Foreign army purges entire city (the relative size) of Seattle

By MC12
This is the headline you didn’t see in the American newspapers when the U.S. military forced more than a quarter million people from their homes in Fallujah, Iraq, in a futile attempt to weaken the anti-American uprising.

Fallujah had a population estimated at 250,000 to 300,000 at the time of the American invasion (1). The population of Iraq is about 24 million (2). That means 1.1% of the Iraqi population lived in Fallujah before the invasion.

To find a metropolitan area in the USA of comparable relative size, look at Seattle, Washington. The Seattle metro area, which includes Tacoma and Bellevue, had a population estimated at 3,122,000. That is 1.1% of the total U.S. population of 288,369,000 (3).

So what happened to this population in Fallujah? They were driven from the city before and during the American invasion. The clueless American media can’t seem to get the magnitude of this crime into their heads. Consider this exchange between NPR’s Scott Simon and his correspondent in Iraq from Weekend Edition Saturday on December 18:

SCOTT SIMON (Host): Michael, can you tell what it’s like for people who live in Fallujah to live day by day?
SHUSTER: No one is living in Fallujah, Scott. Almost all the civilians have left. It’s impossible to live. There’s no water. There’s no electricity. There’s no food. And many, many of the buildings and houses have been flattened. All—most of the residents of Fallujah went to other cities to live with other Iraqis while this happened and some went to refugee camps not too far back. There’s a lot of talk about bringing them back, resettling them. There have been various comments from the Iraqi mayor of Fallujah and the Iraqi government officials in Baghdad that this process is going to start soon. But the Marines tell you—it’s not clear how that can happen, as long as there’s continued resistance and continued attacks on Marine teams in Fallujah so I

Continued on page 6...

Pressed by U.S., Dutch gov pursues case against revolutionary Sison

The government of the Netherlands recently defended its decision to halt the imperialists’ microcosm of the Philippines and other Third World nations. Forty percent of households in the Philippines live below the poverty line of $200 per person; about one-third of pregnant women do not have access to prenatal care. The majority of the population lives in the countryside under conditions of feudal exploitation, with tenants paying as much as 50% of their yearly produce in land rent to large landlords.

This poverty and the resultant suffering is due to the exploitative policies of the imperialists and their local cronies, who rob the Philippines of its natural resources and exploit its workers in labor intensive, import- and export-dependent industries. Over 100 years as an American colony and neo-colony has devastated the economy of the Philippines—and when the oppressed of the Philippines rise up to try and change that, the U.S.-funded and trained Armed Forces of the Philippines cracks down on them and chases their leaders out of the country.

Here is a press release describing the latest hearing on Prof. Sison’s case. Prof. Sison is not the only person affected by these charges—they also restrict the speech rights of residents of the United States or its European allies. (Note the Dutch government’s position that those who provide help or accommodation to Prof. Sison are legally punishable.) Even those who defend publication of Prof. Sison writings or those of the CPP on the “USA Patriot Act.” Standing up for Prof. Sison is not only a matter of personal conscience but a matter of principle. Even those who defend publication of Prof. Sison writings or those of the CPP on the “USA Patriot Act.”

For more information about Prof. Sison and the revolutionary movement in the Philippines, see www.etext.org/Politics/MIM/countries/phil/.

On the web: www.etext.org/Politics/MIM
Iraqi insurgents vs. Abu Ghraib guards: Who are the monsters?

Here we go again with Sean Hannity and his so-called smooth right-wing radio host snake! To the perceptive man, their lies are so lame! So who believes them? Well, unfortunately there are numerous uneducated Americans who are easily duped by their lying propaganda! I feel for them. They are comparing Nick Berg’s beheading with the U.S. soldiers who abused those prisoners at the Abu Ghraib prison.

