

MIM Notes



April 15, 2003, Nº 280

The Official Newsletter of the Maoist Internationalist Movement (MIM)

Free

THOUSANDS RISE AGAINST U\$. INVASION

NEW YORK RALLIES AGAINST THE WAR

Manhattan, March 22

Demonstrators packed more than 20 blocks of Broadway and marched toward Washington Square on a sunny and comfortable Saturday afternoon. Three women stepped forward to help MIM Notes distribution at the rally. The Manhattan demonstration marked a record month for MIM distribution and the day after it, the MIM web site showed that weekly website traffic was up 50% over the previous month.

As usual there were a lot of bullshit arrests at the demonstration, but compared with the previous New York demonstration, this one went much more smoothly with much less police cost. Perhaps New York City found itself embarrassed how Washington DC managed to run a rally with thousands fewer cops than New York did.

One police source estimated over 200,000 demonstrators,(1) and that is evident from the ground level; however, without a helicopter, it would have been impossible to see the whole demonstration, so MIM offers no official estimate. Estimates ran from over 100,000 to one million. Even on some of the same television stations, headlines varied based on who they quoted.

Illusions about Democrats

According to CNN, the vast majority of Democrats in Congress voted yet again to support the war on March 21st: "The House resolution, approved on a 392-11 vote, 'expresses the unequivocal support and appreciation of the nation' to

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Anti-American protests in Seoul, Buenos Aires, Zurich, Pakistan, Greece, and Paris were among thousands around the world.

Tidal wave of public opinion against Iraq war

Global anti-Americanism is just and necessary for eventual world peace

People often ask us at the Maoist Internationalist Movement, "how can you make any political headway by insulting the people you should be organizing?" We get this question most often when we speak of the "Amerikkkan," who we accuse of national supremacist ideas.

In 90% of the world's countries and historical situations, our critic is right, just

not in the case of U\$. imperialism and imperialism today generally. In most countries, it makes no sense to insult the majority of the population or tell them to their face that they are today's equivalent of Nazis or other repugnant national or racial supremacists.

George W. Bush is repeatedly mentioning the word "appeasement" when speaking of those who oppose war on Iraq. The term "appeasement" referred to England's stance toward Nazi-

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U\$A fakes terror in Philippines

Last spring, following a series of bombings on the southern Philippine island of Mindanao, Philippine President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo convinced lawmakers to pass a tough "anti-terror" bill. While several of the groups charged with the bombings denied any involvement, evidence is mounting against one group Macapagal-Arroyo has not charged: the United States government.

Amerikan Michael Meiring lost both his legs and suffered second and third degree

burns over 40% of his body when a bomb exploded inside his Davao City hotel room on 16 May, 2002. He was eventually charged with terrorism. "City prosecutor Raul

Bendico said ... Meiring apparently attempted to set up explosives intended to blow up Evergreen Hotel when the explosion went off..."(1)

Meiring was under police guard at a Davao City hospital when agents of the U\$. Federal Bureau of Investigation and National Security Agency whisked him to a chartered plane and a hospital in Manila. Amerikan vice-consul Michael Newbill paid Meiring's Davao City hospital bill. While in Manila, only Meiring's doctor, handpicked by the U\$. Embassy, had access to him. Meiring was later flown to San Diego.(1)

According to one of Meiring's friends, the U\$. Embassy claimed "that Michael would never be charged with a crime in connection with the explosion. The investigation will end up at a stone wall. Michael will be protected and eventually taken back to the safety of the United

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ANTI-WAR ACTIVISTS SHUT DOWN SAN FRANCISCO

San Francisco, March 20

Thousands of anti-war activists took to the streets of San Francisco starting at 7am this morning, staging civil disobedience throughout the downtown area to shut down streets and prevent business as usual. Organized by the anarchist Direct Action to Stop the War, the protest focused on 20 key intersections from which organizers encouraged people to pick and put together their own groups for a protest. Over 1,000 arrests are estimated by 7pm and some demonstrators are still in the streets. This followed a demonstration attended by thousands who marched through pouring rain the night before deploring Bush's 48 hour deadline to Iraq. Most of these protesters were still in the streets on the 19th when we got word from passers-by that the bombs had started falling. Activists in San Francisco are showing the world that they understand the seriousness of the imperialist war on Iraq and they are willing to make sacrifices, stay out all day and night, to stand up against the Amerikan empire.

Throughout the day groups of people, ranging from groups of 20 to several thousand, picked intersections and sat down. These protests gathered strength as others joined in. The police then moved in to the intersections, surrounded and arrested those who refused to move from the street. Some intersections were held by protesters for hours as police were unable to get from one location to another or gather together enough troops to take on the crowds. Some protesters chained themselves to cement blocks to make it harder for police to move them. After several attempts protesters finally were able to get past police in the evening to blockade the ramps to the bridge across the bay, a key source of after work traffic.

Protests also shut down key businesses

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Letters

MIM gets it right on Democrats

Dear MIM,

Fabulous analysis on Kerry and other Southern democrat races in Dec. '02 MIM Notes [MN271]. The essay told me more than I'd ever get from sources like "The Nation," which now appears to be nothing but a smokescreen of nonsense put out by political writers barking at each other—a mere diversion for persons who have not yet learned that both parties are a meta-party of elite I like to call "gluttons of privilege."

— an Oklahoma prisoner,
15 March 2003

NDF comrade says 'Carry on the Maoist thought!'

Dear MIM:

I am a revolutionary cultural worker in the philippines. I admire your support for the philippine national democratic revolution. ... Anyway, it was nice to know that there are other marxist, leninist and maoist people in the world under the MIM. Long live the international working class movement!

—Comrade X,
March 2003

Anarchist says not to support Amazon

Dear MIM:

I'm writing in regards to your movie review section on your website. First, I must say that I'm impressed by the amount of movies you've been able to review and find them very entertaining. I do, however, have one concern. You recommend many movies to the public and even supply a link to a website that distributes the particular movie. My concern is that the distributor is almost always amazon.com. It seems curious to me that anti-capitalists would encourage others to buy from a huge corporation who is a known union-buster. It would be great if alternatives could be found and used instead of relying on capitalists at amazon to bring the revolution.

Take the struggle to the people!
—an Anarchist reader, March, 2003

Web Minister responds for MIM: MIM is recommending a number of Hollywood movies, by which we mean movies financed by imperialism through monopoly controlled-banks. This has to do with our take on applying a dialectical materialist view.

We at MIM do not believe all good things come from alternative lifestyles somehow outside the system. Nor do we necessarily love the petty-bourgeoisie more than the "huge corporation."

Instead, we believe capitalism dialectically gives rise to its grave-diggers. That means we believe in this case that Hollywood does give rise to some movies—maybe 5% or 10% (an estimate

is something we have yet to vote on at MIM)—that tend to undercut capitalism.

If we target Amazon, it does not stop the fact that the monopoly capitalist film producers have their monopoly capitalist distribution networks. The IWW incorrectly targets monopoly capitalists for boycotts based on raising the status of the petty-bourgeoisie instead of the interests of the proletariat.

The IWW has disproportionate presence in bookstores in the USA. Thus, we receive letters like this one asking us to support reform struggles for bookstore wages.

However, if we boycott Amazon, it means that people will buy more of their movies at malls. The same malls throwing out people for buying and then wearing peace t-shirts will benefit if we boycott Amazon. Read for example about the Crossgates Mall near Albany, New York that had some t-shirt wearers arrested. That's the nature of the capitalist system.

Hence, in fighting reform struggles like the IWW is fighting for bookstore workers makes it even more crucial to correctly define friends and enemies. A strike can only succeed within such a system by playing one capitalist faction against

another while also mobilizing the workers. Boycotting Amazon necessarily benefits another faction of capitalists: that's why we call it a system.

That means that every struggle that rewards the Amerikkkan petty-bourgeoisie leaves us one less faction of capitalists to play off on behalf of the international proletariat. MIM would rather at this moment be punishing the mall capitalists for illegally stopping peace movement activities on their premises than punishing Amazon for busting a petty-bourgeois union.

Such choices have to be made all the time—even in our reform struggles. At root, the oppressed and exploited of Iraq should carry much more weight in our minds at the moment than the bookstore unions of the u.s.a. The security guard lost his job for arresting the t-shirt wearers in the Crossgates Mall. We say good riddance. Let the monopoly capitalists come down from their offices and arrest people in the mall themselves and let all security guards heed this example. We don't need any sympathy for the petty-bourgeoisie that is going to stop us from correctly focussing our fire.

Note: <http://www.timesunion.com>



<http://www.etext.org/Politics/MIM/rail/impkills.html>

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MIM Notes

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

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

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What is MIM?

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

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

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

AWOL youth challenges Amerikan military

In February MIM interviewed a young man who is AWOL from the Amerikan military and is actively seeking conscientious objector status in opposition to the U.S. wars. Joe (not his real name) is not just seeking to avoid combat, he has become an activist speaking out against the Amerikan military and its imperialist wars attending marches and rallies.

Joe explained his current situation: "I'm supposed to be down in Camp [X] relieving the active people there and sending them on their way. I'm supposed to be down there going 'go shoot someone for me, rah rah.' From what they tell us, we would probably have been [there] for a year and then who knows where they would send us. They would send us to wherever the war is at then. The CO status I am applying for is for someone who is opposed to all war. I don't want to participate in any war whatsoever."

Many youth in Amerika, especially oppressed nation youth, join the military looking for direction, money or a job. Joe explained why he joined the military: "Like other people trying to get out of a difficult situation; I was at a low point, I was depressed and a lot of recruiters take advantage of that. And I needed money for school, it was just things like that. Nothing was going right in my life and I wanted a direction, and I think that was the main reason I joined."

MIM: How have your views on the military have changed, why do you now want to get out?

Joe: I decided I wanted to get out while I was still in training. I never realized how hypocritical it had been for me to join; I thought I was just a reservist so I can just be there on the weekend. When I was in boot camp I was exposed to so many things about what the military does. How they train people I think is crazy. Beforehand I think the only strong feelings I had was that I was anti-violence and pro-civil rights. But then when I was exposed to everything I learned that I really was anti-war and that's their business. Plus they were trying to teach me to hate myself and dehumanize people. My convictions against these things are so strong now.

