



THE WAR IS NOT OVER

DC rally condemns U.S. occupation of Iraq

Washington,
April 12

About 10,000 people marched this afternoon in sunny 80 degree weather to protest the colonial occupation of Iraq. Weather predictions turned out wrong again, as temperatures and cloud cover were both more upbeat than predicted by the Weather Channel and TV news.

MIM handed out 1800 copies of the April 15th MIM Notes.

At the head were marchers from a Filipino contingent, some with BAYAN International banners. One Filipino comrade said the April 15th MIM Notes had "a good article" that exposed the U.S. Government on terrorism in the Philippines—including the evidence that it has faked some terrorist incidents.

The main organizers of the rally were International ANSWER, according to whom there were 30,000 at the rally. However, there was also at least one speaker from "Not In Our Name" at the event.

The veteran Workers World activist Larry Holmes spoke forcefully on many areas where there could be little disagreement. Speaking of Bush, Holmes said, "He lied about weapons of mass destruction! He lied about the connection to 911!" Other speakers and protesters pointed out that Saddam Hussein was just a smaller version of U.S. terrorism.

"We are all Palestinians" and "we are all Iraqis" were some of the signs at the event.

We do not want to give people the impression that all is good at anti-war rallies in the united States. Of course, we appreciate each and every non-cop persyn at the rally, but there were a number of indications of complacency at the rally. As usual, there were people at the rally completely empty-handed, by which we mean that they did not accept any literature from anyone. Among the most common excuses were "I don't have any hands." The best excuse for the day why the demonstrator did not want a copy of MIM Notes was: "too big, too much to read. If it was smaller, I'd take it."

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The graphic shows countries invaded by U\$ imperialism. For a poster version that lists the countries, go to: <http://www.etext.org/Politics/MIM/art/invasionmap.html>.

(Art by a RAIL comrade)

Earth Day pacifists get the message: U.S. out of the World

San Francisco
MIM and RAIL spent the earth-day weekend proclaiming that the war is not over and will not be until the U.S. gets out of every country in the world. Inspired by the bullshit we are hearing in the media and on the streets that the war in Iraq is over now that Saddam is gone, we targeted earth-day crowds who are largely already anti-war but generally not anti-imperialist. Our protests took place at two earth day festivals, one Saturday and one Sunday, where we displayed large banners and graphic signs, distributed revolutionary literature and talked to the crowds as they passed by.

The advertisement for our protest read: "The U.S. has a long history of invading countries, supporting brutal dictatorships, overthrowing democratically elected governments, financing militias, and sending its armies to stop peoples revolutionary movements around the world. The latest attack on Iraq is just one more example. With Saddam out of

power in Iraq we are being told the war is over. Don't believe it! Until the U.S. takes its' armies, money, corporations and power out of Iraq and everywhere else, the Amerikan-led war of terror against the people of the world continues. "The united States is an imperialist country, a country with an economic system that exploits the whole world and cannot stand still within itself. The humyn will to be free of oppression and exploitation is permanent. Economic systems on the other hand have changed many times. It's time to change again. Only internationalism can bring global peace.

"Join us in demanding an end to the U.S. war on the world. U.S. out of Iraq, Palestine, the Philippines, Columbia, Puerto Rico, Turkey, and the rest of the world! A country with hands bloody from wars of global domination is not qualified to define terrorism.

"Here at home we demand and end to the domestic war of terror against internal oppressed nations. A country built on the

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It has
simply
changed
form

Despite panegyrics from the Pentagon press corps at CNN, FOX, NBC, etc. and President Bush's pending proclamation, Amerika's war on Iraq has not ended. It has simply changed form—just as it did when it morphed from the low-intensity occupation pursued for over a decade by both Republican and Democratic administrations to full-scale conventional warfare.

Afghanistan provides a relevant precedent. The newly-installed "democratic" government there depends entirely on U.S. "security" forces, and still its authority does not extend beyond Kabul. Attacks on government officials are weekly occurrences in the Afghan capital. Amerikan troops have been

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Government moves to make Patriot Act permanent

When the Patriot Act passed in October 2001, it included several so-called "sunset clauses:" particular provisions which would expire at the end of 2005 without Congressional re-authorization. The Bush administration is now working to make these provisions permanent.

The Patriot Act expanded the government's power to conduct secret wiretaps, secretly search homes, access computer records, use evidence collected by illegal search and seizure, and lock up and deport non-citizens without presenting evidence.

Senator Orrin Hatch has drafted a proposal which would repeal the sunset provisions. According to the New York Times "Many Democrats have grown increasingly frustrated by what they see

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On the web: www.etext.org/Politics/MIM

Letters

Aznar is another puppet

Dear MIM:

Hello, I am Spanish. I agree with most of the ideas you exposed in your web page. My president, Aznar, is another puppet, just someone who just wants to be a name remembered in History, and he doesn't mind to cross over thousands of people dead in a war like the others, unjust.

I don't like the Maoists' precepts, but I agree with you on all the major points you explain. I think you are brave making a web like this in your country. I could say more things but my English is not as good as I wanted it to be, so, see you and go on.

Against war and ignorance, free of expression and information. I hope someday we could stop this imperialism and other repressive regimes.

—Spanish Internet reader
April 13, 2003

International Minister responds: It's great to hear from Spain.

Spain has the 10th largest economy in the world, but still the sentiment that Aznar is a puppet of Bush is widespread. Even Blair in England seems to be a "poodle" of Bush's as the expression goes in England. In this sense, we are a witnessing something truly historic in this war, the sense that the whole rest of the world does not matter if Bush wants

something his way.

As the writer alludes to, Spain is an excellent example of how bourgeois "democracy" works. Over 90% of Spain opposes the war in Iraq, but the bourgeois leader still backed Bush. When the war started, only one country other than the United States showed majority support for the war—I\$rael.(1) Only after it started did England and Australia swing into line.(2) Yet, more than 30 countries like Spain belonged to "the coalition of the willing." The list reads like a "who's who" of lackeydom. In the past it was difficult to say among lackies who was the worst, but the "coalition of the willing" invading Iraq provides a concrete measurement.

MIM says that the movement needs to get over its illusions about "democracy" and focus on consequences for these minority rulers. "Majority rule" in the united States is determining what is going on in the whole world. It overrules the majority rule of each country. It always has, because imperialism is fundamentally a system of minority rule. When it really counts—as in war—it is clear for the whole world to see.

Notes:

1. <http://www.msnbc.com/news/885222.asp?0cv=KB10>
2. <http://news.bbc.co.uk/2/hi/asia-pacific/2880519.stm>;
http://news.bbc.co.uk/2/hi/middle_east/2883171.stm

United for independent institutions of the oppressed

Your materials on Pan-Africanism (1), the definition of the term "masses" (2) and your program adopted and ratified by MIM in 1995 (3) ... were all stimulating and will be the topic of my personal meditations for some time. I find that although I cannot commit to your cardinal principles at this time, we still have many common principles, goals and objectives. Many of MIM's aims regarding the people are shared not only by me but by many who would not call themselves communists. In reading your "Minimum Demands" (4) I wholly support an international minimum wage and international child labor laws. I also seek such policies as free day case, as well as free primary, secondary and college education for all, free world health care and other such changes in existing government that would make for a more equitable and just society.

And I too understand that this will not be done without armed struggle, for those who benefit from inequality and injustice are not going to simply allow that which they benefit by to be undone without a fight.

I confess my ignorance regarding what political system would best prove itself sufficient for the needs of the people. I truly see valid points in socialism, communism, anarchism and other revolutionary systems that would replace that of capitalism, which, and of this I am sure, must be destroyed. Therefore, I can boldly fight with certainty knowing that that which I fight against, capitalism and

the racism, bigotry and oppression which it breeds, must die if hope is to have a chance at life.

Concerning Pan-Africanism, as founder of World Africa and its service wing, THE BLACK BRIGADE, I can of course concur with and support the concept of universal Pan-Africanism. I do so because we, as a people, must create for ourselves a system of government, along with the necessary institutions, that would insure our well-being. I do not believe in replacing white supremacy with Black supremacy nor of using culture to separate one group from the other in an isolationist fashion. However, given our history and the present conditions in which we live, it is only reasonable that those of the same culture and background, as well as their supporters and allies, should seek to establish an alternative.

Also, as long as the oppressed are dependent on their oppressors for their education, training, development, financial and physical well-being and future direction, then they shall always be oppressed by the very same oppressors whom they have come to so totally depend on. Therefore the Black Brigade is established to replace the dependency on the oppressors... with a self-sufficient internal mechanism created by and for the people themselves. In time, and hopefully with the help of our MIM comrades, we shall beautify our communities, make our neighborhoods safe without the need for patrols and intervention by the occupying forces known as the Police...

In time, we hope to join our brothers and sisters of all races and backgrounds who fight against global oppression [and]

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Editor, MC206; Production, MC12

MIM Notes

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

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

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

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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.

Pigs open fire on protesters outside Oakland docks

April 7—Oakland police assaulted anti-war protesters for an hour and a half today, one-upping their repressive counterparts across the Bay in San Francisco.

At 6:00 a.m. this morning, hundreds of protesters blocked both entrances to the shipping company American President Lines (APL). APL is a primary mover of military supplies for the U.S. Department of "Defense." Protestors prevented traffic from entering the yard until 7:30 AM. Oakland police gave the first order to disperse at 7:15 a.m. Cops grabbed a demonstrator on roller skates as he skated by, making him the first arrest of the day.

Many protesters struggled to hold the picket line by allowing the cops to let the first few cars to pass and then blocking the trucks further down the street. This resulted in a few more arrests as cops picked people off the front lines. One trucker expressed his opposition to the war but moved along once ordered by police.

After traffic was moving riot pigs

moved in and began firing shotgun shells filled with octopus-shaped beanbags.

The demo regrouped at the next entrance. A handful of International Longshore and Warehouse Union (ILWU) members were standing outside waiting to get into work. While one said he supported the demo, most refused to answer questions. Organizers say that the union agreed not to break the picket line as long as there were 300 or more people involved, but they did not participate.

