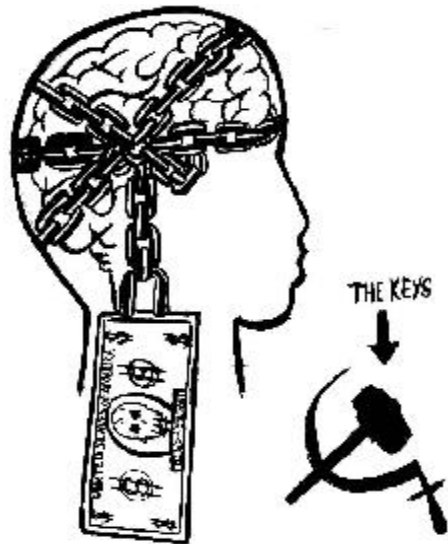
Treating prisoners in this unit like animals and not as human beings is not conducive to rehabilitation. ISP prison officials are not in the right. They are wrong and go about lying to the public about why prisoners resist. Their lies are against the public interest and prisoners have a right to peacefully demand better treatment. But the racist News-Dispatch refused to report the truth and seems to want to help prison officials look as if they are in the right.

Respectfully,

—A prisoner in Indiana, January 2003

Education: verboten! No real schooling in OK prisons

Trying to get higher education while forced to suffer decades of sensory deprivation in prison? Get set for eternal bureaucratic runaround because you can't get there from here. When prisoncrats say "education" they mean "GED". They pay lip service to



education, then make it impossible to get any beyond the three "R's". They want you to be able to sign confessions and receipts, but not much else.

This prison is typical: two teachers service 2000 captives. They have to provide "library" services too, (place discarded pulp fiction just out of reach of the cages.) They have to act as guards during mass ransacking of cages, sit on classification boards and vote in the guard's "courts," etc.

They have a \$70,000 per year school administrator to see that both teachers do their 4-hour per day jobs correctly. He also presides over correspondence courses. He has the catalogue/price list of permitted courses available from the state's colleges. No one can afford the price due to enforced poverty and forbidden business opportunities, but the gesture is there.

The office of correctional education division of the U. S. Department of Education is worthless. Their job appears to be to enjoy bloated federal paychecks to send form letters advising prisoners that no programs of any kind exist for state prisoners.

If you do manage to get past the money barrier, here are some courses you will not be permitted to complete and the excuses used to forbid them, often after you have paid for course and book: Chemistry (Drugs! Bombs! Poisons!) Electronics (you could unlock our solenoid operated gates!) Accounting (Tax fraud scams!) Non mainstream History/Sociology (Revolution! Subversion! Riot!) Writing (Subversion! Publicity! Profits!) Business (Business! Profits!) Math/Computer science (Secret codes/messages about drugs or escape plans!) Biology, Genetics, Physics, Earth science, (see Chemistry).

You get the idea. They fear you will rise above janitor and become smart enough to

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.

compete with them. They also suffer jealousy, envy and resentment. They have a mail guard who is the "literary review committee." He is an ignorant, spiteful person carefully schooled in suspicion and on how to create plausible scenarios of security risks from your attempts at activity. The guards and prisoncrats don't want you to have a pencil stub; they damnsure don't want you to learn to use one effectively.

Why? You'd blow their sadistic little gravy train vocation. You'd describe to others the mental atrocities guards perpetrate daily. You'd gain friends, empathy, benefactors and empowerment. You'd gradually get their harassment, torture, deprivation and mindless cruelty replaced with something worth living for, like education, arts, humanities and humane treatment. You might even make a profit, buy a time cut and change their rotten system from massive overkill to a modicum of fairness and honesty. Of course, nothing changes until you make the effort.

