

MIM Notes



Sept. 5, 2003, Nº 287

The Official Newsletter of the Maoist Internationalist Movement (MIM)

Free

Open letter

Shut Down All Control Units!

MIM recently mailed this letter to known prison activists.

Dear prison organizer,

As we fight to eliminate the oppression of all groups of people, the Maoist Internationalist Movement has consolidated its efforts to improve the condition of prisoners in the United States into a nationwide campaign. This campaign focuses on a particularly repressive and growing aspect of prisons in this country: the control units. We need to expose and fight the brutal conditions facing so many prisoners across the country housed in control units. We invite you to join us in demanding the elimination of all control units in prisons in the United States. We are circulating the petition below and asking that prison activist organizations, as well as anyone who supports basic human rights for prisoners, to add their signature to it. We will also be expanding this campaign to gather information and resources and raise our voices against control units across the country. If you would like to get involved further, please contact us at the address below.

For justice,

Maoist Internationalist Movement

Shut down all Control Units

Control Unit prisons confine people to small cells in isolation for long periods of time. These prisons were first officially used in Alcatraz and then in 1972 in Marion, Illinois to house prisoners who were "institutional problems" or "too dangerous." Since then the idea has spread, and control units have become a common tool of repression throughout the American prison system.

These control units are used for the political and social control of prisoners already locked in secure institutions. They target Black, Latino and indigenous people who are a disproportionate part of control

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CALIFORNIA RECALL: A FARCE, BUT NOT UNUSUAL

As the recall vote on Governor Gray Davis approaches, over 130 people are in the race as potential replacements should Davis be voted out. Anyone could put their name on the ballot with \$3,500 and 65 signatures. Candidates could gather more signatures to pay a smaller fee.

At the October 7 election a candidate with even a small percentage of the overall vote could become Governor as the ballot question will first ask voters if they want to recall Davis and then if he is recalled, who would they like to replace Davis. If the recall vote passes, whoever gets the most votes will be governor.

Davis blamed for failures of capitalism

The recall effort was able to successfully gather the signatures needed—equal to 12% of the people who voted in the election for the person in question—with financial backing by prominent Republicans. Petition gatherers were paid to collect signatures.(1) Support for candidates like Arnold Schwarzenegger (who kicked off his campaign with a one liner that could have come from one of his movies: "we will clean them out") suggests that the opposition to Davis was not about any specific political goals on the part of the voters of California. Davis, a Democrat, served as governor through the recent years of economic slowdown which hit the Bay Area particularly hard.

Voters seem unhappy that Davis misled them about the extent of the budget deficit. The Financial Times also quoted complaints about him being "incompetent, unpopular, boring and indecisive."(2) Stupid personality criticism aside, the reality is that California has suffered an economic slowdown and voters find it easy to blame Davis for the stock market collapse and dot-com failure. Many still remember the energy crisis of 2000- 2001 which they blame on Davis as well since

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Hillary Rodham Clinton: Red-baiter and gender bureaucrat

Hillary Rodham Clinton
Living History
New York: Simon & Schuster
2003, 562pp. hb

reviewed by MC5

Sometimes in an autobiography like this one, we learn about virtual secrets of state or profound matters of economics and

foreign affairs. This book casts some light on intra-White House struggles in the Clinton administration, but it has

nothing new in the areas of economics or foreign affairs.

After the failure of health care reform that Hillary Clinton tried to lead from 1992 to 1994, she shifted to symbolic roles typical of first ladies and vice-presidents-arranging social events and attending funerals for heads of state and other famous people. In such a role, it is possible to visit many countries without getting too deeply involved in the issues. Living History seems a little shallow on the issues of foreign policy, by simply accepting mainstream imperialist demagoguery in passing-e.g. the idea that the Sandinistas did not win legitimate bourgeois elections in Nicaragua in the 1980s, (p. 312)

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Summer softcore porn movies reviewed

Lara Croft Tomb Raider: The Cradle of Life *Charlie's Angels: Full Throttle*

These summer films deserve to be reviewed together because they are basically the same idea: sexy wimmin in revealing outfits performing outrageous stunts to fight the bad guys and save humanity from impending doom. Overall MIM opposes the pornography that is so prevalent in this patriarchal capitalist society. This is not because of some Christian purism or moral code, but because we can see that pornographic portrayals of wimmin in mainstream culture perpetuate gender oppression and inequality. Even looking beyond the pornography there is little redeeming in either of these films.

The doom that they are saving us from is reactionary in both movies. Lara Croft has to stop the opening of Pandora's Box, and so the plot explains that humyn life actually did come from some mythic source, refuting science in the process. But at least this evil will decimate the masses of the world and, if it were real, is worth fighting against. The Angels have to save the FBI's list of people in protective custody, not exactly a calamity for humanity if it gets out and not an organization MIM would be helping regardless. But at least Charlie's Angels

had the decency to put a high ranking FBI member as the cause of all the troubles. Unfortunately he was just a rogue agent and the rest of the agency is portrayed as be beyond reproach.

Lara Croft works for herself, mostly searching for archeological wonders but saving the world whenever she comes across a situation that calls for it. Not exactly a revolutionary superhero. The Angels work for Charlie, who anonymously runs an independent agency that fights evil, without explaining why they don't just join up with the cops or some other government agency. Not exactly a model of feminism having three sexy wimmin running to Charlie for advice and orders. And again, not revolutionary superheroes.

Charlie's Angels plot was pretty sparse, but at once point they did introduce some drama by putting a former Angel as the mastermind behind the for plan to steal the FBI list. She went to work for herself so that she won't have to take orders but instead could give them, as she explained.

She is confronted by Charlie who tells her that she needs to work for the good of the group and that there must still be some good in her. She responds emotionally, and this, combined with one of the Angels mentioning that she faced some severe trauma years before, implies that this one Angel went bad after psychological problems.

MIM doesn't care to psychoanalyze those who are perpetuating harm against

humanity. We look for materialist reasons, like profit and power. We can not say what part of individuals' behavior is attributed to chemical imbalance as long as we have a culture influencing them that teaches and encourages oppression. In general it is not a psychological disease that causes people to do these things, and pretending that it is only leads people down the wrong path to end the problems in the world. In the end the evil Angel wasn't put in therapy: they killed her, so at least Charlie's Angels got that right.

MIM recommends sending us your \$20 to help produce revolutionary feminist action films instead of spending your money seeing these



Angelina Jolie as Lara Croft.

UNITED FRONT

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

Editor, MC206; Production, MC12

MIM Notes

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

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

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What is MIM?

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

"The theory of Marx, Engels, Lenin and Stalin is universally applicable. We should regard it not as dogma, but as a guide to action. Studying it is not merely a matter of learning terms and phrases, but of learning Marxism-Leninism as the science of revolution."
- Mao Zedong, Selected Works, Vol. II, p. 208.

Weather Underground pic foggy

FILM MISSES THE POINT OF IMPORTANT CHAPTER IN AMERIKAN RADICAL HISTORY

The Weather Underground
Directed by Sam Green and Bill Siegel
2003

This documentary about the radical group that split from Students for a Democratic Society (SDS) in 1969 to take up armed struggle against the U.S. government includes interviews with former Weather Underground (WU) members and clips from the 1960s and 1970s. The footage and interviews provide useful information but the perspective of the film is useless at best and reactionary at times.

For MIM the WU is an example of the failure of the strategy of focoism. In a nutshell, the idea behind focoism is that violent revolutionary acts, carried out by

a few people, will inspire the masses to join the struggle.(1) In adopting this strategy, the WU discarded their own scientific class analysis which explained why armed struggle in the United States was out of the question then (and now). Instead, they justified their actions with a version of Judeo-Christian morality.

That said, there are aspects of the WU that we like. They were part of a general movement that correctly broke with the old-style Communist Party, which they saw as reformist and irrelevant. The Weatherman's 1969 line on the Euro-Amerikan working class was similar to MIM's, namely that "virtually all of the white working class has short-ranged privileges from imperialism, which are not false privileges but very real ones which give them an edge of vested interest and tie them to a certain extent to the imperialists, especially when the latter are in a relatively prosperous phase."(2)

This film concludes the WU was a failure but fails to analyze the reasons for its failure or discuss the implications for revolutionary organizing today. Instead it relies on former SDS president Todd Gitlin for analytic commentary.

Gitlin criticizes the WU for being charismatic and then compares their "evil" to that of, in his words, other great "evil" people in the world, specifically Hitler, Stalin and Mao. Gitlin is heavily featured in the film to provide perspective and analysis, but in reality he doesn't say much of any use.(3)

In interviews the audience is introduced to members of the WU who look back on their activism with a range of reactions. Several of the people featured in the film turned themselves in to the police in the mid-1970s. They escaped prosecution when it came out that the FBI had used illegal methods to collect evidence against them. MIM is pleased with this outcome, but we note that this is a clear example of white privilege. Black Panther Party leaders were being killed or put in prison by the same FBI COINTELPRO program without so much as a peep from the Amerikan public, while many members of the white members of the WU got off free. One former member commented on this, noting that while the FBI did harass WU people at home—hanging one outside a window by his feet, for example—this was nothing compared

to the murders of Black people going on at the same time.

Mark Rudd, one of the WU founders and a former SDS president, now teaching math at a community college, says he has mixed emotions about what he did. He does a good job representing the atrocities of the Amerikan war in Vietnam and the compelling need to take some action to stop the massacre. He puts the SDS and the WU in the context of the revolutionary activism of the Black Panther Party and other groups in the U.S. and around the world.