Protesters chanted "Pro-worker, Anti-war" in an attempt to show unity with the dockworkers. If the ILWU was willing to come out and stop the shipment of military supplies it would be a great victory for the international proletariat. But the ILWU has yet to do this, and we must not wait for them or expect them to do so. Americans benefit from this system of imperialism that we oppose, and as a group they will not come out and bite the hand that feeds them. Throughout the day, "War is for profit, Workers can stop it" was a favorite



Police shot rubber pellets at protesters, resulting in painful welts.

chant. While this is a true statement it is misleading to tell people that workers in this country are going to stand up against war.

At 8:02 a.m. cops on motorcycles charged into the crowd and shot wooden dowels and concussion grenades at protesters.

One person who drove up behind the line of police was pulled out of his car, thrown to the ground and arrested. This followed another warning to disperse and more shots including canisters releasing an explosion of tear gas and rubber pellets.

Injuries were numerous, mostly huge bloody welts from being shot. One person had a finger broken and a couple people were shot in the face. Pigs aimed at protesters carrying a friend out of the line of fire. In a humorous incident at 8:31 a.m., the police captain called "organizers" forward, at which point a whole crowd of

people approached him with riot pigs rushing to line up behind. At this point he declared that if we walked down 7th Street and went back to the BART station we would be left alone.

The crowd headed in that direction but stopped again at the corner of Maritime and 7th, an important route for bringing goods to and from the docks.

Demonstrators had blocked traffic in two directions by 9 a.m. At this point we received news that the picket line at the

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MIM to Australian anti-war movement: Don't back down

Dear Margo Kingston:

You were wrong to back down from your assertion that the united States used nuclear weapons in the Vietnam War. In 1954, the united States offered nuclear weapons to the French to fight off their final loss at Dienbienphu. After the French withdrew from Vietnam, Nixon threatened again to use nuclear weapons.(1)

Critics of your article "Bring Our Troops Home" for the Sydney Morning Herald have an unacceptably high threshold for the word "use." Nixon did not "detonate" any nuclear weapons, but he did "use" them and to think that such use does not matter shows how insensitive to violence and instability a large part of the public in the imperialist countries has become, especially concerning the Third World.

People have adjusted to all this—including threats of nuclear devastation—because there is no other choice under capitalism. The motivations for the nuclear roll of the dice, inviting counter-threats and pre-emptive strikes to prevent the detonation of nuclear weapons, are present, and many people are too afraid to squarely look the problem in the face. No discussion of politics should avoid looking for answers. An example of how unrealistic capitalism makes people is the continuous vacillation between war-mongering and peace. Even Nixon himself ended up making the following ridiculous predictions: "Looking to the future. . . I also do not believe the world's major powers will initiate a conventional war. In Korea in the 1950s and in Afghanistan in the 1980s, we have seen that an overt

invasion unites the world against the aggressor and ultimately dooms the policy to failure."(2)

Although not everyone reads dusty history books, the use of nuclear weapons in Vietnam was also recently in the news. First of all, another declassified document just came out about Nixon's nuclear threats.(3) Other journalists in-the-know have also discussed the parallels to Vietnam in the current Iraq conflict regarding nuclear weapons.(4)

**Sincerely,
International Minister
Maoist Internationalist Movement**

Notes:

1. <http://www.ieer.org/ensec/no-6/threats.html>
2. Richard Nixon, *In the Arena*, (NY: Simon & Schuster, 1990), p. 344.
3. <http://groups.google.com/groups?q=Nixon+%22nuclear+alert%22&hl=en&lr=&ie=UTF-8&selm=sv9k0v gp9g6i4dd5liq725fo1t1mn5nmkc%404ax.com&num=2>
4. "Documents show that in the fall of 1969, President Nixon put U.S. forces on worldwide nuclear alert in what he aptly called a 'madman' strategy aimed at scaring the Soviets into using their influence to force Vietnamese communist concessions at the negotiations in Paris. "Last month, the Bush administration took a leaf out of Nixon's book when it threatened to use nuclear weapons against Iraq if the Iraqis use chemical or biological weapons against U.S. troops. All U.S. intelligence agencies agree that Saddam Hussein probably will, in fact, use chemical and/or biological weapons if we invade Iraq." <http://www.examiner.com/opinion/default.jsp?story=op.mcgovern.0106w>

Times admits prison companies rent New York legislature

New York legislators regularly receive gifts up to \$75 a time from prison industry corporations. Other legal loopholes allow even greater transactions in an effort to lobby the New York legislature for more prison building and other contracts. In 14 years of existence, the committee in charge of ethics in New York has never brought charges against any member of the legislature.(1) The recent corruption comes to light in connection to federal investigations.

"A vehicle provided to Assemblyman Roger L. Green for his personal use was a gray Plymouth Voyager minivan with tinted windows, but the perks from a private prison company called Correctional Services Corporation did not end there, according to interviews and records from a federal investigation into the company's operations."

"Mr. Green, an influential state legislator in New York, received a driver, a young man named Jorge Avila-Parks, who on many mornings showed up at Mr. Green's home in Brooklyn. There was also the public relations aide for Mr. Green's office, workers for his political campaigns, free meals and a cellphone."(2)

Under capitalism, it is inevitable that

money corrupts the "justice system." That is another reason MIM is in favor of all individual liberties and privacy rights. It is not a matter of "having something to hide." The public is mistaken to believe that prisons, guards, cops and judges are somehow "neutral" spectators. The more laws passed with more cops paid to harass people for meaningless charges, the more "criminals" convicted and the more profits there are for prison construction and supply corporations. That's not to mention the sheriffs who profit from prison labor or the district attorneys elected mayors, governors or presidents for successfully convicting people.

Notes:

1. JAMES C. McKINLEY, Jr. "Unlimited Largess for Albany Lawmakers, \$75 at a Time," 2Mar2003 <http://www.nytimes.com/2003/03/02/nyregion/02ETHI.html>
2. New York Times 17Feb2003; <http://query.nytimes.com/gst?auth=FOBI&B55EC74DDAB094DB048>
3. See also, MIM Theory #11, "Amerikkkan prisons on trial," <http://www.etext.org/Politics/MIM/mt/mt11.html>

Crunch time proves MIM right

Polls correctly show who the anti-war movement is

March 29, 2003

Only 20% of U.S. whites oppose the war with Iraq. The same poll by Gallup admits that 68% of Blacks oppose the war with 29% supporting it.(1) These polls will frustrate many whites living in certain geographic localities, where anti-war sentiment is concentrated, because it will appear there that anti-war feelings are much more widespread. However, the polls showing only 20% of whites opposing the war are correct. (For countries easier to attack than Iraq, the figure would be even lower than 20%.) It's just a matter of where we look. The majorities of all people in major parts of the East Coast and all of California oppose the war. 41% oppose the war on the East Coast as a whole. When we factor in the New Hampshire and other rural East Coast counties of Amerikkans that support Bush, it means that in the major East Coast cities, opposition is in the vast majority.

Countless conservatives across the country are invoking 911 as a reason for the war, instead of a reason against the war. Instead of coming to us and apologizing for supporting the president who armed, financed and trained Bin Laden, these conservatives and "support our troops" warmongers come to us in outrage asking why we don't support yet more CIA and military maneuvers just like the past ones that created Bin Laden and Saddam Hussein. We remind them it was their president, not our government in charge of creating Bin Laden and giving Saddam Hussein chemical and biological weapons in the first place. Even with over 70% of Amerikkans in favor of the war, New Yorkers still disagree. "A poll released this week showed that just after the conflict began, New Yorkers became more supportive of the war and President Bush's handling of the conflict. Still, even as about 70 percent of all Americans back the war, just 47 percent of New Yorkers support it, while 49 percent oppose it," reported the Chicago Tribune.(2) So much for the conservative idiots who think that Californians oppose the war, because they haven't been to the World Trade Center.(3)

In California, the Los Angeles Times reported on March 6th, "With the United States on the precipice of war, Californians disapprove of President Bush's handling of Iraq, and half do not trust him to make the right decision on whether to take military action, a new Los Angeles Times Poll has found. "Three in five Californians believe the U.S. should not invade Iraq without the United Nations' backing, the poll found. . . only one in four Californians said the president should take military action now rather than allowing the U.N. arms inspectors to continue their work in Iraq."(4)

Even within California, a bare majority of whites in the four-county area of Sacramento supported the invasion even

before it started, while only 44% of "non-whites" did. Yolo County opposed the war and the other three supported it for a total of 51% supporting the war.(2) Again, what this means is that in the suburbs and rural areas, the war has support, but in Los Angeles and San Francisco, the opposition is overwhelming, whether the people in those cities even know it or not. The same poll of Sacramento found 65% support for the invasion in the Sierra area of Nevada, El Dorado County.(4)

[A poll taken several weeks into the war when CNN/Pentagon briefings were particularly upbeat found that 76% of Californians supported the war, including 63% of the Bay Area.(9)]

Those of us forgetting the gun-toting, SUV-driving, pickup-truck owning white trash and lower-middle class whites in the rural and interior parts of the country simply will not have an accurate picture of what is happening. The highest support for the war comes from the Bush voters in the South, Midwest and non-coastal West in the \$30,000 to \$50,000 income category. There seems to be a dispute where Latinos stand. A poll prior to the war showed that 60% of New York and California "Hispanic" registered voters opposed the war. Another poll showed that 43% opposed the war and 48% supported in February. A more recent survey shows 67% "Hispanic" support for the war on Iraq.(5)

* 56% of gays/lesbians/bisexuals/transsexuals oppose the idea of going to war without UN approval and without UN inspectors finding weapons of mass destruction.

* Only 31% of gays/lesbians/bisexuals/transsexuals trust George W. Bush to make the correct decisions on the Iraq question.(6)

* 59% of Jews support the war, less than the average of 7 in 10, according to the American Jewish Committee. MIM has tried to tell people for a long time that there is a difference between Jews inside the USA and those settling on land in Palestine. 73% of Israeli\$ supported invading Iraq.(7)

A whopping 44% of liberals supports the war.(1) Along with the fact that Democrats are based in the "moderates" where 70% support the war, it is very clear that the end of this war has to originate from the "fringe"—and that's without mentioning where Democratic Party imperialist leaders stand, just the voters.