Some of the training is really crazy. We'd have combat training and every time we made a blow we had to shout out "Kill." And we had to fight each other, we had to hit each other hard and I never could really do that. If we didn't hit each other hard we were punished because we had morals about violence. The changes that I saw in other people that were going along with the program; you'd see them break down and all of a sudden they have

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Anti-war protests in Los Angeles achieve steady pace

LOS ANGELES, Saturday, 22 Mar 2003—Protestors have taken to the streets here every day since President Bush ordered the Amerikan military to expand its war on Iraq. On Thursday more than 3,000 protestors gathered in front of the Westwood Federal Building and shut down busy Wilshire boulevard for several hours. On Friday actions snarled traffic in several widely-spaced locales, including downtown and Westwood. Today around 10,000 people marched to the CNN building in Hollywood and then sat down in the world-famous intersection at Hollywood and Vine.

MIM finds the pace of events encouraging. As we wrote in January: "There are many movements that can sustain a one 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." There are more events planned here for tomorrow and another large rally scheduled next weekend.

MIM, RAIL and SLALA passed out over 1,100 copies of MIM Notes today and collected over 600 signatures on a

petition opposing John Ashcroft's proposed Patriot Act II.

Organizers of today's march focused their ire on CNN as a propaganda tool for U.S. imperialism. They passed out signs saying, "CNN: War is not entertainment" and "CNN: Afraid to show us REAL reality TV?" MIM saw a hand-made sign with the slogan, "Embedding or in bed with?" This was a reference to the U.S. military's practice attaching journalists to military units in the field and regulating their communications equipment. The Pentagon warned journalists that unauthorized transmissions "are likely to be fired upon."(1)

A SLALA comrade rebuked a local TV news cameraman for showing up at the end of the rally to cover the arrests of protestors engaged in civil disobedience. Local coverage has typically focused on confrontations with police to the exclusion of the protestors' politics, while giving flag-waving soccer moms five minute segments to blather on about "my country, right or wrong." When asked what kept him from the bulk of the protest, the cameraman answered, "I had a little league game"—indicative of how serious mainstream Amerikan media takes its supposed role of keeping the public informed.

Other hand-made signs included explicit denunciations of Amerikan imperialism,

which MIM liked. As usual there were also lots of signs and t-shirts attacking George Bush's arrogance and supposed stupidity, such as, "'Yee-hah' is not a foreign policy." MIM is less into the anti-Bush thing, except to the extent that Bush's bumbling thuggery exposes the systemic nature of Amerikan imperialism (see e.g. the article on the protests in Washington D.C. in this issue). To borrow Amerikan General Tommy Franks' phrase, this is not about one man, it's about a corrupt and brutal system.

Many of the protestors knew of Patriot Act II, Attorney General John Ashcroft's proposal to close the "loop holes" in the original Patriot Act. Patriot Act II would remove judicial oversight of search warrants, allow secret evidence and secret trials, etc. etc.(2) One persyn who signed MIM's petition likened the new Patriot Act's provisions for stripping Amerikans of their citizenship to the Nazis' "Nuremberg Laws on Citizenship and Race" of 1935. These laws proclaimed, "A citizen of the Reich may be only one who is of German or kindred blood, and who, *through his behavior, shows that he is both desirous and personally fit to serve loyally the German people and the Reich.*"(3) The "logic" of the Patriot Act II is that Amerikans who

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Boston continues rallies against war

Boston, March 20

Several thousand people demonstrated against the war today in the afternoon and early evening. A group of student-aged people started events with a rally and march at 3:00. Then by 5 and 6pm, thousands packed the Government Center plaza where TV cameras had awaited their presence the whole afternoon.

Anti-terrorist sentiment strong

Signs reading "Bush is the terrorist" and "Bush: War Criminal" also appeared at the rally. A speaker at the rally who admitted to preparing his speech days ago said, "You cannot stop war crimes by committing them."

Many people carried signs pointing out that the bombing of Iraq would produce terrorism, just as the first Gulf War produced an anti-Amerikkkan Osama Bin Laden.

Anti-Bush sentiment strong

The U.S. President George W. Bush continued to face difficulties for being a minority-elected president that much of the public doubts both in temper and intelligence. "Stop Mad Cowboy Disease" is a sign making its way around Massachusetts rallies. Other signs said:

"US: Hijacked by a Moron" and "W is for War."

One man carried a sign saying, "Impeach Bush: Which is worse, this or oral sex?" The sign referred to the fact that the House of Representatives impeached Bill Clinton over oral sex with Monica Lewinsky. At the same time, the Bush administration fabricated evidence about nuclear weapons in Iraq only to be exposed by UN weapons inspectors.(1) The government is not supposed to be using taxpayers' money to lobby the public with fake information stirring up public opinion. It's supposed to be the other way around, the public lobbying the government, so that is another reason Bush should indeed be impeached. As MIM pointed out in its review of a book co-authored by a UN weapons inspector, Bush also played loose with the facts about weapons inspections up through the 1990s in his "State of the Union" address.(2)

Many in the world have concluded as one sign-carrier in Boston did: "The greatest threat to America is Bush." Another sign in the Boston rally read: "I want dumb bombs and smart presidents."

Despite all that, and despite the fact that it is obviously true that Bush administration diplomacy failed to bring even traditional allies and right-wingers such as Chirac

fully on-board, the anti-Bush sentiment does not really float MIM's boat. Above all, we do not care for the anti-Bush sentiment, because the Democrats voted to support the war and passed the resolution authorizing the funding for it. As one by-stander noted about the sign mentioning oral sex, Clinton also attacked Iraq.

True, activists for anti-war Democrat Howard Dean distributed fliers at the rally. They seek to gather enough activists to gain him the Democratic nomination for president in 2004. Like many other bourgeois, Dean wants a multilateral bourgeois approach to Iraq and problems of international law in general. He said, "this is a job for the United Nations and not for the United States of America."(3)

Fortunately, others at the rally pointed out that Vermont governor since 1991 Howard Dean did nothing about the police murder of Robert 'Woody' Woodward in Brattleboro Vermont on December 2, 2001 in front of several witnesses in a church. The attorney general did not prosecute the cops who shot him.(4)

It could be that with Bush in power, the Amerikkkan people may learn a lesson faster than ever before. The yahoos who voted for him will only make political progress if they see Bush carry out a true

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Media bias in Iraq war coverage

Local news media demonized the recent anti-war protests in San Francisco as “violent,” even going so far as to claim that demonstrators were using their children as humyn shields. Those who attended the protests know that the demonstrations only became violent when police attacked and beat protesters. Local news media gave equal time to the 100 or so pro-war protesters and the tens of thousands of anti-war protesters.

This is why alternative media sources are so important to activists. It is not a successful strategy to rely on coverage by mainstream media. Instead activists need their own media, both to educate and inform their ranks and to provide information to the rest of the population. The internet provides activists with an excellent opportunity for alternative media at low cost and in real time.

MIM’s website (www.etext.org/Politics/MIM) has grown exponentially since September 11, 2001 as people look for information, news, and alternative analysis. The anarchist-run indymedia.org has also taken off in the last few years. The San Francisco indymedia site

explicitly works “to encourage a world where globalization is not about homogeneity and exploitation, but rather, about diversity and cooperation.”(1)

Particularly in Amerika, where the majority of the population has a firm economic interest in imperialism, our protests are not going to easily gain the support of the majority. But we can educate many people about our reasons for opposing imperialism. We gain their attention when we protest and need to take advantage of this to offer information from our perspective. We cannot allow corporate media to mis-interpret our actions. We also need independent media to educate activists who get involved in a very narrow way. We can broaden their understanding of the connection between imperialism and oppression and give them more opportunities to get involved. To join MIM in making independent media contact us or visit our web site (<http://www.etext.org/Politics/MIM>).

Notes: 1. indymedia.org sites generally allow anybody to post articles. The downside to this is it allows reactionaries to publish disinformation and bait progressive activists.



This photo by Eric Wagner, posted on sf.indymedia.org, exposes San Francisco’s finest whooping it up at a pro-war rally March 29.

Many of the photos posted to indymedia also include faces of activists, which might be used against them by the cops. MIM’s site is

moderated and hence is more secure and accountable. MIM of course also puts forward political line.

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including Bechtel Corporation which is presently developing earth penetrating nuclear weapons specifically designed for use in Iraq to destroy the very weapons Bechtel had supplied to the country. The Federal Building was also surrounded for most of the day with all four entrances blocked by protesters. At these locations, and in many intersections, police arrested groups of protesters only to have waves of others replace them.

Several incidents of police brutality were documented including one attack on a man videotaping a protest. His arrest received national media attention after cops dragged his young son off his shoulders and proceeded to beat him with billy clubs.

Demonstrators were almost entirely peaceful with most people only committing the crime of failing to obey traffic laws (walking in the streets). There were minor acts of property destruction or just street obstruction with demonstrators moving trashcans and newspaper boxes into the streets. In several of the marches through streets MIM witnessed demonstrators removing the trashcans and newspaper boxes back to the sidewalk.

In response to our questions asking why they did this two people said they wanted the protests to be non-violent. A MIM activist pointed out that putting newspaper boxes in the streets is no more violent than blocking the streets with people. One young womyn responded that she feared the mainstream media would focus on the boxes in the streets and people would get the wrong message. To this MIM

responded that she should work to build independent media because that is the only solution to mainstream media misinformation and misrepresentation of protesters. It also shows a lack of vision in the “non-violent” mainstream peace movement MIM has criticized. Those angling for votes for supposed “peace” Democrats and wringing their hands over a few overturned trash cans show a remarkable tolerance for the marauding nincompoops running this country.

The lack of literature at the protest was also a problem with the anarchist style of leadership. Both participants and bystanders were without information on the purpose of the protests or analysis of the war. The few people carrying signs provided the only propoganda for those greeted by these demonstrations when they showed up for work today.