The beheaders are being called “monsters” while the prison guards are nothing but “mischievous kids” who did not know what they were doing! They were just kids who were bored and stepped out of line in a non-serious way. They were untrained to be M.P.s, they were just kids who were bored and stepped out of line in a non-serious way. What happened is very simple to those people who still have some shred of good common sense.

— a Texas prisoner, 21 May 2004

MIM adds: It’s no secret that the American national conscience is impaired by imperialist plunder. The people of this country enjoy a wildly inflated standard of living, at great expense to people in the Third World. Self-interest keeps Americans from considering how personally the Iraqis might take having their homes and cities desecrated and their natural resources turned over to Halliburton.

While we don’t see any Maoist leadership in the struggle against the U.S. occupation, it is to the credit of the Iraqi resistance that it is forcing some Americans to take the war a little bit personally too. The whole point of anti-imperialist resistance is to make wars of conquest and the profiling that follows too expensive for the aggressor country to bear. It is unfortunate that the U.S. people are so far gone outside the international community that seeing such resistance is their best chance of waking up to the horrors of their own militarism and cutting it out.

Revolutionaries need background checks?

Greetings as always with a clenched fist salute. Recently I was sitting in my cage reading a book titled The FBI and Martin Luther King Jr. by D.J. Garrow. The gist of this book is the effects of COINTELPRO [the FBI’s Counter-Intelligence Program, a campaign aimed at spying on, infiltrating and destroying progressive organizations in the United States] on the civil rights movement. While I fully comprehend its dynamics, I’m hard pressed to figure out how/why those of the revolutionary left didn’t take any drastic countermeasures to unearth those agents/infiltrators to expose the CCP [Communist Party of China] for years! My point is you have very lax security when unknown/untested strangers can simply walk in off the streets, claim allegiance to some ideology and by virtue of a look be embraced into the fold. George tried to warn the BPP of Cleaver’s background, i.e., his conduct while in prison to no avail. His writing & oratorial skills superceded his potential for derailing the BPP. Now here we are in 2004 still taking two steps forward & three backwards. Where is the effective front line? In the manifesto Blood in My Eye, both George & Jonathan observed a primary obstacle to collective progress was the lack of a formal military cadre strictly devoted to internal investigations & neutralization of traitors! They felt then, as I do now, that it isn’t a lack of training in ideology that stagnates a progressive class struggle. Rather it’s these bootlicking sellouts amongst us, who are working to kill us!

— a Federal prisoner in Colorado 17 Aug 2004

A RAIL Comrade and MIM reply: Revolutionary organizations are always at risk of being infiltrated. We can learn not only from the example of FBI infiltration into the Black Panther Party and other U.S. groups, but from our own out of our movement from within.

At this time, the imperialist police agencies in the U.S. have far greater material resources than the revolutionary camp and can easily concoct false backgrounds for their agents. What they cannot fake is activism that supports our revolutionary goals. We expect the same level of contribution of all comrades at a given level of membership. In other words, comrades and allies will prove themselves through hard work rather than through background checks. We may not deflect every leech trying to suck the life out of our movement from within, but we will be sure to extract the greatest level of work for the least amount of exposure from every persyn we work with.
People mourn the death of Amerikan revolutionary Carol Andreas

by International Minister

El Diario International has reported that Carol Andreas of Colorado died at age 71 on December 7 of a cerebral aneurism. She was a professor and revolutionary. The people of Peru and America both have special reason to mourn.

Although in the 1960s there were over 1 million self-described revolutionaries among u.s. college students, by 1976, the number of people still active in revolutionary struggle in the united states fell to about 0.1% of its previous level. El Diario International led by Luis Arce Borja mentioned her support for the People’s War in 1980 and after, but Carol Andreas has international significance to Maoism as well.

