

MIM Notes



March 1, 2004, N° 297 The Official Newsletter of the Maoist Internationalist Movement (MIM) Free

Dems look to hog middle of road

LOS ANGELES UNWELCOMES CHENEY; MIM STUMPS AGAINST PATRIOT ACT II

Los Angeles, January 14
MIM and RAIL handed out MIM Notes and collected signatures on our petition to Stop Patriot Act II at a Beverly Hills protest of Vice President Dick Cheney's appearance in LA.

The battle for our civil liberties is heating up—230+ U.S. communities have passed resolutions against the USA PATRIOT Act, more activists are becoming aware of and responding to the reactionaries' campaign to shut down our civil liberties, and the administration is pursuing sneakier tricks to turn due process into a distant memory. We found the crowd overwhelmingly familiar with news of the Patriot Acts, and people who wouldn't sign our petition had already signed it at other demonstrations or online.

Several demonstrators alerted MIM to recent administration and congressional moves to enact selected Patriot Act II provisions under the cover of other legislation. The reactionaries recently succeeded in expanding the reach of so-called National Security Letters (described below) as part of the current Intelligence Authorization Act; they have so far failed to pass a raft of other PAII provisions in the guise of the "VICTORY Act."

A National Security Letter (NSL) is a type of administrative subpoena issued by a federal law enforcement agent; it does not require approval from a judge, grand jury or federal prosecutor. Until recently, NSLs could be used to compel three types of records: those of "financial institutions" (i.e., banks and similar operations), credit

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AMERIKAN ELECTIONS

Thousands of gay couples married in San Francisco

Struggles against patriarchy and imperialism are one

San Francisco, February 16
Over 2000 gay and lesbian couples rushed to San Francisco city hall to get married this Valentine's Day weekend, after Mayor Gavin Newsom defied a state law restricting marriage to opposite-sex couples and authorized city officials to grant same-sex marriage licenses. Mayor Newsom said the California law—passed in a popular referendum—violates

constitutional protections against discrimination. Two conservative organizations have filed lawsuits to stop the same-sex marriages, but City Hall offices stayed open over the holiday weekend to accommodate hundreds of couples camped outside in the cold rain.

Many anticipate these marriage certificates will be invalidated by court challenges. Even if that happens, the San Francisco marriages represent a forward surge in the struggle to legalize gay marriage throughout the United States. MIM supports this struggle as a step towards ending heterosexist

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Haiti devastated by Amerikan imperialism (yet again)

by MC206 and MC17
February 18

A violent uprising by gangs linked to the U.S.-backed FRAPH death squad has killed more than 50 Haitians in the last two weeks—

including fourteen police and three hospital patients waiting for treatment.(1) High-profile groups opposed to

President Jean Bertrand Aristide tacitly support the violence. "If there are others opposed to Aristide who chose [violence] we can't do anything about that," says Evans Paul, who, along with notorious sweatshop-owner Andy Apaid, has led anti-Aristide marches in Port au Prince.(1,2) These opposition groups are also covertly backed by the United States and owe their high profile to corrupt and sloppy reporting by the bourgeois media.(1,3-4)

Publicly, the United States says it will not intervene to support or oppose Aristide's government. At the same time,

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CANDIDATE LEAST OFFENSIVE TO AMERIKANS AMONG MOST OFFENSIVE TO WORLD'S MAJORITY

By MC17 and MC206

John Kerry appears well on his way to taking the Democratic party nomination for Presidential candidate in the 2004 election race. MIM has never taken much of an interest in the Presidential or even congressional elections. There is little difference between Republicans and Democrats from the perspective of the majority of the world's people who suffer so that Amerikan imperialism can profit. We tell people to do what is truly effective in fighting imperialism: Don't Vote, Organize.

But we recognize that many potentially progressive-minded people are taken in by the apparent differences between Democrats and Republicans and believe they must vote for the "lesser of two evils." For MIM, that supposed lesser evil is just a wolf in sheep's clothing. Often the progressive-sounding rhetoric from the Democrats is just window dressing on fascist politics. The Democrats are staunch promoters of imperialism, and for MIM this is the fundamental problem. We also point people to the historical record of imperialist invasions and other terrorist actions that demonstrate no practical difference between Democrats and Republicans, as well as the record at home with regards to police and prison growth under both administrations.

In other MIM Notes articles MIM reviewed Howard Dean and Dennis Kucinich, the two Democratic presidential candidates that many perceive as progressive. We do not find either of those candidates worthy of anti-imperialist praise. Here we review John Kerry, the mainstream of the Democratic party. Kerry's home page starts off with a quote that sounds a lot like his campaign trail sound bites: "I'm running for President to make the country we love safer, stronger, and more secure. I'm asking every American to be a Citizen Soldier again committed to leaving no American behind."(1)

Such inane cheerleading is one reason MIM dismisses Amerikan electoral politics as little more than a popularity

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Letters

Can local elections be useful to revolutionaries?

Dear MIM,

Granted that voting for imperialist Tweedledum or Tweedledee (to paraphrase Helen Keller) is a sucker's bet that only lends legitimacy to the bourgeois illusion of democracy, would it not be correct, under certain circumstances, to encourage people to vote in referenda? I'm thinking of KKKalifornia-style propositions that take certain issues to the people in a restricted way. It seems that these could potentially be worth the trouble, provided that they didn't distract attention and energy too much from the principal issue or lead towards a reformist trap.

- A reader, 3 February 2004

MIM responds: We agree with this reader that there are some small-scale elections where it might be possible to win useful reforms. And in these cases voting is not a waste of time. And we share his/her concern that these campaigns not lead towards a reformist trap.

MIM has said that some municipal elections are examples of potentially winnable battles without misleading people that electoralism works. For instance, if there were several candidates running for city hall who supported putting

up public bulletin boards all over town and making public space available for revolutionaries to hold educational events, it might be worth supporting them. But we should never confuse these potentially winnable battles with support for candidates who operate at the state or continental level and who support imperialism both in words and in practice.

Check out MIM's new web page devoted to imperialist elections and coverage of the 2004 presidential campaign at www.etext.org/Politics/MIM/elections.



For Imperialism!

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.

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

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

MIM grants explicit permission to copy all or part of this newspaper for any reason, as long as we are credited.

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A call for MIM Notes sponsors and distributors!

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

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

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

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

Distribute #	Cost per year
12 (Priority Mail)	\$120
25 (Priority Mail)	\$150
50 (Priority Mail)	\$280
100	\$380
200	\$750
900 (Express Mail!)	\$3,840
900 (8-10 days)	\$2,200

If you know you have some good places to do distribution, we suggest starting at 200 and working your way up higher. If you are not willing to do distribution, just send money. If you are not willing to pay, then request papers after somehow proving to the party that you are serious (words won't count). You who will cough up/raise the money to distribute 900 papers each issue and then do the distribution, you are what drives this party forward.

What is MIM?

The Maoist Internationalist Movement (MIM) is the collection of existing or emerging Maoist internationalist parties in the English-speaking imperialist countries and their English-speaking internal semi-colonies, as well as the existing or emerging Maoist Internationalist parties in Belgium, France and Quebec and the existing or emerging Spanish-speaking Maoist Internationalist parties of Aztlan, Puerto Rico and other territories of the U.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.

Fog of War worth seeing -- but not for excusing Bush

Fog of War (2003) Errol Morris, dir.

This movie consists solely of interviews with Robert McNamara, former American "Secretary of Defense" during the Vietnam war. The film's themes overlap considerably with McNamara's earlier book, "Argument Without End." We called that book "very satisfying ... very useful" (1) and similarly recommend "Fog of War." McNamara admits that millions died in Vietnam alone, in part due to his "mistakes." He is honest about the scale of the violence used by America in wars throughout the last century and even suggests that he should be considered a war criminal for his role in the bombings of Japanese civilians during World War II.

Before explaining what we don't like

about the film, we want to say something about the fog-of-war concept in light of recent debate about the war in Iraq.

Bush: lost in fog or hiding in smoke screen?

The fog of war refers to the fact that in a battlefield situation, commanders do not have 100% information about the size and position of the enemy (or even their own troops) due to limitations in perception, problems in communication and conscious enemy deception. MIM has no disagreement with the fog-of-war concept. In fact, we believe it applicable beyond purely military matters. It's one reason we caution readers to evaluate historical leaders relative to their contemporaries (e.g. Galileo should be compared to other renaissance physicists, not Einstein).

Lately, however, while discussing what he terms "intelligence failures" in Iraq, President Bush has been using this scientific concept in an unscientific way. Now he admits that his numerous assertions that Iraq possessed stockpiles of weapons of mass destruction were wrong, but he excuses himself with his version of the "fog of war." "I expected to find the weapons. ... I based my decision on the best intelligence possible." (2)

We'll skip the obvious criticism that "the best intelligence possible" did not leave "no doubt" that Iraq had stockpiles of biological weapons and a nuclear weapons program, as Bush often claimed while building support for the war. (3) Instead, we note that, taken together, the statements coming out of the Bush camp are a form of sophistry that grants the

United States *carte blanche* to use military force whenever it damn well pleases. When critics demand proof that country X is about to use (or develop) weapons of mass destruction, "Secretary of Defense" Donald Rumsfeld waxes philosophic and cites the fog of war: "Proof? What is proof? Can we ever be certain we know anything? If there are unknown unknowns how can there be known knowns?"

Bush and his posse are playing an incredibly dangerous game of Russian roulette in the name of averting a devastating nuclear or biological war. If they attack a country they claim has weapons of mass destruction and it turns out they were correct, then that country will almost certainly use those weapons. If they were wrong, then they have shed

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Letters

Do communists have to give up religion?