Likely because of this lack of literature, MIM found those attending the protest were eager for any analysis and quickly accepted copies of MIM Notes. Even after MIM activists ran out of current issues and started handing out old copies they were taken as quickly as we could hand them out at the intersections being blockaded. The issue from 1999 with a cover story on Amerikan humyn rights abuses was popular and recipients agreed it was still very relevant today. MIM spoke with many activists who stated their disgust with the war and criticized Bush for his actions. We pointed out that Bush would not be able to act without the support of the government. The 1999 MIM Notes provided evidence that Clinton was just as much an imperialist

with its story about his invasion of Kosovo.

Throughout the day civil disobedience protests were conducted in other parts of the Bay Area as well. One student at the downtown protests reported that 50 students were arrested at Stanford University. Thousands of students at University of California, Berkeley held a demonstration and took over a building. Protesters marched and blocked streets in Oakland, Richmond, Santa Rosa, Sonoma and other surrounding cities.

MIM applauds the devotion and enthusiasm of those who have taken the streets of San Francisco over the past week and we will work to turn this energy into sustainable anti-imperialist organizing as the U.S. moves from this imperialist war on Iraq to others throughout the world. Not all imperialist wars are as sensational or involve overt bombing, ground troops and such a publicity campaign. Amerika carries out similar operations every year. From CIA operations to overthrow leaders unfriendly to Amerika, to training and financing of friendly militias, to funding military dictatorships, to active military



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

NEW YORK RALLIES AGAINST THE WAR

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the members of the U.S. armed forces and their families. And it also commends the president for 'his firm leadership and decisive action in the conduct of military operations in Iraq as part of the ongoing global war on terrorism,' a line that generated anger among some Democrats." (2) 11 voted against, but there are 205 Democrats and 229 Republicans in the House.

Despite the vote the day before, people at the rally were carrying signs that continued purely anti-Bush sentiments. In fact, in sections of the march, the demonstrators were chanting slogans from the 2000 presidential campaign about "staying out of the Bushes" etc.

The present reporter has to admit that the funniest sign of the day was: "Yee-hah is not a foreign policy." Yet if this war is just a stupid Texas cowboy thing, then we have no explanation why for example Massachusetts Senator Kerry voted for it. The fact is that Democrats are more on-board than not and even the best of them tolerate war-mongering that should not be tolerated for the species to survive.

People who see this war for what it is do not tolerate it: they leave the Democratic Party. There is no other way to show intolerance for pre-emptive strikes and predatory wars. People who stay in the Democratic Party, because they believe it is important to implement gun control or nominate pro-choice judges show a complete lack of proportion and a lack of understanding how fascism across-the-board comes about through war. Staying in the Democratic Party says that the lives of Iraqis, U.S. troops, Palestinians and other Arabs involved are less valuable than Amerikkkan lives, and that is the recipe for eventual global nuclear catastrophe. There is no people on Earth that is going to put up with that treatment, so the first step for any political party has to be internationalism.

We will have to learn to fight outside the Democratic Party for reproductive rights and against crime including the crimes of how criminals are punished. It's not enough to fight for the select few Amerikkans and their welfare, education

and abortion rights. Without an answer providing security for all people in the world, more war and terrorism are inevitable and that will lead to a steady march down the fascist road, with the likes of the Patriot Act (which Democrats voted for) and Patriot Act II.

Let's be clear that we support the signs that say: "Bush: War Criminal" and "Bush: International Terrorist," but this war needs to be defeated with more than rehashed campaign slogans from 2000. As MIM circulated in the crowd, we said, "we have to improve this movement, gotta get tougher" and variations on that theme.

We spoke with one demonstrator who said, "I don't need this [MIM Notes]. I've got it all up here [pointing to his head]" for why he opposes the war. MIM pointed out that the movement failed to stop the war, so we have to improve. Improving requires more study of more material and learning more about power struggle. Having the majority in England did not stop Tony Blair and having over 80% of the people against the war did not stop Spain and Bulgaria from making a major endorsement of it. With the "Labor Party" in England in power in favor of the war, Democrats are kidding themselves if they think Democrats would have stopped the war. The "Labor Party" is more "left" in that tepid bourgeois spectrum than the Democratic Party.

In "democratic" Australia, the people opposed the war in over 80% of the population, but the government still sent 2000 troops into battle. This is a lesson that the people themselves must learn the art of power struggle, and not leave it to their elected representatives. We followers of Marx, Lenin and Mao say we know something about power struggle outside of parliament and recommend the experience of Lenin in getting Russia out of World War I. Mao also defeated financially better off, technically better equipped enemies during World War II despite the fact that the conventional political parties of his day were much bigger than the communists to start with. With our numbers globally and in the imperialist countries, the anti-war movement should have succeeded, but we have a problem with the desire and

knowledge of power struggle in our movement.

The leaflets

MIM received a leaflet saying that Islam does not condone "terrorism." According to the leaflet there is a difference between "Holy War" and "jihad." Jihad could be just an internal struggle in the mind for self-improvement. From MIM's point of view, www.WhyIslam.org showed that Islam has a lot in common with Christianity and Judaism. Muslims just added one last prophet, Muhammad. One thing for sure, if Amerikkka is going to claim to be a "free" country, it has to figure out how to integrate Muslims and not profile them. Currently the United States is failing along these lines, which is why we say that the causes of war have to be addressed for real freedom to exist. Since the U.S. soldier in Kuwait fraged his officers (killed some), there have been talk show calls for more profiling of Muslims, because the attacker Sgt. Asan Akbar may have been Muslim. (3)

We received another leaflet titled "The U.S. and Iraq in Historical Perspective" from the International A.N.S.W.E.R. and International Action Center organizer Richard Becker. Although the leaflet contains illusions about "socialism" even under Gorbachev, it points out the history of Iraq's being a colony, with Britain, France, Holland and the United States evenly splitting the oil there with none of the oil being owned by Iraqis. It was not until a 1958 revolution in Iraq that pressure for Amerikkans to pay for oil actually succeeded.

The Revolutionary Worker handed out of a leaflet pointing out that the new 20,000 pound bomb of Uncle Sam is named MOAB on purpose, because "the judgment of Moab" in the Bible refers to destruction of cities and soldiers east of the Jordan river. (4)

Another leaflet connected the attack on civil liberties by the federal government to the war. We could hardly disagree with the material from the www.nyclu.org on civil liberties. It also referred to "Citizens for Peace."

A popular item at the rally and in some

towns today is the 911 money that looks like one dollar bills. USA stands for "United States of Aggression." Instead of George Washington we have George Bush titled Big Brother and a host of links to websites about the events of 911 and propaganda since then.

Another leaflet from the Batay-Ouvriye Solidarity Network mentioned the struggle in Haiti against U.S. domination and linked it to the situation in Iraq. Here is how it correctly reasoned: "The United States supported the Iraqi Government in its war against Iran by supplying it with money, intelligence and military supplies, including biological and chemical weapons. So long as this government was doing what the United States wanted, they closed their eyes even when they knew the Saddam government was using these weapons."

One last item we will mention was a flier by the Kings County Green Party pointing out that New York State's two senators, both in the Democratic Party voted for the war. They organized a demonstration for March 27th at 9 Prospect Park West, 5:30-7pm where Senator Charles Schumer lives.

MIM handed out 2550 copies of MIM Notes before running out in New York City. If you think you could send MIM money for papers, take them to rallies in your area, hand them out, take notes and write a story for MIM Notes about the rally like this story, please do it. See our web page at: <http://www.etext.org/Politics/MIM/pirao/mndistrocampaign.html> for information on the approximate costs. Just doing this would be a great support to the party and the movement.

Notes:

1. <http://www.cnn.com/2003/US/03/22/sprj.iqr.protests/index.html>
2. <http://www.cnn.com/2003/ALLPOLITICS/03/20/sprj.iqr.congress.reax/index.html>
3. <http://www.cnn.com/2003/LAW/03/24/101.attack.ap/index.html>
4. See also this explanation for why the imperialists announced the bomb in advance for psychological warfare purposes: <http://www.dailylegraph.co.uk/news/main.jhtml?xml=/news/2003/03/23/wpsy23.xml&sSheet=/news/2003/03/23/ixhome.html>; <http://www.sbsun.com/Stories/>.

Boston continues rallies against war

Continued from page 3...

disaster. MIM is not saying it will happen soon, but the possibility is there.

Economic system to blame

The reason that both Democrats and Republicans line up for predatory wars is the economic system. Big money goes to candidates to support war for profit. Those candidates then have better campaigns with which to reach the public, which mostly shares in the plunder of the Third World like Iraq.

Of course there was a sign against "Blood for Oil," but in general we did not

see catchy signs attacking the economic system. Instead, speakers from a sound truck brought out that theme, with one saying that the speed with which the anti-war movement developed "took the corporate criminals completely by surprise."

Some local flavor

MIT students showed up 600 strong. (5) They carried a sign saying: "MIT is for peace."

There was also a sign that said, "Harvard students want peace." Students

walked out of classes, but we saw little evidence that any city-wide strike by workers had occurred as asked by anti-war organizers.

MIM handed out 1250 copies of MIM Notes before running out. If you think you could send MIM money for papers, take them to rallies in your area, hand them out, take notes and write a story for MIM Notes about the rally like this story, please do it. See our web page at: <http://www.etext.org/Politics/MIM/pirao/mndistrocampaign.html> for information on the approximate costs. Just doing this

would be a great support to the party and the movement.

Notes:

1. <http://www.cnn.com/2003/ALLPOLITICS/03/12/cf.opinion.un.relevance/index.html>; http://www.austin360.com/aas/news/ap/ap_story.html; <http://www.washingtonap.com/AP-V6606.AP-US-Iraq-Forgery.html>
2. <http://www.etext.org/Politics/MIM/bookstore/books/violence/ritter.html>
3. From the flier mentioning <http://www.DeanForAmerica.com>
4. www.justiceforwoody.org
5. http://www.globe.com/news/daily/20/mass_protests.htm

U\$A fakes terror in Philippines

Continued from page 1...