In 1976, when most of the world’s communists fell for Hua Guofeng and Deng Xiaoping after the death of Mao, Carol Andreas held firm. Her study group immediately published a book upon the death of Mao upholding the Cultural Revolution and denouncing the capitalist restoration. This should have been unpalatable given her preoccupation with Mao and the “Gang of Four” gave the world for capitalist restoration in China, but in practice relative to others, Carol Andreas proved to have great foresight and firmness on this question while most of the world’s communists temporarily fell off course. It was only in succeeding years that Hua Guofeng and Deng Xiaoping revisionism went into the minority in parties outside China.

As El Diario International correctly pointed out, Carol Andreas also held firm in 1992-1993 when the “peace accords” controversy in Peru arose. Needing Mao, she never concluded that Carol Andreas confided to MIM that we should uphold Luis Arce Borja in exile against others arising at the time to diminish his stature outside Peru. In knowing what’s what in 1976 and 1992, no one can do better than Carol Andreas did.

MIM also conducted activity to support the Cultural Revolution and Luis Arce Borja, so the question arises about the unity of Carol Andreas and MIM. One would guess that the issue dividing us would be the labor aristocracy, and we’re still not entirely convinced she accorded this issue the proper weight, but Carol Andreas claimed not so much to disagree with MIM on this point. In fact, she pointed out that even in Peru the labor aristocracy was quite a problem. She stressed repeatedly that she had read all of Lenin’s works and she knew where MIM was getting all those suspicions about the oppressor nation workers. With regard to others agitating for labor aristocracy demands she said, “let them bang their heads against the wall.”

In print, a newsletter published by Carol Andreas on Peru openly debated MIM’s contributions in passing. She reported that she had spoken with those who had found MIM to be a rejuvenation of Maoism in America and integration of Maoism with U.S. conditions while others say MIM made no contribution to the struggle in Peru.

Our criticisms of Carol Andreas were public before she died. What we have not reported before is that she told MIM she “did not have energy” for inner party struggle and democratic centralism anymore. Her attitude was something like “been there, done that.”

We do not doubt that Carol Andreas told Luis Arce Borja there is no vanguard party in America, but we only criticize Carol Andreas and some Third World comrades for a liquidationist line. Carol Andreas was an articulate activist regarding the Cultural Revolution and Peru and this translated into invitations to speak to international communist conferences. In this practice of promoting individual personalities at the Comintern, the Third World has engendered a liquidationist attitude catering to the imperialist country petty-bourgeoisie. Some have gone so far as to invite Carol Andreas as an individual to speak while excluding parties.

Sartre spent his most correct years criticizing intellectuals who refuse vanguard parties. Intellectuals chafe against discipline for their own personal mental needs at the expense of the international proletariat.

The decision on how to recognize one faction or party over another discussed by Stalin is completely different than what Carol Andreas and some of her international admirers have done—which is to deny any choice at all. If we have a choice between factions or parties, we can compile a list of conditions. When we find ourselves saying there is no vanguard party at all when at least one claims to be one, then we have fallen into liquidationism.

There is always a most advanced line in any society—a basic fact of materialism. If Carol Andreas did not like MIM or other organizations, she should have declared herself vanguard in America and forced the issue. The passive attitude that no one else has already established nicely running vanguard parties that we can join as cogs in the machine must be banished as anti-Leninist and fatal to this stage when so many countries need to form vanguard parties.

One thing we like about what Carol Andreas did is that she took a liquidationist line which she made up for to some extent with internationalism. In her last decade or so she could not see straight to leading revolution in the united states, but she gave her energy to the revolution in Peru.

Comrades who would like to remember Carol Andreas should read her book Peru: When Women Rebel. And if anyone clings to any stereotypes about wimmin not being able to hold firm lines, digest Lenin or lead politically, we point to Carol Andreas. No one in America, male or female did any better than Carol Andreas did in 1976 and 1992.

Sweatshop agreement reached

If anyone in direct contact with the Forever 21 struggle disagrees with this press release or believes it to be false, please contact mim3@mim.org.