Rudd says that during those years there was not a time when he wasn't thinking about Vietnam. It may be hard for people in Amerika to understand this, especially those who didn't live through the 1960s, but it was a very radicalizing thing for people to see Amerika blatantly murdering hundreds of thousands—eventually millions—of people in Vietnam. And it inspired many people to commit their lives to stopping it however they thought possible. SDS grew to a group with more than 100,000 members. The film contains some graphic footage of Amerikan

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Existential 'crimes' versus scientific 'crime rates'

CHOMSKY ON 9-11 AND HOW TO REBUT THOSE SPEAKING OF MAO'S AND STALIN'S 'CRIMES'

9-11
by Noam Chomsky
NY: NY, Seven Stories Press,
2002, 140 pp. pb

Reviewed by MIM, 5 Aug 2003

In this book we see Noam Chomsky serve as a talking head after 9-11. The demand for interviews with him after 9-11 was great and the number of people

needing to hear a talking head to place the world in context even greater. In this book, Chomsky handles really basic elements of understanding 9-11. As a result, we are going to pick on some of the tangents he raised as more interesting to us at MIM.

Referring to the World Court ruling on Nicaragua vs. the United States, Noam Chomsky says that the United States should have honored the World Court ruling that called Uncle Sam "terrorist" and after 9-11 it should have pursued the matter the way Nicaragua did in 1985:

"It is worth remembering—particularly

since it has been so uniformly suppressed—that the U.S. is the only country that was condemned for international terrorism by the World Court and that rejected a Security Council resolution calling on states to observe international law.

"The United States continues international terrorism. There are also what in comparison are minor examples. . . I didn't see anybody point out that Beirut also looks like Beirut, and part of the reason is that the Reagan administration had set off a terrorist bombing there in 1985 that was very much

like Oklahoma City, a truck bombing outside a mosque timed to kill the maximum number of people as they left. It killed 80 and wounded 250, mostly women and children, according to a report in the Washington Post 3 years later. The terrorist bombing was aimed at a Muslim cleric whom they didn't like and whom they missed."(p. 44) With this example, Chomsky demonstrates a high degree of internationalism, by telling a whole nation's people some uncomfortable facts about themselves that they have to know if they expect other peoples to get along

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Report: EPA misled public on post-911 health risks

The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) lied when it said the air around "ground zero" in New York was safe to breathe, according to a report by EPA Inspector General Nikki L. Tinsley released on Aug 21. In fact, the air contained elevated levels of toxins like PCBs, soot and dioxin more than six months after 911.(1) Almost half of the firemen and clean-up workers who spent long hours on the site without adequate protective gear now have respiratory problems, as do hundreds of workers cleaning offices and apartments.(2)

The report claimed that the Bush Administration told the EPA to tone down its air quality reports to calm public fears. For example, the administration convinced the EPA "to omit guidance for cleaning indoor spaces and tips on potential health effects from airborne dust containing

asbestos, lead, glass fibers and concrete."(1)

Marianne L. Horinko, the EPA's acting administrator, justified the government's actions, saying that the scientific evidence was not 100% clear. Rather than confuse the public with contradictory claims, Horinko argued, the administration wanted clear-cut action. "The White House's role was basically to say, 'Look, we've got data coming in from everywhere. What benchmarks are we going to use, how are we going to communicate this data? We can't have this Tower of Babel on the data.'"(1)

This is at heart an anti-scientific argument, which relies on ignorance and all-Amerikan, father-knows-best authoritarianism. When talking about observational studies there is no such thing as 100% scientific certainty. The

best we can talk about is which of several hypotheses is best supported by available data. It may have been 90% likely that 10,000 people would be come ill if no precautions were taken; it may have been 1% likely that 900,000 people would become ill. In either case, the risks should have been weighed seriously, and not dismissed out of hand because the consequences were not 100% certain.(3)

Key air measurements were not available the week after 911, yet rather than make an informed assessment based on what we know about the health risks associated with airborne PCBs, asbestos, etc.—or even say the matter was under further study—the EPA announced on September 18 2001 that the air in New York was safe to breathe.

The Bush administration is using the probabilistic nature of risk assessment to

chuck science out the window altogether and replace it with the will of the leader. George Bush wanted to do this so damnit he did it, to hell with all those pencilnecks and their hemming and hawing. Not coincidentally, Hitler and Mussolini promoted such ideas as well.(4)

The Inspector General's recommended that EPA public announcements reflect science of the matter—to which MIM says, "duh, no shit, you think so?" The fact that the report had to remind the EPA of this indicates the EPA was not basing their recommendation on science but on something else: electoral politics, say, or the needs of monopoly capital. Of course, the EPA is not alone in this. Other health regulatory agencies tweak their recommendations for the same reasons.

For example, Marion Nestle, who was

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Video game review: Hearts of Iron

Hearts of Iron

<http://www.paradoxplaza.com/hearts.asp>
2003

by RC666

HOI is an excellent WWII simulation for those who wish to understand what decisions were made leading up to and during WWII, why they were made, and if it was possible to make better decisions.

This game is of particular relevance to MIM because it allows the player to play a large selection of countries, from fascist Italy or Germany to “democratic” America and Britain to the socialist USSR.

The player can choose to start the game in 1936, or later in the timeline. Events proceed as they did historically, except for the potential changes that you are responsible for. Starting as the Soviet Union in 1936 is a challenge because you start with a very low IC [Industrial Capacity.] The game has several measures of your economic/military capability such as Industrial Capacity, Coal, Steel, Rubber, Oil, Manpower, and Diplomatic Points (a score-like representation of your diplomatic leverage.)

Players must carefully allocate their industrial capability. How much goes to consumer goods, supply production, technological research, and military production? Consumer goods are necessary to satisfy the populace and therefore stave off rebellion. Fortunately, in HOI, communist societies require only half the amount of consumer goods that other countries do. This industrial allocation simulation is a small representation of a command economy.

Technological research is obviously important, and the player will have to choose research paths. Are you aiming for nuclear weapons by 1941 or heavy tanks by 1940? Or do you concentrate on ways to synthesize strategic materials and accelerate production. It is a balancing act, especially because technological research is just one area to allocate resources to.

If you play as Stalin/USSR, you will be presented with several unique problems/choices. For example, the game asks you if you would prefer to support the Spanish revolution with some of your valuable and scarce material supplies (as the USSR did historically) or let the “revisionists”

(as the game puts it!) hang in the wind. Additionally, the game periodically asks you if you want to purge officers. If you do, you lose the services of valuable officers (following the typical bourgeois line) but if you don’t conduct purges, the “dissent” in the country rises! (Dissent leads to revolt) This is accurate since Stalin was trying to purge traitors, fear-mongers, and rabble-rousers in order to prevent large internal strife in the USSR. You can choose to accept or refuse the Stalin/Hitler pact. Accepting it is advantageous because of the relatively easy territorial gains it allows. Being ideologically/morally “pure” will hurt you materially.

Besides use of the military to conquer countries (this aspect of the game resembles a ‘triphibious’ version of Risk and you can assign leaders such as Zhukov to particular units), there is a wide variety of diplomatic methods that the player can use to take over countries. The player can stage a coup to replace a hostile government with a friendly government, you can ask for military access, you can install puppet governments, make alliances, and perform other such actions.

Besides international politics, the player will have to deal with all sorts of shadow cabinets and political opposition. Altogether, these features interestingly portray the backroom political and diplomatic maneuvers that can be as deadly and effective as a military conquest.

This game is potentially a tool for combating idealism or stupid views regarding the history of the USSR in the WWII period. It shows the difficult decisions that the Soviet Union had to make. Perhaps the player would like to not conduct purges and forego the rapid industrialization. Then she could fight Hitler’s mechanized divisions with calvary units while Trots stir up trouble behind the lines. (At 60% dissent, the government can be overthrown and replaced with a new type.)

Unfortunately, this reviewer had a buggy version of the game and no ability to patch it. I have only been able to explore some of the complexities of the game and there are probably more interesting finds inside. Anyone interested in this game should pick up a copy and add to what I’ve learned from the game.

CALIFORNIA RECALL: A FARCE, BUT NOT UNUSUAL

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he was in office at the time.

This is the narrow mentality of the bourgeoisie and petty-bourgeoisie under capitalism. They want to change leaders in response to economic downturns rather than using science to understand that under capitalism economic cycles are inevitable. Without centralized planning there will always be overproduction and speculation on un-needed goods. And this leads to economic crises. A planned economy does not leave room for the waste of overproduction by taking the guesswork out of the system: goods are only produced to fill needs.

Pornography in the press

The race is being mocked by domestic and international press as a circus, in part because entrants include a porn king, a womyn selling thong underwear from her web site,(3) former TV star Gary Coleman, and many other similarly unlikely candidates. MIM sees the focus on the California election as something of a failure on the part of capitalist reporters. Sure, the California recall is a decadent farce, but is that so different from the “serious” national elections? Readers will recall that for much of the last Presidential election Al Gore’s wardrobe was a major issue. In fact, the California recall elections are slightly more democratic, as the state will pay for a campaign booklet that goes to 11 million households in the state. Each candidate can publish a 250-word statement in the booklet, including a link to their website. One candidate is using



Schwarzenegger as Conan the Barbarian

his website to agitate for lower student fees for California universities and colleges, acknowledging this agitation is his main goal, as he has no chance of winning.(4)

Class and nation key to politics in Amerika

Schwarzenegger, famous actor most known for his role in the Terminator movies, entered the race for California governor and within a few days emerged as the front runner. He is a staunch Republican and an old friend of George Bush Senior. Schwarzenegger is just one of several millionaires who joined the race, where money will be a major factor as people like Davis have not been amassing campaign budgets and will not have the usual financial advantage of long-term politicians. The fame Ah-nold enjoys from his acting career has given him prominent media attention. Fame and wealth can

buy political offices in Amerika.

Schwarzenegger is also just one of several foreign born candidates. Born and raised in Austria, he moved to Amerika 35 years ago and has emerged as a financially and politically powerful republican. That the voters in California would support propositions like 187 (on behalf of which Schwarzenegger actively campaigned) barring illegal immigrants from receiving state services, but support foreign born candidates like Schwarzenegger proves what MIM has been saying about national oppression. Foreign born white people can enjoy the privileges of Amerikan life without difficulties, while those from oppressed

nations can count of discrimination, oppression and imprisonment.

Even with so many candidates MIM is confident this election will not result in any improvement for the condition of the majority of the world’s people. Governors are a part of the imperialist system, specifically helping to perpetuate and prop up that system at the state level. Anyone who genuinely works to undermine imperialism can not succeed within that system.