States. The incident will be shortly forgotten, if you're willing to forget it."(2)

Shady past

Meiring moved to the Philippines in 1992 and described himself alternately as a treasure hunter or a doctor searching for medicinal herbs. He "had close ties to well-placed government authorities in southern Mindanao, national government officials and Philippine National Police officials."(1) He also dealt with the Abu Sayaaf, the bandit gang with CIA links which Macapagal-Arroyo has used to justify increased U\$. military presence in Mindanao.

"He spent millions of dollars while in the Philippines, the source of the funds unknown." Charred U\$. federal bank notes were found in his hotel room. Meiring claimed he was looking for boxes full of Federal Reserve notes lost during World War II.(1) The Manila Times traced his financial backing to investors in the United States with white-supremacist and CIA links.(2)

"Highly reliable sources" told the Philippine Star that Meiring "was deployed by the CIA, sometime in the early to mid 90s, on assignment in southern Mindanao.

"He overshot his mandate. That was why the Americans had to find a way

what he could be spirited out of the country fast..."(1)

If this is true, it would not be the first time Amerika's hired thugs had set up shop for themselves. "Philippine Senator Aquillano Pimentel describes the Abu Sayaaf as a CIA monster. [Abu Sayaaf's] original members were organized, funded and trained by Ronald Reagan's secret agents in the 1980s and sent to Afghanistan to help kick out the Russians. Twenty years ago, that skullduggery was overseen by exactly the kind of people Michael Meiring hung out with, in exactly the same part of the country."(1)

'Anti-terror' hypocrisy

Regardless of whether the Abus are still on Uncle Sam's payroll or Meiring was under CIA orders when he blew himself up, the reactionaries in the U\$. and Philippine governments bear the responsibility for this kind of terror. After September 11, pro-spy creeps argued that the CIA should have greater freedom to enlist "bad guys" to go after other "bad guys"—somehow forgetting that exactly this strategy led to September 11 itself!

State agencies do carry out terrorist incidents and the ordinary public cannot usually know who is to blame. The solution for this can only be the abolition of governments in the distant future of

communism, when people cooperate economically, culturally and politically, so that no nation has secret services like the CIA. These secret services are themselves an irritant in relations amongst nations and must be eradicated for a completely secure world.

In the case of the Philippines, the United States is using the Abu Sayaaf and other manufactured incidents (3) to justify a permanent military presence.(4) "Months before September 11 ... a Rand Corporation Study advised Donald Rumsfeld that he must re-base American forces in the Philippines in order to retain U.S. military dominance in Asia."(1) The United States also worries about the revolutionary movement. "The US is itching to directly get involved in the all-out war against the CPP-led revolutionary movement," said a spokesperson for the Communist Party of the Philippines.(3)

Popular opposition recently forced the U\$. and the Philippine government to shelve plans for U\$. soldiers to participate in combat operations in the Philippines.(5) But the reactionaries are still trying to justify their plans in the name of "fighting terrorism."

An explosion on 4 March 2003 killed 24 people and injured another 150 at the Davao international airport. A month later, a bomb at the Davao wharf killed 16.

Macapagal-Arroyo immediately flew to Davao to make her pitch: "This is a *total war* that requires full attention and resources of the community."(6)

The Philippine government blamed the Moro Islamic Liberation Front for these latest attacks. The MILF, in on-again-off-again peace talks with the government, strenuously denies any involvement.

Notes:

1. Several news articles on this case are compiled here:

<http://www.defendsison.be/archive/pages/0303/030309Fake.html>.

2. See The Manila Times' three part series on Meiring, 29-31 May 2002, www.manilatimes.net/national/2002/may/29/top_stories/20020529top5.html, www.manilatimes.net/national/2002/may/30/top_stories/20020530top6.html, www.manilatimes.net/national/2002/may/31/top_stories/20020531top6.html.

3. U\$.-backed Philippine military slanders New People's Army, MIM Notes 253, 1 Mar 2002.

4. Over 1,500 U\$. troops deployed across Philippines in name of "war on terror," MIM Notes 256, 15 Apr 2002.

5. Pentagon plans to send 3,000 more U\$. combat troops to Philippines, MIM Notes 278, 15 Mar 2003.

6. Italics added, Philippine Daily Inquirer, 3 Apr 2003.



Los Angeles, March, 22: Keepin' the burger joint free of protesters.

UNITED FRONT

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

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.



The case of Elizabeth Smart

Conservatives like it that way, liberals tolerate it

15-year-old Elizabeth Smart returned to her parents in Utah in March 2003, after what the press called an “abduction” since the age of 14 on June 5, 2002. The media showed pictures and film clippings of the blonde-haired youth all over the television the day of the announced return. Then the media followed with pictures of Elizabeth hugging her family.

Of course the media makes the most money selling papers, magazines and tv news with the story that this was a “kidnapping.” The truth is that the United States is so twisted that most child abductions are not child abductions but property disputes politely referred to as “custody battles” or other more mundane occurrences, as we reported in MIM Notes 268.(1)

The Elizabeth Smart case was not a custody battle, but it has all the markings of being a normal occurrence in a twisted society. If the polygamist drifter-preacher who was with Smart when police found her has to go to prison, then most of Utah does too. Rather than arrest the preacher and his wife who were with Elizabeth Smart, the dictatorship of the proletariat would put the Utah religious hierarchy in prison and any police who failed to enforce the laws regarding polygamy and child abuse in Utah. It is the religious hierarchy that has failed in educating the public. We Marxists believe that religion will gradually disappear, but there must be immediate repression of any religions that do not respect the non-negotiable rights of all people.

As we reported in MIM Notes, TV viewers gradually received the picture from CNN. First it was the uncle who said that the return of Elizabeth Smart was proof of “miracles.” Then the father thanked God, instead of criticizing God for allowing this or the Mormon church for teaching that polygamy begins with uneducated 14-year-olds. Yes, the Smart family is Mormon. The supposed abductor was also a Mormon, just too radical and thus ex-communicated.

For those unfamiliar with the original Mormon teachings, they are polygamist and permit abuses of women and children. Whenever there is a conflict on these points, the true-believers take their ex-communication as proof of their devoutness, but the ones more “moderate” and doing the ex-communication are also frauds for not denouncing the founders of their own religion. They often do the same things just without flaunting it in public. This guarantees that what happens in Utah with the Elizabeth Smart case and more violent cases will continue to occur.

“The Seattle Times, citing a police source in Salt Lake City, said Brian David ‘Emmanuel’ Mitchell told investigators that he wanted Elizabeth to become his wife after first laying eyes on her while he did a one-day stint as a handyman at

the Smart’s suburban home in 2001.

“‘It was a religious thing,’ the source told the Times. ‘This guy just wanted another wife, and God told him this was the one.’”(2) Even if the media got this story wrong, or the police source lied, the fact remains that the description is typical of Mormon practice.

Smart did not try to get away

Then we learn that Smart herself told police that her case was one of running away: “‘I know’” you “‘think I’m that Elizabeth Smart girl who ran away.’”(3)

Smart heard her uncle calling for her, but she did not respond to him during his outdoor search.(3) She stayed one block from the police station for a week and freely walked about; her captor was even in jail for six days and she did not escape; 100 people saw her at a party, but she did not leave or contact anyone about escaping.(4) Smart was also a regular at a grocery store where she spent hours freely to herself without trying to “escape.”(5) Witnesses living near her say she was not restrained and could have escaped anytime.(6)

When the police found her, she spoke in Biblical verse, adopted medieval poses and wore a veil.

Conservatives got what they wanted

“You will be handed over to the local councils and flogged in the synagogues. On account of me you will stand before governors and kings as witnesses to them. . . Brother will betray brother to death, and a father his child. Children will rebel against their parents and have them put to death. All men will hate you because of me, but he who stands firm to the end will be saved.” (Mark:13:9, 12, 13)

“I have come to bring fire on the earth, and how I wish it were already kindled! . . . Do you think I came to bring peace on earth? No, I tell you, but division. From now on there will be five in one family divided against each other, three against two and two against three. They will be divided father against son and son against father, mother against daughter and daughter against mother.” (Luke 12:49, 51, 52)

It is difficult for the foreigner to understand, but the United States, as modern as it is, has a solid 30% living in utter religious stupor. The conservative political movement is based on that 30%.

Elizabeth Smart grew up Mormon in a Mormon state. Her “captor” was a preacher with a little more dedication than average. That’s why when police found her, she used Biblical phrases to try to escape.

The conservatives will try hard to weasel out of taking responsibility for the whole Elizabeth Smart case from beginning to end, starting with Elizabeth Smart’s education. To cover for himself

and his state’s religion, the father said merely that his daughter was “brainwashed.” At MIM we would agree, but we would say it started a lot earlier than June 5, 2002. In the United States thanks to conservatives and the liberals who tolerate them, we cannot be sure what basic education Elizabeth Smart received, including her sex education in a Mormon community that regularly marries off teenage girls before they’ve had an appropriate education.

Liberals kow-tow to conservatives & mushy middle

There is of course a secular and Western liberal segment of society as well. As MIM pointed out in its MIM Notes 272 article on Mormons, these same liberals who love the former slaveholder Dalai Lama so much naturally protect the religions abusing women and children as well. It’s not so much that liberals are going to practice Mormonism, but they will elect Mormons such as Mitt Romney to be governor of the most liberal state—Massachusetts.

For the foreigner the image of America is all Hollywood and pornography and thus all open sex; even though, such a stereotype applies more to Western Europe than the United States. The Elizabeth Smart case is not so much about that as it is about good ‘ole conservative religious conversion.

Again on 14-year-olds

There is no reason a 13 or 14-year-old

cannot be an adult except for his or her lack of education prior to that date. The Mormons believe both in early teen marriages to much older men and lack of education for children and the result is abuse of children.

The Elizabeth Smart case underlines why MIM is in favor of moving up children’s education, accelerating it across-the-board to make children more self-reliant. Of special concern is that Elizabeth Smart grew up in an environment tolerating multiple wives including “child” wives. Thanks to that education, Elizabeth Smart truly was a child when she left home. At her age, she should not have been a child, mentally. That’s why under the dictatorship of the proletariat, a bracing education will be required and anyone standing in the way—parents or preachers—will go to prison. In the event that a child dies in a kidnapping or from a disease like AIDS thanks to ignorance, those causing the ignorance will be executed. That’s the only way to ensure that adults do not abuse children.