A recent agreement reached by the Garment Worker Center and Forever 21, Inc., among others, stipulates that the Garment Worker Center contact the owners of websites deemed by Forever 21, Inc. to contain information pertaining to the disputes resolved by the aforementioned agreement, and to ask those owners to post the statement that follows on any page containing said information.

We apologize if you believe you have been contacted in error.

Sincerely,

Garment Worker Center

STATEMENT:

Forever 21, Inc., the Garment Worker Center, Sweatshop Watch, and the Asian Pacific American Legal Center, on behalf of several Los Angeles garment workers represented by it, have reached an agreement to resolve all litigation between them. In addition, the parties have agreed to take steps to promote greater worker protection in the local garment industry. The parties are pleased to announce the resolution of this matter as a positive and symbolic step forward in demonstrating respect and appreciation for garment workers. Under the parties’ agreement, the national boycott of Forever 21 and related protests at the Company’s retail stores, initiated by the Garment Worker Center in 2001, have ended. The parties share a belief that garment workers should labor in lawful conditions and should be treated fairly and with dignity. Forever 21, the Garment Worker Center and Sweatshop Watch all remain committed to ensuring that the clothing Forever 21 sells in its stores is made under lawful conditions.

For more on the fight against sweatshops, visit: http://www.etext.org/Politics/MIM/agitation/sweatshops/index.html
to work and may not be expelled, cannot be
made to starve or be put in danger of
losing his life through denial of his basic
allowances.

Mr. Langenberg strongly criticized the
Ministry of Finance’s hard line position
that it is the policy of the Dutch Cabinet
to provide any financial means to those
on the list of terrorists and the granting of
authorization would contravene the
cabinet policy.

And yet, Langenberg said, Justice
Minister Donner declared, when questioned
in parliament, that “in the end, the
government has to give a certain
welfare allowance because he (Prof.
Sison) may not be expelled. That is the
dilemma in which the law has put itself into.”

Langenberg stressed that, since Prof.
Sison is covered by the absolute protection
of Article 3 of the European Convention
on Human Rights (EVRM) and may
therefore not be expelled, he should be
granted a welfare allowance by the
COA. He referred to cases of many
Afghan refugees who continue to receive
allowances from the COA, despite their
being declared excluded from the
protection of the Refugee Convention.
Langenberg criticized the “head in the
sand” tactic of the defendant and its
“ostich policy”. He further asserted that
UN Security Council Resolution 1452 and
European Council Regulation 561/2003
should apply to Prof. Sison and the claim
of the Minister of Finance that they apply
only to Osama bin Laden, Al Qaeda and
the Taliban violates the purpose of the
UNSC’s resolution. It would mean that
Prof. Sison and others put on the terror
lists since 9/11 have less “humanitarian”
rights than Osama bin Laden and members
of the Taliban. He has rights to safety, he
has rights to be recognized, his
demized and branded a terrorist. His
life has been put in danger. All this and
the view of the Minister of Finance’s
representative that those who help him
are legally punishable are indications of a
Hitler-like fascism creeping into Dutch
society. He added that his lawyers had
already presented his position.

The presiding judge announced that
the Court would issue its decision within
four weeks.

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**Who is Jose Maria Sison?**

Prof. Sison helped found the Kabataan Makabayani (Youth Patriotic) in 1964 and led some of the first protests against American intervention in Vietnam—of particular relevance as the United States used the Philippines as a staging area for aggression in Southeast Asia.

He went on to found the Communist Party of the Philippines on December 26, 1968, the New People’s Army on March 29, 1969 and the National Democratic Front of the Philippines on April 24, 1973. The CPP, NPA and NDF continue to wage revolutionary armed struggle for national liberation from imperialism, for socialism, and against feudalism, imperialism, and crony capitalism. Under the pen name Amado Guerrero he wrote “Philippine Society and Revolution,” a concrete application of Maoist principles to the reality of the Philippines that remains a guiding document of the Philippine revolutionary movement.