Notes:

1. Sacramento Bee, August 11, 2003
2. Financial Times, August 11, 2003
3. Guardian, August 4, 2003
4. <http://www.wattsforgovernor.com/index.asp>



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

MIM starts Students for a Democratic Society history project

Contributions invited!

The following is taken from MIM's new SDS history page, <http://www.etext.org/Politics/MIM/sds/index.html>.

The Students for a Democratic Society (SDS) was the pre-eminent student movement organization of U.S. history. Active from the mid-1960s to early 1970s, the problem with the SDS is that its history is increasingly dominated by social-democrats who did not like its increasing radicalization throughout the 1960s. Joining the social-democrats who never agreed with SDS are certain less important members of SDS who have since sold out and also many SDS leaders themselves who got jobs and families and now sing a different tune.

SDS did not start out by deeply antagonizing the existing propagandists of the status quo. In retrospect, many more conservative elements are rather fond of the "Port Huron Statement" toward the beginning of SDS history. In contrast, MIM puts more emphasis on the high tide reached in 1969, with the two years before and after 1969 the most interesting to us.

In a very few years SDS "moved far left." There were three main factors in the background that led to the radicalization of SDS proved by surveys that showed one million students considered themselves "revolutionary."

1) The Vietnam War left anti-communists ranging from Michael Harrington and to his right defending a war of genocide. Much as in World War I, the events of war left the bourgeois respectable elements talking about "socialism" behind in the dust as far as people concerned with basic justice including internationalism were concerned.

2) Mao was preparing the grounds ideologically by opposing Khrushchev's "peaceful coexistence" and "peaceful road" to power. By 1962, Mao was successful in getting the Progressive Labor Party (PLP) to break away from the Communist Party USA. Likewise, Mao was meeting with individual Blacks including Robert Williams.

3) A stirring among Black people in general that resulted in the civil rights and Black Power movements.

By 1966, the PLP was infiltrating the SDS. Huey Newton was haranguing

students to buy Mao's books and the Vietnam War was only sending more and more body bags back.

Perhaps even more important than observations [about political trends within SDS] are some of the practical facts of life of the SDS. One, students have to realize that it may be easier to be revolutionary in college when thousands of other students are nearby, at least some of which are wondering about the same things. Instead of putting all their energy into denouncing other students who do not share their views, student revolutionaries should think hard about the future, how they are going to sustain their revolutionary politics after college. SDS did not sustain itself. The parties formed out of its midst are pitiful in comparison to the original SDS in size and energy. Two, as SDS proves, trying to evade struggles over principle can at most put off a split a couple years. Rather than putting off struggles over profound questions in the name of a false unity, students should fight as hard as they can for everyone to advance their thinking as much as possible and hope that the most correct position garners the most supporters.

There is no one history of SDS that MIM is happy with. When MIM predecessors were active in the anti-apartheid movement at Harvard University, the SDS posters were still up in the offices we used. We were able to piece together some of the relics of the movement ourselves, and former SDS organizers worked with us from the very beginning by attending our events and tabling for their causes, but we invite others to help us turn our SDS web page into a complete archive of history and analysis. In this regard, we do not expect all material in this archive to have the hard-edge Maoism of the vast majority of the late SDS. We do not seek to suppress the non-Maoist aspects of the SDS history. Along these lines, we can expect that MIM will eventually review all the books connected to SDS already existing. If anyone would like to put forward memories of SDS as testimonials for our archive, we welcome them. Obviously we are interested in the questions of sustaining revolutionary commitment and how people thought they were going to preserve unity and their success or failure, but other topics are welcome.

Weather Underground pic foggy

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massacres in Vietnam as well as the murder of Fred Hampton, doing the service of presenting this history of Amerika.

The WU members believed that white people needed to step up to fight Amerika and put themselves at risk the same way Black people were. They saw the SDS stance as too pacifist and wanted to "bring the war home". And they believed that a revolution was possible in Amerika, so they determined to contribute to it by attacking Amerikan institutions with bombs. They were careful to never kill any people, but they bombed two dozen buildings during the few years they were active, including the Pentagon.

The WU demonstrated very clearly that focoist violence does not succeed. As time went on the WU became more and more isolated rather than gaining more mass support. Even Fred Hampton of the Black Panther Party publicly condemned the actions of the WU saying that they may be well intentioned but their strategy was all wrong. In the end they succeeded in bring down greater FBI surveillance and repression and removing their ability to do effective educational work amongst the people.

The movie also touches on another lesson we can learn from the WU: in 1969 shortly after they formed they spent a summer going out in the cities amongst the working youth with the theory that these people would be more revolutionary than the student youth. This theory clearly comes from the revisionist idea that the workers in Amerika are proletarian and

so have great revolutionary potential. They gave up this work quickly but the movie doesn't bother to explore why. MIM hopes people who see this will draw the correct conclusion that the white workers in Amerika are petty bourgeois and as a class have little interest in revolution—a conclusion the WU also adopted for a time.

One former WU member, Brian Flanagan, who now owns a bar, provides the most reactionary perspective on their history. He seems unclear why he joined the WU, but he is very clear that he thinks what they did was wrong. He compares the WU actions to the 911 attack on the World Trade Center and the Okalahoma City bombing (ignoring the fact that the WU never even killed anyone).

Naomi Jaffe, on the other hand, provides some good perspective on the actions of the WU saying "We felt that doing nothing in a period of repressive violence was itself a form of violence. That's really the part I think is hardest for people to understand." This is correct, and she goes on to say that if she had the chance again she would do it again but try to correct mistakes. (Unfortunately the film does not go into what she considers those mistakes to be.) She later qualifies her commitment by saying she would do it again if she didn't have kids and a family, inadvertently pointing out one reason why white youth are the most revolutionary among white people—they have less tying them to capitalist society.

Overall the wimmin in the film end up saying the believe in what they did and

would do it again while the men are either fully regretful of their actions or, at best, have mixed emotions, with the exception of David Gilbert who is serving a life sentence in prison after joining another focoist group and being caught carrying out a bank robbery.

Another aspect of the WU that is featured in the film was their decision to "Smash Monogamy" by banning it among their members and instead having group orgies and attempting to justify this as politically progressive. The film doesn't offer any analysis of this but MIM would point to it as one of the failed practices of the WU. While we don't think monogamy is great as a long term practice for humanity, we do see that under the patriarchy non-monogamy reinforces patriarchal relations and generally harms wimmin.

Notes:

1. For a much more in-depth discussion of focoism, see MIM Theory #5, pp. 61-77. Also, for more about SDS, see <http://www.etext.org/Politics/MIM/sds/index.html>.

2. MIM Theory #5, p. 66, quoting from the collection of WU documents, "You don't need a weatherman to know which way the wind is blowing," Harold Jacobs, ed.

3. Gitlin, it turns out, is part of the vicious "pragmatic" Democratic-party backlash against Communists, radicals, anarchists and Greens—basically anybody who the Democrats feel splits their vote. In his book *Letters to a young*

activist (Basic Books 2003) Gitlin argues that the anti-Vietnam war movement "must...shoulder the blame for nudging some voters [away from Democratic candidate Hubert Humphrey] towards Nixon, who proceeded to extend the Vietnam War for five years and expanded it to Laos and Cambodia, killing more than a million people." Gitlin does not mention that as President Johnson's Vice President Humphrey shared responsibility for the Vietnam war—and in any case, MIM's response to these "pragmatists" is that if the Democrats truly opposed Amerikan military aggression they would not simply sit by when the Republicans invaded several countries in the course of eighteen months (of course not just the Republicans, but let's leave Democratic sins of commission from Clinton to Kerry aside for now and focus on sins of omission). If it were possible to stop Amerikan imperialism and militarism within the rules of Amerikan "democracy," fine. But that last 130 years (at least) have shown that it is not. Gitlin and his ilk put the formalisms of bourgeois democracy ahead of basic humyn rights to life and self-determination. They lost the public opinion battle on this question to the radicals a generation ago, and now they are opportunistically using 911 and younger activists unfamiliarity with history to "overturn correct verdicts."

Hillary Rodham Clinton

Red-baiter and gender bureaucrat

Continued from page 1...

contrary to countless international observers.

Hillary Clinton's first concerns are health care, children and wimmin. However, defeating the domestic right-wing Republican agenda was also high on her list. In this book, she tells the public what the Washington Post and New York Times never explained on domestic politics, so it's a matter of a getting her side of the story out.

Red-baiting

Hillary Clinton makes it no secret that she came from a red-baiting household where the father's regular dinner-time conversation denounced communism. (p. 12) He was also rather a bigot against gays, Blacks and the usual suspects for white bigots.

When her father campaigned for Bill Clinton he did so saying he made an exception for Bill Clinton, because he believed that the Democratic Party was only "one step short of communism" (p. 164)—to which MIM would say, "if only." There is a whole section of Amerikkka with views similar to Hillary Rodham's father's-ready for fascism or monarchism.

Fear so much rules Amerikkkan politics, that the fearful fascist, monarchist and other reactionary currents have no clue what this "communism" thing is that they denounce. They only know that it rocks the boat of their economic privileges to rob other countries for cheap gas and benefit from slave labor.

Hillary Clinton fits in that category of the ignorant channeled onto a pre-set path as well. She started life as a "Goldwater girl" active for ultra-reactionary Barry Goldwater in the 1964 presidential campaign. In college she was a college Republican leader before resigning to become more of a Democrat. She admits that she hardly read anything but her home town paper well into college, (p. 31) while nonetheless gaining political leadership roles as a youth.

She admits that in her era, her generation debated endlessly about what it meant to serve the country. Many men she and Bill Clinton knew had died in Vietnam. However, Bill Clinton's and Hillary Clinton's opposition to the war was not based on internationalist principle. Instead, they doubted the "wisdom" of fighting a "land war" in East Asia—code words for saying the united States could not win, so what was it all about? She mentioned moral values, but it appeared to be in reference to whether making young men die for a futile war was just while some people escaped service. She was not able to come out and say that the killing of millions of Vietnamese was wrong and not able to generate global peace.