The petty-bourgeois tendency to vacillate wildly in serious wars characterizes U.S. views of war. "If there are hundreds of American casualties, support for the war drops to 62%, while 35% oppose it."(8) It's not that Amerikkans oppose the war in principle. They just want their cheap gas and world dominance without killing too many Marines. At some number in the thousands of Marines dead and the war

still going on, Amerikkans will want out of the war.

Despite the huge Black-white gap for instance, there are countless of the brain-dead calling themselves "Marxist" (who know who they are without our naming them) who ask us why we separate the Black Nation from Amerikkka, why we don't just lump Black "workers" with white "workers." With the latest Daily Telegraph poll showing 83% English support for the war in Iraq, it's clear that there is more justification in calling England and Amerikkka one nation than Blacks part of the same United States. White exploiters differ not only in degree from oppressed Blacks. Thanks to peculiarities of history that Blacks have not forgotten, even more than current economic relations, there is a qualitative difference that should be sharpened, not confused, lest we throw away the basis of the anti-war movement and fail to confront the anti-war movement's real tasks surrounding national chauvinism, racism and attacks on the Third World in general, something we Maoists call dealing with the principal contradiction between oppressed nations and imperialism.

Notes:

1. <http://www.gallup.com/poll/releases/pr030328.asp>; se also, <http://www.upi.com/view.cfm?StoryID=20030314-022023-3781r>
2. "New York's 911 victims don't support war,"

3. <http://www.billingsgazette.com/index.php?id=1&display=rednews/2003/03/28/build/war/74-911-support.inc>
4. "David Houston, a self-described conservative from Tampa Bay, Fla., who was on a monthlong vacation in California, said many people in the state struck him as out of touch with the rest of America. 'It is obvious a lot of people here are against the war,' he said. 'Of course, if a lot of them went to visit the World Trade Center, they might think differently.'" <http://www.nytimes.com/2003/03/20/international/worldspecial/20WEST.html>
5. "Many fault handling of Iraq," by Michael Finnegan, Los Angeles Times 06Mar2003. <http://www.sacbee.com/content/news/story/6284848p-7238619c.html>; <http://www.nytimes.com/2003/03/20/international/worldspecial/20WEST.html?pagewanted=2&ei=5062&en=57bc27c09eaa4511&ex=1048827600&partner=GOOGLE>
6. http://www.trpi.org/press_rel.html; <http://www.chron.com/cs/CDA/ssistory.mpl/metropolitan/1830709>
7. http://www.advocate.com/new_news.asp?ID=8034&sd=03/15/03-03/17/03
8. <http://www.boston.com/dailyglobe2/075/nation/>
[In_the_Diaspora_and_in_Israel_opinions_vary+.shtml](http://www.boston.com/dailyglobe2/075/nation/In_the_Diaspora_and_in_Israel_opinions_vary+.shtml)
9. <http://www.zogby.com/news/ReadNews.dbm?ID=691>
9. Associated Press reporting on a Field Institute poll, 8 Apr 2003.

DC rally condemns U.S. occupation of Iraq

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There are two reasons that people might not engage in struggle and read other people's literature at rallies. One is that s/he thinks s/he knows everything and need not go further. Another is that s/he is only at the rally to salve a conscience momentarily before returning to apolitical life. We have heard many say that the war was evil, so "I had to do something."

Iraqis defending themselves waited for months for the Amerikkans to come. When the Amerikkans arrived in Iraq, many Iraqis waited yet another week or two for the Amerikkans to come to their locale for a chance to fight. Unfortunately, the way that Amerikkans "fight," thousands of Iraqis died from bombing without ever seeing any Amerikkans. Our point in this is that Amerikkans still have comfort to retreat to: that's why we insist that the peace movement not just relieve its conscience but fight to win. To fight to win involves training the mind and body and delivering a long-term and time-consuming commitment.

In the midst of the rally, MIM launched into some mini-struggles. Some Muslims stopped by to ask what we were handing out. One said he was told that we stood for Marx's aphorism: "religion is the opiate

of the people." We concurred that he had correctly identified us.

Then the demonstrator interested in Islam said, "what good is that? What are you going to achieve?" He then went on about the "opiate" question: "No, it's not. People need religion. It's the only thing that is going to save" the world. (By the way, notice that he did not really address Marx, because people would also report "needing" their heroin, cocaine etc.)

The Muslim comrade then asked our reply to that and we asked him if he agreed that the people attacking were a different religion. He did. "So it seems to me that religion divides the people."

Another comrade who said he was a former member of the "Communist Party-USA" till 1991 stopped by and said he reads our articles but does not agree with our third cardinal principle on the labor aristocracy. We seemed to agree on the facts in our disputes, but we were unable to pin down our differences. "Your strategy may work. . . only because the American working class is changing." He went on to explain that the ethnic basis of the U.S. population is changing. The comrade agreed Nazis and KKK had to be labeled and treated as "enemy," but he continued to have a soft spot for the

Continued on page 6...

Labor aristocracy rallies for killing in the Third World, as usual

by International Minister
March 24, 2003

There is an urgent problem and question facing the global anti-war movement. Although the world is more than 80% opposed to the U.S. war on Iraq, that is not the case in a handful of countries.

The question arises, which countries are they and why. From the beginning, the United States had the support of the majority of only one country—Israel.(1) Unfortunately, there are others as well who are phony in their opposition. England was never very strong in its opposition, never reaching the levels of opposition in say Hungary, where more than 80% oppose the war even if the UN would have endorsed it. As we go into war, Tony Blair's government did not fall despite the Labor Party's hold on power, and not the Conservative Party's. In fact, the English labor aristocracy swung into action for war, and the English public favored war by a 54 to 30% margin once the war started.(2) The rapid shift in opinion is a clue to all scientific Marxists that we are talking about a petty-bourgeois population in its entirety. Such a quick shift is not possible any other way.

Even more shocking was Australia where polls showed over 80% did not want the war without UN approval. Once the war started, Australians changed their minds: opposition fell from 70% to 47% in one week according to one poll of Australians.(3)

In contrast, as usual, the situation for Blacks within U.S. borders is different, just as MIM has said all along: "A Washington Post/ABC News poll taken Sunday showed that African Americans are far more likely to oppose the war than white Americans, and are generally more disapproving of President Bush's handling of Iraqi President Saddam Hussein.

"Sixty-one percent of African Americans who responded to questions on the poll said they opposed 'the United States having gone to war with Iraq,' compared with 20 percent of white Americans who answered the poll."(4) Granted, some Blacks interviewed expressed some pretty foggy reasoning, but the outcome of the poll is only all the more surprising.

What the whole world needs to understand about these countries—the United States, England, Australia and Israel—is that they are the core of world imperialism. The populations of these countries are different than the populations of most of the world's countries, because these populations are parasites on Third World labor. They obtain a very measurable surplus-value from the Third World which works at 50 cents an hour. What this means is that MIM was able to predict who would line up for Bush's "coalition of the willing" to attack Iraq—in terms of the public opinion (not who

The silver lining: a formidable enemy like the United States can produce concrete unity of the international proletariat, itself an even more formidable but slumbering giant. Thus the international proletariat may gain the tools necessary to bring peace to the whole world.

the CIA was able to bribe into being especially good individual government lackeys). In every issue of MIM Notes, we list which countries we can expect to be the trouble for world peace on page two. Where the labor aristocracy is a majority we can expect public support for predatory wars like this one. Out of 200 countries in the world, we can narrow down the likely candidates for war-mongering publics to a few countries, just by doing the class analysis.

Together, the core imperialist countries share in the same economic system. Likewise, the attitude of the typical European including the French and Germans is to want the war over soon, so Europeans can help with rebuilding and stake a financial claim on whatever goodies spill out of Iraq. The French and German imperialists have a different strategy than the Amerikkkan imperialists and the labor aristocracies dominating France and Germany picked up on that, right down to worrying whether the United States would ice out French and Germany companies from Iraqi business after the war.

The ordinary proletarian sympathy in the world is for the Iraqi people, fighting valiantly on their own soil against invaders. The proletariat abhors this war and feels at a visceral level for the Iraqi people being bombed, such as the Republican Guards who have no air force to match the Amerikkkan hyperpower.

In contrast, the petty-bourgeoisie numerically dominating in the United States, Israel, Australia and England can imagine the proletarian sentiment, but the petty-bourgeoisie has a different point of view. If we listen carefully to the petty-bourgeoisie, we will hear that it's opposition to the war was always a sham. To the proletariat, the petty-bourgeoisie appears to have no moral fiber to oppose the war. To be sure, the petty-bourgeoisie may even march with us and that is good, but its reasons for marching are very temporary. If we confuse ourselves with this petty-bourgeoisie, we too will fail to mobilize the people and find our movements temporary and without the possibility of carrying out long-term transformation.

The petty-bourgeoisie is the class wavering between the proletariat and the

imperialists. If it fears that the proletariat can cause too many consequences in a particular war, the petty-bourgeoisie may oppose the war. Thus U.S. Senator Ted Kennedy wanted a larger coalition of attackers to go into Iraq. Others want a speedy war. The petty-bourgeoisie does not have moral fiber opposing this predatory war in principle. The petty-bourgeoisie in the imperialist countries has no real inkling of internationalism, except bourgeois internationalism. For the petty-bourgeoisie it's only a question of how much it will cost to prop the system of exploitation up.

This is the lesson we must learn in the global anti-war movement and it applies to all movements for social justice. U.S. imperialism has created a miracle in uniting every former republic of Yugoslavia in opposition to the war. Croats, Serbs, Bosnians and Albanians—they all oppose the U.S. war in hefty majorities. That's right: people just a few years ago killing each other in genocidal fury actually share a unity on this question. For once we can see, through whatever vagueness or fog there might be, the true proletarian unity of the people of former Yugoslavia. The proletariat put aside the practical questions of who their local enemies are supporting and felt solidarity with their class brothers and sisters in Iraq.