Notes:

1. “Child abductions fill the U.S. headlines,” p. 3, MIM Notes 268.
2. <http://www.newsmax.com/archives/articles/2003/3/13/163308.shtml>
3. USA Today, http://www.usatoday.com/news/nation/2003-03-13-smart-cover-usat_x.htm
4. <http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/articles/A23106-2003Mar13.html>
5. <http://www.cnn.com/2003/US/West/03/13/smart.supermarket.witness/>

L.A. Anti-War Protests Achieve a Steady Pace

Continued from page 3...

support certain types of lawful political organizing demonstrate by their actions that they have no desire to remain citizens.

Still, around half of the protestors approached with MIM’s petition had not heard of Patriot Act II. MIM, RAIL, and SLALA handed out hundreds of flyers analyzing the proposal.

The mercenary hypocrisy award for the day goes to Amoeba records, across the street from CNN. Amoeba records sported a “Give Peace a Chance” banner while barring groups from setting up literature tables in front of the store. (CNN at least had the honesty to drape a huge American flag over its entrance.) MIM overheard a few choice quips from the store’s staff. “Why do so many peace demonstrations turn violent?” “If they’re going to demonstrate for peace they should be consistent: if you get hit in the

face, turn the other cheek.”

This is a misunderstanding promoted by sloppy bourgeois media reporting. Most of the anti-war protesters are not pacifists. For MIM’s part, “turning the other cheek” is what the imperialists are telling the exploited to do. “Please ignore our rampage through your territory and work happily as slaves for our MNCs,” they counsel. MIM upholds the right of the oppressed to armed struggle in self-defense against reactionary violence.

Notes:

1. www.theregister.co.uk/content/6/29750.html
2. MIM Notes 279, 1 Apr 2003; www.etext.org/Politics/MIM/agitation/civlib/index.html
3. Italics added; www.mtsu.edu/~baustin/nurmlaw2.html; www.btinternet.com/~ablumsohn/laws.htm.

Tidal wave of public opinion against Iraq war

Continued from page 1...

leader Hitler in the 1930s. It arose when Neville Chamberlain made a deal to let Germany take over Czechoslovakia and turned down a Soviet offer to attack Germany in unison instead. It's a measure of poor high school education and the twisted nature of Amerikkkan "thinking" that this Bush tactic is even politically conceivable and not a source of embarrassment. Saddam Hussein is not occupying other countries right now. He is gone from Kuwait. It is George W. Bush playing the role of today's Hitler by moving to occupy Iraq (Czechoslovakia). It is others who tolerate Bush who are "appeasers." It is the countries who oppose Bush but do not put their militaries on the line to stop him that take the role of appeasers in 2003.

Our critics would be right about not insulting the Amerikkkans, if what we needed today is to run a candidate for office. Many advise us to join the left-wing of the Democratic Party and then seek numbers to back that "left-wing" up. Obviously, one cannot insult the "Amerikkkans" and then win an election, at least not in the short-run.

The thinking behind elections is behind most of the questions MIM receives regarding organizing in the United States. The media focuses all attention on Congress and presidential candidates when it comes to politics. Much of the media cannot operate outside the few questions judged important in electoral politics today. That is one reason MIM insists on building independent media and other institutions as the best thing we can do right now.

Hence, the first scientific question is: can world peace come about by winning an electoral struggle inside the Democratic Party and other such parties globally? MIM says: "No, it is not concretely possible to achieve internationalist peace through the Democratic Party and winning elections as they exist now." People in the anti-war movement right now need to ask themselves over and over again: is their goal to elect someone or to obtain peace? These questions are not one and the same. We have to work on our ideas about power and power struggle. Ask the Spanish people: only 13% support the war on Iraq, but the government still managed to endorse Bush. That has to do with the power struggle by the other 87%. It is not just a question of getting numbers.

Over 90% of Germans supported Hitler to the bitter end. In such a circumstance, organizing for an election or to find more "moderate Nazis" misses the point. The Germans were going to have to go through a most difficult transformation even to support a non-Nazi party. That is the kind of situation we have in the United States, not for one party but for a system of imperialism. It would do no good not to call Germans "Nazis" to avoid insulting them and likewise it does no good to let Amerikkkans and similar European



(MIM art)

imperialist country populations avoid the truth about their ugly war-mongering nationalism.

Telling a country's majority to their face that they are politically ugly enemies of the world's people becomes especially necessary in some historical contexts. Ingratating tactics can only help when they achieve a goal worth the cost of the tactics. In the case of the United States, England and Israel, the truth is the key. It is impossible for the populations of these places to reform their thinking if no one tells them how far off it is from what is necessary for global peace and economic cooperation. The alleged "scientists" wishing to spare the feelings of the Amerikkkans, British and Israeli do neither the world nor the imperialist country chauvinists themselves any favors. They only slow down what has to happen.

Most people in the world can raise their proletarian consciousness and say "I used to be a ready dupe of the imperialists and local reactionaries and then through political struggle and study, I overcame naivete and other kinds of false consciousness."

In the Western imperialist countries, the average Joe should face the socialist future more like this: "I used to be an enemy of the people. I am still working to overcome my tendencies to national chauvinism and violence toward the Third World people. I actively voted for imperialists and avoided countless chances at political education in the interests of peace, because I used to believe my country could escape the consequences of imperialism. I used to speak for throwing immigrants out of the country and I believed jobs were being sucked out of my country; even while the communists said their goal was to employ

the whole world, I scorned them and wrapped myself up in a petty struggle to deprive others of jobs. I acted on economic fears instead of taking up the confidence the party advised me to have in economic matters both as a matter of truth and international peace. I vaguely knew that my government was killing people around the globe on a daily basis, but I happily preferred to watch 'Married with Children' instead of raising my own political consciousness and figuring out how to oppose my government. In a word, I expressed my political and cultural contentment with a genocidal system headed for environmental disaster. Even though I had not been paying much attention to politics, I leaped up after 9/11 to call for war on Afghanistan. Again I quickly expressed fear and aggression but without much knowledge. The lives of people in Third World countries meant so little to me that I did not bother seriously investigating the claims of the politicians I elected. I do not want to say that I was just ignorant. I had a chance to know more, but I preferred to take the most comfortable way out." That's what a self-criticism of an enemy might look like. Self-criticism and transformation cannot succeed if revisionists take over and deny that Amerikkkans are enemies and no one asks that the Amerikkkans admit that they were enemies.

It's all fine to wish that 70, 80 or 90% of the people in every country opposed the war with Iraq. We could wish that the proletariat were evenly distributed globally. It is not—and that is a matter of not wishing away dialectical development. Life would be simpler if the exploited constituted the majority in every country and merely had to come to some way of stopping their war-mongering rulers. The path to global unity would be much

simpler, but since the time of Lenin we have had to adjust to the fact that a country can become a majority of enemies to the world's people.

We love all people active in the anti-war movement, as long as they are studying and working on the problem. However, we must say that there is no major organization other than MIM and possibly one other that recognizes anti-Amerikkkanism as necessary for global progress. The various liberals whether they are in the Democratic Party or parties calling themselves communist believe that it is OK to criticize Bush and the pro-war Democrats, but not the voters who tolerate or elect these scum.

The French are being pretty belligerent to American tourists these days, and that's an excellent thing. However, a survey shows that most French still stick with the tired old formula of blaming America's "leaders" and not the "American people." The New York Times reported a typical and insightful poll this way: "Most noticeably anti-Bush were the French, three-fourths of whom said the problems created by America were 'mostly Bush,' while only a fraction 15 percent faulted America in general. Russia and Turkey were the only nations that were inclined to blame America in general rather than the president."(1)

This poll reinforces the results of countless other polls and the investigation of serious proletarian investigators. In the countries where a labor aristocracy predominates because that country partakes in global exploitation, the majority actively supports or covers for imperialism. The oh-so tough French still see this "just" as a Bush thing; even though at the very least we have to point out that a sizable minority voted for Bush,

Continued on next page...

AWOL youth challenges Amerikan military

Continued from page 3...

no heart. You don't see them, you see a deprogrammed person and then all of the sudden they have another person's agenda. So that free will is taken away and that part about military training is crazy. And then when we actually got to use weapons and train with them, the amount of dehumanizing of the enemy they taught, you know it's just like killing an ant. You don't have to consider people more than just a bug."

MIM: Did they talk about specific regions of the world or other peoples?

Joe: I went in just after September 11 so the enemy was Osama Bin Laden and Saddam Hussein and Muslim people. And everybody in there that was Muslim had to constantly defend themselves, renounce their religion. And any enemy we have ever had... everybody in the world, we have been ruining their lives, if you were of a country like that you had to defend yourselves. But especially Muslim people, they would really make fun of their customs.

MIM: Did they give you reasons why you should be fighting?

Joe: They did try to instill that [the enemy] is wrong because they are not capitalist and they are not the same, but I think mainly the training was about making enemies seem like anybody that is against the U.S. is completely worthless and not human and therefore it is OK to kill them.

MIM: You may have read the news lately about the U.S. sending troops to the Philippines, they say to fight against

'I think mainly the training was about making enemies seem like anybody that is against the U.S. is completely worthless and not human and therefore it is OK to kill them....'

Abu Sayaaf, a small terrorist band. [There is more evidence linking Abu Sayaaf to the Philippine military and the Amerikan CIA than to Al Qaeda, and Abu Sayaaf membership has dwindled to under 200.] But in reality the U.S. uses their troops in the Philippines both to train the Filipino military and to actively suppress the revolutionary movement there. What do you think about what's going on with the U.S. military there?