In another generation, Hillary Rodham would have ended up to the right of Barbara Bush, but Hillary Rodham and Bill Clinton were the right-wing of a whole generation in upheaval. She did not avoid the interactions of the time and admits to discussing revolution; although only in passing and without going into detail other than to deny that she would ever participate, even if it did come to the united States as much of her generation believed in her day. "In my mind, Dr. King and Mahatma Gandhi had done more to bring about real change through civil disobedience and non-violence than a million demonstrators throwing rocks ever could." (p. 37) She does not bother comparing how Gandhi's liberated India fell behind Mao's liberated China in every statistic of well-being of the people. In other words, she took the easy way out of an issue she encountered, something that was to become her norm to the point where she admitted she originally even did not think about running for New York Senate, because of the difficulties it would entail in 2000.

In her book and apparently her whole life, she touches on some issues without bringing them into any coherent focus. She mentions the Black Panthers and how they could not get a fair trial, but not in depth, and certainly without explanation. "Hoover's FBI infiltrated dissident groups and, in some cases, broke the law in order to disrupt them. Law enforcement sometimes failed to distinguish between constitutionally protected, legitimate opposition and criminal behavior. As domestic spying and counterintelligence operations expanded under the Nixon Administration, it seemed, at times, that our government was at war with its own people." (p. 44).

With a little more detail she talks about Nelson Mandela—mostly in reference to steadfastness and forgiveness. Hillary Rodham made much of her Christian roots.

In Bill Clinton's second run for Arkansas governor, Hillary Rodham lets the reader know that the public red-baited them as happened later in life as well. When Bill Clinton lost his bid for a second term, an enemy called on the phone to say, "I'm so glad that nigger-loving Commie fag Bill Clinton lost," and then hung up. What could inspire such bile? I thought. It was a question I would ask many times in the years ahead." (p. 74) When Cubans had rioted during Clinton's term in Arkansas the voters punished him for "letting" the Cubans riot. Clinton had learned he had to nail down the "Bubba" vote before he could go anywhere.

In 1994, the Bubba vote abandoned Bill Clinton momentarily again: "If you believed everything you heard on the airwaves in 1994, you would conclude that your President was a Communist, that



the First Lady was a murderess and that together they had hatched a plot to take away your guns and force you to give up your family doctor (if you had one) for a Socialist health care system." (p. 245) Hillary Clinton is looking at facts like these about a large section of the public and coming to different conclusions than MIM is.

In clever tactics, she red-baits her opponents right back-by referring to their desire to use "big government" to oppose abortion rights—just as in China and then "socialist" Romania. The only reference to the Cultural Revolution in China says that Ken Starr reminded her of what she read in a book about the Cultural Revolution. (p. 503) Contrary to Hillary Rodham, the Cultural Revolution did not empower any Ken Starr. Salacious individuals like that were always shut up and put in their place under Lenin, Stalin and Mao—for example, to the point that Stalin preferred to be blamed for assassinating Kirov than to allow lots of major public gossip about Kirov's love life a la Ken Starr style publicity.

When both sides of a debate red-bait each other with scant information about communism, it's time to recognize that the resulting politics is that peculiar brand of sterility known as "Amerikkkan."

Hillary Clinton as gender bureaucrat

Hillary Clinton is the leader par excellence of a faction of pseudo-feminism, the dominant one if there is such a thing. Once Bill Clinton nailed down the white racist vote in the South by promising more jobs for police and more death penalties, it was inevitable that Hillary Clinton's life would boil and bubble in connection to the gender aristocracy, because the Christian Right failed to believe it had lost the battle for the soul of the Amerikkkan womyn.

Bill Clinton had lined up financial interests to support his campaign. He had also gained great popularity with the

Bubbas of Amerikkka. Thus while in office what ended up consuming the Clintons their last six years was the gender aristocracy. There was no other line of attack for the other faction of imperialists facing them; although why the other faction was so ferocious is something Hillary Rodham does not really address adequately or in an interesting fashion.

In an agreement among the imperialists, issues of big money and which countries to bomb, invade or subvert were matters for the imperialists, but to give the commoner a sense of "democracy," the imperialists allowed the pornographers and paparazzi to set up shop. While the imperialists decide where to spend twelve digit military budgets, the general population gets to decide which imperialist is not enough like a monk to have office. These pornographers, paparazzi and sex-obsessed prosecutors like Ken Starr were all one and the same—what MIM simply refers to as part of pornography production for gender aristocracy consumption. The gender aristocracy is that social group of people with leisure-related privileges causing it to side with and enjoy the patriarchy, regardless of genitalia.

Hillary Clinton was a gender bureaucrat and not just a gender aristocrat, because she had a hand in setting the rules or had an influence in setting the rules for the patriarchy and gender aristocracy. She was one of the first of wimmin to keep using her maiden name; she advocated children's rights in the face of abusive parents, sought to shorten foster care and return children to parents in poor families and support a "pro-choice" position on abortion. Above all she symbolizes the professional working womyn and that is what a portion of the nutty reactionary public hates her most for and what that same public hates Bill Clinton "for allowing."

Of course, her influence on these questions started with her hair style and her dress. When she strayed from the gender aristocracy domain into health care reform the gender aristocracy—mostly females seeking to preserve a backward social system—punished her badly. So Hillary Rodham scurried back into gender aristocracy issues (e.g., p. 265) and may yet set her dominant imprint on these questions as president of the united States. However, from 1994 to 2000, Hillary Rodham Clinton faced the consequences that her own facile pseudo-feminism unleashed.

She tried valiantly to stay above the fray by supporting breast cancer research funding for example. Really her whole agenda was the least-controversial portion of a feminist agenda, watered down and smothered in electoral politics. However, by upholding her father's "rock-

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Hillary Rodham Clinton

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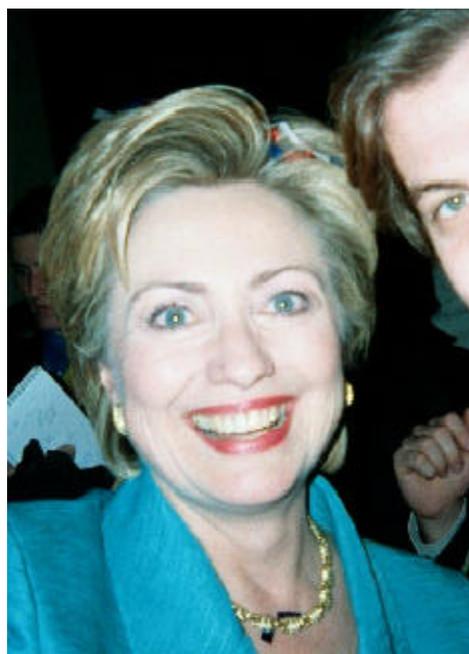
ribbed individualism” and allowing the focus of politics to become the lifestyle of females, she opened the door for what made her most miserable in office—the non-stop pornographic attacks.

The standard “good sport” liberal opinion of integrity is that the pornographers have to be allowed to make money photographing Princess Di or Hillary Rodham as the price to pay for “democracy” and a “free press.” When the celebrities complain, the pornographers remind them who makes them famous in the first place—all true enough as the system stands now. As it stands now, it was Hitler in favor of shutting down the entire press just for the reason of this pornography alone.

In contrast, we Maoists are for a dictatorship of the proletariat. In 2002, our party congress passed the following statement: “In the united States, the Monica Lewinsky scandal shows that Amerikkans too can be easily distracted from critical questions of political power. Under socialism, it will remain the task of the dictatorship of the proletariat to convince the masses not to make light of the party in a pornographic way as part of the deal of accepting communist leaders. One way we do that is that we will ask the masses not to personally impugn communist leaders they do not see up close. Proletarian democracy does not mean spending time on baseless accusations: it means combining actual knowledge with participation. In some cases, it will continue to be necessary to repress the remnants of capitalist society so stubborn as to oppose selfless communist leaders in power for the sake of the overthrown bourgeoisie.”

Although Hillary Rodham makes it clear throughout the book that her work and her husband’s work suffered because of sleaze and mud-throwing—not just during campaigns either—Hillary Rodham never suggested an overall solution to the problem, and as such she is an accomplice to the pornography made about her life and the life of the whole political system. The basic difference is that Hillary Rodham knows no way out of the generalization of pornography while we at MIM are willing to tell people that with MIM in power, we will be doing without the cheap entertainment of dousing politics with pornography. We will not alternate power with Republicans depending on which side did a better job hurling pornographic accusations last. (“You cheated on your wife”....”no you did”....”you had oral sex with Monica Lewinsky 13 times”.....”but you had three different interns....”) We are much more intolerant of pornography than Republicans or Democrats.

That is another exposure of why we say Hillary Rodham is a “gender bureaucrat.” Her power as an imperialist or wife of labor-aristocracy-vote-getter Bill Clinton is not in question. What is



interesting is the gender aristocracy question; although she complains at length about Kenneth Starr’s production of pornography, she does nothing to challenge that system of production. Typical was her response to Eli Wiesel: “What is wrong with America? Why are they doing this?” [reference to Monica Lewinsky obsessing-ed.] he asked and Hillary Rodham replied, “I don’t know.”(p. 447) That’s why she is a gender bureaucrat, just a different faction of power-holder in the same system of hierarchy. She’s unwilling to come out and challenge the underpinnings of what is happening and ends up accepting the pornography as a “good sport.”

Republican leader Newt Gingrich cheated on his wife. He went down. The new speaker of the House Livingstone was caught cheating and he lost his job and also resigned from Congress in 1998. What had happened under the Clintons was that political power came to depend on whoever did a better job taking advantage of the dynamics of leisure-time. The Republicans played this card especially because they believed that Bill Clinton had them beat among the labor aristocracy and they knew he and Hillary had the pseudo-feminist vote locked up. Their only counter was among Christian wimmin, especially home-makers who the Republicans sought to bring to the fore with their line against abortion and professional wimmin.