In contrast, we learn where people must focus their fire globally. The Amerikkkans, the Israelis, English and Australians will not "get it" until they pay a price first. That's how it was in Vietnam, just to name one war, but it was also true in Grenada. Because there was no price to pay, there was no petty-bourgeois opposition to the invasion of Grenada. That's how it is with the petty-bourgeois population. If the imperialist populations pay no price they have no feelings for Third World people. If as in the Vietnamese case, the petty-bourgeoisie pays a price of massive death in war—then and only then can we speak of petty-bourgeois vacillation toward the proletarian side. In some cases, the petty-bourgeois vacillation consists in literal re-proletarianization caused by losses suffered in war.

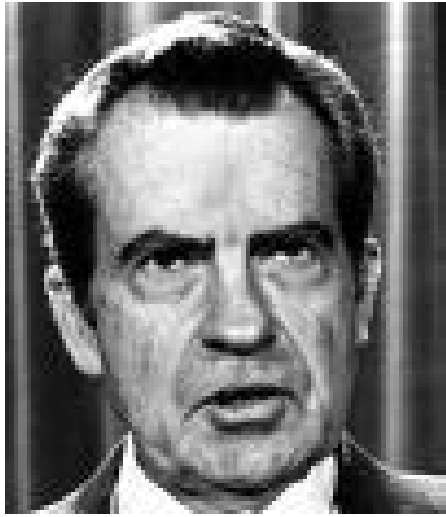
The immorality of this war was there for all to see, with everyone from the

proletariat to the Pope condemning it. The rallies marched in their millions and Amerikkkans knew about it, as did the rest of the world, but Amerikkkans did not feel the same way. The Amerikkkan population, the English, Australian and Israeli populations failed the test. These populations do not feel the basic proletarian sympathies that decent people do globally. The imperialist country populations can only learn internationalism the hard way, just as the Germans had to de-Nazify the hard way.

Any military strategy, any geopolitical strategy, any diplomatic strategy and any agitation and propaganda strategy premised on rallying Amerikkkans, English, Australians and Israelis as if they had populations composed of 90% proletarians like the Trotskyists say is doomed to failure. With the war in progress and poll after poll showing Amerikkkans supporting the war in over 70% of cases, we see yet again how precisely accurate MIM has been in the past in speaking of ignoring the majority and mobilizing the bottom 20% when it comes to countries like England and the United States. We see yet again what petty-bourgeois logic our critics accept when they deny the MIM analysis of the labor aristocracy. Whether it would be a military mistake of counting on warriors who are not there or the more mundane question of doing agitation work that fails to tell the population the truth about itself, the underlying problem is the same: we should not mistake the labor aristocracy for the proletariat. No one does the imperialist country population any favor by calling it "proletarian" when in fact it must go through a difficult road of criticism-self-criticism-transformation to overcome its former enemy status.

The vast majority of those calling themselves "Marxist" cannot be taken seriously if they continue to deny the correctness of MIM's analysis. They demonstrate their lack of scientific capacity. Those "waging a fight for the middle" of the U.S. population numerically would have had to have opposed the war only if 100,000 (some such number which pollsters have explored) of U.S. troops would die in it. A high casualty rate is the only circumstance under which we could have rallied a majority of Amerikkkans against the war. In contrast, MIM sees itself as having an internationalist duty to oppose the war whether the Amerikkkans lose 10 soldiers or 100,000. Polls will show that a majority of Amerikkkans support war if they lose only 10 dead, but will oppose it if they lose 100,000 dead. There is no way to "wage a fight for the middle" in such a circumstance without surrendering internationalist principle. We MUST expect to lose the majority and

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Wrong.



Right.

Iraq, the 'Nixon doctrine' and capitalists' inability to learn

"Looking to the future, I do not believe there will be another world war. ... I also do not believe the world's major powers will initiate a conventional war. In Korea in the 1950s and in Afghanistan in the 1980s, we have seen that an overt invasion unites the world against the aggressor and ultimately dooms the policy to failure.

"As I stated in announcing the Nixon doctrine in Guam in 1969, we should furnish the arms and economic assistance our friends need to defend themselves against such indirect aggression, but they must assume the responsibility for providing the men to fight the battles. If a properly trained and equipped local army still lacks the will and capability to fight and win, an intervention by American forces would at best provide only a temporary success. Once we withdraw, the enemy would quickly take over."

--Richard Nixon, In the Arena: A Memoir of Victory, Defeat and Renewal (NY: Simon & Schuster, 1990, hb, p. 344)

The above quote is wrong and it's great proof that war and peace issues—potentially the most important issues to our species—are not just a matter of "being rational" or "reasonability." Nixon thought that initiating conventional war had become irrational, but here we are in capitalism in 2003 and that's what we have. Already, a mere 13 years after Nixon's quote, everyone agrees the United States has invaded Iraq and

initiated "a conventional war." The Nixon doctrine has also been thrown out the window.

Most analysts and pundits including the present writer considered Nixon to be a shrewd and Machiavellian president. Whether Nixon was spreading illusions about capitalism or whether he himself had the illusion, the above talks about capitalist countries as if they could restrain themselves to merely aiding allies with arms and money. As we see in 2003, that is false. Capitalism was not able to get enough war that way and now U.S. troops are in Iraq.

In contrast, Mao said the imperialists would "make trouble, fail; make trouble, fail again." It's not possible for capitalist politicians to learn lessons beyond a certain range; even though "overt invasion unites the world against the aggressor and ultimately dooms the policy to failure" like Nixon said. The underlying causes of war motivation keep functioning even after the brain (in this case Nixon's) has concluded that it should be at least limited somehow.

The question is: how long is the international proletariat going to tolerate this? How long will it take before the international proletariat decides that capitalism's repeated failures are too dangerous to tolerate? If even Nixon thought the imperialists had learned something, and yet, they have not, what should we conclude?

—mim3@mim.org

DC rally condemns U.S.

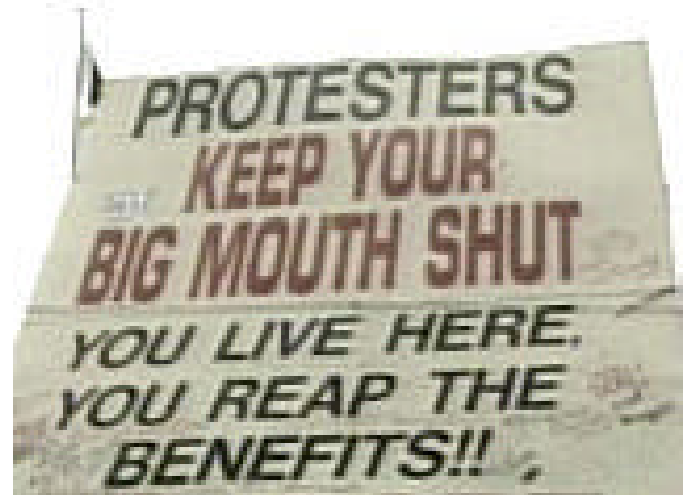
Continued from page 4...

Amerikkkan majority which has launched and supported more wars against the Third World than any previous imperialist in history.

When we asked the comrade on what he thought about Nazis in Germany in World War II, in typical social-democratic training, he changed the subject to how it was communist errors on the "united front" that allowed the Nazis to power. When we pointed out that it was the German social-democrats who wanted to attack the Soviet Union only (not France

like Hitler did) and were in public about it, he proceeded to blame the communists for not winning away the rank-and-file social-democrats—to which MIM would say the comrade was incorrect, because the communists did in fact whittle away social-democratic support with the "social-fascist" thesis. In any case: the question stands, were the more than 90% of Germans calling themselves Nazis and supporting Hitler and the war "enemies" of the world's people or not? At MIM we say "yes" and it does no one any good to sidestep the question.

New York street exchange...



The benefits include 911: caused by not leaving Saudi Arabia after the 1991 Gulf War!

We of the peace movement have a right to walk past skyscrapers without wondering if we're going to die thanks to people like you!

If you want "regime change" in Iraq, you and the rest of the nutty majority can move there, and take all your SUVs and other over-sized vehicles with you!

If you want cheap gas, you can move to Iraq!

Labor aristocracy

Continued from previous page...

still oppose the war, even if the situation is a Grenada-type situation where the United States attacks a country of 100,000 people. Fighting for the numerical middle or even worse, the 90%, would mean sacrificing opposition to war on every single country in the world except the "major powers" themselves. There is NO WAY to fight for the 51% or the 90% in U.S. public opinion and still be able to oppose every U.S. war of aggression on even the smallest of countries. Any so-called Marxist who says differently must be cast out of our movement as a liar. Our peace movement needs to obtain this much grip on reality. It is only the proletariat that will instinctively know where its sympathies lie in the David versus Goliath scenario of opposing U.S. imperialism.

The fact that the imperialist countries are parasitic in their populations as a whole puts a wrinkle in the work of the international peace movement. On the other hand, the existence of the U.S. superpower running amok has a real potential to create proletarian unity at a concrete level globally. The only way such an imperialist power can be stopped is through international cooperation, especially within the Third World and with the ex-Soviet bloc countries. That means that the proletariat will have to put aside its false consciousness, its conflicts within itself that can lead nowhere. It will require the formation of the equivalent of a proletarian United Nations, a United Nations that expels the United States, Israel, England and Australia. The current United Nations contributed to disarmament of Iraq and spying on Iraq's

military defenses, only to give the U.S. imperialists a less costly way of attacking Iraq, not to bring peace. The United Nations is indeed discredited: it appeased Bush the occupier of Iraq.

The countries not exploiting the whole world will have to unite under proletarian leadership if they ever expect to guarantee the interests of the majority of their populations. Even those fighting in ex-Yugoslavia for instance can see that the majority of the population in the imperialist countries has seen to its narrow self-interest. In contrast, in most of the world's countries, only a tiny minority of lackeys can ally with U.S. imperialism. A real advance for the world's majority will require international solidarity to shut down and take over U.S. business and a united front to confront U.S. wars around the globe. The attack in Iraq should result in Amerikkans going out of business everywhere from Indonesia to Namibia. The silver lining in having a formidable enemy like the United States is that it is capable of producing the concrete unity of the international proletariat, itself an even more formidable but slumbering giant. By overcoming such an enemy as U.S. imperialism, the international proletariat may gain the tools necessary to bring peace to the whole world.