Joe: I think that the U.S., it isn't just in this situation, they don't have the right to do whatever they want, they're not the leaders of the world. They're going in there against the will of the entire country. And putting a different name on it than what their real intentions are. I think U.S.

involvement in the Philippines has always been about having their own power and because of that I think the leaders there are really corrupt, but I don't think that's a result of the country itself, that's a result of the U.S. involvement. The more U.S. involvement in the Philippines the worse people turn out. All their resources are getting stolen, all the people are being exploited for low wages. Meanwhile they're not doing anything to help people. They make them reliant on Amerikan involvement so that they won't want them out. And then generations pass and they won't realize that it could be different. That makes a movement for the U.S. to be out a lot harder as if it's always been like that.

MIM adds: Joe's application for CO status is based on his moral opposition to war. He is firm in his pacifist stance stating that he would never use violence. MIM, on the other hand, points to the example in the Philippines to explain why war, on the part of the oppressed people, is necessary. This is revolutionary violence, a just peoples war to throw off their oppressors. These are oppressors who have demonstrated that they won't back down without a fight. And they leave the people no choice but to starve, die of preventable diseases, be killed in imperialist wars, or fight back.

MIM: What do you hope to gain by publicizing your case?

Joe: I know it's really idealistic but the other day I was thinking about what is going to happen. I really don't know

what's going to happen to me, I'll probably go to jail for a little while. But if I'm going to go to jail, everything's going to be the same anyway, why not get more ... to rethink things. I know when I was in active duty I was always talking to people, whenever I could, about their views and why they have their views and are you sure that's not just training, to just get people to think because I don't think there's a lot of that in the military. You're taught not to think. And maybe some people will change their mind.

MIM: I would add that it's not just about educating people in the military but also you can educate people on the outside.

Joe: Who knows, this is a crazy war, it's not just this war, and they might re-implement the draft. People who aren't in the military can still apply for conscientious objection. People can apply for that beforehand. I think in your newspaper most people will probably already be in that viewpoint.

MIM adds: We stand with Joe and others who have gone AWOL or are trying to get out of the military to avoid participating in this imperialist war on Iraq and other Amerikan militarist excursions around the world. We applaud his courage in taking this stand publicly to help build the anti-war movement. Although MIM does not agree with Joe's pacifism, we unite in supporting the just opposition to Amerikan imperialism around the world. And MIM hopes that all pacifists will step forward to promote an anti-imperialist message and condemn U.S. militarism.

Tidal wave of public opinion against Iraq war

Continued from previous page...

and one would think the Europeans could conclude something about a country with a sizable minority like that and an even larger super-majority that tolerates what Bush does.

In contrast, Turkey and Russia are two countries with more super-exploited and exploited people than the other seven countries in the poll mentioned by the New York Times. These two countries correctly blame "America in general" more than their Western imperialist counterparts. Only 15 percent of the French blamed the Amerikkans in general. It will be impossible to build socialism with active imperialist country participants if the imperialist country populations continue believing such things about themselves.

The source of difference, the reason why most countries are more than 80% opposed to the war while some countries are more evenly divided is that some countries have large middle classes that benefit from imperialist exploitation. Newsweek admitted that anti-Amerikkkanism has spread very far since 9/11. "In fact, while the United States has the backing of a dozen or so governments, it has the support of a majority of the people in only one country in the world,

Israel. If that is not isolation, then the word has no meaning."(2)

Coincidentally, as MIM has pointed out before, Israel is another imperialist country with a "settler" base like the United States. However, in England, support for Amerikkkan war has ranged in the high 30s to the 40s. Meanwhile, in countries like Hungary, opposition is in the 80% range, even if the UN endorses the war.

Recently, I received a letter from a young Khmer (Cambodian) from a U.S.-lackey family who was seeking someone to stand in for the Khmer Rouge, so he started criticizing MIM as if we were the Khmer Rouge. He told us that people could be punished under the Khmer Rouge for having a Disney book. We can see that the aim is to create some kind of strange arbitrary image of the dictatorship of the proletariat.

Yet, there is a real question here. MIM does not think the world should oppose rock music just because Amerikkans and British are the main or original producers. Rock music is a form that any country can adopt and actually using electricity in music to its full effect is an important aspect of modernization for any country. On the other hand, a boycott of all

Amerikkkan and British music may be entirely appropriate. I have to scratch my head: Amerikkans are bombing your country (Kampuchea) and you expect your parents to be trusted when they give you (as a child) Disney books to read in the midst of that. Where there is no war, there is no big deal, but where there is war, a child may want a Disney book, but parents should know better as a matter of an adult and realistic sense of priorities. Scoring points against MIM over a Disney book while not rebutting that the United States cut off food aid to Kampuchea in 1975 shows a twisted sense of priorities befitting only of lackeys.

The Third World is in the underdog position. For the Third World to correct Amerikkkan imperialism at the source, some "excesses" are going to happen. We should not dampen anti-Amerikkkanism, but instead fan it until decisive change comes about. In San Francisco, activists are talking about shutting down 70 buildings and institutions when war with Iraq starts. Yet, in Indonesia, the masses are talking about shutting down U.S. business operations.

The Indonesian proletariat should shut down Freeport and Exxon-Mobil(3)

without fear that declining profits or merely shuttered business will cost Amerikkkan "workers" their jobs. The bourgeoisie constantly seeks to dull the struggle against U.S. imperialism by painting some sympathetic picture of the average Amerikan, but it's just more war propaganda: there is no Amerikkkan proletariat. Amerika is one large exploiter mass.

The rising tide of anti-Amerikanism (and not just anti-Bushism) is a correct and just expression of the global proletariat. Increasingly that expression leaves behind the politically hobbled calling themselves "Marxist." Anti-Amerikanism is a vague but broadly correct sentiment based in the precise economic reality that Amerikkans and their closest allies benefit from exploiting the rest of the world and that the Amerikkans are the main prop of that international order of exploitation.

Notes:

1. <http://www.nytimes.com/2003/03/19/politics/19CND-POLL.html>
2. <http://www.msnbc.com/news/885222.asp?0cv=KB10>
3. <http://www.upi.com/view.cfm?StoryID=20030319-070053-4046r>

Illinois prisoner wins censorship battle to read MIM Theory

Revolutionary Clenched-fist salute,
I've won battles against censorship of MIM Theory 9, 11, 12 and 13. The victory was on August 21, 2002 — 31 years from the date of Comrade George Jackson's assassination. The only exception was they took two pages out of the MT11 about a prison work strike, but still provided me with the detached pages. So please let the prisoners in the IDOC know that they can use *Schneider v. Menard Correctional Center Publication Review Committee* via the Administrative Review Board to receive MTs 9, 11, 12 and 13.

The Administrative Review Board has not rendered a decision regarding a grievance I filed concerning the Central Publications Review Committee of the IDOC denying me MIM Theory 2/3, 8 and 10, and I am pressing for those things. The funds I have spent for copies and postage fighting the censorship of these MTs are well worth it. The fascist pigs label me Communist, Subversive, anti-Amerikkka, etc., because of how hard I fight and have fought the censorship of Communist material, but fuck 'em.

I stayed in general population for nine months after doing three years in segregation. Now I'm back in segregation. It's political. They are intentionally filing false charges and segregating revolutionary, politically active and conscious prisoners. They were especially anxious to segregate us when they anticipated that Governor Ryan would commute the sentences of prisoners on Death Row, because they do not want revolutionary elements to mix with each other. So they have some former Death Row prisoners surrounded by agents and passive prisoners. Some former Death Row prisoners are also being segregated on false charges. Also, the u.s. government is ordering the prisons/captors to identify and segregate/isolate dissident prisoners, but I have the Maoist ideology when it comes to being attacked by the enemy.

In struggle,

—an Illinois prisoner, 28 February, 2003

MIM adds: Mao wrote "I hold that it is bad as far as we are concerned if a person, a political party, an army or a school is not attacked by the enemy, for in that case it would definitely mean that we have sunk to the level of the enemy. It is good if we are attacked by the enemy, since it proves that we have drawn a clear line of demarcation between the enemy and ourselves. It is still better if the enemy attacks us wildly and paints us as utterly black and without a single virtue; it demonstrates that we have not only drawn a clear line of demarcation between the enemy and ourselves but achieved a great deal in our work." ("On the Third Anniversary of the Founding of the Chinese People's Anti-Japanese Military and Political College," May 26, 1939)

Why MIM gives free subscriptions to prisoners

An associate informed me that it would be in my best interests as a seeker of knowledge

Under Lock & Key

News from Prisons & Prisoners

and truth that I contact MIM... I am in a situation now where I can get my hands on very limited reading materials unless it comes through the mail in the form of newspaper, pamphlets or copied papers. Books aren't allowed, not even softbacks. I'm in what they (Department of Corrections) call the SMU (Special Management Unit), in layman's terms locked down 23&1 [confined to his cell 23 hours per day]. Truthfully speaking it's not so harsh as some joints but it has its effects.

Now I've been in prison since I was a 15-year-old boy. I'm now on my 8th year of a life and no parole sentence—so compared to my overall dilemma this unit I'm in is nothing.

Thank you kindly,

—a Pennsylvania prisoner

Every bit counts

Dear MIM,

This notation is in response to the continuous injustice that's being done to my fellow prisoners who are being treated unfairly by the county, state and federal prison systems. Our problems behind these walls include [lack of] mail privileges, parole, education and staff harassment.

In order to change the racist and biased policies of this corrupt system, we have to:

1. Get our families, friends and loved ones involved in our struggle.
2. Stop spending on wants behind these walls and spend on our needs.
3. Support MIM and organizations who are trying to support us and stop supporting the commissary and stores which make us even more dependent on the system.

Eldridge Cleaver said, "You're either part of the solution or you're part of the problem." Brothers and sisters behind these walls spend millions of dollars a year on wants and cry about our needs. If we start helping the struggle more, we can make a change. If every inmate just sends five dollars to MIM, imagine the materials that could be bought.

—a Pennsylvania prisoner

MIM responds: Donations are indispensable to MIM's work. Without them we could not send the newspaper free prisoners, to take one example. Generally speaking, a higher proportion of prisoners than non-prisoners contribute—and they give a higher percentage of their income. So MIM extends this prisoner's challenge to all non-prisoners reading this page: we need your support! Make checks or money orders out to "MIM Distributors," and send to PO Box 29670, Los Angeles, CA, 90029-0670.