In the scheme of things, it appeared that the Republicans are on the losing side of a trend of history, since more and more wimmin worked and played important roles in the parasitism of the economy; however, Republicans sought to make Hillary Clinton appear to be tolerating non-monogamy while also meeting with men in public places without her husband—another thing they did not like from back in her Arkansas days to the present time. The game was to make all wimmin fear what privileges they were giving up with the changes in life that Hillary Rodham

seemed to symbolize. Some Amerikkkan wimmin thus considered the dynamics of their own leisure-time and “family” in their attitude toward Hillary Clinton. Many wimmin believed she should dump Bill Clinton and go home to bake cookies and they placed this above any consideration of say where the Middle East peace process was going or how to spend or not spend 12 digits of money on “defense.” This was one faction of the gender aristocracy. Even more important and indicative of the gender aristocracy was its consumption of every aspect of the Bill Clinton bimbo scandals—Jennifer Flowers, Paula Jones & Monica Lewinsky.

Hillary Rodham points this out herself as she notes the context of how Bill Clinton’s speeches and actions against Al Qaeda were drowned out by non-stop coverage of Monica Lewinsky. Bill Clinton could bomb another country he learned, and the television stations would still give more time to Monica Lewinsky than anything else. Hillary Rodham made an important observation without drawing any proper conclusions. What it showed was that the parasites were so secure in their parasitism in that time of prosperity that they were prepared to regard as minor and insignificant virtually any foreign policy problem while attaching utmost importance to the intrusion of new oral sex into the family.

The private sufferings of Hillary Clinton show that gender problems do have a relatively independent dynamic in leisure-time as only MIM stresses in the communist movement. Too many calling themselves “Marxist-Leninist” attempt to do away with discussing gender oppression by simply talking about divisions in the working class or how the employers save money at wimmin’s expense. When a faction of the imperialists and the majority of parasites themselves believe themselves to be enjoying prosperity, we see that gender issues can come to the fore and make and break the top imperialist political

careers. True, behind-the-scenes, the top imperialists may be manipulating the public for unseen reasons, but there is no doubting the sincerity of the fascination or the effort to consume pornography by the gender aristocracy. The phenomenon of Monica Lewinsky cannot be reduced to an imperialist plot and we doubt very much that one faction of the imperialists wanted to take down both Clinton and Livingstone: the gender aristocracy has to be accorded its own power for any explanation of that whole phenomenon.

For MIM we have made it no secret that there will have to be a “re-civilizing stage” of the dictatorship of the proletariat in the imperialist countries. The population will have to live without sponging off the Third World proletariat for a while—a stage of several years—before it is ready to interact in a fully humyn way with the rest of the world as qualified and equal participants in the building of socialism. Beyond the economic sponging off the Third World proletariat is also the attitude toward politics that came with it—namely that war, death, starvation etc. were someone else’s business. Nor will it be proper for people to do away with economic parasitism and still place chasing down the latest version of Monica Lewinsky gossip above life-and-death issues facing the global proletariat. Hence, MIM will also be cracking down on pornography broadly construed, not just ending economic parasitism in the re-civilizing stage of the dictatorship of the proletariat. That is how we answer the whole Hillary/Bill Clinton problem.

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

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What's New @ MIM's Homepage

Probability and causation

The following is an excerpt from MIM's review of the book "Ozone Diplomacy" by Richard Benedick. The full review can be found at <http://www.etext.org/Politics/MIM/bookstore/books/enviro/benedick.htm>.

Within science as known in capitalist society where people are not educated as they should be, the fact that certain risks can only be estimated is disconcerting to many people. The individualist and conservative simpleton prefers to know something in an either/or sense. Something is either 0% true or 100% true in the minds of many people not accustomed to dealing with quantitative matters.

In the case of the most important causes of death however, they strike in small percentages but routinely. There is only a chance that a U.S. citizen would be one

of the 3 million with skin cancer in the United States. Furthermore, there is only a chance that the scientists in 1986 were right about what would cause cancer. Hence, there was only a chance that banning CFCs would help with the ozone problem and skin cancer.

Benedick rightly condemns the "Panglossians" (a reference to Voltaire and the conservative idea that everything is fine) for neglecting dangers that are neither zero nor one hundred percent certain. Most people in the imperialist countries know to buy insurance for accidents. Yet there is no such thing as an interstellar insurance company that will help us out if we blow the Earth's environment. Once it becomes unlivable, that may be the end for the species. Under capitalism, businesspeople take risks with

our environment every day for their profits. Under socialism, such risks will be minimized and only done in the interest of the people, not the wealth of individuals. The competition dynamic in which the environment is damaged while capitalists are busy fighting for market control will not exist.

Benedick quite correctly observed that "The world may not have the luxury of early warning signals before an irreversible collapse occurs in some other segment of the planet's ecosystem." (p. 307) We won't always be able to afford to know every last scientific detail before acting. That was the lesson learned in the ozone controversy. Once chemicals are released on the surface, they often take years to reach the ozone. Hence, the results in the ozone now may only reflect

usage of chemical in the distant past.

The dictatorship of the proletariat is best suited for handling environmental issues. Because property is eliminated, there will be less resistance when equipment has to be scrapped or a new technology introduced.

Such resistance will exist only to the extent that some people are trying to restore capitalism and property as a whole. Under dictatorship of the proletariat, change can be implemented without particular individuals bearing the brunt of the cost. For the foreseeable future, everyone can gain from environmental improvements because there is a massive resource that the dictatorship of the proletariat can tap into globally—unemployed people by the hundreds of millions.

Report: EPA misled public on post-911 health risks

Continued from page 3...

hired in 1986 to edit the "Surgeon General's Report on Nutrition and Health," recalls, "My first day on the job, I was given the rules. No matter what the research indicated, the report could not recommend 'eat less meat' as a way to reduce the intake of saturated fat... [T]he producers of foods that might be affected by such advice would complain to their beneficiaries in Congress, and the report would never be published." (5)

To eliminate this combination of opportunism, corruption, and incompetence under socialism, economic leaders and Party administrators will face the stiffest possible penalties—including the death penalty—for mistakes that harm the public's health.

Notes:

1. Associated Press, 23 Aug 2003.
2. Associated Press, 28 Aug 2003.
3. See sidebar above, "Probability and causation."
4. "The revolt against science, which bourgeois society today encourages in the ideological sphere, at the same time as it utilizes science in practice, is not only the expression of a dying and doomed social class; it is an essential part of the campaign of reaction. This is the basis which helps to prepare the ground for all the quackeries and charlatanries of

chauvinism, racial theories, anti-semitism, Aryan grandmothers, mystic swastikas, divine missions, strong-man saviors, and all the rest of the nonsense through which alone capitalism today can try to maintain its hold a little longer." R. Palme Dutt, *Fascism and Social Revolution*, New York: International Publishers, 1934, p. 57.

5. Marion Nestle, *Food Politics: How the Food Industry Influences Nutrition and Health*, Berkeley: University of California Press, 2002, p. 3.

6. "As discussed in the 2001 Congress resolutions, party members should be volunteers willing to give their lives. That means that whether through intentional error or bungling, the equivalent of the Ford Explorer tire scandal would result in death penalties amongst the party officials running the tire business. This will keep the party on course and maintain the party as a small place, not the most sensible place to pursue money or career ladders. When the prestige of the party is high from such risks and responsibilities assumed by leaders, the people will support their leaders and anything will be possible given time." From the MIM Congress document, "Theses on the vanguard party in the transition to communism 2002," <http://www.etext.org/Politics/MIM/wim/cong/thesesonvanguard2002.html>.

Shut Down All Control Units!

Continued from page 1...

unit populations (relative to their already disproportionate representation in prisons in general). Control units go beyond the usual constraints of maximum security prisons. Better defined as a prison within a prison, control units are used to defeat prisoners' revolutionary attitudes, organization, militancy, legal and administrative challenges, and anything else the prison administrators deem objectionable. While conditions vary from prison to prison, the goal of these units is always to achieve the psychological and physical breakdown of the prisoner.

Control units have various names such as Adjustment Center, Security Housing Unit (SHU), Maximum Control Complex (MCC), administrative maximum (ad-max), Intensive Management Unit (IMU) and administrative segregation (ad-seg). Prisoners spend years of isolation in tiny cells, usually 6 by 8 feet for 22 - 23.5 hours a day. In some cases the long term isolation is complete, in others it is small group isolation; both conditions are tremendously damaging to humans. The short time that they do spend outside their cell is within a cement or chain link "dog pen" that lacks any kind of equipment and proper space for physical exercise. Participation in programs such as religious services, educational programs, work and job training, congregate dining and exercise are all prohibited. Medical care is also greatly limited.

Prisoners are usually placed in control units as an administrative measure, with no clear rules governing the moves. This makes it virtually impossible for prisoners to challenge their placement.

Control units are designed to dehumanize inmates through sensory deprivation. The United Nations has put forward clear guidelines for the treatment

of prisoners. The Basic Principles for the Treatment of Prisoners (1990) states: "Except for those limitations that are demonstrably necessitated by the fact of incarceration, all prisoners shall retain the human rights and fundamental freedoms set out in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, and, where the State concerned is a party, the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, and the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights and the Optional Protocol thereto, as well as such other rights as are set out in other United Nations covenants." The United Nations Human Rights Committee has further stressed the obligation of the state to treat prisoners with dignity and allowing them all rights set forward in the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (which the United States signed in 1977).

Control units are physical and mental torture and they very clearly violate the human rights of prisoners. They systematically target prisoners who are challenging the legal system and other manifestations of state authority. We, the signatories of this statement, condemn these units and demand that the United States abide by the UN principles it claims to uphold. We call for the elimination of all control units in prisons in the United States.

Send your signature to MIM at mim124@mim.org or MIM, PO Box 40799, San Francisco, CA 94140

For more information on U.S. imprisonment, Control Units and other repression in American prisons see: <http://www.etext.org/Politics/MIM/agitation/prisons>

What questions do YOU have?