I received your book "Marx and Engels" as well as the other info you sent, which I sincerely appreciate. ... I have come across a subject that I would appreciate more information on. It is as follows: In the Manifesto of the Communist Party it says: "But communism abolishes eternal truths, it abolishes all religion, and all morality..." My main question is What is the stance or position of communism on religion? Must one who wishes to embrace the struggle and teachings of our great communist forefathers abandon his current faith (Christianity, Islam, etc.)? I would greatly appreciate information as well as your feedback on this subject.

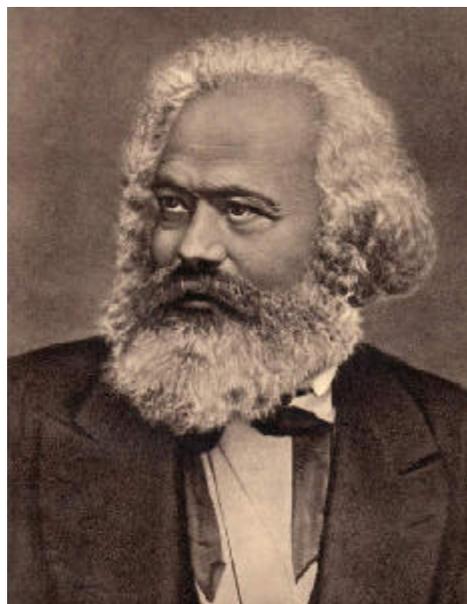
In solidarity,
— A Texas Prisoner,
December 2003

MIM responds: First, you seem to be quoting Marx out of context. The whole passage reads:

"'Undoubtedly,' it will be said, 'religious, moral, philosophical, and juridical ideas have been modified in the course of historical development. But religion, morality, philosophy, political science, and law, constantly survived this change.'

"There are, besides, eternal truths, such as Freedom, Justice, etc., that are common to all states of society. But communism abolishes eternal truths, it abolishes all religion, and all morality, instead of constituting them on a new basis; it therefore acts in contradiction to all past historical experience.'

"What does this accusation reduce itself to? The history of all past society has consisted in the development of class antagonisms, antagonisms that assumed different



forms at different epochs.

"But whatever form they may have taken, one fact is common to all past ages, viz., the exploitation of one part of society by the other. No wonder, then, that the social consciousness of past ages, despite all the multiplicity and variety it displays, moves within certain common forms, or general ideas, which cannot completely vanish except with the total disappearance of class antagonisms.

"The communist revolution is the most radical rupture with traditional relations; no wonder that its development involved the most radical rupture with traditional ideas.

"But let us have done with the bourgeois objections to communism."

Therefore, the quote you read is Marx paraphrasing the critics of communism. He argues that religion and "eternal truths" really represent the ideology of the established power structure — they

are the ones who can declare something an "eternal truth." Instead, Marx was urging the proletariat to put into practice its own definition of morality, one based on "from each according to ability, to each according to need." In fact, this idea is present in many religious texts, including the Christian Bible.

On our web site we have said, "There are atheist communists and there are Christian communists." (1) In that discussion, a person quoted from the Christian Bible: "[Acts 4:32] And the multitude of them that believed were of one heart and of one soul: neither said any of them that ought of the things which he possessed was his own; but they had all things common. [4:33] And with great power gave the apostles witness of the resurrection of the Lord Jesus: and great grace was upon them all. [4:34] Neither was there any among them that lacked: for as many as were possessors of lands or houses sold them, and brought the prices of the things that were sold, [4:35] And laid them down at the apostles' feet: and distribution was made unto every man according as he had need."

Then he quoted a dictionary definition of communism: "A system of equalizing the social conditions of life; specifically, a system which contemplates the abolition of inequalities in the possession of property, as by distributing all wealth equally to all, or by holding all wealth in common for the equal use and advantage of all."

Thus, if you support the social system described in that passage of the Bible, you are in a basic moral sense a communist. If we agree on such a bedrock moral principle, we have much in common and should work together to realize that vision for huminity.

Of course, Maoists—as Marxists—are also materialists, and have disagreements

with religious thinking on many issues. For example, some Christians oppose the teaching of evolution in schools and want to force everyone into their religion by making the government a theocracy—ideas Maoists obviously disagree with. Ultimately, atheist communists like MIM don't believe in a higher power directing the universe or "eternal" moral principles beyond the reach human agency. Instead, we engage the earthly struggle over who gets to determine the direction of society and which ideas will become the dominant ideas—the ideas of the imperialists or the ideas of the communists.

But in practice, Maoists work with many religious people on everything from opposing the American injustice system (including its repression of Muslims and their right to practice their religion) to releasing Third World countries from their debts to imperialist banks. This is part of the policy of Maoists to unite all who can be united, and to build the broadest coalition possible for the defeat of imperialism.

Notes: The whole exchange is at: <http://www.etext.org/Politics/MIM/contemp/leftover/newtestamentdebate.htm>



MIM Prison Censorship Report

July 2003 - December 2003

This censorship report covers the period July through December 2003. It is the fourth of MIM's regular reports on censorship in the Amerikan prisons. In this six-month period we see a decline in overt reportable censorship. In some cases we can see real victories where MIM and our comrades behind bars have fought and won censorship battles. But we also know that a victory in one battle often just results in the prison changing their reason for censoring.

Some of the victories in censorship battles were won in court while others were settled through administrative appeals or outside protests. These victories are very important to us as they allow us, at least temporarily, to resume sending revolutionary literature to our readers behind bars who are hungry for this material. One issue of MIM Notes will be read by many prisoners, and one book will pass through many hands, as we are one of the few sources of reading material, particularly political literature, available to prisoners. The prison libraries, where they exist at all, contain mostly trash novels and access is limited. Revolutionary literature is among the most in demand and hardest to come by in the prisons.

We caution readers from thinking the trends in this report represent a real decline in censorship. In many cases, active censorship of MIM mailings leads to us losing contact with prisoners in the censoring states. As a result we send in less literature and it appears the censorship has stopped. Then more active prisoners get in touch with us again requesting revolutionary literature and we again face prison censorship. We hope that through these regular bi-annual reports we will be able to track real trends in censorship in the prisons.

States that censored MIM Notes or MIM Theory over the past 6 months: California, Alabama, Kentucky, Georgia, Colorado, North Carolina, Massachusetts, Pennsylvania, and Wisconsin.

States that censored books, letters or other non MIM-published material in the past 6 months: California, Oklahoma, New York, Rhode Island, Georgia, Oregon, and Florida.

MIM has not given up sending MIM Notes or MIM Theory to any states, but there are several states where MIM no longer sends literature we do not publish because of prison regulations. More and more states are implementing policies that require all literature to come from the publisher or to come from a few selected distributors like amazon.com. This is just another excuse to censor revolutionary literature and deny prisoners access to alternative education. Amazon.com and other similar big capitalist distributors are not running books for prisoners programs, and the price of books there (as well as

the inaccessibility from prison) keeps virtually all prisoners from receiving books.

States where MIM no longer sends literature it does not publish include: Massachusetts, Wisconsin, and Oregon.

State by state examples of censorship

Oklahoma - Articles from MIM's web site on Nepal and Peru were rejected. The prison stated that they were rejected for being from the internet.

Alabama - One prisoner leading the fight against censorship in this state reported his victories in our last report on censorship. Unfortunately, as he reported in July of 2003, that victory was overturned: "As you are aware, MIM Theory 8&14 were recently denied entry into Limestone prison. This was after I was informed that the ban on MIM literature was lifted. This was done after I had received information from an attorney with the Southern Poverty Law Center (SPLC) who had taken on the case against censorship of political publication. The SPLC attorney wrote to the attorney general notifying him that prison officials were censoring political publications in violation of the settlement in Prison News vs. Haley, a settlement involving the censorship of political and legal publications. The attorney general

notified that this practice would cease and that there would be no more problems in receiving MIM Theory and other political publications. But prison officials are continuing to censor MIM Theory and other political publications that are critical of the U.S. political system. I've been told that no communist literature will be allowed. So, you can be assured that the struggle continues and will do so until victory. The SPLC is filing papers to go back to court on this issue. In the meanwhile, please re-add my name to you mailing list for MIM Notes. Again, the struggle continues without doubt."

New York - A letter from MIM was held for 6 months by the facility Media Review center.

Rhode Island - Mao's Little Red Book was rejected. The prisoner who did not receive this book was not even notified by the institution of this censorship. After we notified him of the censorship he wrote to us in August of 2003: "This is part of a campaign by the prison administration to harness me. Counting the Red Book, this is the 6th time books were sent here only to be rejected on security or other frivolous grounds. I have been grieving all of this only to be denied. The lawsuit with the ACLU has yet to be filed... My mail in particular has been tampered with both incoming and

outgoing."

Kentucky - A warden rejected MIM Theory 11 (a magazine entitled "Amerikan Prisons on Trial") for cover art he described as "inaccurate" and "inflammatory." He claimed the publication called a "threat to institutional discipline or security."

Pennsylvania - MIM Theory 11 was censored for containing articles that "can be considered as inciting violence and is racially inflammatory in content."