Prof. Sison was imprisoned by the Marcos fascist regime from 1977 to 1986. He helped found the U.$.-puppet Aquino regime, exiled him. Dutch courts previously upheld his refugee status and granted his wife and son political asylum. While in exile, Sison has served as a political consultant to the revolutionary National Democratic Front of the Philippines in peace negotiations with the Government of the Republic of the Philippines. He also speaks and publishes articles in support of the revolutionary movement of the Philippines and against U.S. imperialism; he is a strong critic of the “war on terrorism” and the U.S. invasions of Afghanistan and Iraq.

To give their campaign to silence Prof. Sison the flimsiest of justifications, Philippine and American spy services and their media mouthpieces claim without evidence that Sison still heads the CPP. However, as the CPP puts it in a statement dated on page six, the Party’s collective leadership effectively operates in the consolidated revolutionary guerilla bases in the Philippines, safely out of the immediate reach and mischief by the US and local reactionary armed forces.”
Security: This time a lesson from the Netherlands

by PIRAO chief

On December 10th, Dutch government radio admitted that the Dutch government infiltrated or set up three organizations—the Marxist-Leninist Party and two friendship societies, one for Kampuchea and one for Albania. These organizations also did succeed in recruiting genuine members between 1969 and some date in the 1980s. Among other goals of the organizations set up by the Dutch spies was to obtain support from China, which the Dutch intelligence agencies claim they succeeded in doing. In the West, the governments deliver money to their lackeys running for election or serving as dictators around the world, even where it is illegal. On the other hand, the majority-exploiter governments make a big stink if China or some other competitor spends money on politics in their allegedly free countries that supposedly allows a free business competition that undermines their interests. This alone gives the lie to the “free world” often discussed by the Dutch and the rest of Western Europe and the United States. Infiltration by the state is especially damaging to communist and anarchist organizations, because people often join them because they detect the idea of secret services, so any talk of “fair play” in a “democracy” needs to be taken with a grain of salt.

Far more damaging to the international proletariat is the setting up of organizations where armed struggle is going on or about to happen. These organizations often do and should seek to divert the naïve where struggle has reached a certain level of intensity. Peru and Nepal have a plethora of parties, mostly because of the needs of the exploiters. Equally damaging is those instances of organizations that suddenly have major support in the imperialist countries arranged by the CIA. In Iraq, it is public knowledge that the “Communist Party USA” works with the U.S. puppet regime, (a case of minor support) but similar activities are also happening covertly in many third world countries. On the other hand, an additional complication is that sometimes the exploiters do briefly ally with the exploited when the exploiters are in a bad squeeze. The case of Germany sending Lenin back to Russia in a train car in World War I is an example. When there is a war going on, exploiting classes anywhere will not rule out that a faction of exploiters would ally with the exploited on fairly positive terms.

From the bourgeois point of view, the infiltration of communist groups serves dual purposes. One is to dam our efforts in those groups and the other is to prevent activity in the first place. As the people learn that communist organizations are infiltrated, they may give up trying to work with them. Even planting false stories of infiltration aids in this goal. In response, we Maoists have dual duties—one is not to deny enemy activity and the other is never to justify cynicism or paralysis of the exploited and oppressed.

Speaking of an eastern European comrade, Comrade Stalin said “what does he know?” in reference to the idea that there are no enemies in his party. De-classified documents also show that U.S. police infiltrated the Black Panther Party and went so far as to co-chair a Trotsky group. Likewise, in Kanada an organization of 2500 found itself infiltrated by agent provocateurs. In the imperialist countries unprepared for armed struggle, the enemy joins communist organizations and tries to police them into unprepared armed activity. Meanwhile, the imperialists carry out illegal act after illegal act through wars only to let off with impunity. While these infiltrators waste taxpayer money and risk others’ lives in an effort to provoke violence, they fail to arrest war criminals such as Henry Kissinger, Caspar Weinberger and Donald Rumsfeld.