Wasn't Mao a butcher? Why do you spell it "Amerika"? Shouldn't you try non-violence first? What is internationalism? Isn't hating white people reverse racism? Why don't you leftists work together? Why don't you tone it down? What is a cardinal principle? What is your program? What is necessary to join MIM? What concrete actions can I take? How do I write articles for MIM? What is your copyright policy?

Go to <http://www.etext.org/Politics/MIM/faq> and get real answers to these and other questions.

Existential ‘crimes’ versus scientific ‘crime rates’

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with them.

In another comparison Chomsky shows how Clinton’s 1998 bombing of Sudan was worse than 9-11. Referring to calculations of the death toll Chomsky demonstrates something about himself and most Amerikkans that we at MIM have struggled against:

“Evaluating ‘relative cost’ is an enterprise I won’t try to pursue, and it goes without saying that ranking crimes on some scale is generally ridiculous, though comparison of the toll is perfectly reasonable and indeed standard in scholarship.”(p. 52)

Let’s be clear that the bombing of Sudan killed many more people than 9-11. So then Chomsky says we will not take up the relative numbers, which of course as a method has the bias inherent in it that U.S. crimes against millions of Third World and indigenous peoples will always far outstrip in numbers the number of people killed in all other crimes combined. Hence, what Chomsky does is morally equate the genocide against Vietnam and East Timor for instance with street crime in the United States. From MIM’s point of view, this is what we would expect from an educated labor aristocrat, someone still valuing Amerikan lives above Third World lives by using this standard of “crime” as having no numbers.

Noam Chomsky is the most internationalist one can be within a pre-scientific mindframe. These essays bring that out clearly. Most of the material exposes U.S. terrorism without revealing our differences with Chomsky.

Chomsky points out correctly that the Amerikan propaganda machine uses one standard for the rest of the world and another for Amerika. “When we estimate the human toll of a crime, we count not only those who were literally murdered on the spot but those who died as a result. That is the course we adopt reflexively, and properly, when we consider the crimes of official enemies—Stalin, Hitler, and Mao, to mention the most extreme cases.”(pp. 46-47) He goes on to point out that most accusations against Stalin and Mao count deaths that occurred under them as some kind of oppression, whether Stalin and Mao knew the dead or intended the deaths. Chomsky then rightly adds that we should do the same for our own leaders, in this case Clinton in 1998.

Chomsky reasons as much of the nihilist “left” does—whether of libertarian or merely mushy and confused sort. MIM has already addressed this point in the FAQ of its webpage, but it bears repeating here particularly in regard to Chomsky: 1) equating the street crime of say whoever killed Nicole Simpson with the genocide against Jews, Vietnam and East Timor is NOT just, and we say that at a pre-scientific level. Even more at a scientific level, we can say for certain that such a definition favors the rich

countries with militaries that can kill more people more easily. 2) Anyone who enters politics speaking of “crimes” demonstrates one of two things: a) amateurishness b) a fascination with pre-industrial societies, because only pre-industrial tribal societies can have any claim to being without “crime.”

The difference between a pre-scientific anarchist prop of the status quo and the scientific anarchist boils down to this: The scientific anarchist knows that all modern societies have states and all states are guilty of “crimes.” That is nothing more than saying states are composed of people who are imperfect at this time, except arguably in those pre-industrial tribal societies still existing. The scientific anarchist is no longer surprised that states are guilty of crimes. This is something that real anarchists figured out a long time ago. What is now interesting to scientific anarchists is the “crime rate,” how to get it down and thereby eliminate the same causations for the state’s existence.

That is why the bottom line as a tactic for MIM in arguing with pre-scientific critics is to accept as given ALL their questionable individual facts. It’s not a question of “sources” or “viewpoints,” the topics that the pre-scientific intellectuals and their supporters spend so much time on. The question is the relative “crime rates.” We accept every accusation against Stalin and Mao that is possible. The fact remains that the life expectancies in their countries doubled in their lifetimes. That means that the overall “crime rate” went down faster there than anywhere else, and yes, that means that their states were “less criminal” than others. No, it is not “ridiculous” to say so: it is a matter of life and death, because as of yet, humyns do not have any perfect choices for their political, social and economic organization placed in front of them. A Chomsky-like “morality” would only be non-criminal in the event that such an anarchist alternative existed right now. It does not. Chomsky and others like him have been preaching their solution for decades and centuries, but their preaching is not effective, precisely because the real-world alternative to crime-less life does not exist yet.

Here I will address just only the most recent evasion by anarchism hermetically sealed from the rest of the world—the fall of Baghdad in 2003. We heard the standard anarchist excuses that the looting was not “anarchy,” but “chaos.” These anarchists live in such a religiously sealed off world that it is simply not possible to argue with them. There is no reality that they accept as just to point to. When we argue about reality, they respond with definitions and moral absolutes. Instead of thinking that the fall of the Saddam Hussein regime shows that people do NOT automatically prefer statelessness when they experience it and do NOT take up cooperative living when they suddenly get the chance, our anarchists dwell on moralisms and definitions. Yes, the fall of

Condemning Mao for “crimes” is like knocking effective AIDS treatments with nasty side effects (Maoism) on behalf of ineffective but inoffensive chicken noodle soup (“libertarian socialism” or “anarchism”).

the Saddam Hussein regime IS proof of something against anarchism, namely that a crime-less alternative to the state is not on the immediate agenda of the humyn species yet. No poetry or purified anarchist dictionary changes that reality on the ground for real live people.

The analogous equivalent in medicine of Chomsky’s position is this: to precisely catalogue AIDS, it’s causation, it’s symptoms and its extent but then dodge the solution to the causation. Chomsky’s brand of anarchism is like recommending chicken noodle soup for AIDS. Probably “chicken noodle soup” does no harm in itself on the AIDS question. The problem only arises when advising chicken noodle soup is deemed a moral substitute for recommending protease inhibitors, or any useful drugs that may have some nasty side effects. When Chomsky condemns Mao for “crimes,” he is knocking the

protease inhibitors (Maoism) on behalf of chicken noodle soup (“libertarian socialism” or “anarchism”).

Far from being “moral” and opposed to “crime” such a position in fact should be considered a crime. Medical doctors like that should be shot, far from being commended for avoiding “comparison of the toll” as Chomsky says.

Until the day that there are no states, to speak of states is to speak of “crime.” Only the naive believe otherwise, and they are the tools of the Rupert Murdoch school of justice. We at MIM make a big deal about a society that has half the crime rate or murder rate of another country. As scientists not seeking to avoid any facts, we are always willing to accept that Stalin and Mao committed crimes in the millions. The point is that the alternatives were worse, measurably much, much worse.

What is militarism?

Militarism is war-mongering or the advocacy of war or actual carrying out of war or its preparations.

While true pacifists condemn all violence as equally repugnant, we Maoists do not consider self-defense or the violence of oppressed nations against imperialism to be militarism. Militarism is mostly caused by imperialism at this time. Imperialism is the highest stage of capitalism—seen in countries like the United States, England and France.

Under capitalism, capitalists often profit from war or its preparations. Yet, it is the proletariat that does the dying in the wars. The proletariat wants a system in which people do not have self-interest on the side of war-profiteering or war for imperialism.

Militarism is one of the most important reasons to overthrow capitalism. It even infects oppressed nations and causes them to fight each other.

It is important not to let capitalists risk our lives in their ideas about war and peace or the environment. They have already had two world wars admitted by themselves in the last 100 years and they are conducting a third right now against the Third World.

Even a one percent annual chance of nuclear war destruction caused by capitalist aggressiveness or “greed” as the people call it should not be tolerated by the proletariat. After playing Russian Roulette (in which the bullet chamber is different each time and not related at all to the one that came up in previous spins) with 100 chambers and one bullet, the chance of survival is only 60.5% after 50 turns. In other words, a seemingly small one percent annual chance of world war means eventual doom. After 100 years or turns of Russian Roulette, the chances of survival are only 36.6%. After 200 years, survival has only a 13.4% chance.

Oregon uses sports accident to punish prisoners

I am locked up in Oregon Department of Corruption at the concentration camp they refer to as Eastern Oregon Correctional Institution. When someone was hit in the mouth during a game by a softball causing his tooth to go through his lip and because I was on the yard at this time and I have a history of assaults I was taken off the yard and placed in segregation 3 days after the incident with no proof except some snitches saying what the pigs told them to say. Currently I am doing 120 day segregation and I'm trying to exhaust all my administrative remedies so I can take this to state court so I can get this dismissed.

—An Oregon prisoner, July 2003

Prisoner builds fight against Operation Gatekeeper

Revolutionary Greetings! I'm just writing you a quick response because it's taken me long to get the "Stop Gatekeeper" petition signed —The repression at this institution was a severe cause for this delay.

But here is the petition all filled out. Keep sending me MIM Notes!

In struggle,

—A prisoner in Arizona

MIM adds: If this prisoner can collect a petition full of signatures to end Operation Gatekeeper, the reactionary attack on people crossing the illegal southern border to the United States, how many signatures should you be able to collect? To download a copy of the petition or read more about Operation Gatekeeper check us out on the web: <http://www.etext.org/Politics/MIM/agitation/gatekeeper>.

Maryland prisoner fights 3-strikes law in California

As a Black man in the struggle, I greet you with a clenched fist —because it represents togetherness. And we as an oppressed people need solidarity more than anything. I've received MIM Notes and I must say that I am truly surprised that it got to me because these Maryland institutions censor everything. Also I had a few of the prisoners around here sign a petition against the 3-strikes law in California. One of these fools said "Fuck them! What about us in Maryland?" I tried to explain to him the importance of the struggle no-matter where it's at. Keep up the good work and keep sending MIM Notes.

—A prisoner in Maryland

MIM adds: You can get a copy of this petition or more information about the reactionary Three Strikes law on our web site at www.etext.org/Politics/MIM/agitation/prisons.

Indiana prisoners fight SHU

My comrades and I have just recently won a battle to get out of the SHU unit here in Indiana. We won it through appeals and are

Under Lock & Key

News from Prisons & Prisoners

now back in the general population. Our release is just a drop in the bucket, though, considering that no one should be subjected to such torments and inhumane treatment. Where some would be happy with gaining their own releases, I will only be happy when the SHUs are abolished. So until that time I must continue to work towards this goal.