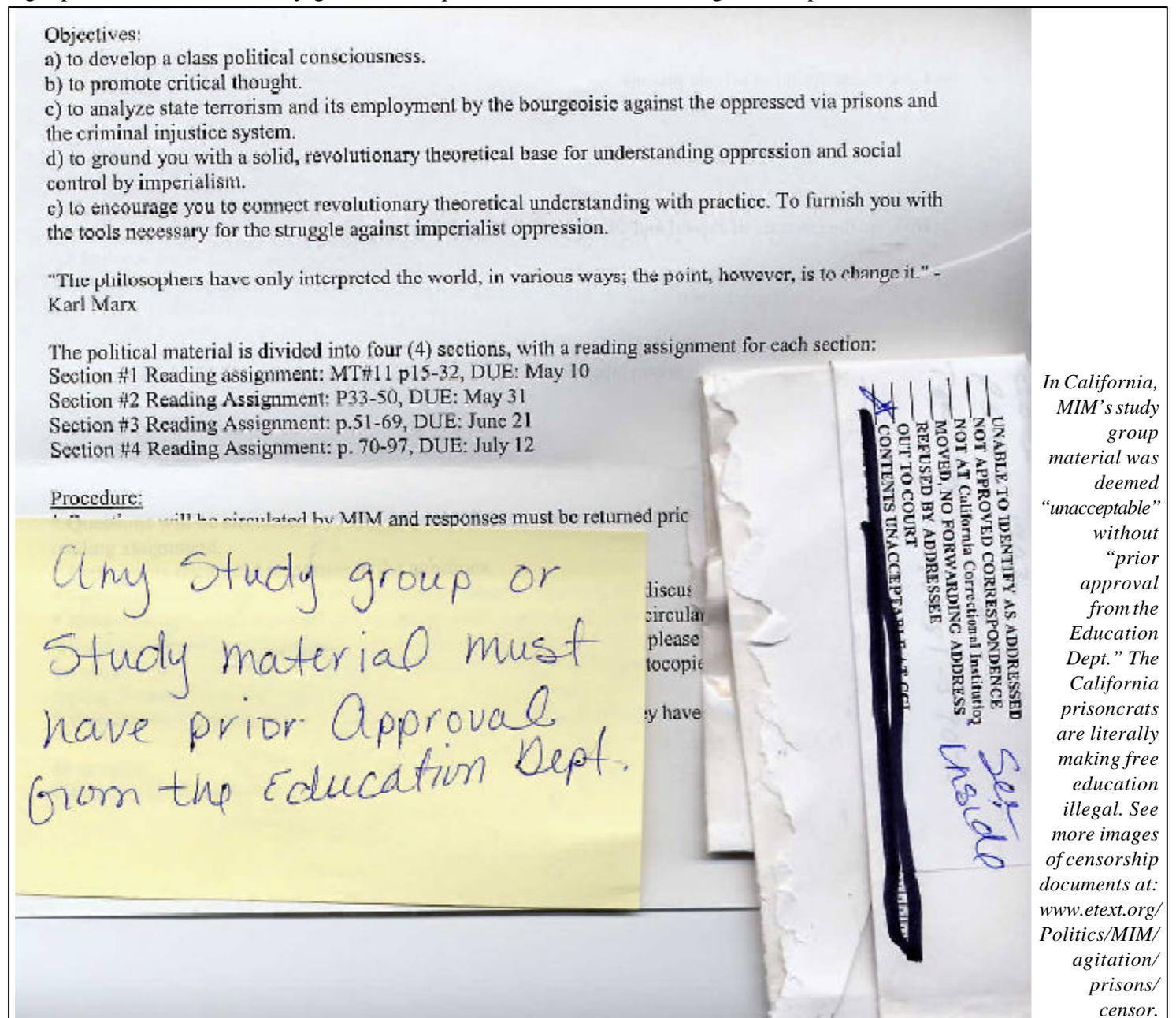
Wisconsin - MIM Notes was rejected as "inciteful and advocates violence and threatens institutional security."

Georgia - MIM Notes and the book Black Panther Party Speaks were held by the administration.

Colorado - A prisoner is suing prison officials over censorship of MIM Notes and MIM Theory. The administration there also censored a letter MIM sent this prisoner.

Oregon - Various prisons use strict return address requirements to censor letters that are stamped or hand written with a return address of MIM or MIM Distributors, claiming they need a full name.

North Carolina - Censoring MIM Notes on an issue-by-issue basis. They send an issue they don't like to their "publications review committee." Months



Movement to shut down isolation prisons marches on

San Jose—On February 7, MIM and the Barrio Defense Committee hosted a statewide organizing meeting to push forward the struggle to shut down Security Housing Units (SHUs) in California prisons. Representatives from numerous groups working to oppose the injustice system attended the meeting, as well as unaffiliated individuals new to the issue of Control Units/SHUs. Family members of SHU inmates and former prisoners also attended.

MIM opened the meeting with an introduction to the campaign, briefly describing the torturous conditions in the SHUs and how the SHU targets politically active and oppressed-nation prisoners. We followed with a summary of actions from the past few years, including demonstrations, petitioning and legal struggles. Recent responses from state legislators suggest some have a small amount of sympathy for at least reforming the use of the SHU. However, those sympathizers do not have the power to make such reforms.

California Prison Focus (CPF) was unique among the attendants because of its involvement in the courtroom. At this

stage MIM sees legal struggles as a vital method of putting pressure on the state and winning small battles (most attendees seemed to agree). In the long run legal battles will prove limited and will help build extralegal means of organizing. One of CPF's legal representatives went over the three reasons prison administrators put people in SHUs: 1) HIV-positive status; 2) disciplinary offenses; and 3) gang validation. The third reason leads to indefinite sentencing and is used to target anyone who may be organized politically as well, since it is completely arbitrary and up to prisoncrat discretion.

The CPF discussed their recent legal battles including one where the California Department of Corrections (CDC) has banned 5 languages (including Swahili, Naohtl, and sign language) claiming they are used as codes. Effectively, they are banning the cultures of the oppressed, most of which have already had their culture repressed and erased by colonizers for hundreds of years. The state court upheld this law and it will be going to the appeals court in the future.

During the second half of the meeting, organizers planned to coordinate efforts

on this campaign. Our goal is not to create a new organization, but to coordinate action to shut down the SHU. As a result, an important outcome of the meeting will be a system of communication between all who are interested in joining this SHU fight.

At the meeting participants divided into groups to focus on several areas of organizing: media, legal/legislative, outreach/activism, and mobilization of prisoners. The subgroups came back with suggestions for actions and ideas for coordinating our work.

Everyone agreed to initiate regular monthly public actions to shut down the SHUs the first Saturday of every month in cities across the state. These actions will start March 6th and are currently scheduled in San Francisco, Oakland, San Jose, Santa Cruz, Monterey Bay, and Los Angeles. These coordinated actions will focus on distributing literature and collecting petition signatures, and bringing the struggle to the attention of the people on the streets. Organizers stressed the need to train people in doing outreach and tabling. MIM agreed to head up that

effort. In addition we will be building for a conference or tribunal on the SHU later in the year and organizing forums at colleges attended by meeting participants.

There is a legal battle in the courts scheduled to reach trial in federal court on April 26 in San Francisco. The case is based on a first amendment challenge to the Security Housing Unit classification regulations. Meeting participants decided to schedule a protest that day outside the courthouse.

Discussing the need to involve prisoners in the struggle, participants agree on the importance of encouraging prisoners to get families involved and using our networks to build networks of family support. We will also continue our efforts to provide our comrades behind bars with much needed legal and political information in print and through radio broadcasts.

If you are in California, contact MIM to find out how to participate in one of these cities or to get information and materials to help make your efforts successful in your own town.

later, they will either decide that it is acceptable or they will finally admit they have decided to censor it. It seems designed to prevent the prisoner from taking any timely action.

Florida - Censors letters we send to prisoners.

Massachusetts - Censored an issue of MIM Theory.

California - MIM Theory 11 was censored. One prisoner reported in August of 2003: "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." After filing a director's level review this prisoner reported in December 2003: "The appeal I filed was denied at the director's level, which exhausted my administrative remedies. They determined that the institution is in compliance with departmental policies. As soon as I can obtain a copy of the denial I will send one to MIM for your review. The next step is to file suit. I would like to bring a lawsuit against the director of corrections as opposed to just the institution so that a favorable ruling by the court would effect departmental policy state-wide, not just an order against an individual institution."

Another institution in California censored MIM Theory. The affected prisoner reported "Currently this administration [says that] if mail comes from a non-profit organization than it can be destroyed without notice to the inmate. I am in disagreement with this procedure and I am appealing this too! This rule comes out of the operational procedures

manual."

A letter we sent to another California prisoner was returned unopened stamped "refused/unapproved mail." We sent a letter of protest to the warden and also notified the prisoner. This prisoner reported in November 2003: "I am writing to let you know that I received your mailing today, unopened and un-searched. Looks like your [censorship protest] letter did the trick. Now that it has been demonstrated that my mail is indeed being censored, I cannot help but wonder what else has been sent to me and refused by the institution's mailroom. I receive several newsletters which tend to arrive somewhat less than regularly... I have also been waiting for many months to hear from the publishers of material which could arguably be described as subversive; by extension I must now assume that there are other cases of this prison's arbitrary censorship policies depriving me of literature which I legally have the right to receive. I was not notified of the refusal of your earlier mailing to me so I can expect that this was not the first instance [of censorship.] I am very pleased that your tenacity and sense of justice enabled me to become apprised of the mailroom situation here at this facility."

MIM Notes was censored at one California prison. After many letters of protest by MIM and the prisoner, MIM received a letter from the warden attempting to justify the censorship concluding "Case law that interprets the First Amendment allows prisons to censor incoming publications to the facility that post pose security risk to its legitimate penological interests. The CDC Title 15 regulations are consistent with the above-cited case laws. The MIM newsletter

Prisoners step up on civil rights

MIM often encounters people who express agreement with some or all of our work, but are reluctant to get involved because they say they're too busy, not sure it's the right work, and so on. We urge these people to consider the work done by several Texas prisoners — people working harder on the crucial political issues of the day, in circumstances that are, to put it mildly, much worse.