In any case, the capitalist class continues to look for communist scapegoats in the majority-exploiter countries with the hope that the public will blame the communists for terrorism, war and everything else the imperialists are carrying out or causing to happen. The fact that the communists have no power and only the blame and the fact that even the Dutch intelligence agencies make it more plain that the so-called infiltrated communist organizations is a plus of the kind Mao referred to when he said it is good that the enemy attacks. The quality of movements under attack improves while the quantity dissipates. In countries like the Netherlands, the fair-weather types who avoid communist organizations would be from the petty-bourgeoisie anyway, so there is no real loss of contact with the “masses,” because of the intelligence agency activity.

As MIM pointed out in its 2004 Congress resolution, the enemy does set up entire organizations and it also takes small organizations and makes them transit points for huge operations dwarving anything the communist organizations in that country could dream of doing themselves. Nonetheless, we would never exchange our internal problems for those occurring in imperialist countries. War, imperialist rivalry and shady business competition that undermines the whole capitalist system without any communist’s lifting a finger. The hub of our problem is that just because the enemy sets up organizations favoring Stalin and Mao we cannot afford to abandon the principles of Stalin and Mao. Since we cannot always know precisely which organizations are fakes, and to what degree, it is important to approach this question in principle. We must establish principles to follow that take advantage of our strengths and emphasize the enemy’s weaknesses. If we succeed in doing this, it won’t matter if we do not precisely know which organizations or leaders are fakes and which are not, because in the long run our principles will guide us to getting that right in practice more often than not. For example, if we have a purge, and it throws out 100 people, the question is not how to be absolutely right about every single purged individual but how to be sure that overall the 100 thrown out damaged the enemy more than us. If we wait till we find payroll stubs for every enemy on CIA payroll we will lose for sure, because our ability to function in that realm is a relative matter. We need not be so idealistic with our principles. To be sure, they should not be so disgracefully unfair to the enemy, but given that we are up against a policy that disproportionately affects the spies and cops, we will win, and this is something that the party can do.

Crucially, we must teach our own movement the difference between discussions of historical origins and current concerns. This is also related to why ad hominem criticism is never right. It hardly matters if David Duke or a CIA spy says 2+2=4. 2+2=4 is still true. Likewise, the first Maoist organization in the Netherlands started with just spies. Nonetheless, there is no excuse for the Dutch to avoid Maoist principles. That is an example of how we have to distinguish between origins and line. This truth is also evident when we work it in reverse. People with good origins often end up quitting or otherwise betraying the movement. We would now set more emphasis on the psychological and individual to split up the strength of the globally exploited and oppressed. The enemy hopes that by targeting the leaders, there will be no one left who can implement Marxism-Leninism-Maoism. The enemy miscalculates and in sports terms there is no way that the proletariat and oppressed can lose unless they defeat themselves or if the bourgeoisie carries out internal war that destroys the planet—game over, called on account of destruction of the atmosphere. What do we do about potential counter-insurgency paralysis?

Contrary to some dreamers, there are always enemies in communist parties that have been around the block. Only parties just starting that no one has heard of yet can hope not to have enemies inside yet. People often join them because they detect the idea of secret services, so any talk of “fair play” in a “democracy” needs to be taken with a grain of salt.

5. Do not answer pig questions. People...
Good news, bad news on MIM's central task

December, 2004
Central Task Report
by PIRAO Chief
December 9, 2004
MIM’s central task: “to create public opinion and the independent institutions of the oppressed to seize power.”

Overall
This month we continue to fail in our primary goal of advancing the number of users. Also, as arranged at our 2004 Congress, we eat back the November and December MIM Notes. Meanwhile, our art users only recovered to their 2002 levels.