Notes:

1. <http://www.msnbc.com/news/885222.asp?0cv=KB10>
2. http://news.bbc.co.uk/2/hi/middle_east/2883171.stm
3. <http://news.bbc.co.uk/2/hi/asia-pacific/2880519.stm>
4. <http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/articles/A21346-2003Mar24.html>

Los Angeles anti-war protests continue

Los Angeles, March 30—A crowd more than ten thousand strong from all over southern California rallied downtown to oppose the war on Iraq today. Of the more than 500 who signed MIM's petition to stop the Patriot Act II, (1) people were coming from as far as Ventura, Desert Hot Springs and San Diego—well over an hour to the north, east and south. MIM, SLALA and RAIL distributed 1200 copies of MIM Notes and collected more than 70 signatures to defend the rights of political refugee Jose Maria Sison. (2) Comrades from Kabataan Makabayan (KmB) had their own table collecting signatures for Prof. Sison as well.

Two weeks after MIM started circulating its petition, anti-war demonstrators are more familiar with the Patriot Act II and some are organizing independently to oppose it. Several people asked for copies of the petition to circulate on their own. One woman approached MIM for materials to use in preparation for a talk s/he will be giving to students about the civil liberties disaster of the USA Patriot Act. That first Patriot Act passed by a six to one margin in the House, and with 99 votes for and none against in the Senate, all within hours of being introduced. The Patriot Act II would close many "loopholes" (like the

possibility of court oversight of police work) in the first Patriot Act, and eliminate the public's right to know what the government is doing (e.g., by authorizing secret arrests and barring FOIA petitions for information on arrestees). We've collected more than 1500 signatures opposing this horrific legislation so far; check out our website or contact MIM to help us advance this campaign.

[Over five thousand marched in Hollywood two weeks later, despite the Pentagon's claims that the war was over and predictions of rain. Marchers criticized American plans for occupation of Iraq, as at the protest in Washington D.C. (see page one). MIM and RAIL had another successful afternoon passing out MIM Notes and collecting signatures against Patriot Act II. We also ran into petitioners from the Civil Liberties Defense Coalition, which plans to ask the Los Angeles City Council to pass a resolution of non-compliance with the Patriot Act.]

Notes:

1. <http://www.etext.org/Politics/MIM/ agitation/civlib/index.html>
2. <http://www.etext.org/Politics/MIM/ agitation/philippines/index.html>



The war is not over

Continued from page 1...

continually engaged in combat in Afghanistan since the fall of the Taliban government, whether defending the new government, searching for Al Qaeda fighters, or rounding up suspected Taliban supporters. An American bomb killed eleven civilians on April 11, (1) and two American soldiers died in an ambush on 29 March. (2)

Good thing the New York Times et al. have relegated this stuff to the back pages, otherwise people might get the idea that America's war on Afghanistan has not brought "democracy" to the people of Afghanistan nor decreased the risk of terrorist attacks on the United States.

We can already see a similar story unfolding in Iraq. Contrary to their stated war aims, American troops have neglected the interests of the Iraqi people and created a situation which encourages the spread of "weapons of mass destruction." The Americans applied their doctrine of overwhelming force even in urban areas, swamping Baghdad's hospitals with civilian casualties and killing journalists in a supposedly safe hotel. American troops failed to protect Iraqi cultural treasures from looting and left a nuclear site with 2,500 barrels of uranium unguarded for several days. (3)

Even as Iraqis fill the streets of Baghdad, An Nasariyah and Al Kut demanding U.S. troops leave immediately,

the United States is angling for permanent access to military bases in Iraq (4)—once again ignoring the fact that American military presence in Saudi Arabia sparked the September 11 attacks.

Mr. Bush, Herr Rumsfeld and their "we're the cops of the world" approach to security—along with the Democrats who share their basic outlook or at the least tolerate swapping office with such warmongers—have not brought global peace and security in the past and cannot bring them in the future. A country with millions of armed enemies around the world cannot hope to surgically (or otherwise) remove those enemies and be done with all threats—something even George Washington understood. Nor is there a way to stop weapons proliferation in a global capitalist system.

Instead, what's needed is an approach which addresses the root economic causes of conflict among nations and makes it impossible to profit off of arms sales. We need internationalism and socialism. Americans need to crack down hard on their rulers who take chances with future September 11s and nuclear war. — MC206, 21 Apr 2003

Notes:

1. Washington Post, 10 Apr 2003.
2. Los Angeles Times, 30 Mar 2003.
3. Los Angeles Times, 11 Apr 2003.
4. The Independent (UK), 21 Apr 2003.

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.

Earth Day pacifists get the message: U.\$. out of the World

Continued from page 1...

massacre of indigenous people, with the labor of slaves, which imprisons Blacks at a higher rate than was found even in South Africa under Apartheid is in no position to make itself global arbiter of justice and democracy.

“Join us in raising the consciousness of the peace movement: We will be taking our U.\$. out of the World protest to the people at the events below. We need help handing out literature, speaking about Amerikan imperialism, holding signs and banners, making noise and getting attention. Now is the time to speak up for global peace and justice, before it is too late.”

At the first protest, outside an earth day festival in Berkeley, many passers-by appreciated our “U.\$. out of the World” banner. This earth day festival was sponsored by the city of Berkeley and included vendors mostly focused on environmentally-friendly products as well as music acts. There were not many political groups and the MIM protest was the only anti-imperialist activity at the event. A large graphic display showing many of the countries the U.\$. has invaded being stabbed by Uncle Sam drew much attention (this poster can now be downloaded here: <http://www.etext.org/Politics/MIM/art/invasionmap.html>). People stopped to read the list of countries invaded and marvel at the bloody history of Amerika. Most people were sympathetic to the anti-war message and the poster forced them to consider what the U.\$. will do after Iraq.

The second protest, outside the We the Planet “music and activism festival” in San Francisco’s Golden Gate park reached many thousands of people attending to enjoy acts including Alanis Morissett, CAKE, and the Coup. This event focused on renewable resources and environmental issues. wetheplanet.org summed it up: “Why is everything good for us considered the alternative? We all know that we live in a world full of problems, We The Planet aims to show that we also live in a world full of solutions. With all that is going on in our world today, more than ever, people are realizing that consciousness is cool”. MIM and RAIL pushed for more than just consciousness about recycling, expanding the discussion to imperialism and global environmental destruction.

The musical group CAKE spoke about Chevrolet approaching them to buy the rights to a song for a commercial. The lead singer explained that they turned down the offer (in spite of the financial temptation) but told Chevrolet they would allow them to use CAKE music to advertise for a car using sustainable

energy sources. MIM applauds musical groups that use their fame to take stands on political issues. But we don’t agree that getting big corporations to manufacture a few environmentally friendly products is going to make strides against the destruction of the world’s environment. It is imperialism that is causing this destruction and it is only by taking on imperialism that we can end the destruction.

Other speakers did take on bigger issues including the unjust war in Iraq, Amerikan terrorism, and imprisonment. The revolutionary hip hop group the Coup closed the event with the excellent point that we cannot save the environment if we do not change the economic system. But the principal focus was on saving the environment by recycling, supporting and using sustainable energy sources, eating vegan, and supporting environmentally friendly stores. MIM Notes was very popular with this crowd both entering and leaving the event. Our banners drew comments of support and as with the Berkeley festival the graphic of the U.\$. invasions around the world received much interest and praise. Over the course of the both events we distributed close to 2000 copies of MIM Notes, gathered many signatures on our petition to protest the Patriot Act II (<http://www.etext.org/Politics/MIM/agitation/civlib>), and spoke to hundreds of people about the implications of the war in Iraq, U.\$. imperialist invasions around the world, and what we can do to fight it.

Government moves to make Patriot Act permanent

Continued from page 1...

as a lack of information from the Justice Department on how its agents are using their newfound powers, and they say they need more time to determine whether agents are abusing those powers.”(1) MIM says we already know enough about how the Justice Department is using these powers. No more time for assessment is needed; the powers should be revoked.

The Washington Post reported: “The FBI, for example, has issued scores of ‘national security letters’ that require businesses to turn over electronic records about finances, telephone calls, e-mail and other personal information, according to officials and documents. The letters, a type of administrative subpoena, may be issued independently by FBI field offices and are not subject to judicial review unless a case comes to court, officials said. Attorney General John D. Ashcroft has also personally signed more than 170 ‘emergency foreign intelligence warrants,’ three times the number authorized in the preceding 23 years, according to recent congressional testimony. Federal law allows the attorney general to issue unilaterally these classified warrants for wiretaps and physical searches of suspected terrorists and other national security threats under certain circumstances. They can be enforced for 72 hours before they are subject to review and approval by the ultra-secret Foreign Intelligence Surveillance Court.”(2)

Another recent bill in the Senate would remove the requirement that federal agents show a suspect is affiliated with a foreign power or agent to get a secret surveillance warrant. In essence agents could justify secret spying on anyone just



by claiming they are a “terrorist.” Republicans are talking about attaching Hatch’s proposal as to make the Patriot Act provisions permanent as an amendment to this proposal. Some Republicans claim this is just a threat to keep Democrats from trying to tone down the bill. But it is clear that there will be a push to remove the sunset provisions from the Patriot Act some time before 2005.

If the Amerikan government truly seeks to make this country safer it should stop bombing innocent people around the world in its push for greater wealth and world hegemony. This aggression only incurs greater wrath from the world’s people. And no amount of spying, or fascist domestic control will create peace and safety.

Notes:

1. New York Times, April 9, 2003.
2. Washington Post, March 24, 2003.

Oppose “Patriot Act II”!

Get signatures on a petition urging Federal representatives not to support John Ashcroft’s Domestic Security Enhancement Act!