One prisoner recently sent back a Patriot Act II petition filled out with 15 signatures from fellow prisoners.(1) He wrote: "Thanks for your letter and info and petitions. I'm returning the petition to 'Stop Patriot Act II.' I can't believe we're having to fight for the rights that we already have, the rights that we've spent so many centuries and lost so many millions of people to. It's like our own president, congress and government is saying 'fuck all those dead people, fuck your rights, and fuck you, too, America!' I don't understand why so many people think our country is so great. As for forming a study group [which MIM suggested], I'm locked in a two-man cell for 23 hours a day for now."

Another prisoner wrote to tell us that

he was able to share his copies of MIM Notes with "some fellows who had not seen them," and he collected seven signatures on the Patriot Act petition. "I am sorry I only got a few guys to put their names on it," he said. "I have been very inefficient."

Finally, another prisoner from Texas wrote simply: "Dear Revolutionaries: For the betterment of humanity I have enclosed my monthly contribution of five stamps. Being incarcerated, this is one of the only ways I can help the movement."

If you are considering the conflicting demands on your time, energy and money — and not working with MIM while you think it over — we urge you to consider the example set by these prisoners. They understand that the imperialists don't sit still while they consider questions of strategy.

You learn by studying and by doing. Go ahead and challenge MIM on our ideas, but if you don't have a better strategy for ridding the world of imperialism, work with us at the same time.

Notes: <http://www.etext.org/Politics/MIM/agitation/civlib/PAPetitionlong.PDF>

raise genuine prison security issues and this may be censored or withheld." The reason they conclude MIM Notes is a threat to security: "the publication is set forth to encourage an aggressive uprising similar to the one that MAO unleashed in China. The newsletters are also focused in part on prison conditions in America, that the newsletters characterize as being unjust and brutal to prison inmates. The MIM seeks to rally

inmates, as a 'revolutionary group,' to reform the American prison system." MIM is in the process of appealing this attempt to set a dangerous precedent of censoring MIM just because it is a revolutionary organization.

More specific censorship reports can be found on MIM's website here: <http://www.etext.org/Politics/MIM/agitation/prisons/censor>.

L.A. UNWELCOMES CHENEY; MIM STUMPS AGAINST PAII

Continued from page 1...

reports, and communications service provider (telephone or Internet) transactions and billing receipts. The Intelligence Authorization Act for FY 2004 dramatically expands the definition of a "financial institution" to include pawnbrokers, casinos and travel agencies among others. It is still legal for officers to demand transaction records from these businesses, even when the transactions are not financial in nature.(1)

This legislation further damages the system of checks and balances already weakened by the USA PATRIOT Act. Where the courts reserve the authority to approve police conduct in investigations (wiretaps, searches), the police are at least required to leave a paper trail of their work. Eroding checks and balances reduces the authority of the police to a parental declaration: "because I said so." For example, an FBI agent acting alone can now find out what an individual has sold at a pawn shop, where s/he has booked travel and what s/he ordered from room service at a casino, all without documenting any cause to suspect the individual of criminal activity. Limits on the power of any one branch in the U.S. government are supposed to guard the people against tyranny. Granting the executive branch power to act in isolation eliminates that protection.

A December draft of the so-called "Vital Interdiction of Criminal Terrorist Organizations Act of 2003" (the VICTORY Act, which hasn't seen much

legislative action yet) would further extend the reach of tyranny. As drafted, it would:

- * Create a federal crime of "narco-terrorism" to include making, distributing, importing or exporting narcotics with intent to distribute for the benefit of a "terrorist" organization. The way the law is written, police would not have to prove that the defendant had any knowledge of whom his/her actions would benefit or that the State Department had designated the beneficiary as terrorist.

- * Grant the U.S. Attorney General the authority to issue administrative subpoenas in terrorism cases. An administrative subpoena requires the persyn served to give up "any records or other things relevant to the investigation." In other words, such subpoenas give the cops the right to go fishing in an effort to make a terrorism case.

Traditionally, courts oversee police conduct in investigations as a matter of due process. Without this oversight, the criminal injustice system loses even the appearance of maintaining a defendant's innocence until proven guilty. While MIM holds no illusions about the tenacity of the courts in defending the bill of rights, the more of these rights we retain, the more tools we have to defend ourselves and our activism. Rep. F. James Sensenbrenner pointed out: "You can't in one breath defend [the] Patriot Act, saying [intelligence] warrants are reviewed by a judge, then in the second breath say we'll have administrative subpoenas" that

are not reviewed by a judge. The Attorney General could also use a different type of administrative subpoena in place of a court-issued warrant to apprehend a fugitive who is convicted of or charged with a felony.

- * Allow into court wiretap evidence collected under false pretenses, unless the defendant(s) can prove "bad faith" on the part of the cops who set the tap. Officers could base their warrants on deliberately false or misleading information, and the burden would be on defendant(s) to demonstrate that the officers had shown intentional negligence or ill will. Like many USA PATRIOT Act provisions, this measure is disturbing because there is nothing stopping law enforcement from using the looser standards in normal criminal investigations as well as in cases of "terrorism."

- * Create a crime of "reverse" money laundering: carrying cash in excess of \$10,000 across state lines for use in illegal activity. As with the "narco-terrorism" provision, there is the question of proving that a defendant had prior knowledge that the cash was to be used in commission of a crime. Why not make it illegal to tell someone the time of day? After all, that information could be used to get to a crime-planning meeting on time.(2)

It's not surprising that the administration would begin to break down the Patriot Act II and parcel it out into other, less attention-getting legislation. The original USA Patriot Act of 2001 is made up of

provisions that the government had tried for years to make into law, but could only get through congress in the wake of 9/11. This just means our forces must be extra vigilant in working to protect our freedoms.

MIM and its allies in the Stop Patriot Act II Coalition are continuing to gather petition signatures to oppose this legislation in any form. We recently received several filled petitions circulated by our comrades behind bars. One of these activists even apologized for only being able to collect 15 signatures, as it is against regulations to organize in many prisons, and prisoners are frightened of being fingered by the guards and administration. Knowing that our comrades behind the walls are working through such stringent conditions to advance this campaign only strengthens our resolve. If a prisoner working in isolation can collect 15 signatures to defend our civil liberties, surely those of us with access to a world of pedestrians can collect many times that number.

To find out more or get involved, check out our civil liberties web page: <http://www.etext.org/Politics/MIM/agitation/civlib/>

Notes:

1. <http://www.aclu.org/SafeandFree/SafeandFree.cfm?ID=14447&c=206> and Public Law 108-177 Dec. 13, 2003.

2. <http://www.aclu.org/SafeandFree/SafeandFree.cfm?ID=14586&c=206>

Thousands of gay couples married in San Francisco

Continued from page 1...

discrimination, superstition and clerical obscurantism.

One reason we support progress towards legal gay marriages is we recognize the power of social pressure in helping to keep relationships together. Under the patriarchy where sex carries heavy emotional power, MIM sees forever monogamous relationships as the best solution for those desiring a romantic relationship.(1) The lines of couples in San Francisco provided many positive examples of people in long-term committed relationships.

The couples lined up at City Hall in San Francisco were predominantly white and well off. But even this population faces oppression for their sexual orientation. Some of the older couples recalled getting their heads bashed by police for being gay. Although conditions have improved for openly queer Americans, the gender oppression is far from gone.

Some proponents of legalizing gay marriages drew parallels to Amerika's history of discrimination against Blacks, particularly in the days of official segregation. The Massachusetts Supreme Judicial Court has made similar statements about civil unions for same sex

couples being an unacceptable alternative to marriage because it is separate and unequal. While MIM agrees that denying same-sex couples the benefits of state-sanctioned marriage is discriminatory, we would not draw a parallel to the conditions faced by Blacks in Amerika. There can be no comparison to the mass slavery, lynching, segregation, police brutality, imprisonment, and on-going national oppression.

It is important to understand the relative significance of various battles if we are to correctly prioritize our work. MIM fights to end all forms of oppression of groups of people by other groups of people—including the gender oppression faced by queers. But in Amerika gender privilege is the norm for the vast majority of the population: male and female, gay and straight. We say this because we can see the benefits gained in this country by a combination of national and gender oppression around the world. For example, contraceptives enjoyed by Americans have been tested on Third World peoples (often forcibly). Within U.S. borders, the "myth of the Black rapist" is used to disproportionately imprison Black men; white economic and gender privilege is predicated on controlling Black men's

sexuality.

Even aside from gender privilege, Americans enjoy tremendous economic benefit from the exploitation and oppression of the majority of the world's population. Those in same-sex relationships partake in this bounty. (Similarly, since the majority of the world's population lives in the oppressed countries, so does a majority of the world's queers.) Steps towards ending gender discrimination within imperialism will make our work easier under socialism, but we have to keep sight of the principal enemy while we fight these battles. Legalizing gay marriage within Amerika will not take us any closer to ending imperialism. So we call on all queer activists to join MIM in fighting to overthrow the imperialist patriarchy. We seek to build a society where no people have the power to oppress another people, and where our culture does not teach oppression and discrimination.

Notes:

1. For a debate of our policy of "forever monogamy" for straight, bi and queer comrades, see MIM Notes 53.

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

What's New @ MIM's Homepage

Demos look to hog middle of road

Continued from page 1...

contest—voters might as well be choosing between Clay and Ruben (“American Idol” contestants) to run the country. Kerry is particularly adept at trying to please everybody at the cost of any political principle. For example, Kerry is on the record as both supporting and opposing the 1991 Gulf War and the recent invasion of Iraq. As a Boston Globe columnist put it, “Kerry’s position is that he voted against a war he really was for and voted for a war he really was against. But the war he really was for he never said at the time. Except when he was writing to voters to say that he was. And that he wasn’t.”(2)

It’s almost a crime to take candidates’ political proclamations at face value; the most self-aware candidates know themselves that what they need to say to get elected and what they really want to do once elected—or will be allowed to do—are very different. But we review some of Kerry’s “principles” to illustrate the fundamental differences in perspective between imperialist politicians and internationalists. People who agree with MIM that no one nation is intrinsically more worthy than another should think carefully about what the candidates’ rhetoric and—more importantly—actions really mean.