Prisoncrats steal MIM Notes

Comrades,

I apologize for being under the impression that you had forgotten about me. What you surmised was correct. The prisoncrats held #264, #272, & #273 about a week and a half

ago. So there's no doubt that they probably have some more that they haven't given me and most likely won't give me.

One thing the prisoncrats haven't done was give me a notice of what came and what I wasn't allowed to have. They just robbed me and expected me to never find out.

Respect,

—a Pennsylvania prisoner

MIM's take on Black Panthers censored

Greetings,

I have received three MIM papers from you... However, the Black Panthers' literature [MIM's pamphlet "Maoism and the Black Panther Party"] is being held and I'm now fighting it with the Inmate Grievances Committee.

—a Pennsylvania prisoner

Texas budget cuts for prisoners

Many prisoners are writing to report the ill effects of budget cuts on prisoners in their states, due to the weaker U\$ economy and budget problems facing state governments. For example, a Virginia prisoner recently reported that they are only getting two meals a day now on weekends and holidays, to save the prison system overtime pay. Here is a recent report from Texas. -MIM

Texas is in a \$11.2 billion hole and has cut everything back for so-called rats like us, including the state cheese. Security claims to be short of funds, and that has a hold on hiring people (or, shall I say, fellow Klansmen), and our movement becomes more limited every day. Every plantation master (warden) is going to have fewer crumbs to throw us, and have to cut some jobs — and they will have to close some of the 144 plantations statewide — in order for the governor to feel good about the state's downsizing state programs.

As far as slave labor, it continues, even on lockdown. President Bush hurt his fellow Texans because he ruined not only the country's budget surplus but Texas's as well. We're lucky to get a piece of meat around here; they're cutting back on everything, such as vocational programs, GED for prisoners, food, clothes, bath towels, soap, medical needs, family phone calls, pictures during visits, commissary privileges, recreation time, gym time, television time, and time to eat the little food they do care to serve.

The only things that are improving are security harassment, threats, censorship, limited movement...I am afraid because the more Texas does to TDCJ, the more these employees get revenge on us — it's a true domino effect. Commissary prices are sky-high for a state that doesn't pay its prisoners one red penny, but hey, that's one advantage

that TDCJ seldom acknowledges: no matter what shorts they face, or lack of personnel, they still have the largest free labor force in this great country of God's. We are the mighty Texans of slavery, and everybody who resists will be disciplined accordingly, as a slave.

—A Texas Prisoner, February 2003

Mother of Texas prisoner exposes new forms of repression

I am writing to you in regards to my son's situation in a maximum security prison in Texas, the Michael Unit in Tennessee Colony.

He has told me that the Feds are now out of the picture in the Texas prison system, which now leaves the state to do whatever they choose. He has raised a couple of key issues for himself and all his fellow inmates. They are as follows:

- 1) Visitors from a long distance (there's a certain number of miles or hours of travel which determines whether a visitor is

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.

considered as a long distance visitor) have been allowed a 4-hour visit on both Saturday and Sunday of the same weekend when prearranged as a "special" visit. My son has recently informed me that it is now a new prison policy that the prison can cut short (at their discretion) a "special visit" if there are many visitors trying to get in. This is an infringement on the "rights" of the inmates and their families. I visit from [another state] and can only make the trip twice a year. I'm very concerned about the possibility of them cutting my visit short. My son is in the Administrative Segregation section of the unit. Since the 4-hour visits use up critical space in the very limited 8 booth visiting section for all the inmates in the Administrative Segregation section, I can see where the guards may decide to deem it necessary to cut our visits short. What rights do we really have?...

2) Since the Feds have been pulled out of the Texas prisons, my son tells me that whenever he asks for grievance slips to write something up, he is denied access to these or they never get processed. This whole procedure seems totally ludicrous to me — having to ask a prison authority, a guard, for the "privilege" of obtaining the special documentation necessary to send in a complaint about one of them or their co-workers. What recourse is there?

The whole system of how they are running their Ad. Seg. units IS cruel and unusual punishment. There are many aspects of it that could quite easily be improved upon. And many areas that would need major overhaul efforts. The general public is NOT aware of the conditions present in the prison system. I am furious that there are no rehabilitation, education, life skills training, anger management, communications, conflict resolution or work training possibilities for Ad Seg inmates. They can earn almost no privileges. In fact, if the inmate is indigent and has no family who will visit, then there is absolutely NO privilege they can ever earn that they can take advantage of. These inmates are locked in a cell alone for at least 23 hours a day 7 days a week, most days for 24 hours. They are taken out briefly for showers and if they have "earned" it, then they can be taken out for recreation. The recreation space is another space where they are totally alone. There is no system set up for them to "earn", by their good behavior, a phone call or access to television (educational programming shows), contact visits, or any form of rehabilitation/education/training. Those privileges would not be dependent

upon the inmates' financial status. These are only a couple of ideas that I believe would make a tremendous difference. If you have any ideas of how these issues can be addressed I would really appreciate hearing them.

—**Mother of Texas prisoner March 2003**

MIM Responds: Thank you for writing — you provide an excellent "outside" view of what our comrades behind bars describe all the time. Prison is not in fact about rehabilitation, but social control — and, we argue, national oppression.

MIM doesn't provide legal assistance for individual cases. Rather, we agitate more broadly about the kind of prison conditions you describe (not to mention the criminal injustice system that jails a disproportionate number of poor people and oppressed nationalities to begin with) with the aim of building public opinion on the outside to oppose American imperialism in general, and prison oppression in particular.

Toward that end, we use our bi-monthly newspaper - MIM Notes - to print stories exposing injustices in prison. We print your letter to highlight these issues of visitation and bogus grievance procedures. We have several current active campaigns to collect petition signatures, hold public events and write articles about prison issues including the following:

- * ending Secure Housing Units (SHUs) in California prisons

- * ending the practice of forcing prisoners with medical conditions to work in Texas

To view news, petitions, etc. of these and other prison-related campaigns, see: <http://www.etext.org/Politics/MIM/agitation/prisons/campaigns/campaigns.html>

FL prisoner wins small victory

Remember I told you I had mail problems in my last letter. Well I achieved through grievance channels to still get a free letter off this month. I won approval against the mail room who didn't want to send my letter.

I have had a lot of success filing grievances because I spend my days and nights studying the system before I file. MIM has played a key role in how I think on filing against institutions. I never had no will to fight the institution with ink until I started reading MIM. [...]

—**a Florida prisoner, 19 March 03**

California plans to expand brutal SHU program

California Security Housing Units (SHU) are notoriously known for their civil rights violations. Maltreatment of prisoners does not have to be limited to physical abuse. Although, in the past California's SHU were the epitome of human rights abuse in the United States prison system. The effects of an environment of sterile isolation (like found in California's SHUs) on social animals has been known since the 1960s in the research of Harry Harlow: Harlow's studies proved that constant isolation in sterile environments led to antisocial behavior and that this treatment had severe negative emotional and psychological impact on the test subjects. California's SHU programs show this same result.

Mental illness is higher than normal prison population. The mental illness in California's SHUs is as high as 1/3 or more of the prison populations in these housing units. Although an exact proportion of the prison population would be hard to determine, because most prisoners refuse to be stigmatized with a negative label of mental illness. The effects of being locked in a cell 24 hours a day in an isolated environment has been known for decades.

California Department of Corrections plans to increase and expand these SHUs. California is not only expanding its current prisons by building more yards, it is changing the criteria for indeterminate SHU placement, meaning that it is easier for CDC to place prisoners in these units with little justification, for life. California prison populations are already growing at an alarming rate due to this state's mandatory sentencing laws. Due to CDC mismanagement of these prisons, it can be expected that California's SHU programs will increase at an even higher rate.

The fact that California's prison system is a failure is easily demonstrated in its 87% recidivism rate. But the effects of California's SHU program on human life is impossible to calculate. The psychological effects of California's SHU programs on prisoners is a well known fact.

These prison conditions affect prisoner's emotionally, and diminish prisoner's mental capabilities, especially in verbal expression and connotative abilities. Alienation from social groups and inter-family relationships is common over extended periods of time. The extreme isolation over long periods has been proven to produce delusions and forms of

psychosis in prisoners that are predisposed to these conditions. The constant isolation in these sterile environments of California's SHU programs have been proven to increase antisocial and violent behavior in prisoners.

The cruelty of these SHU programs have been known for years and CDC plans only to expand these conditions in their SHUs. CDC efforts to stop corruption in their own department have led only to more harsh, severe, and strict living conditions in these HSUs. California's prisons are a multi-billion dollar business that expand only at cost of great human suffering. California's SHU programs have been proved to be the epitome of this humyn suffering. The expansion of this governmental business of California's prison system will go on unchecked until enough people take an active stand against such practices like conditions found in California's SHUs and the United States prison system in general.

—**a SHU prisoner in California, February 2003**

IL prisoners support & share CA struggle

I read with great interest about California's supreme court giving the governor carte blanche authority to deny individuals' parole, as I have been experiencing a similar problem here in Illinois. I've been appearing before the parole board yearly since 1977, with no success. Your articles on the brutality of supermax prisons were also well received, and I will soon be sharing them with friends in Europe who are shocked by the abuses committed in the name of the state every day.

Thank you for your continuous support for those of us who are caught in the vise of the viper.

—**an Illinois prisoner, 16 March 2003**

What is internationalism?