—an Oklahoma prisoner

CA prisons deny legal material

I am a prisoner with an active appeal in process. I have been in Administrative Segregation since July 12, 2002. I have made numerous requests to receive my legal property so I can submit my writ of habeas corpus before my time constraint is up. I did not know my exact date of my legal deadline or my case number by memory so I was denied my legal property. I wrote an inmate appeal CDC 602 complaining about my legal material and even asked the "appeal coordinator" to treat this matter as an emergency appeal being that my deadline is close, my time constraint could be up without me knowing, and my appeal will be lost because of the slow methods of regular CDC 602 appeals process. I was denied this by the appeals coordinator.

I then sent my CDC 602 to the informal level so the matter could be resolved. I spoke to Administrative Segregation Sergeant Ramose, when I was interviewed I explained to him that if the property officers would bring my legal material to Ad Seg I can show officers my legal deadline. But instead of doing what I requested Sgt. Ramose had me fill out some more request for legal property which were denied because I did not know my case numbers or my deadline that was needed in the request and to add to that, Sg. Ramose never returned the CDC 602 to me after the informal level time constraints was up. This forcing me to write another CDC 602 and waste away more time that was needed

in preparing my writ of Habeas Corpus.

After getting into a pen battle with the appeals' coordinator about how I've already been to the informal level in this matter and that ad seg sergeant never returned CDC 602 to me, the CDC 602 was sent back to the informal level to be heard by another sergeant. I then wrote a complaint against the Appeals Coordinator for hindering my appeals process. But I never received a response from him and when I send complaints to appeals coordinators superiors I still don't receive a response. When I did receive my legal material it was incomplete and a week away from my court appointed deadline. So I was forced to fight for my freedom by submitting to the courts an incomplete writ of Habeas Corpus.

Property officers told me upon giving me my legal material that "my legal material that I didn't get is under investigation by CDC because it was altered." I asked when it would be returned. Property Officer said "I may never see that legal work again." I still have a CDC 602 in on trying to obtain my legal material. This is a great injustice because CDC officials has held on to my legal property up until a week before my deadline and then they still hold on to my legal material claiming that it has been altered so they are investigating it and I may never see that legal work again.

This is denying me my right to fight for my freedom completely by holding on to my court transcripts. It makes you wonder if the transcripts they are holding has the only evidence to free you of your conviction so it's under investigation because it's altered, how long will this investigation keep you from fighting for your freedom? And if you never receive this evidence you are a free man spending the rest of your life in prison for a crime you never committed making you a product of a "Great Injustice." It is a constant battle, not only am I fighting the courts for my freedom, I'm also fighting "California Department of Corrections" for the material to fight for my freedom which is my personal property they refuse to let go to let me have.

I as well as others could lose all appeal rights because of correctional officers deciding what legal work you can and can not have and what they will take to investigate. You fill out these forms and the only way the correctional officers can find your legal property is if they read your personal property documents. So your right to privacy is being violated by correctional officers because of their unsupervised search for your legal material.

It shouldn't be this way, instead of CDC rehabilitating prisoner's to function better when we're free, they fight us hard to keep us in chains. Constantly, we are forced to either pick up the pen, the sword and or act like animals in the system to get anything done (Accomplished) by CDC officials. We must always remember that we are the struggle and as long as we stay strong the struggle will continue.

—a prisoner in CA, November 2002



Se intensifican las protestas del pueblo coreano contra las tropas estadounidenses

4 de diciembre, 2002

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

Los coreanos del sur continúan protestando contra la absolución de dos soldados americanos que habían aplastado a dos estudiantes coreanas con su vehículo militar en junio (1) a pesar de las disculpas tardías de Bush. Entre los manifestantes que han participado en las protestas están unos jóvenes militantes que lanzaron unos recipientes de cocktail Mólotov contra una instalación militar yanqui la semana pasada, y unos grupos religiosos que marcharon ayer en Seúl. (2)