For example, Kerry pledges to leave no “American” behind. What does this mean (and why does Kerry feel the need to co-opt the slogan of the feeble-minded, chauvinist POW/MIA movement)? Within U.S. borders there are many non-citizens who suffer in sweatshop jobs and lack even basic legal protections while providing needed labor for the benefit of American companies. In fact, there are millions of people around the world working directly or indirectly for American corporations, who bring those profits home and share them with American citizens in the form of high wages and benefits and cheap consumer goods. These non-Americans will be left behind by American imperialism. In fact, they will be stepped on as American imperialism labels them “Terrorists” for wanting the American military-backed dictatorship out of their country or even just living wages.

Kerry’s goal of making America “safer, stronger, and more secure” is also a trademark of imperialism. As long as American imperialism is strong, it will incur the wrath of the majority of the world’s people who are kept in poverty, exploited and oppressed by a system that profits from their misery. Since Kerry is very clear he doesn’t want to tear down American imperialism and build a country that serves the interests of the majority of the world’s people, these are really code words for expanding American militarism.

On foreign policy, some claim that the Democrats distinguish themselves from the Republicans. Kerry, after all, talks

significant rhetoric about waging peace in Iraq and opposing Bush’s unilateralism. But in the end Kerry just wants an imperialist policy that works more closely with other imperialist powers. In October of 2002 Kerry voted in favor of Bush’s Iraq War Resolution. Although he criticized the Vietnam War, Kerry has clearly moved comfortably into the realm of imperialist war politics since his youth.

In fact, Kerry criticized the Vietnam War from within the camp of imperialism. He called Vietnam a “mistake” in much the same way Robert McNamara did—American leaders made poor choices that caused 50,000 American “boys” to die needlessly (to say nothing of three million Vietnamese). If the leaders had been smarter, they could have accomplished American foreign-policy aims with less bloodshed. Kerry, McNamara and their ilk fail to see that the economic system of imperialism (which dictates foreign-policy aims) makes war inevitable—if not in Vietnam or Iraq, then somewhere else—regardless of individual leaders’ wishes. The analogy between Kerry and the German generals who tried to assassinate Hitler is apt. Kerry had no problem leading raids that left entire Vietnamese villages dead—until the United States was clearly losing the war. Then he came out against the war—not to overturn the system that led to the war, but to salvage as much of the status quo in America as possible.

Kerry demonstrates his failure to understand the meaning of internationalism when he says: “As the only true democracy in the Middle East, Israel is our most important ally, and a critical partner in the quest for peace and security in this troubled region.”(1) Kerry doesn’t bother to explain how “true democracy” involves second class citizenship for Palestinians, theft of Palestinian land, and open terrorist war on the Palestinian people.

To his credit, for an imperialist candidate Kerry has less chauvinist rhetoric on immigration and jobs than some of his competitors for the Democratic nomination. He avoids complaining about job losses to other countries, and has cautious statements in his campaign about immigrants and immigration law. But in the end he still believes that America is only to be enjoyed by Americans and calls for “adequately funding border enforcement to ensure that only legal immigrants can enter the country.”(1) MIM doesn’t expect Democratic candidates for president to recognize the hypocrisy of an artificial militarized border that resulted from the theft of that land by Americans from its original inhabitants, the descendants of whom are now considered “illegal immigrants.” But we can’t let this issue slide. It is yet another reason why no candidate for imperialist president will ever gain MIM’s support.

One of Kerry’s opponents, John

Edwards, has made a trademark of his fascist rhetoric. Sometimes couched in progressive-sounding support for education or opposition to tax breaks for companies, he frequently speaks about the need to keep jobs in the United States for American workers. One favorite of his is the education twist: “We will have an education policy that gives every American the chance to go to college and get the skills they need to stay ahead of workers in India and China and around the world.” MIM points out that America reaps great financial benefit from sweatshops in Asia which bring home big profits that help pay the salaries of American workers. Edwards doesn’t want to keep those jobs at home, just the high paying ones so that workers in India and China have to stay in the sweatshop jobs. Edwards is very clear, Americans deserve to be wealthy (at the expense of the rest of the world): “We should keep our good paying jobs here.”(3)

On the issue of crime Kerry also reveals his strong imperialist qualifications. As a former prosecutor he supports “tough laws [that] lead to arrests and convictions.” America is already the leading prison state in the world, but clearly Kerry (and all the other imperialist politicians) still think we need to lock up

more people. This is not because Americans are genetically predisposed to crime, nor is it because all this imprisonment is making American streets safer. Prisons are used in America as a tool of social control, and they target oppressed nations. With hugely disproportionate imprisonment rates of Blacks and Latinos, American prisons are one of the most fascist elements of America. Kerry, like all good democrats, supports strengthening this American institution.

In the end John Kerry is like other typical Democratic candidates for president: a strong supporter of American imperialism. MIM encourages people outraged by this system to stay out of the imperialist electoral circus and instead work with us to organize against imperialism.

For more news on the 2004 presidential election check out: www.etext.org/Politics/MIM/elections

Notes:

1. <http://www.johnkerry.com>
2. Kerry’s also tried to straddle the fence on gay marriage, capital punishment and the Patriot Act (which he voted for). The Boston Globe, 12 Feb 2003.
3. <http://www.johnedwards2004.com>

What should you do instead of voting?

If you’ve read through the newspaper this far and agree that organizing people to vote in imperialist elections is a waste of time, then you’ve got a responsibility to do something better with your time, something that really challenges imperialism! Here are a few ways to get involved:

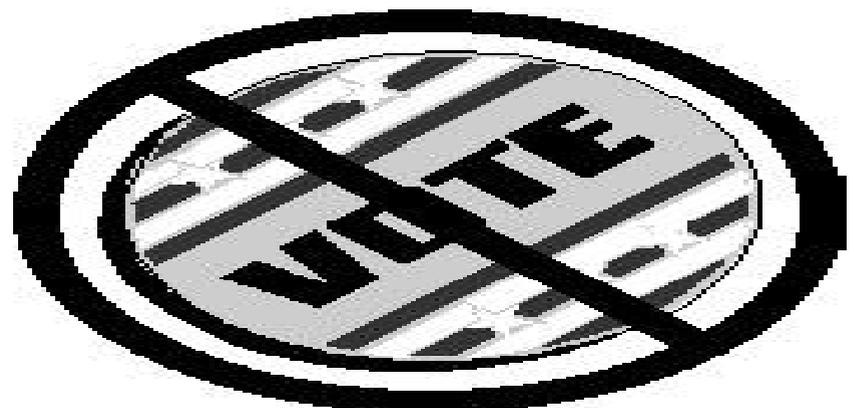
Join the Revolutionary Anti-Imperialist League (RAIL), a mass organization led by MIM (<http://www.etext.org/Politics/MIM/rail/whatisrail.html>).

Download, copy and distribute one of these anti-imperialist elections flyers: “The Enemy Chooses a Leader” or “America Votes for Terror” at <http://www.etext.org/Politics/MIM/elections/index.html>.

Pick a campaign and get out on the streets organizing people from here: <http://www.etext.org/Politics/MIM/agitation/index.html>.

Help distribute MIM Notes and build public opinion against imperialism (see the ad on page 2).

Still not sure what to do? Try reading “What Should I Do?” here: <http://www.etext.org/Politics/MIM/agitation/whattodo.html>.



Fog of War worth seeing -- but not for excusing Bush

Continued from page 3...

blood without achieving their stated aim of eliminating the threat of weapons of mass destruction. This game reminds us of the legendary Puritan witch tests: if you hold the accused under water and she doesn't drown, she's a witch; if she does drown, she wasn't a witch after all.

Perhaps we should have some sympathy for the devil. After all, the forces driving the imperialist powers towards war (need to control important natural resources, keep competing imperialist blocks in check, suppress Third World nationalism etc.) are beyond the control of any individual. Further, not every imperialist in a position of power is class conscious; some have been raised so secure and sheltered in their privilege that they honestly believe their own humbug. They couldn't explain the reasons for their wars even if they were willing—hence the recourse to irrationality and Top-Gun bravado.(4)

Robert McNamara's take on the fog of war exposes the danger and futility of Bush's policing approach towards weapons of mass destruction. In the first few minutes of this documentary, McNamara says that the fog of war makes mistakes inevitable, but the hope is that commanders learn their lessons and can minimize unnecessary casualties in the future. However, when the conflict involves nuclear weapons, there may not be anybody left to learn from the mistakes made. He cites the Cuban missile crisis as an example where the Americans were far closer to nuclear war than they realized (and at the time they already thought Cuba was a close call). We gather that plain dumb luck was the principal reason American leaders avoided making in Cuba the kinds of mistakes McNamara now says they made in Vietnam.

“Mistakes”

McNamara's contrast between the Cuban missile crisis and Vietnam gets to the heart of our disagreements with him. What McNamara means by “mistake” is that he believes the Vietnam War could have been prevented by its leaders. That's McNamara's way of saying there are no inevitable tides or forces in history. McNamara fails to grasp that not only is the information available for leaders to make choices subject to impersonal social forces, the options available to them are as well. The very conflicts that lead up to war are beyond the control of individual leaders.(5)

We believe McNamara has a good grasp of just how tenuous “peace” is under imperialism—and the increasingly disastrous consequences of war as military technology “improves.” That's why we recommend this film. But McNamara does not understand the economic and social forces of imperialism (the highest stage of capitalism) that make war inevitable. These forces create the conditions where leaders' inevitable

mistakes will have terrible consequences for millions.