<http://www.etext.org/Politics/MIM/agitation/civlib/index.html>

If enacted, the Patriot Act II would

- *authorize secret arrests including those of material witnesses who are not charged with a crime;
- *bar defense attorneys from challenging use of secret evidence;
- *deny the right to sue for information on detainees under the Freedom of Information Act;
- *permit arrests and extraditions of citizens and non-citizens alike to countries with which the U.S. has no extradition treaties and without regard for those countries’ humyn rights records;
- *strip American citizenship from anyone who supports even the lawful activities of organizations the administration calls “terrorist;”
- *create a new category of “domestic security surveillance” for terrorism investigations with looser standards than criminal investigations,
- *provide for extended jail terms for common immigration offenses; and
- *allow summary deportation to any country in the world.

Like its predecessor, it would principally impact non-citizens.

Pigs open fire on protesters outside Oakland docks

other entrance to APL had been pushed back to the BART station. Local TV station KRON4 parked their van in the middle of the street to cover the action. Protesters deflated their tires. The bourgeois media has continued to be a target of protesters in the Bay Area who recognize that their coverage only serves the interests of the state. As I write this article dozens of reports and photos have already been posted to the web from the viewpoint of participants. Meanwhile live onsite reports are given via cell phone and radio. We must continue to build our infrastructures of independent media that serves to bring info to people that will help us organize for a better world.

The final attack took place at the blocked intersection. Cops aimed their shots parallel to the ground (rather than bouncing them off the street as they had earlier in the morning). Canisters hit semi trucks as protesters dashed into traffic for cover.

After regrouping at the West Oakland BART station, people soon agreed to march to the Federal Building in downtown Oakland. The march took to the street blocking part of 7th Street as we walked. Before taking off the cops informed everyone that it is illegal to cover your face in Oakland.

Many people along the march yelled and honked their support, including people from a store who came out with free cupcakes "for your efforts." Others yelled at the protesters because they could not get to work, and the cry of "get a job" was common.

Minor scuffles with police continued as the rally entered the downtown area. One cop rode his motorcycle onto the sidewalk



illegally blocking demonstrators. And others pushed people in an unsuccessful attempt to clear the street for traffic. At the endpoint the rally remained a couple hundred strong and occupied the street in front of the federal building. Some lay down to construct a humyn peace sign in the road for those in the towers to see.

The demo was successful in stopping the morning shift of workers, and word on the street was that there was no one to unload the docks as of 8 a.m. Once the traffic did open up outside of APL the line of trucks was shorter than expected. Apparently many workers didn't come to work today, while others were sent home. Surely they were happy to get a day off with pay.



Protesters filed complaints with police (left) after being hit with an array of the latest in "less-than-lethal" weaponry (right).

Today's demo was one more event in a series of symbolic acts to oppose this war. But the event did not succeed in stopping the war machine. Direct actions like these have proven limited successes: they raise the cost of the war and keep the anti-war movement lively and relevant. Ultimately we must build a movement with a long-term perspective

to overthrow the whole system and replace it with one that serves the interests of the world's people.

Letters

Continued from page 2...

economic exploitation worldwide...

In struggle,

—A prisoner

MIM responds: This letter is an honest and welcome expression of partial unity with MIM. The majority of people MIM works with fall into this category: they agree with us on certain immediate struggles, while disagreeing (often more than this letter writer) with us on bigger questions. Readers who share our immediate goals like strengthening radical anti-imperialist press (a particular example of "building independent institutions of the oppressed") might want to help us distribute the paper (see page 2 for more information). Other examples of current issues and how to help out can be found on our website.(5)

Notes:

1. <http://www.etext.org/Politics/MIM/wim/cong/panafrican2002.html>
2. <http://www.etext.org/Politics/MIM/wim/cong/onmasses01.html>
3. <http://www.etext.org/Politics/MIM/wim/cong/program95.html>
4. <http://www.etext.org/Politics/MIM/wim/cong/platform01.html>
5. <http://www.etext.org/Politics/MIM/faq/witbd.html>;
<http://www.etext.org/Politics/MIM/agitation/>

Grand jury indicts SFPD Chief, nine others

San Francisco

On February 28, a grand jury indicted Police Chief Earl Sanders, the assistant Police Chief, and five other top officials on charges of conspiring to obstruct the investigation into an off-duty assault. The grand jury also indicted the assistant chief's son and two other cops on felony assault charges. The assault charges stemmed from a fight on November 20 where the three off duty cops beat up two people outside a bar over a bag of steak fajitas. Prior to the Grand Jury indictment the SFPD had obstructed the investigation and went so far as to transfer the Lieutenant who was leading the investigation, inspiring his reaction "You can read between the lines."

San Francisco mayor Willie Brown immediately spoke up after the indictment stating, "I'm the commander in chief of this goddamn place, and there is no way the command staff of my Police Department is going to step down at this time. It's a matter of public safety." This is a clear demonstration of why police brutality and corruption will never be

stopped through the legal system. It is not a matter of just a few rogue cops or a few corrupt command staff, the problem runs through the system right to the top. When rare indictments or convictions are achieved, at best a low level fall persyn is found taking the rap while the system continues with business (of targeting oppressed nations) as usual.

MIM does see this indictment is a victory for those fighting police brutality and corruption. It will inevitably lead to far greater publicity of this case as well as others. It will force people who ordinarily would not hear about systematic police brutality to think about the system and how it works. And MIM will use this opportunity to point out that the police in this country are an occupying army targeting the oppressed nations within u.s. borders. In San Francisco this target is primarily Black and Latino youth. (For several articles detailing recent cases of brutality see <http://www.etext.org/Politics/MIM/agitation/policebrutality>.)

If Sanders is forced to step down, two of the three other deputy chief's who

could replace him represent groups traditionally marginalized from the force. Heather Fong, a Chinese womyn and Mindy Pengel, a lesbian, are being championed as examples of the diversity of the SFPD. But Earl Sanders, a Black man, currently heads up a police force that has a history of brutalizing and killing unarmed Blacks in the city. Recent cases under his command include the MLK day brutalizing of four Black youth, two girls and two boys all under the age of 14, who were doing nothing more than sitting in a car listening to music.

MIM does not support getting more members of oppressed communities into leading positions on the police force as a means of ending police brutality. This will just put a prettier face on the fundamentally oppressive system. Instead we work to publicize the oppressive nature of the police force while we fight to dismantle the system that is built on the oppression of many nations by a few.

Notes: San Francisco Chronicle, March 1, 2003.

Tennessee max repression grows

I'm reaching out from one of big brother's (the government) many maximum security slave quarters here in Henning Tenn. At West TN High Security facility I'm enslaved now on max on charges of being in a security threat group (STG). I was originally charged along with six other comrades who have since been returned to general population over two years ago. This camp is notorious for its extensive confinement of comrades, convicts and inmates on max for 4-10 years at a time, disregarding not having any discipline reports in 3 plus years. On top of all that anything that we seem to enjoy or show interest in has been removed from us and replaced by bullshit that we are forced to use as follows:

Bar soap replaced by watered down body gel that is over priced for 8 oz (3 in 1 soap, shampoo and shave gel). Deodorant replaced by a clear watered substance that lasts maybe an hour not to mention it leaves rashes under the arms. Toothpaste (closeup & crest) replaced with small 2.7 oz tube of clear shit. Hairgrease, lotion, fans, radios, nail clippers, shower shoes and other items as such have been removed and not replaced.

This camp is run on "house rules" fit to serve in the pigs favor by all means. These pigs have allowed prisoners into other prisoners cells to perform beatdowns on individuals they (the pigs) have a beef with. The muscles (non-conscious, blinded, do-boys) who degrade themselves to perform these tasks for the pigs, do so for small tokens of cakes and cookies. These same pigs have beaten, harassed, and set-up other prisoners to be stabbed and attempted assassination. Here recently a pig employed here has been on the run from higher officials of big brother (the government) for molesting a child, and the warden quit last year after being in the news for sexual harassment and other charges.

— a prisoner in Tennessee, March 2003

Property theft & Patriot Act II in OK

Dear MIM,

They snatched me up to another of their prisons without warning. This one's supposed to be a medium security prison, but they stole almost every bit of my maximum security property, including my bifocals and addresses, which were in a photo album filled with scientific information cut out of science magazines. Some of the stuff was pictures cut out of Newsweek. They tore pictures out of all three of my albums, calling them "gang pictures." One was of a cop beating a WTO protestor. She had blood running down her face. My caption read "This is your brain on cop. Any questions?" Another was of Bush's "election." He was shouting at someone on the platform backstage and pointing his finger viciously. People in the background were looking worried and scared. My caption read "(Bush:) Don't make me get my right-wing death-squad, chump!" and "He'll do it, by god!" Behind some of these pictures were 45 stamps. They stole them all.

The thing about Okie prisons is they punish you for exercising your right to petition

Under Lock & Key

News from Prisons & Prisoners

the government for redress of grievances. By chopping off this very first constitutional right, they program the prisoners into letting them get away with ripping us off for every other right they choose. I took your anti-Patriot Act II petition all over the yard of 160 people in our cage-stack and got only three people brave enough to sign it. And I only got them to sign by swearing the petition would not be seen by the administration here. I'm going to try again in the mess hall where there's a different 160 people, but less time.

At one Okie prison, the guards give prisoners extra junk food for snitching on people for dope, weapons, even petitions — any rule infraction.

I've had less time to write since they stole my three good pens and left me with this junker and its eight brothers than are completely ineffective. They stole my erasers, whiteout, typing paper and carbon paper. It's going to take me two weeks to re-buy the pen, paper, erasers and pencils. The whiteout and carbon paper are impossible to replace.

— an Oklahoma prisoner, March, 2003

MIM adds: Patriot Act II would ramp up the Amerikan police state by eliminating the role of courts in wiretap and search warrants, authorizing secret arrests and denying the right to sue for information on those arrested, providing extended jail terms for minor immigration offenses and making summary deportation a reality, and much more. If three signatures, or six, are all you can get against this monstrous law, they are still worth the effort! If you are in prison, you know the conditions and regulations you have to organize under. If you are not in prison, take our petition against Patriot Act II (<http://www.etext.org/Politics/MIM/agitation/civlib/>) to an anti-war rally or vigil. Even if only a handful of people show, make sure they understand how dangerous this proposed legislation is.