On the prisons front we have bad news and good news. The bad news is that there was no money to distribute papers into prison. Some comrades have stepped forward to keep MIM Notes aloof, but funding for prison distribution is just coming on line now. In the past, I have taken the blame for prison distribution, but in this case I will not argue. I could say I should do more of X work instead of Y work or allocate resources differently, but then I would be here making a false self-criticism for a shortage somewhere else, such as in MIM Notes printing. It would also encourage people to have overly inflated ideas about MIM’s resources.

The good news in prisons is that we continue to right a historic wrong in relations between the lumpen and the middle classes. By this I mean that MIM was always strong in prisons, but the people outside prison walls were not paying much attention. Articles taken in just the prison subsection of our agitation page increased at a 136% annual rate this November.

On an even brighter note, this month had solid growth in our second-most important goal, pages taken. With 76% annual growth in files taken per day, we are almost on target with our Five Year Plan for that goal. Concretely, it means that right now, we average over 250 articles taken per hour of each day.

MIM Notes distribution
We have a report of independent MIM Notes distribution in Toronto which we do not include in the statistics. As we have pointed out before, the .pdf files are available on our web page. Anyone can print them and distribute them. To learn how to do that and do it once is the major hurdle for any comrade learning distribution. And hence the need to work on increasing their frequency of distribution per year. Learn to do big distribution of MIM Notes by doing it.

Realistically, it takes on the order of $1000 to be able to print a substantial quantity of newspapers. For many people, that $1000 is another hurdle. Yet, knowing what the problem is is also helpful. The money problem is just another reason we of the proletarian line are the underdog. If we cannot arrange $1000, we should work on earning a living more efficiently and examine our consumer choices—apartments that are too expensive often being a culprit. Some people would be dramatically better off buying a house and paying a mortgage instead of a rent. Only the children, senior citizens, disabled and prisoners really have a good reason in the majority-exploiter countries for not being able to raise printing money. The rest of us need to think about it. This is our attitude toward any resource question.

It’s not enough to enjoy reading MIM. Whenever we say “can’t do it” to ourselves, we have to realize we just learned something. We are not Buddhist monks: Buddhism is not a simple system, devoid of material influences. On the contrary, our problem is to obtain all kinds of resources, not to say “we don’t have it,” and then purify our minds. Working with a vanguard party in the majority-exploiter countries is much like being a businessperson in files that need to be distributed. A manager is more important than actual level of distribution over periods of days and maybe weeks or months.

The proletarian class obviously must improve greatly to rule, so improvement is more important than actual level of political work accomplished. We could become demoralized thinking how the bourgeois papers publish their garbage daily or even by how the MIM publishes twice a month. That would be the totally wrong way of looking at the question. The right way is to take a step toward improvement and focus on the one’s own progress in contributing to the communist movement. One should take this MIM-recommended road, because imperialism is going to do itself in and because the Third World proletariat is going to assert its interests eventually. The more than five billion people on the bottom will take power from the other billion or fewer people. In the meantime while this huge historical trend is asserting itself, we...
Security: This time a lesson from the Netherlands

Continued from page 5...

asking your name, address, occupation, age, race, education level, hair color etc.—any of these—could be innocent or not. Often people have no idea why they could be cops. There is no reason to take a chance. Nice people should learn not to ask pig questions—ever. Whether people are too inept not to carry this out or whether they are cops hardly matters to the party: such people need to be written off.

6. Politically cut down the psychologists, individualists, geographic opportunists and Liberal pragmatists. a) Psychologists are interested in your personal motivations. So are cops. Alleged Marxists who cannot distinguish between questions of motivations and lifestyle are going to lose weight—no matter what. b) Psychologists of all kinds make police work out more often than not—likely as they are. Foreigners take over the more dangerous duties for the simple reason that what they do makes more money. We need to consider the political importance of this. The majority-exploiter secret services were the first to espouse many sorts of original sin. There are good and bad individualists. There are good and bad Marxist principles. Because of this we do not obtain the luxury of saying Maoist principles are wrong! First we have to pick our cardinal principles. Then we have to think about how to make life harder for spies and cops.