McNamara can only shrug his shoulders and say war is part of humyn nature—a criminally depressing thought, since by his own reasoning war makes the escalation of violence up to and including nuclear war inevitable. In contrast, by understanding the system of imperialism and putting forward the alternative of socialist internationalism, we Maoists have a plan that will drastically reduce (and eventually eliminate, as humyns move towards communism) the threat of war.

Notes:

1. <http://www.etext.org/Politics/MIM/bookstore/books/asia/mcnamara.html>.

2. Transcript of the interview with President Bush on “Meet the Press,” 8 February 2004, <http://www.msnbc.msn.com/ID/4179618/>.

3. We've been doing that ever since the Bush posse trotted out the ridiculous assertion that Saddam Hussein was linked to the 911 attacks. We should also point out that many of the Democrats who are now attacking Bush for deceiving the public (Nancy Pelosi, John Edwards) had access the very information Bush used to justify invasion. Bush is correct to point out that Democratic legislators on Congressional intelligence committees saw this information long before the invasion. Indeed, most of the material Bush used was publicly available—and easily refutable using publicly available material. The Democratic Party signed the bill that gave the President authority to launch this invasion on this flimsy “evidence,” and did little to discredit his lies and distortions beforehand.

4. For that matter, even McNamara, who is no dummy, says it took him thirty years to understand his “mistakes” in Vietnam (and as far as we're concerned, he still has not, since he does not see the imperialistic roots of the conflict). The gang at the head of the American government may change and consequently so may strategies and tactics, but the essence of American imperialism remains unchanged. Under President Clinton military intervention was carried out under the cloak of “humanitarianism;” President Bush is, shall we say, somewhat less subtle. But the basic interests remain the same. President Clinton made the overthrow of the Iraqi regime official American policy; the intelligence quoted by President Bush to justify the recent war was gathered under Clinton; the military that fought the war was bequeathed to Bush by Clinton (as Democrats eager to lose “wimpy liberal” label incessantly remind us); and on and on, in just this one region.

5. On a related note, McNamara constantly says that Cold-War reasoning (seeing everything through the prism of the conflict between the United States and the social imperialist USSR) caused American leaders to make mistakes in Vietnam and elsewhere during the 60s.



The fact that since the end of the Cold War the United States has gotten involved in a decade-long, large-scale war in Iraq (with little to show in terms of its stated war aims) and been humiliated in Third-

World adventures like Somalia should suggest that there is something driving America towards war (causing “mistakes”) besides the Cold war.

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.

Haiti devastated by Amerikan imperialism (yet again)

Continued from page 1...

it calls on Aristide to hold elections that include the opposition parties—a disingenuous demand, since the opposition has already said they will boycott the elections Aristide proposed to resolve the recent crisis.(5) Only eight percent of voters supported the opposition in 2000, according to a U.S. poll.(4)

Behind the scenes, the United States has long been planning for intervention. At a secret conference of French-speaking nations over a year ago, U.S. agents urged “direct intervention and a possible U.N. trusteeship in the wake of Aristide’s departure after violence escalated in Haiti.”(1) The United States wants to appear to support democracy even as it undercuts the Haitian people’s right to self-determination by funding political quislings and funneling arms to anti-government thugs.

Jean Bertrand Aristide was elected in 1990 by an overwhelming majority of the population. He was quickly overthrown in a coup led by “former” CIA employees Emmanuel Constant and Raoul Cedras.(4) The FRAPH—the new government’s goon squad—also had ties to the CIA. A U.S. agent worked with FRAPH leader Louis Jodel Chamblain to plan the 1993 assassination of the pro-Aristide minister of justice, Guy Malory.(1)

In 1994 Amerika invaded Haiti, and Aristide returned to power with the help of the Clinton Administration. This was only after it became clear the military dictatorship could not keep the Haitian people under imperialist control and a huge influx of Haitian immigrants threatened Amerikan shores. To regain power, Aristide had to make a backroom deal with the United States. He had to follow the dictates of the International Monetary Fund (IMF) and allow sweatshop labor to continue in the country.(6) Aristide’s government has accepted the IMF’s structural adjustment programs, including low tariffs for foreign corporations, and cuts for social services. There was even talk of selling the nation’s seaports.(4)

Lest Aristide forget who held his strings, the Amerikans refused to disarm FRAPH and the elements in the Haitian Army who backed the anti-Aristide coup. U.S. officers “were specifically told to treat FRAPH as a loyal opposition, and not to confiscate large weapons’ caches.”(1)

The fickle Amerikan imperialists may have once again switched sides to back the anti-Aristide forces for a number of reasons. Perhaps Aristide was not sufficiently obedient; perhaps after kicking Aristide in the crotch they wanted him to say, “thank you sir may I have another.” While it is true Aristide has implemented many of the imperialist-friendly IMF plans, it is also true he has complained about it, arguing that Haiti “cannot survive” under the IMF.(3) Or perhaps the Bush administration has an ideological aversion to even the pretense of social democracy. Whatever the

reason, it’s an indictment of imperialism that the U.S. government can plunge Haiti into violence and terror whenever it wishes.

Former FRAPH leader Chamblain recently shot his way through across the Dominican border to link up with the anti-Aristide gangs in Gonaives. U.S.-made M16s have also recently appeared in the hands of these thugs. Coincidentally, the United States sent the Dominican Republic 20,000 M16s just two months ago.(1,3)

The political opposition to Aristide has strong ideological and financial ties to the United States, through the International Republican Institute. According to “Dissident Voice,” “What is often not reported is that the opposition to President Aristide consists mainly of the Democratic Convergence (CD) that grew out of a project of the United States Agency for International Development called Democracy Enhancement. Linguist and author Noam Chomsky accurately described the aim of the project: ‘The State Department ‘Democracy Enhancement’ project was specifically designed to fund those sectors of the Haitian political spectrum where opposition to the Aristide government could be encouraged, precisely as ‘pro-democracy policies’ dictate.’”(7)

Meanwhile, the United States has embargoed \$500 million in international aid to Aristide’s government.(8) This is a clear attempt to pressure Haitians to “vote with their stomachs.”

Haiti is the poorest country in the Western Hemisphere, suffering from years of colonization by the United States. (The United States occupied and ruled Haiti from 1915 to 1934, then backed a series of dictators, including the infamous Duvaliers.) The life expectancy now hovers around 50 and poverty and disease are chronic among a large portion of the population. In 2002 80% of the population was below the poverty line. In 2001 more than 84% of Haiti’s exports went to the United States and 56% of its imports came from the United States.

Many Amerikan companies have profited from sweatshop labor in Haiti, including Disney, Levi Strauss & Co, Kmart, J.C. Penny, Hanes, Sarah Lee, and Nike. Haitian sweatshop labor is an important part of Amerikan imperialism, and the U.S. government continues to do whatever necessary to ensure this profitable relationship will continue.

The current crisis in Haiti will likely increase the flow of refugees from Haiti. The United States is preparing its military base at Guantanamo Bay in Cuba to receive up to 50,000 refugees.(9) These people will be treated like criminals and then returned to their country to serve as cheap labor for imperialist corporations that make Amerika the wealthiest country in the world.

The Haitian people do not need another regime bowing to Amerikan imperialism. They need independence from this system that steals the resources, exploits

the labor and leaves the people of Haiti in poverty.

Notes:

1. Tom Reeves, “US Double Game in Haiti,” 16 Feb 2004. <http://www.zmag.org/content/showarticle.cfm?SectionID=2&ItemID=4997>.
2. Christian Science Monitor, 13 Feb 2004.
3. Kevin Pina, “Haiti Under Siege,” 15 Jan 2004, <http://www.zmag.org/content/showarticle.cfm?SectionID=54&ItemID=4967>.
4. Anthony Fenton, “Media vs. Reality

in Haiti,” 13 Feb 2004, <http://www.zmag.org/content/showarticle.cfm?SectionID=21&ItemID=4977>.

5. Christian Science Monitor, 22 Jan 2004.
6. “Your Call” radio show, KALW, Feb 13, 2004.
7. The Dissident Voice, February 12, 2004.
8. Black Commentator “Haiti Opposition Attempts Power Grab”.
9. The Economist, February 13, 2004.

MIM Notes

11 Years Ago...



BOMB AMERIKA?

Clinton’s first official act, before formally taking power, was to order a blockade of Haiti to stop refugees from fleeing the island.

A true humanitarian, Clinton also forced Haitian president-in-exile Jean Bertrand Aristide to back his policy: Aristide released, and then (one arm-twisting later) retracted a statement condemning Clinton’s violation of international law.

Before Aristide returns to “power” in Haiti—if Clinton and the Haitian military can agree on the terms—Clinton will make good and sure Aristide has no plans to liberate Haiti from decades of Amerikan economic, political and military domination.

The Clinton/Bush policy, incidentally, violates a United Nations ban on returning boat people without a hearing. Still, at press time, there appeared to be no plans to bomb Amerika in response to such blatant violations of U.N. mandates.

—MC12

Stickers with this graphic on them are available for sale and distribution. Send \$40 for 100 stickers to MIM at PO Box 29670, Los Angeles CA 90029-0670. Make checks/money orders out to MIM Distributors.



One-way door to Virginia SHU

Solidarity greetings!