Cold showers in OK

If it's so great to have nothing to hide, why do government employees operate in such secret? — Sam Kinnison

Prison guards routinely cut their "work" load by 80% simply by shutting off the warm water on lazy days like yesterday, today, Christmas and other holidays. The "work" they dodge this way is that of shuffling prisoners, one at a time, a few feet down the hall to the shower cage then back to their usual cages. While one guard does this, another watches — pushing buttons that open and slam appropriate gates. It's lonely, boring work: two guards, separated by soundproof, bulletproof glass, showering 370 prisoners on four floors per week. Much better to ignore the helpless captives and instead swap fishing stories, drink coffee and ogle porn magazines stolen from the prisoners' mail.

Every time my body gets so nasty and

greasy that I can't wipe the grit out of my eyes without making it worse, and I have to wash my hands in ice-cold water, I enjoy taxpayer suffering. The powerful guards' unions gobble up their own huge budgets, then sneak back to the legislature twice more to hog major portions of the education budget. By simply putting a showerhead in each cage, you can cut guard costs by at least 50%. Which is more costly: a one-time plumber's fee, or paying a guard to waddle up and down a hall for \$30,000/year? Is it really worth billions to keep filthiness as a torture device for caged animals?

— an Oklahoma prisoner, March, 2003

Fight the real enemy

Greetings Brothers of the Struggle,

I am currently in Trenton State Prisons' Administrative Segregation. I am the Chairman/Governor of the Folks Nation. I am deeply concerned with the growing "gang" problem that now resides in New Jersey. Predominantly in the Newark area and inside of the prisons.

These young brothers r leadin for total "kaos" and they're draggin the black communities with them. And it's sad because I've been up in New Jersey since '97 and as I recall there was no "gang activity" whatsoever.

But these "gangs" appear out of the blue, with eternal hate for each other. And if you ask a gang member why do he hate the opposite gang member? He couldn't give you a legitimate reason. Just cause!!! In reality we are just helpin' the government oppress us. We are not makin any progress collectively or individually. The majority of these young brothers have children, and should handle their fatherhood before thinking about a flag or who claimin' what.

I think it's time the Malcolms, Martins, Hueys and Garveys to step forth, because these young brothers could definitely use some guidance. I speak with some of the brothers, but it's hard, when they view me as an enemy from conflict that our nation had, but resolved in other states. I've had my share of "run ins" with a few of them durin' my prison bid. But I have gotten more assault on officers and conduct which disrupts [more] than anything. I am 23 years old. I've become a communist and agree more with the ideologies and dogma of Karl Marx. I will not assimilate my self with oppressive amerikkka or its capitalist society. Just imagine if the Bloods, Crips, Neta, 5 Percent Nation, Latin Kings and the Folks nation unite to overthrow this oppressive government. I'm positive we could win. So dig brothers! Stop being petty and let's make some progress.

— a prisoner in New Jersey, March 2003

Fight repression ...

Dear MIM,

I'm in New Folsom State Prison and have been incarcerated since 5 years old. I'm now 20 years old. You don't be come a threat to CDC (California Department of (so-called) Correction) until you try to get free or file a lawsuit for their misconduct. There are so many ways they mistreat inmates, it's crazy.

Just recently I was assaulted in handcuffs that were put on me from behind. The correctional officer (c/o) who was there watched as I was being assaulted by another inmate. The c/o claimed to seeing a weapon and while I yelled to the c/o to open the door so I could seek refuge, my request was denied and I was left in that dangerous situation. I could have died but the c/o didn't care. The c/o also sprayed me, which made me temporarily blind and by that action I sustained more injuries.

I wrote a 602 (report) on this incident and now I'm considered a major threat or problem. I have been going through harassment by

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.

almost all officers who work around me. They play games here, and these are games inmates don't have a chance of winning.

To fight for your freedom in the U.S. is a no win situation because even when out of prison you are not free. Prison is a slavery camp of the 21st century. What the CDC fails to realize is that I'm much more open minded than I was 5 years ago. Reality hit me hard about this country called North America. Most people of this country are descendants of planned migrations who willingly came to America seeking a better life, not Blacks. Africans had no choice, we were enslaved, a race which were forced into a new existence. America was built on African's backs and Blacks are treated as animals still. I'm 20 years old and this reality was forced on me since a child.

Amerika never completely banned slavery, read the 13th amendment to the constitution of America. If you are found guilty of a crime you are a slave. The constitution condones slavery! What is going on in these prisons are unspeakable and many things are covered up by the prisons c/os and officers.

Just last December a group of Blacks assaulted or allegedly assaulted some prison staff. Now for a few years staff has been attacked by inmates of all races. This last incident happened because the c/os beat and harassed an inmate who was no more than 135lbs and around the age of 18. This incident took place in the yard in front of all the inmates.

Now since all these assaults are on the c/os instead of inmate on inmate, the prison officials are mad. So they are starting their plan to stop these assaults by having the inmates focus and fight with each others so our attention won't be on them.

— a prisoner in CA, March 2003

... and censorship in California prisons

I have taken this matter (a mail problem) to the director's level in Sacramento, California in a 602 inmate appeal process. Informal, formal, first, second and third levels. The outcome ended in denial. This mail issue is filed and pending in court under civil rights act 42 U.S.C 1983. My complaint so far is mail tampering (especially legal mail), refusal to give access to legal and regular mailing supplies, and censoring certain mail.

If there are any more complaints in the mail area, please file and help this struggle on this part. This is a very important thing so people on the outside and inside lets work to win our mail rights inside prison.

—a prisoner in California, April 2003

MIM responds: We need our comrades behind bars in California to take up this censorship battle. As our organizing has expanded in California prisons so has the censorship. Books and magazines we send in to prisoners in Tehachapi are being censored almost completely and letters as well as other literature is being censored at CSATF in Corcoran. We have also experienced sporadic censorship at other prisons in the state. MIM does not have the resources to fight this censorship alone. We need prisoners to appeal the censorship, and pursue it to the courts if necessary. We will always notify you if we learn our mail to you has been censored, and we can send you our resource guide to fighting censorship, but we need your help to win this battle.

I Be That Prisoner (A Maoist)

I be that prisoner in a world of prisoners
Due to politics and their accolades
While our queens sing some sad uncertain serenades
And most countries of color are ravaged by AIDS.
And every few minutes a woman is beaten
And a child cries cause the babe hasn't eaten
I be that prisoner who stood before the judge
To be judged by racist black-robed thugs
Wearing plastic faces
Screaming

"He ain't no kin of mine, Hang 'im high."
I be that prisoner, in Palestine,
Who's afraid to go outside
'Cause it's raining U.S. bombs from the sky
And happy meals with strange fries
And grandma would have cried
Had she known what hit her.

This smart bomb, which sought Saddam
But stupidly missed and hit my mom
Some 666 feet from Saddam
And oh! How I know so well
For, I be that prisoner who could tell you about hell.
You are living it.

Why want more later?
When men are capable of every wicked disaster.
Yes! Unmerciful disasters
Which follow fast and follows faster.
Devious spirits I do not need
For man alone plants every malignant seed.

And by the way I got a letter via mail
From one of my sad and lonely girlz

The cream of the crop and fruit of the world.
From this letter, I could hear the wails
She had been dying
A prisoner at home, though not alone,
Beaten by her man, like property owned.

And I be that prisoner, in whom she confides
Not to the judge, or the Kops, or them private eyes.

But to me, a prisoner who understands
A Maoist, a warrior, a lonely man.

I be that prisoner, One Sun of light
Dialectical Materialist of Historical plight
It's not a thing of black or white,
Learn, unlearn, relearn
You'll get it right
It's all about money
"NO MONEY — NO HONEY"

And no food or meds without the bread
You know Doe!
So act like you know
Reverse the roles and any race would do the same.
Because a capitalist system
Is the game that is played.

Bombing Iraq and creating AIDS
Depopulating the world (they say) to make it safe
While that parentless child
Wipes the tears from his face.

Yeah! I be that prisoner
Who knows the situation goes much — much deeper.
It's called the parasitic, economic
Capitalist system
Existing in its final stage
Global imperialism
Encouraged by racism
And strengthened by militarism

I be that prisoner
Who looks through a child's eyes
Asking many questions
Like "who" and "why"
Why kill our trees and kill our seas,
And kill and kill and kill for greed?

I be that prisoner
Who through native ears is forced to hear
How "Columbus was good"
And how "the cowboys fought for what justice stood."
And the Indians? "They were bad"
And the Vietnamese?
"Well they were too:

'Cause they killed my dad while defending their

land
All a pack of lies
To justify
Their terrible actions and hideous crimes
Yet "JUSTICE!" they exclaim piously
At over two million prisoners who have no liberty
Placed behind bars.

Accumulating cuts and scars
Nah! I must have heard them wrong.
"JUST US!" was their Hitleristic marching song
As they lock-step to the sounds of the drum
But I be that prisoner
I be the one.

Who was hit with fifteen years
And after a decade buried alive
I refuse to cower and refuse to tear
For I be that prisoner

Who was once lost and now is found
'Cause I've finally learned how devils get down
And I was once blind but now I see
These crimes weren't only committed against me

What affects one of us directly
Affects us all indirectly
All of humanity.
And I be that prisoner
Out of Indonesia
Who watched you annihilate Afghanistan
As you chased one man
But escape he did

So you purposely killed thousands of their kids
And you act like you have world support
As you play your savage bloody sport
Even your media can't hide the hate
Of protesters, millions, shouting at your gate.

While you crush Iraq, and aim for Korea
It's getting louder, I know you can hear.
So which one of us billions
Will be your prisoner of the year?
You may be stronger
But the masses don't fear

While down, way down in the dungeons deep
It took me hour upon hour, to from my window peep
Yes! I scaled that slimy dungeon wall
And twice or thrice, did I break my fall
So that our mother earth, I may only see

And what I saw, it seemed to be,
That she was looking back, sadly at me
I swear I could even hear her wind utter
"We are all prisoners in one way or another"
For look at what they do to I, your mother
And behold! My tears that fall from the sky

Acid-rain tears that tell no lies
And they're killing your father, the humble wisdom
And you my son, you be that prisoner
Who can change the world and crush the system
"A Maoist"
With tears flooding my eyes I whispered
Back into the wind

"Yes I be that prisoner, with a world to win: a Maoist"

— a federal prisoner in Kansas

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.