Keep in the struggle,

—A prisoner in Indiana

MIM adds: MIM recently initiated a statement demanding that all control units be shut down. Security Housing Units (SHU) are just another name for control units. We are looking for groups willing to add their names to endorse it. This statement is printed on page ??? of this issue of the paper.

Communists continue to fight despite repression

Greetings Comrades at MIM,

I received your recent package. I'm all about the struggle to stop the war on our Black communities. I'm surprised they let that material in because these officials in this gulag stay oppressing me. I have a tattoo of "communist" on my back and ever since day one they've been coming at me sideways. I can really use any comrades advice on methods to come at these people with. I've tried damn near everything. A lawsuit is my next option. However, I will continue to fight to the death. I'm enclosing a check to support you Brothers for the material in the study group.

—a NJ prisoner, August 2003

Southport: a case of US state terror

I must address the world on this subject of Southport [Correctional Facility] and the New York prison system. In the past three decades some 400 New York prisoners have been punished in these walls. Yet relatively little is said about these camps which are sealed off from international scrutiny you can ask any inmate to describe a world of routine horror. Prisoners are subjected to beating, handcuffs, torture and slave-style labor. Guards practice brute force on prisoners, who obediently line up to pay \$5.00 for fake misbehavior reports where sometimes we end up in SHU. Inmates are told that they are 'cocksuckers' and no longer human beings.

Some prisoners labor for 14 hours a day exhausted when they return to their cell at night to a place as big as your bathroom.

Inmates receive five to ten years in the box with only one hour rec, saying it's a lesson for resisting. The slogan is just lock them down, and the American government denies these actions.

Southport and S Block is arguably the worst human rights situation in the world. Why does not the United Nations Commission on Human Rights condemn these actions for

systematic, widespread and grave rights violations. No one wants to highlight the abuse. The Bush administration pays no attention to these jails. I see this everyday. ... I don't know of a country in the world today that's as repressive as America. I believe it's the worst.

This camp serves as a frightening, if mysterious deterrent to anti-slavery activity. You can call S Block and Southport a prison state that's ruled by terror.

These camps generate funds for a cash strapped regime whose economy has raised by about 350 billion dollars since 1992. Prisoners make license plates, lockers, tables, chairs, clothes etc. and manufacture goods for export and domestic consumption.

Prisoners make license plates at \$0.26 an hour for the Department of Transportation in New York State, and tables and lockers which are sold all across the world. Meanwhile, some prisoners receive a ration of 4.5 ounces of food, cabbage leaves with bread, five days a week.

Some run from five o'clock AM to 9 PM with logs on their back as an everyday regiment. Prisoners are handcuffed and beaten. I know a comrade who lost most of the sight in his right eye, his teeth were broken and blood oozes out of his left ear. Sometimes medical staff turn the other eye. It's beyond the outside world's imagination how these pigs treat prisoners not even like animals but like bugs.

Inmates get segregation just for having conversations with prisoners... There is no way even to describe the pain we go through in here. I want the world to know how evil America's prison system is. Having to send your legal work to the law library to be typed at least three weeks to a month ahead of time, people are missing court deadlines because the law library doesn't send your legal work back on time. Inmates work as intelligence for the pigs. So to all comrades: Know who you bring into the family. Because the enemy comes in all shapes and sizes. Keep the struggle alive and the movement strong.

In oneness,

—A comrade from Southport Correctional Facility in New York, July 2003

California Three Strikes law fills prisons and wastes money

Ten years ago economists predicted that the high cost of incarcerating felons under California's "Three Strikes" law would drive the state into bankruptcy. Then-Governor Pete Wilson ignored these prescient sages in order to further his political ambitions and to appear as a tough-on-crime politician/presidential-hopeful. Even at an incarceration cost of over \$30,000 per inmate per year, Mr. Wilson claimed the law would save the state money. How exactly these voodoo economics would occur remained unspoken, as did the

fact that crime was actually on the wane. He made political capital off of Polly Klaas' tragedy, pushing through a poorly-written law that has caused unexpected consequences. These include morally and fiscally bankrupting California.

In the past, persons falsely charged with a crime would often accept a plea bargain rather than face the risk of a wrongful conviction and lengthy prison term. Such people did not know then the consequences they would one day face. California's Three-Strikes law retroactively punishes people. Ten, twenty or fifty years ago, please accepted plea bargains without knowing they would later receive a life sentence for doing so.

Our Founding Fathers knew the evils of such "ex post facto" laws, and took what they believed were adequate steps to prevent these laws from being enforced. However, in our age, the courts do not hesitate to push their political agendas. In an effort to expedite what they felt was the will of the people, the courts have rules that ex post facto violations were to be tolerated in Three-Strikes cases.

Time has shown that the usual Third-Striker

MIM on Prisons & Prisoners

MIM seeks to build public opinion against America'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.

is a non-violent pizza thief or drug addict who once accepted a plea bargain that now counts as a strike. He is not the rapist, child molester or murderous gang-banger Wilson indicated would be the target of this law. In fact, one unintended consequence of this law is that in *People v. Jefferson*, 58 Cal. Rptr. 2d 252, an allegedly violent gang-banger was prevented from being given multiple life sentences because the sloppy wording of the Three-Strikes law foreclosed that possibility.

People charged with crimes now fear to accept a plea bargain, since these strikes carry the minimum of a life sentence. They choose to risk all by fleeing capture in a high-speed chase. If captured alive, they take their case all the way to a jury trial, since being acquitted is their only hope of avoiding lifetime imprisonment. Court cases that were once resolved within a month's time now run on for years, at great expense.

The increase of prisoners seeking trial has created such a backlog that new courts, jails and related facilities have further burdened tax-payers. As a direct result of the unintended consequences of the Three Strikes law, California is plunging further and further into debt. One would expect to hear a clamorous protest over this debacle. Instead, except for a brief hue and cry over Gov. Davis' raising the salaries of prison guards while slashing all other public programs, the press has been strangely quiet as to the real cause of California's budget crisis.

Our once progressive California penal system is now filled with non-violent lifers and is roundly condemned by the U.N. and the International Community as a human rights violator. We now sentence dope fiends to die in prison for their crime of stealing a videotape to bring home to their poor children. We need to correct this unjust and unconstitutional Three-Strikes law. It is the main reason California is running a deficit. There is a moral and financial cost to the ill-conceived Three-Strikes law, and Californians are now paying it.

— A California prisoner, August 2003

California prisoner strike fights repression

May 9th, as pigs were serving chow, in an ad-seg environment, my cell was skipped its trays. Reason being, for putting my arm outside the cell door, the slot, to clean my window. After the entire building was fed and after the serving area was cleaned my cell was given the privilege of finally eating. But while being fed I was grabbing the trays the pig claimed I battered him. I can understand if I hit the pig or kicked or even stabbed him, but there was no contact between the C.O. and myself. Being in ad-seg you're fed in your

cell through a slot in the door. Now this slot isn't even big enough for your head to go out, just to give you an idea of its size. So the acclaimed charge is this: "While my hands were full with two trays of food, I stuck my arm out the slot and battered the pig."

Now with the pig's false charges comes repercussions. Possible SHU terms, loss of credit and criticism from other pigs. Those are part of the prison life, I can take those but when my life is at stake that's where I draw the line. You're probably wondering how my life is at stake? With the false charge of battery comes a D.A. referral. With a D.A. referral comes a strike. And if you're like me sitting here with two strikes, you can't afford another strike. So any D.A. referral can cost 25 years to life in prison.

With the state budget so jacked-up as it is, for various reasons, and with prisoners feeling the effects here's another D.A. referral for the state to look over, more money spent against a budget way in debt but it's okay.

After this happens my first urge is to explode and really cause some havoc, but in the long run that only hurts me more. Sure you can flood, light fires, or cell extract but you're left with nothing in your cell. So now not only do you have a D.A. referral you're sitting in a pair of boxers only for a couple of days on water control. You really showed them, huh?

Next option, you can sit back and exhaust your appeal rights which could take months and in the end what do you accomplish? A reprimand to the pig, but you still have a D.A. referral over your head. You really showed them.

Appeal systems (602s) are a joke, it is very rare that you actually accomplish what you intended. I'm not saying it doesn't work, because sometimes it does. But in situations where you need action, now, what do you do?

For me I have found that one of the quickest attention grabbers (and maybe most successful) is strikes! They have to acknowledge strikes.

May 10th, breakfast comes around and I deny my first meal. The pigs actions, laughing and bets of how long the hunger strike will last. Two meals a day, two days go by. After three meals passed the pigs started to take me serious. Their first plan of action: a medical staff brings a weight scale and takes a weigh-in and documents it 184 pounds.

May 11th, four meals into the strike. Now the ridicule, jokes and questions start. An official statement of why I'm striking is taken, my blood pressure is taken, and a psych doctor asks his question. What's next? Nothing.

May 11th, May 12, May 13th my weight is checked again, 168 pounds. Ah, now I'm taken

seriously. I'm asked what I hope to accomplish. Simple, I want the rules violation (along with D.A. referral) thrown out. Their reaction "It's not going to happen," two more days pass and my weight is taken both days 158 pounds.

Now a pig with stripes and a little clout comes to talk: "I've read the report, I'll see what I can do about throwing it out." But that's not my concern, I want it so NO D.A. referral is issued. From what I've read the D.A. won't pick this up if I get the report thrown the D.A. goes with it. So I end the strike and take the pigs word, the report is gone. With the D.A.? That's now a writing game to see if its gone as well. Sure I've lost 26 pounds, but my gain was my life outside of prison, not a third strike for something I did not do.

Why the pigs did this. Simple, I had others slowly joining me. There was media attention. Once the department of corrections is exposed for their injustice actions they try to bury them. So they succumbed to my request. But they weren't requests, they were demands and they realized it, 6-7 days down the way. This strategy is successful with support from the streets and within. Don't be discouraged, if you don't get the attention you want immediately trust me it will come, they have no choice.