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

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

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

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

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

Facts on U\$ imprisonment

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

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

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

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

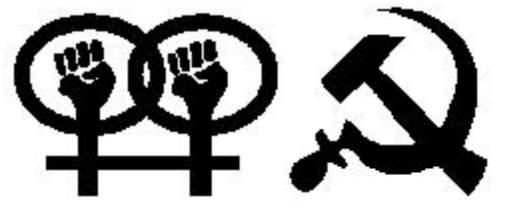
Notes: 1. Marc Mauer, "Americans Behind Bars: The International Use of Incarceration 1993," The Prison Sentencing Project, 918 F. St. NW, Suite 501, Washington, DC 20004 (202) 628-0871 Reference: SRI: R8965-2, 1994

2. Ibid., 1992 report.

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

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

5. Atlantic Monthly December, 1998.



Declaración de principios con respecto a la guerra contra Irak

Por el Ministro de Relaciones Internacionales del Movimiento Maoísta Internacionalista (MIM)

Hoy, al extenderse la larga guerra contra Irak hacia Bagdad como resultado de los primeros ataques de misiles después del vencimiento del plazo otorgado a Irak por el ultimatum de Bush, el MIM lamenta de antemano la pérdida de vidas en Irak. No importa si EE.UU. logra la victoria en sólo un día o si el pueblo iraquí se esfuerza por pulverizar a cientos de miles de soldados invasores. Esta pérdida de vidas no es necesaria; la especie humana podrá lograr la paz sólo a través de una perspectiva mundial.

Falta de argumentos morales

Condenada hasta por los reaccionarios como el Papa y el presidente de Francia Chirac, esta guerra claramente no tiene ninguna base moral sea cual sea la procedencia social de uno. Al fin y al cabo, tanto Chirac como Bush pertenecen a la misma ala reaccionaria de la burguesía. Chirac proviene del equivalente francés del Partido Republicano de EE.UU.

La mera verdad es que la paz mundial se dara sólo cuando el internacionalismo se apodere de nuestra especie. El eje central de esta idea se explica en términos cristianos como la “ley dorada”- es decir, la necesidad de ponernos en el lugar de nuestros prójimos. Si se ignora la aplicación internacionalista de la “ley dorada” entre las naciones no dejaremos de sembrar la guerra y cosechar el terrorismo.

Sin embargo, no somos pacifistas. La violencia de Bush no contribuye a una solución internacionalista. Al contrario, la violencia de Bush consiste en parte en la difusión del pánico frente a las armas de destrucción masiva. Pero estas armas son tan sólo un síntoma de otra enfermedad. Los amigos de Bush dicen: “Las armas no matan. La gente mata.” Pero existen razones por las cuales se desarrollan armas de destrucción masiva que después se usan en Hiroshima y Nagasaki. Bush ha ignorado estas causas y sólo las ha hecho más agudas.

Una cuestión científica: ¿Qué tipo de violencia puede hacer que se evite más violencia?

Lo que hace Bush es un perfecto ejemplo de la violencia reaccionaria y opresiva. Ésta desencadena un furor en torno a un síntoma de un problema pretendiendo al mismo tiempo solucionar el problema. El fascismo se puede interpretar como un enorme esfuerzo por arreglar los problemas que surgen a causa del capitalismo. Pero el fascismo no puede ganar porque es incapaz de reconocer la raíz de su propia existencia. Por el contrario, Abraham Lincoln también usó la violencia represora pero esta violencia resultó

progresista porque el plan de Lincoln consistía en acabar con la esclavitud y otras causas de antagonismos nacionales. Lincoln usó la violencia en contra de las causas de la violencia. El tipo de violencia que usa Bush no hace más que avivar la furia de los pueblos del mundo. Los que entienden esto entenderán fácilmente cómo es que Stalin usó la violencia para reprimir a tanta gente mientras que la expectativa promedio de vida de su pueblo aumentó. Siendo reaccionario, Bush no tiene ningún tipo de plan o capacidad para utilizar la violencia con el fin de reducir la violencia. La falta de tal plan es tan evidente que muchos creen que la verdadera causa de la guerra es intercambiar “sangre por petróleo.”

Cuando se trata de problemas internacionales y de la paz la única cosa “moral” es lo que promueve la continuación de las especies. En términos convencionales, si el estado de Israel fuera un país “moral” hace mucho se hubiera logrado la paz en el Medio Oriente ya que las fuerzas armadas de este país son mucho más poderosas que las de otros países a su alrededor. Al igual que el acercamiento de Israel, los esfuerzos de Bush por convertir a todo el tercer mundo en una gigantesca Franja de Gaza están condenados a un fracaso.

A primera vista parece que la cuestión de la paz y la guerra se puede plantear fácilmente en términos morales y tácticos. Pero esto es una equivocación. Un hecho científico es que Israel no está en paz con sus vecinos. EE.UU. gasta más en sus fuerzas armadas que todos los países del mundo combinados y también tiene la economía más grande del mundo. Sin embargo, EE.UU. sufre ataques terroristas por personas que si fueran oportunistas, escogerían blancos más fáciles. Estos también son hechos científicos que señalan algo sobre el método de Israel y EE.UU.

Bush busca aliviar las preocupaciones morales cuando dice que el Tío Sam quiere que la guerra sea lo más corta posible y que espera dejar a Irak con una feliz democracia después de la guerra. Los que conocen el amor que los pueblos del tercer mundo profiesan hacia la autodeterminación y los que saben algo sobre Irak entienden el porqué del odio iraquí hacia los yanquis. La capacidad de Bush para establecer una “democracia” en Irak aparenta ser una cuestión de “táctica” pero de hecho se confunden las cuestiones tácticas (utilitarias) con las cuestiones morales. A menudo se oye decir que el debate ideológico es más desordenado que el debate científico pero en este caso la moralidad de la “paz mundial” no es un tema controversial. Lo controversial es la ciencia de cómo lograr la paz mundial.

Lamentamos la muerte de los inocentes

iraquíes.

El pueblo iraquí es una víctima de la más espantosa potencia imperialista durante toda la historia: Los Estados Unidos de América. Lo que busca el pueblo de Irak es una autodeterminación — un motivo saludable y natural perseguido por George Washington. Por esta razón el nacionalismo iraquí no se puede comparar con el nacionalismo torcido de los yanquis que se oponen a las “papas a la francesa” y utilizan el nacionalismo como pretexto para asesinar a la gente de Irak.

También lamentamos la muerte de los soldados yanquis que son demasiado jóvenes e ignorantes y que no entienden los asuntos mundiales ni tampoco saben porqué tienen que morir en Irak (claro, algunos ya han muerto entrenando para esta guerra). Sin embargo, a diferencia de los iraquíes, los soldados yanquis han tenido la oportunidad de evitar este fin. A lo mejor pasaron demasiado tiempo viendo www.nakednews.com (el noticiero principal entre hombres entre los 18 y los 34 años en el cual las representadoras salen desnudas) y no prestaron atención a los asuntos políticos. O quizás se la hayan pasado leyendo historias románticas de aventuras militares. Sea cual fuera la razón, los soldados yanquis han tenido la oportunidad económica de aprender más y poder sacar a su país de la guerra. Pero en esto han fracasado.

La capacidad y el crecimiento económico de la humanidad son casi ilimitables pero la población de EE.UU. se la pasa leyendo novelas románticas de baja calidad y jugando juegos electrónicos en vez de dedicarse a la cooperación económica que lograría la paz mundial. Una y otra vez los líderes yanquis e israelíes dicen que la solución es asesinar a más gente del tercer mundo. Logran asesinar a mucha gente, incluyendo a los suyos mediante el “fuego amigable” y no logran conseguir la “democracia” ni la paz ni la cooperación económica.

De cualquier modo, tanto los líderes yanquis como el 70% de la población de EE.UU. que los apoya, (1) le están “buscando tres pies al gato.” Está bien claro que los yanquis no respetan más que la fuerza: no respetan las leyes internacionales, ni los tratados que han firmado, ni la ONU ni tampoco los “derechos humanos” de los que tanto se habla. El problema es que estos traficantes de guerra imponen un sistema que causa el terrorismo sobre el resto de Norteamérica. El presidente Regan y el vicepresidente George Bush entrenaron y regalaron armas a Bin Laden para que luchara contra la Unión Soviética. Después, la mayoría sanguinaria lanzó una guerra contra Irak impulsando a Bin Laden a atacar EE.UU. Sin embargo, los yanquis siguen sin entender. Ahora están a favor de una guerra contra Irak

por los supuestos lazos de Irak con el terrorismo. ¡Vaya lógica! Ellos mismos han creado estos

lazos.

Pero la estupidez no termina ahí. El vicepresidente Cheney dijo el día 16 de marzo (y fue apoyado por Bush) que Irak tiene armas nucleares. Sin embargo, Cheney es el que desde el principio ha luchado a favor de la guerra. (2) ¡Esto sí que es buscarle tres pies al gato! La verdad es que cada habitante de este planeta vive gracias a la tolerancia de otros- una regla que adquiere mayor importancia conforme va encogiéndose el planeta. Estaremos mejor cuanto más pronto entendamos esto.

Mientras algunas empresas se ganan la vida vendiendo bombas, nosotros, los participantes del movimiento estadounidense de paz, vivimos bajo la eterna amenaza de la guerra y el terrorismo a causa de lo que hace la mayoría yanqui. Pero los que componemos la minoría estamos hartos de sus guerras por el petróleo, su apoyo a las diarias masacres israelíes en contra de los palestinos. Estamos hartos de sus ganancias en el mercado de armas y de todo lo demás que nos priva el derecho de vivir en paz y sin el terrorismo. Si la mayoría imperialista de EE.UU. quiere cambiar las cosas (“cambiar el régimen”) en Irak, que se muden a Irak. Bajo la democracia la mayoría sólo determina lo que pasa entre los que votan, y no en países a miles de kilómetros de aquí. Si los tontos yanquis cabezudos quieren un “cambio de régimen” en Irak, que se muden a Bagdad.

Nosotros que somos la minoría que busca la paz tenemos un derecho no-negociable a vivir sin la violencia causada por el deseo de la mayoría de estructurar el mundo según la imagen de Ronald McDonald. Si los yanquis quieren una guerra para quitarles el velo a las mujeres afganas y creen que saben cómo lograrlo, que se muden ahí también. Si los yanquis no quieren que Kim Jong-il fabrique armas nucleares para venderlas les sugerimos que le paguen más que los otros consumidores porque bajo el capitalismo no hay otra lógica que esta. Cualquier cosa que quieran hacer estos yanquis, deberían hacerla sin poner en peligro el derecho del resto del mundo a vivir en paz.

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