Aunque no todos los manifestantes reunidos en torno a este incidente trágico más reciente creen que las 35,000 tropas americanas que se encuentran en el terreno coreano deberían marcharse- un dueño de un restaurante tomo la decisión de no poner en la ventana un póster diciendo “¡Yanquis, váyanse a su casa!” porque el mensaje era “demasiado fuerte” y, en cambio, puso un póster diciendo “Los americanos no están

bienvenidos aquí” (3)- más y más gente está viendo esta conexión. Un sacerdote anglicano entrevistado durante la protesta de ayer dijo: “En vez de ser asesinado por un vehículo militar estadounidense, preferiría morir por mano de nuestra propia gente en la Corea del Norte si es que hay guerra”. (2)

Como mencionamos en la última edición de MIM Notes, la opinión pública en la Corea del Sur se está volviendo en contra de EE.UU.; hasta bandas de música pop coreanas sacan videos antiamericanos. Tan sólo un tercio de los coreanos del sur entrevistados recientemente tenían una opinión favorable de EE.UU. comprando con casi dos tercios, en 1994. Más de 50% de la gente piensa que Bush está metiendo en líos a la Corea del Norte con el fin de vender aviones de caza al régimen títere de la Corea del Sur. (4)

Los norteamericanos deberían hacer mucho caso de lo que están diciendo sus ex-amigos en la Corea del Sur. No debería haber ninguna razón para que los coreanos sospechen una intervención con fines lucrativos en sus asuntos por parte de Bush, aunque



El militarismo amerikano trae muerte y la destrucción a la gente del mundo.

lo más probable es que sus sospechas tengan razón. Es bastante difícil llevarse bien tal como están las cosas. Los norteamericanos tienen que afrontar a sus líderes probélicos; hasta entonces no tienen porque quejarse de los dueños de restaurantes que les impiden disfrutar su barbacoa favorita en Seúl.

De hecho, los norteamericanos corren suerte si lo único que tienen que enfrentar son insultos en la calle o un boicoteo en un restaurante. Este año unos soldados norteamericanos fuera de guardia se enfrentaron con unos coreanos del sur que se encontraban camino a una protesta en contra del asesinato de las estudiantes. Aunque los testimonios de lo que pasó varían- según los coreanos, los soldados se burlaron de sus volantes y atacaron a un señor viejo que acabó en el hospital- lo importante es que los manifestantes forzaron a uno de los soldados a atender la manifestación y leer una declaración pidiendo disculpas por la muerte de las niñas y el ataque contra los manifestantes.

Por un lado, es probable que aquel soldado en particular no tenía nada que ver con la muerte de las niñas y no había sido más que un “testigo inocente”. Por otro lado, todo el personal militar había sido mandado a Corea como un ejército ocupante lo cual lo convierte en un obvio blanco del resentimiento por parte del pueblo coreano. El MIM responde a los

militares estadounidenses que se sienten atrapados: “pues sí, están Uds. atrapados”. Los imperialistas se pueden dar el lujo de permitir que unas cuantas personas sufran las consecuencias de sus sistema. Aquellos militares que reconocen que son parte de un sistema bélico deberían intentar dejar de serla por medio de oponerse a algunas de (o todas) las responsabilidades. Definitivamente no deben permitir que su rabia afecte a los coreanos.

El MIM no se opone al intento de los manifestantes coreanos del sur de organizar campañas educativas esporádicas. Teóricamente, estaban haciendo lo mismo que hizo el gobierno revolucionario de China al encarcelar a Allyn y Adelle Rickett por su actividad de espionaje justo antes de la Guerra Coreana. Según lo describen los Rickett en su libro Prisioneros de la Liberación, su encarcelamiento y autocrítica forzada les obligó a deshacerse de sus presunciones chovinistas sobre la superioridad de las vidas norteamericanas e intereses personales frente a las de los coreanos o chinos.

Fuentes consultadas:

1. MIM Notes 261, 1 julio 2002; MIM Notes 262, 15 julio 2002.
2. Video AP, 3 diciembre 2002.
3. Los Angeles Times, 27 Nov 2002.
4. MIM Notes 272, 15 diciembre 2002.

¿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 basicos: (1) El MIM sostiene que después que el proletariado conquiste el poder estatal, existira 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 ms 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 basicos, 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:

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