Yesterday a brother happened to send me one of your MIM Notes and I was astounded. Under the current levels of repression I couldn't believe that something this powerful was being let in. I've been up all night reading your newsletter and wondering, "How do I get involved?"

A lot of things you spoke of pertaining to the Security Housing Unit (SHU) are happening here in Virginia. It was like a breath of fresh air to hear someone is fighting against the SHU. It just hurts that no one in Virginia seems to care.

As if that wasn't enough, Virginia has opened these level-5 and level-6 institutions, Red Onion, Wallens Ridge and Sussex. Each institution is armed with shotguns inside the pods, cafeteria, rec yard and gym. These shotguns have rubber pellets but at any time the officers have access to live rounds. We are supposed to be on 20 hours lock and 4 hours rec, but they always find a way to take rec. Most of the time we don't get any rec. The conditions is close to, if not the same as the SHU.

What is more troubling is the criteria it takes to get in these institutions. They're supposed to be for the worst of the worst prisoners, but over 90% of the population came here straight from receiving with no institutional record. I was sent here with no institutional record, and when I wrote to the Central Classification Board their justification was that I had over 25 years so I met the criteria.

It's like there is no set criteria to get sent to these institutions and damn near impossible to get off. You can stay charge free, get your points down and still be overrode to stay here. It is ridiculous and I am fed up. I want to fight against what they are doing to me and prisoners like myself.

-a Virginia prisoner

MIM responds: Thank you for your letter. It is important to know that not everything like an SHU is called an SHU — and sometimes not designating a unit as SHU can give the prisoncrats more flexibility in terms of their arbitrary power to impose punishment and cut costs.

NY SHU victim offers support for Re-Lease on Life

I would like to help build the "Serve the People Prisoner Re-Lease on Life Program." The first way we can provide for people when they get out of prison is send them to organizations that provide ex-offenders with job placements or build an organization that does such, and how to go about making resumes, filling out applications. In fact I suggest you tell brothers to get updated copies of a book called "Connections to the Job Search," the guide for ex-inmates to information sources in NYC. It's free to all inmates and ex-offenders by writing to:

New York Public Library
455 5th Avenue
New York, NY 10016

That's the address to write to get that book. It has a lot of resources and info for ex-

Under Lock & Key

News from Prisons & Prisoners

offenders going back into society. Also we can do the same and all we want when we go home is a stable 9 to 5 job to help pay for food, clothing and shelter. Once you give a brother or sister that opportunity and keep them comfortable then we can start getting them active into our movement. Those are some suggestions I came up with, but we must guide brothers and sisters that are coming from the belly of the beast on the right track, give them a nice paying job and get them involved with our struggle for liberation. Oh yeah, enclosed is a \$10.00 check that I will donate to MIM. Every month or so I will try to donate money to the movement because I know money is needed to buy certain materials that's needed in our movement for liberation. So please let me know if you receive that check okay.

Now about your local campaigns to shut down SHU's, Control Units, Ad Seg and Supermax's across the country. Listen comrades, I'm presently in one of their new SHU's called Upstate S-blocks where you are double-bunked with another inmate whom you don't know from nowhere, you get your shower in your cell and your rec pen is at the back of your cell, so there is no movement out the cell or contact with no C.O. at all unless you got to go to a visit or medical or other than that you are in your cell 24 hours. Imagine locking yourself in your bathroom for months without coming out or years! It's inhumane and cruel, then the facility is at least 8 to 9 hours away from NYC and when visitors do get here it's no contact. We are separated by a fence as if I'm a threat to my visitor...

- A NY Prisoner, January 2004

Validated radical resister

I was moved from Lompoc to Atwater on December 5th at 3am!! Apparently I incited others to rebel against their conditions so here I am. They're saying that I can't go to this prison's general population as I've been validated as a radical resister. So, I'll be doing all of my writing to you from the hole! Nothing new, as I long ago resigned myself to leading those that are in need of guidance and all of them that dared to fight are always buried in these dungeons.

- a prisoner in California, January 2004

Should I Fight Back?

Greetings Comrade,

I am thankful for the movement and all the progress it has made over the years. I would like you to know that I have not received any MIM Notes in over three months. We have to make some change in the movement, towards the prison system because these pigs get away with too much. On December 18, 2003 I was sexually and physically assaulted at Downstate Correctional Facility by ten C.O.'s coming back from Riker's Island. These

C.O.'s had assaulted me on July 29, 03 and I had brought the matter to the Commissioner and superintendent, but to have the fox investigate the fox is a waste of time. This time they made sure they charge me with assault on staff and re-arrest me on outside charges and one year in the SHU. In every way I end up with the short end of the stick.

What we need at Downstate is a camera to watch the pigs. I had four inmate witnesses but it did not matter. Me personally, I have made up my mind to die or kill one of these pigs the next time they attack me, because after they cuffed me there was nothing I could have done and no one tried to assist me. The medical staff cover up for their pigs brother. What would you have done in my situation? Would you fight back? surrender and be cuffed? or wait on the pigs to do something? Please let me know.

Stay strong,

—a NY Prisoner, January 2004

MIM replies: Your situation is the unfortunate reality to many captured by the u\$ injustice system. In some cases getting the "fox to investigate the fox" can improve these day to day conditions. But in your case that avenue has been tried and failed. This is why we organize to overthrow the system all together. Sometimes we can help people out, but if we want to keep this from happening to anyone again we have to put a permanent end to imperialist oppression.

What would MIM do? What is our advice? Our advice is to avoid physical confrontations with the pigs whenever possible, for the very reason that you point out, they have the upper hand and they can get away with anything. You are more valuable to the cause alive than dead. And if you get out of prison, or even just get put in a better situation in another camp, it will be worth making it out alive. We certainly don't recommend adventurism that will mean suicide for our comrades.

When facing the oppressor in military situations, whether on the street or in a prison you may find yourself with no way out but to fight for your life. This is a judgment that can only be made by the person in the confrontation. All we can advise you to do is to avoid confrontations at all costs. We do not want to confront the enemy unless we can defeat them. So do not lash out in frustration. That release could cost you dearly. If you find yourself in a situation where you do feel your life is on the line, no advice we can give can help you then, it is up to you.

We will do what we can by printing reports of such abuse in our paper and on our website and keeping the struggle alive on the streets.

The Prison Industrial Complex and Slave Labor

America has sweat shops located just inside its concentration camps (u.s. prisons) where slave labor is the order of the day. While some prisons have different methodical methods, they all use prison labor to gain revenue. Companies set up shop just inside the walls and prisoners are routinely called out of the buildings early for a day of manual labor which wage earnings so pitiful that it amounts to induced servitude. A prisoner who submits himself can earn 65, 75, 85 and 90 cents an hour if he enlists. The workload is heavy and has a consistent momentum.

Prisoners are granted no perks, only the usual access to phones, weekend yard, visits, and canteen, as well as an opportunity to be a consumer in the accumulation of the material made good that are sold via catalogs. Prisoners who work in these factories are routinely subjected to dehumanizing strip

MIM on Prisons & Prisoners

MIM seeks to build public opinion against Amerika's criminal injustice system, and to eventually replace the bourgeois injustice system with proletarian justice. The bourgeois injustice system imprisons and executes a disproportionately large and growing number of oppressed people while letting the biggest mass murderers — the imperialists and their lackeys — roam free. Imperialism is not opposed to murder or theft, it only insists that these crimes be committed in the interests of the bourgeoisie.

"All U.S. citizens are criminals—accomplices and accessories to the crimes of U.S. oppression globally until the day U.S. imperialism is overcome. All U.S. citizens should start from the point of view that they are reforming criminals."

MIM does not advocate that all prisoners go free today; we have a more effective program for fighting crime as was demonstrated in China prior to the restoration of capitalism there in 1976. We say that all prisoners are political prisoners because under the dictatorship of the bourgeoisie, all imprisonment is substantively political. It is our responsibility to exert revolutionary leadership and conduct political agitation and organization among prisoners — whose material conditions make them an overwhelmingly revolutionary group. Some prisoners should and will work on self-criticism under a future dictatorship of the proletariat in those cases in which prisoners really did do something wrong by proletarian standards.

cavity searches going and coming out. I just could not bear being exploited and never could subject myself to the subtle molestations of strip searches.

Many prisoners whose families have, through the course of their sentences, either passed away or are under tight economic strain in society from the teeth of this capitalist structure, have enlisted themselves as laborers. Some who have scaled the pay wages hold their positions and are encouraged to be like slave drivers, and often do. But the flip side of this is those prisoners who resist being preyed on. But those who have and continue to give their cooperation for the PIA industries will fight fiercely against any strike or work stoppage.

As often occurs, riots and disputes erupt and that shuts down the yards, etc. When this happens, as I've heard you often hear prisoners on their doors yelling hey open my door for work (industries release). State (CDC) has come up with a remedy by calling these workers "critical workers" when lock down's happen. The CDC doesn't want the making of goods and production to be halted. This is the reason for this deceptive tactic.

Prisoners are being productive of profits and are being economically exploited. For instance, if you didn't have any family you would have no way to provide for yourself. The state only provides tooth powder, lye soap which cracks your skin, just like the tooth powder, and toilet paper. Not to mention the food you're served you often would go hungry, and the combination of these factors would drive, as it has drove many, to enlist into slave labor contract. Then when you make your average \$60-90 a month, as have many, they go shop at the canteen or buy the newly introduced packages which companies connected to the prison sell for a profit.

So it's a self generating system that continually loops. What drives cheap labor and huge profits. If socialist consciousness can be instilled inside the minds of the mass prison populations then we could shut down these sweat shops and request/demand true education, that will assist us in progress and development.