If group strikes of this sort could be organized throughout the system maybe some of our repression could go into submission. Could it be a tool against the SHUs and three-strikes. There's one way to find out, by trying.

—Tiger, a prisoner in California, July 2003

Censorship continues in California

Salinas Valley State Prison

I wanted to inform you of the censorship that I am experiencing since my arrival here in Salinas. I was told that I could not receive your publication, MIM Notes. They told me that it was inciteful and destructive to the safety and security of the institution. I will continue the struggle against oppression and censorship, however, I can receive used books as long as they come from a distributor/bookstores/publisher. I am enclosing ten 37 cent stamps in support of the movement; it's not much, but being that I have nothing but my convictions and beliefs, it is the best I can do at this moment in time.

— a California prisoner at Salinas Valley State Prison, August 2003

CCI Tehachapi

Here is an update on the appeal of the censorship of MIM Theory 11. The appeal

was denied at the 2nd level of review for the following reasons:

1. They say an article about C/O violence against Blacks and Latinos promotes racism.
2. They say MIM's doctrine of armed struggle against imperialist U.S. promotes violence.

These are the 2 reasons they did not let MIM Theory 11 in. I have submitted the appeal for directors level review (3rd level). We'll see what happens. I am preparing to file 21983 should it be denied.

— a prisoner at CCI Tehachapi, August 03
MIM responds: It is the C/O violence against Blacks and Latinos that is racist, not our exposure of this practice. And it is very convenient for the prisons to say that anti-imperialism promotes violence. Of course they fail to censor imperialist media which is the biggest promoter of violence in the world today. This double standard allows the prison to censor all revolutionary literature while allowing reactionary propaganda in. Our comrades behind bars are doing all that they can to fight these clear cases of censorship targeting revolutionary literature. We need people on the outside to step up and help with the fight. Lawyers can help with the legal battle, and others can write letters of protest to the warden at the prison: Warden Art Calderon, California Correctional Institution, PO Box 1906, Tehachapi, CA 93581

Pelican Bay State Prison

MIM mailed me a book not too long ago but the institution disallowed the book package due to the book being used. The book was destroyed as per gulag policy (I don't have the funds on my trust account to send stuff out.) Enclosed is a book address label that must be attached to the outside of the book package. All books must be new and must be sent from a book store, and must be paperback. Also the vendor's stamp and business number must be included in the small box in the upper left hand corner of the label.

—A prisoner at Pelican Bay, California, August 2003

MIM responds: Requiring books to be new and from a bookstore means MIM can't send prisoners at PBSP any books at all. Our Books for Prisoners program relies on donations of books as well as books we can buy cheaply from used book stores. We don't have a bookstore from which we can mail them, nor do we have the funds to purchase new books. This effectively censors all prisoner book programs, restricting prisoners to the non-existent prison libraries for their reading materials.

Facts on US imprisonment

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

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

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

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

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

2. Ibid., 1992 report.

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

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

5. Atlantic Monthly December, 1998.





Planes yanquis para Palestina; Una “ruta” hacia ningún lado

El 30 de abril, EE.UU. y sus socios la Unión Europea, la ONU y Rusia entregaron a líderes israelíes y palestinos un nuevo plan de paz “Mapa de Rutas”. Según la publicidad exagerada, este nuevo plan requerirá iguales concesiones tanto de parte de Israel como Palestina. De hecho, el “Mapa de Rutas” reitera las fallidas propuestas anteriores. Específicamente, el plan requiere que los palestinos renuncien incondicionalmente la lucha armada pasando por alto el simple hecho de que la presencia de asentamientos israelíes atestigua el carácter agresor de este país cuya superioridad militar es indiscutible.

Algunos neoconservadores y zionistas creen que el “Mapa de Rutas” es diferente porque la situación geopolítica ha cambiado. Según ellos, la reciente guerra contra Irak ha demostrado al mundo que cualquier resistencia a EE.UU. es inútil. Los pueblos oprimidos como Palestina deberían “tragarse la pastilla” y aceptar las pocas migas que el Tío Sam decida otorgarles. Estos argumentos ponen de relieve el tipo de “paz” que desean estos promotores bélicos- una dominación segura por parte de los opresores sobre los oprimidos. No se quiere indagar de una manera justa sobre las causas del conflicto: en este

caso, el derecho no consumido de los palestinos a una autodeterminación.

La “paz” que dichos promotores bélicos buscan no es más que una quimera. Al igual que en el caso de las “exitosas” operaciones encubiertas en Afganistán durante los años 80 que llevaron al 11 de septiembre, y en el caso de las “exitosas” acciones militares y políticas por parte de Israel contra la primera Intifada palestina que dio como resultado el levantamiento actual, las guerras que se están llevando a cabo en Afganistán e Irak causarán más tragedias y guerras. Los americanos necesitan rechazar a sus líderes ya que éstos han resultado incapaces de encontrar una solución justa al problema de la paz y seguridad. A largo plazo, semejante rechazo corresponde a los intereses de los propios americanos, sin mencionar los intereses de la humanidad entera.

Como parte de nuestro servicio público adjuntamos una reseña de la guía de propaganda publicada por el periódico proisraelí Wexler Analysis. Mientras que en privado se reconoce que los asentamientos israelíes en Palestina son el “talón de Aquiles” de Israel, la guía intenta echar la culpa a los palestinos por el inevitable fallo del “Mapa de Rutas”.

La máquina de propaganda proisraelí: un vistazo más allá de la cortina.

Hace poco la Intifada Electrónica publicó una copia del filtrado “manual de comunicaciones” para los aliados de Israel en EE.UU. El manual aconseja mantener vivo a Saddam Hussein como un títere por lo menos durante un año, así como expresar simpatía a favor del pueblo palestino y culpar a la Autoridad Palestina por la pobreza de la nación. El Wexner Analysis reconoce además que los asentamientos israelíes en los territorios palestinos son el “talón de Aquiles” del lobby proisraelí sosteniendo que la mala noticia en cuanto al “Mapa de Rutas” es que los americanos esperan que Israel, y no solamente Palestina, cumpla las disposiciones del “Mapa de Rutas”. Las 17 páginas del Wexler Analysis están disponibles en <http://electronicintifada.net/v2/article1395.shtml>. Abajo imprimimos algunos extractos escogidos seguidos por nuestras respuestas.

¿Porqué los EE.UU. sigue necesitando a Israel?

“Dados el sentimiento global antiamericano y todas las protestas y manifestaciones, estamos buscando aliados que compartan el compromiso que profesamos hacia la seguridad y el fin del terrorismo y que estén listos para anunciarlo. Israel es uno de tales aliados.” (pág. 1)

MIM responde: Si EE.UU. de verdad busca seguridad, debería poner alto a sus guerras de agresión y adquisición. Una política bélica contra la mayor parte del mundo de ninguna manera contribuye al intento de promover la paz interna.

Sobre Saddam Hussein.

“El día que permitamos que Saddam asuma su lugar en el basurero de la historia será el día en que perderemos nuestra arma más fuerte en la defensa lingüística de Israel” (pág. 4)

MIM responde: En otras palabras, conservemos la jerga de los tiempos bélicos como una excusa para seguir con la ayuda militar americana.

Sobre los asentamientos.

“La SEGURIDAD” vende. La seguridad se ha convertido en un principio fundamental para todos los americanos. La seguridad es el contexto que permite explicar la necesidad que tiene Israel de garantías hipotecarias y ayuda militar, y la razón por la cual le es imposible a Israel renunciar a la tierra. Los asentamientos

son nuestro “talón de Aquiles”, y la mejor respuesta (que, sin embargo, es bastante débil) es la necesidad de seguridad creada por esta salvaguarda”. (pág. 3)

MIM responde: Los asentamientos de la Franja de Gaza y la Rivera Occidental violan el derecho internacional, así como una serie de resoluciones de la ONU. Su presencia y la defensa de los mismos por parte de las fuerzas armadas israelíes trasgrede la seguridad del pueblo palestino. Los palestinos son incapaces de viajar, trabajar, ir a la escuela, comprar comida o buscar ayuda médica sin tener que pasar por los controles israelíes. Un genocidio de los palestinos sería un precio demasiado alto que habría que pagar por la seguridad israelí (y que, de hecho, mina la seguridad israelí, al igual que las aventuras militares de EE.UU. que minan la seguridad estadounidense).

Un servicio falso a los palestinos.

“Hay que hablar sin parar sobre su entendimiento de la ‘lucha palestina’ y un compromiso de ayuda. De acuerdo, esto sí que es un doble estándar (nadie espera ninguna acción proisraelí de parte de los palestinos) pero así son las cosas”. (pág. 3)

MIM responde: Israel posee un estado y unas fuerzas armadas que ayuda a quitarle al pueblo palestino su propio estado mediante 3 mil millones de dólares estadounidenses al año. Encima de esto, ¿Israel busca elogios de parte de un pueblo cuyos pescuezos pisa?

De todas formas, no es cierto que “nadie espera nada proisraelí de parte de Palestina”. El gobierno estadounidense siempre ha insistido en que los palestinos reconozcan a Israel y su seguridad antes de que empiecen negociaciones de paz, sin importar el hecho de que hace tiempo que sus lacayos favoritos como Yassir Arafat en teoría hayan accedido a estas demandas.

Sobre Mahmoud Abbas.

“El surgimiento de Mahmoud Abbas como el nuevo Primer Ministro palestino no pudo haberse dado en un peor momento. Su toma del poder parece legítima. Es una cara fresca, una cara bien afeitada, por decirlo así. Habla bien y usa vestimenta occidental. Quizás hasta tenga deseos verdaderos de paz.” (pág. 13)

MIM responde: Este tipo de aserciones es la misma habladuría racista que Israel utiliza para justificar el hecho de que su propia “seguridad” se mantiene a costa del pueblo palestino. La verdad es que el lobby proisraelí no quiere una paz justa más que el gobierno israelí.

¿Que es el MIM?

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

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

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

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

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