Challapalca: prisión de exterminio

Toledo utiliza los mismos métodos criminales de Fujimori

El penal de Challapalca es una prisión de castigo y exterminio ubicada a más de 5,000 metros de altura sobre el nivel del mar. Aquí las temperaturas descienden en las noches a menos 25 ° grados y el frío que tienen que enfrentar los prisioneros es infernal. En comparación hay que señalar que la región más alta del mundo es el Himalaya la misma que tiene picos que van desde 5,000 hasta 8,848 metros de altura. En esas altitudes, como la que rodea la prisión de Challapalca, la presión atmosférica es menor y menor también la cantidad de oxígeno. Este fenómeno cambia radicalmente el metabolismo del ser humano, que en el caso de los prisioneros, debilitados por las torturas y la mala nutrición, resulta una muerte lenta pero segura.

Esta abominable cárcel, que sólo puede ser comparado con las más brutales prisiones de la época de la inquisición medieval, está ubicada entre los límites de los departamentos de Puno y Tacna. Como denuncian los prisioneros de guerra, en este lugar no existe la luz eléctrica ni el agua potable. No hay tampoco servicio médico ni medios de transporte público que facilite la visita de los familiares de los presos, quienes reducen sus visitas a una o dos veces por año. En este lugar, las celdas son pequeñas construcciones de cemento en la que no ingresa la luz natural ni tienen una apropiada ventilación. Los presos son pésimamente alimentados, no tienen derechos a ninguna atención médica y son permanentemente reprimidos por los servicios de seguridad.

Prisión de castigo para los revolucionarios

En esta prisión están reclusos los prisioneros de guerra considerados militantes del Partido Comunista del Perú (PCP). El "castigo" se refiere a reprimir con el exterminio sus ideales comunistas y su firme posición de propugnar la continuación de la guerra popular. El gobierno y la prensa peruana califica a estos valerosos combatientes con el apelativo de "Proseguir" en alusión a su posición de seguir desarrollando la revolución. La prisión de Challapalca, como campo de concentración, sirve en exclusivo para castigar a los revolucionarios que ni las más infames condiciones de vida ni las torturas carcelarias logra doblegarlos. Este sistema de prisión de exterminio fue implantado por Fujimori y el régimen actual ("gobierno de todas las sangres") se ha encargado de hacerlo más brutal y criminal. De esta prisión están excluidos, los presos del Movimiento Revolucionario (MRTA) y los traidores y capituladores (partidarios de las "cartas de paz") que desde el año 1993 se pasaron a trabajar con el Servicio de Inteligencia

Nacional (SIN) que dirigía Vladimiro Montesinos.

Los prisioneros de guerra en una carta que han hecho llegar a la redacción de El Diario Internacional y a otros medios de comunicación del Perú, denuncian que el 21 de setiembre de 2001 fueron trasladados del penal de Yanamayo al de Challapalca como medida de "castigo" y de exterminio. Señalan que durante el traslado sufrieron todo tipo de tortura física y psicológica. Algunos de ellos quedaron gravemente heridos, y hasta la actualidad no han recibido ninguna atención médica. Denuncian también que dicho "castigo", es decir la reclusión en el penal de Challapalca, no podía ser mayor de un año, pero que hasta la actualidad y habiendo pasado más de 12 meses el gobierno no pretende cambiar esta situación de extrema gravedad para la sobrevivencia de los prisioneros. Según los prisioneros, el peligro de aniquilamiento en el penal de Challapalca, tuvo su punto más álgido el 23 de octubre de este año (2002) cuando los custodios del penal irrumpieron violentamente en las celdas bajo el propósito de realizar una "requisa" (léase represión). Dicha "requisa" que se inició a las 10 de la noche, mientras los prisioneros dormían, sirvió para golpear brutalmente a los prisioneros del PCP y arrebatarles (confiscar) alimentos, herramientas de trabajo, medicinas, utensilios de cocina, vestimentas, etc. Como denuncian los prisioneros, durante la "requisa" las autoridades del penal secuestraron a los delegados a quienes aislaron en celdas de tortura. Frente a este hecho los prisioneros respondieron con una decidida acción de protesta que bajo la consigna de resistir y combatir hizo retroceder a los carceleros. Esta medida fue suspendida el pasado 23 de octubre cuando se hicieron presentes representantes de la Cruz Roja Internacional y autoridades de la institución penitenciaria del Perú quienes mediaron para apaciguar los términos del conflicto. Sobre esta situación y para un mejor conocimiento de la dramática vida en Challapalca, editamos textualmente una denuncia firmada por los prisioneros de guerra. Dicho documento, fue presentado al Fiscal de la Nación el 20 de octubre de este año. En dicho texto, junto con denunciar el carácter fascista del sistema carcelario del Perú, se denuncia penalmente a las más altas autoridades penitenciarias del país.

Denuncia de los prisioneros de guerra de la prisión de Challapalca

Señor Fiscal de la Nación

Los abajo firmantes, presos políticos y prisioneros de guerra acusados de pertenecer al Partido Comunista del Perú, reclusos en el establecimiento Penal de Challapalca-Tacna, al amparo del artículo 139 incisos 14 y 22 de la Constitución Política del Estado, nos dirigimos a Ud. Para manifestar lo siguiente:

1. Que con fecha 21 de setiembre del 2001 fuimos trasladados 34 internos del Penal de Yanamayo al Penal de Challapalca-Tacna por motivo de "castigo", según las autoridades penitenciarias, sufriendo todo tipo de vejámenes (tortura física y psicológica, robo de nuestras pertenencias y materiales de trabajo). Según las normas penitenciarias, dicho "castigo" comprende un período de regresión progresiva de 365 días (un año) el mismo que se cumplió el pasado 20 de setiembre del 2002. Sin embargo, a la fecha, no se nos retorna a nuestros lugares de origen pese a que se ha vencido el plazo del "castigo" que se nos ha impuesto sin procederse de acuerdo al Código de Ejecución Penal en su artículo 34. Además, del traslado arbitrario y abusivo de trece presos políticos desde el Penal "Miguel Castro Castro" al Penal de Challapalca-Tacna dizque por "hacinamiento" (24_04_2002).

2. Que se nos mantiene en este lugar inhóspito, a más de 5,050 metros sobre el nivel del mar sometidos a temperaturas gélidas que llegan hasta menos 25°C, aislados de nuestros familiares, reclusos en celdas pequeñas con ventanas minúsculas que impiden el ingreso de la luz natural y la ventilación requerida, impidiéndonos estudiar o trabajar en las mismas ya que la luz eléctrica sólo se utiliza de 5.30 p.m. a 9.00 p.m.. Estas condiciones de existencia perjudican más nuestra ya deteriorada salud día a día, más aún, cuando aquí ni siquiera existen médicos especializados, ni medicinas ni equipos especializados; la alimentación es deficiente y ni siquiera se cuenta con agua potable. Es así que dos internos en grave estado de salud tuvieron que ser evacuados a Juliaca (los internos Bartolomé Melitón Cárdenas y Wilson García Asto). Así hay otros internos que requieren urgente evacuación, ellos son: Antonio Bendejú Vega (Tumor urológico), Miguel Cuno Choquehuana (complicaciones post- operatoria a la próstata); José Zamora Pérez (Taquicardia), Franquiel Esquivel Santos (infección renal y tuberculosis), Román Rengifo Murrieta y Juan Islas Trinidad (gastrointestinal ulceroso) y José Arcela Chiroque (osteomielitis crónica e hiper-

tensión).

3. Que el establecimiento Penitenciario de Challapalca-Tacna no cumple con las reglas mínimas establecidas por la ONU para el tratamiento de reclusos. Se viola el derecho de los internos a la rehabilitación, reeducación y resocialización conforme al artículo 134 Inciso 22 de la Constitución Política del Estado y el artículo II del Título preliminar del código de Ejecución Penal; de allí que sea calificado como centro de tortura por los organismos de derechos humanos (DD.HH) tales como la Corte Interamericana de Derechos Humanos y Amnistía Internacional que exigen su cierre definitivo. En Challapalca se implementa y se mantiene un régimen carcelario de mayor aislamiento, aniquilamiento y genocidio teniendo en cuenta la Convención de la ONU para la prevención del delito de genocidio y el artículo 129 del Código Penal peruano que tipifican claramente el delito de genocidio como delito de lesa humanidad por el sometimiento a condiciones de existencia que acarrear la destrucción física o mental, en forma total o parcial.

4. Que por lo expuesto, denunciamos la violación de nuestros derechos conforme al artículo 139 Inciso 22 de la Constitución Política del Estado y el artículo 1° del código de Ejecución Penal, denunciamos al presidente del INPE Javier Bustamente, al Vice presidente del INPE Moisés Hirst Carrillo y a la Directora de la DRAP- INPE Hilma Luna Frisancho por delito de función en su modalidad de abuso de autoridad conforme al artículo 376 del Código Penal, por delito contra la vida, el cuerpo y la salud conforme al artículo 128 del Código Penal y por delito de genocidio conforme al artículo 129 del Código Penal; a quienes hacemos responsables por nuestra integridad física y mental. Así mismo, exigimos el inmediato traslado a nuestros lugares de origen por unidad familiar y el cierre del campo de concentración fascista de Challapalca por atentar la integridad física y mental de los internos. Challapalca, 20 de octubre del 2002.

Prisioneros firmantes:

Franklin Esquivel Santos, Roman Rengifo Murrieta, Ortega Pardo Adrian, Miguel Dipas Vargas, Jovino Montero Arteaga, Alejandro Anyosa Ochoa, Carlos Bravo Quijano, Gregorio Principe Picon, Fortunato Soto Tarazona, Juan Quispe Castro, Luis López Medrano, Wilman Castro Rosas, Edward Solano Ascanio, Ceryl Carhuaz Aquino, José Arcela Chiroque, Hermes Rubio Hugo, Juan Islas Trinidad, Leo Peña Gutiérrez, Julio García Inuma, Cesar Pardo Yaringaño y Wilman Castro Rosas.