- a CA prisoner, December 2003

Federal prisons set up "gang" fights

I'm not in a SHU per se, it is officially called an administrative segregation unit. The only recognized SHUs within the federal bureau of prisons are: Marion and ADX Florence which are specifically designed for long term confinement.

The ad seg and disciplinary seg units within every prison's underbelly are only designed to hold us on a short term basis. But we still are being placed in them (ad seg units) for much longer periods than legally permissible, it's not built for this purpose. Not everyone in is a federal prisoner. You have a minority segment of state prisoners whom have been placed in the federal system for a variety of reasons such as being high profile informers, child molesters, too influential, etc!

The difference between a U.S. penitentiary and a federal correctional institution is akin to a California state IV yard and a level III yard. One's a prison that's allegedly designed to hold a higher security prisoner. The FCIs are usually closer to major cities, which makes them more accessible to families visiting us. They also offer a wide range of opportunities in so far as educational programs, vocational training, more links to the outside world (i.e. outside guests) and more allowed movement overall. The USPs, on the other hand, offer little or no opportunity at bettering themselves in the way of educational and vocational training. The facade has been taken off of the term "rehabilitation" and instead it's true definition of "warehouse" is indeed evident.

The recent controversy originated back in 2001 when this warden arrived. Shortly after his arrival, a major riot occurred on the recreation yard involving over 50 people. The staff permitted the [one] "gang" to pass thru a metal detector with a variety of weapons including: metal knives, pipes, a piece of chain.

Fortunately for the Afrikan prisoners some other bystanders intervened, which prevented loss of life. From that point on, this prison's been controlled by Mexican "gangs" working with certain key prison officials. They even went as far as to order key leaders of the Mexican Mafia released from the Marion SHU to here so as to better control the younger Mexicans. Pretty much, they were afforded the preferred prisoner treatment: no cell shake downs, no urine analysis (even when they know they use), access to the best jobs, basically the run of the prison. This continued until 6/1/03, when the same so-called privileged prisoners attacked their masters in a living unit. Apparently one of the staff attempted to put one of the Mexicans into the hole. You see, being as they had been having the run of the prison, they were shocked (rightfully so) when their captors attempted to all of a sudden enforce the rules.

From that point a total melee ensued. Which as the LA Times stated, resulted in many of the prison guards being touched. What all this controversy truly stems from is that this

Poetry from behind the bars

[Here are] a few poems which I wrote, the first of which corresponds on your (MIM's) position on prisons and prisoners. You wrote that "the biggest mass murderers—the imperialists and their lackeys—roam free."

— a Pennsylvania prisoner

Blind Justice

Bring me to court, let the guilty go free,
Lie to the Jury, and persecute me.
I once believed that Justice prevailed,
Now I have seen that the whole system's failed.
Don't need a reason for handing out time,
Just need a victim accused of a crime,
Under false pretense they lock men away.
Society don't see the game they play,
Two hundred years they've been telling a lie.
Innocent men have been sentenced to die,
Convicted for crimes they didn't commit,
Examples of Justice that murders for profit.

Hate Factories

How many believe that two wrongs make a right?
Authorities who think so, you know aren't too bright.
Their system of Justice has serious flaws,
Eroded by Judges who break their own laws.
For every prisoner the system mistreats
Another bitter man returns to the streets,
Consumed with a hatred for whoever supports
Their brutal humyn warehouses and corrupted courts.
Overcrowded cages and deplorable conditions,
Rage so intense to cause homicidal visions,
Year upon year of harassment and pain
Serves only to drive almost any man insane!

prison's always been operated under the banner of white supremacy. The past administrators pretty much allowed the staff free reign for abusing and killing African prisoners. And this racist ideology is shared by various neo-nazi gang members were, which made a quite comfortable alliance. Under this particular Warden, the majority of the beat-down squad of kops were either fired or transferred. There also have been an increase in the hiring of both minorities as well as womyn. All of which severely undermined the white power status quo. Afrikan prisoners pretty much see this present

battles as a clash of the titans, the old regime which is white and predominately male versus the young up and comers whom primarily Latino. Whichever one ultimately wins, it'll matter very little to us as we are perennial door mats for both.

- a federal prisoner in California, December 2003

What is internationalism?

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

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

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

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

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



Facts on U\$ imprisonment

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

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

To find a comparison with U.\$ 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.



El Tío Sam no siempre sabe

El lío en torno a las armas de destrucción masiva en Irak: una revelación para luchadores que llevan las de perder

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

A menudo oímos la aserción que la lucha política es inútil porque cada año el Tío Sam gasta miles de millones de dólares con el fin de espiar a todo el mundo a través de satélites y submarinos. Los medios de comunicación árabes dijeron que el Tío Sam sabía de qué color era la ropa interior de Saddam Hussein. Hace poco el sitio de Internet "marxists.org" (1) dijo que era posible identificar cada computadora por medio de equipo colocado en servidores remotos. Semejantes argumentos apuntan a la idea de que cualquier tipo de lucha contra el Tío Sam es futil y que, por lo tanto, hay que unírnos a la lucha propagada por el Tío Sam y respetar sus reglas del juego; sin embargo, el lío en torno a las armas de destrucción masiva (ADM) revela el fallo de asumir una actitud liberal hacia el tema de la lucha y seguridad.

Diez meses antes del discurso equivocado sobre el Estado de la Unión en el que George Bush citaba pruebas

falsas sobre la supuesta venta de uranio por parte de Níger a Irak, la CIA le dijo a Bush que dicha información era falsa. Aparte de la CIA, un embajador también informó a la administración Bush que esta información no era cierta. Esto significa que hasta la posesión de información correcta no garantiza el uso de la misma. (2) La administración Bush ha emitido un sinnúmero de otras declaraciones falsas sobre la naturaleza y la justificación de la guerra contra Irak. (3) Basándose en fuentes de información estadounidenses, Tony Blair declaró que Saddam Hussein estaba listo para utilizar ADM 45 minutos después de un aviso algo que jamás sucedió. (4)

Los estudiantes probélicos y los que asumieron una postura neutral desconocían el hecho de que el archivo de inteligencia compuesto y utilizado por el gobierno británico con el fin de justificar la guerra contra Irak, provenía en gran parte de un trabajo no citado de un estudiante estadounidense disponible para el público. (5) En nuestro periódico MIM Notes 274, criticamos a un estudiante quien asumió la típica postura

monárquica que justifica la apatía y la falta de lucha contra la guerra. Según el estudiante, "Basamos nuestras opiniones sobre la política externa e interna en la información que recibimos de coberturas parciales de medios de comunicación, opiniones de nuestros amigos y preguntas de nuestros profesores. Bush basa sus opiniones en datos secretos de inteligencia obtenidos a través de múltiples fuentes, estimaciones nacionales de altos funcionarios de servicios de inteligencia y consejos de expertos. Si ni siquiera él tiene la información completa, nuestro entendimiento de la situación equivale a una pieza insignificante del rompecabezas". Resulta que a alguien le entraron ganas de tomarle el pelo a la administración Bush mediante una falsificación de documentos sobre los programas de armas nucleares de Irak; éstos fueron utilizados por Bush con el fin de promover su plan bélico contra Irak diseñado antes del año 2000. Resulta, por lo tanto, que la posesión de inteligencia secreta fue un impedimento más que una ventaja. La mera posesión de la información "completa" no garantiza el uso correcto de la misma.

Los luchadores por la justicia que llevan las de perder deberían tener en cuenta que un acceso a todas las fuentes de información no garantiza el uso de las mismas por parte de los que los que están en el poder. De hecho, el capitalismo corrompe toda la producción del conocimiento, desde el conocimiento de medicinas cuyas ventas se someten a fines lucrativos hasta los análisis de la eficacia de sistemas de armas adquiridas por el Pentágono. Como ya hemos mencionado en la sección sobre la seguridad en nuestra página web: "El imperialismo estadounidense de ninguna manera se puede permitir el lujo de filtrar la información correcta y separarla de la falsa." En este sentido, el MIM ha señalado que la acumulación de información proveniente de una fuente no garantiza que el propósito de dicha fuente sea el de desviar información.

Los imperialistas buscan un conocimiento que les otorgue ganancias individuales. Como consecuencia, los imperialistas jamás podrán alcanzar la

capacidad que tiene el proletariado para encontrar la verdad. Aunque los gastos monetarios de los imperialistas en servicios de inteligencia sobrepasen los del proletariado, los imperialistas son incapaces de usar la información obtenida, y si la llegan a usar, entran en conflicto con otros imperialistas cuyos intereses de propiedad y agendas políticas son distintos. Por esta razón, cualquier tipo de lucha que dificulte el espionaje de los oprimidos y explotados por parte de los imperialistas es siempre justificado. Como ya hemos mencionado en nuestra reseña del sitio marxists.org, "Hay múltiples razones para no someterse: 1) Existe la posibilidad de aumentar el costo del enemigo ya que cualquier forma de espionaje correcto cuesta. 2) Una vez que se obtenga información, el enemigo tiene que separar la información correcta de la falsa. 3) Puede que el enemigo no haga nada."

Fuentes consultadas:

1. <http://www.etext.org/Politics/MIM/links/marxistsorg.html>
2. http://abcnews.go.com/sections/world/iraq030616_uranium.html; también véase <http://politics.guardian.co.uk/iraq/story/0,12956,972651,00.html>
3. Véase por ejemplo <http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/articles/A43615-2003Jun11.html>
4. Para leer el testimonio de un exoficial de la CIA véase: <http://www.foxnews.com/story/0,2933,89923,00.html>; véase también <http://www.foxnews.com/story/0,2933,89649,00.html>
5. <http://politics.guardian.co.uk/iraq/story/0,12956,970035,00.html>

¿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:

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