Lastly, the above speaks of a process of purges and demarcation regarding membership and affiliation practices. Yet it also worth stressing that no purge, no diss and no cop/spy activity ever justifies giving up work against imperialism and imperialist militarism. People who intended to be genuine or who were just thinking through something may find themselves wrongly “written off” or purged. Such people will continue political work and not use the accidents of struggle as an excuse to discontinue work. There are widely varying levels of working with or inside communist parties.

Examples of successful action in the Dutch case: money for the cause from genuine comrades ended up going right to the Dutch secret services, thus serving to discourage anyone attempting to organize a communist party in the future despite Dutch pretensions to “freedom.” Likewise, it is now public that the CIA/USA” was FBI; although the FBI allowed both deposits and withdrawals for political purposes.

In some cases, the enemy is taking the efforts of hundreds or thousands of people and wasting it. In other cases, the enemy is just watching activity while fishing for bigger game. If the Mafia is watching us for cardinal questions.

When we emphasize putting the ball in the hole, instead of psychological talk and investigation of “origins,” we are going to foil the attempts of the enemy to waste our activity. For example, PIRAO recently reported that Toronto and vicinity is the most important of MIM Notes. This particular distribution would foil any possible attempt at sabotage, because the person in charge took the MIM Notes from the web site and printed and distributed it him/herself. In other words, distributing it him/herself. In other words, you just have to put the ball in the hole themselves like Toronto did, we have to say, yes, there is the chance the enemy will sabotage your contribution, but there is also a chance your contribution will do good. In the end, the proletariat wins.

We should not get lost in its scale and instead focus on improving our own activities. Something we have stressed is that MIM is not Burger King. We don’t have a professional staff and the number of jobs needed for the revolutionary movement are infinite in variety and intensity, at least as complex as a machine. So we would not encourage a consumer ethos. In picking one’s politics, it is very important. People who get in the early wave and MIM. In every newbie’s political life, the hurdle of commitment involving money is very important. People who get in the habit in their teens or twenties of giving money get on the right track. Others often never commit political activism despite years of discussion. On the other hand, newbies are going to read stories like this true story about the Dutch. In addition, there will be geographic opportunists and pragmatists telling newbies not to “trust” certain people based on various ad hoc reasons. We need to use this individualist schlock. Separating facts that will also involve being able to distinguish between petty-bourgeois vehemence for narrow-minded pet peevings and proletarian militance. The bourgeoisie Liberals dressed in ultra-left or militant clothing can cause paralyzation by spreading the most corrosive liberal ideas. The liberal ideas are as is the situation generally in the international Communist movement. We need to do this. We need to take more chances than the bourgeois. The imperialist system is doomed.

Note: http://www2.rnw.nl/rnw/en/currentaffairs/region/netherlands/041210canl

Task report

From previous page... should not get lost in its scale and instead we should focus on improving our own activities.

Corresponding attitude toward the party

Something we have stressed is that MIM is not Burger King. We don’t have “have it your way.” We don’t have a professional staff and the number of jobs needed for the revolutionary movement are infinite in variety and intensity, at least as complex as a machine. So we would not encourage a consumer ethos. In picking one’s politics.

It’s not a question of “shopping” for a party or dumping jobs on the party and seeing how it does. These are the sorts of passive activities that imperialist consumer society encourages both at home and at work. How often we have heard “the party does not do (fill in the blank).” It would be like “I don’t buy that gadget, because I need 60 watts instead of 40.” That is wrong and the correct way to choose a party out-of-power and without control of base areas is as is the situation generally in the international Communist movement. We need to do this. We need to take more chances than the bourgeois. The imperialist system is doomed.

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Quick-witted children live among mentally disturbed adults in an imperialist country

**Review: Lemony Snicket's A Series of Unfortunate Events**

Directed by Brad Silberling

Paramount Pictures, 2004

Reviewed by a contributor

“Lemony Snicket’s A Series of Unfortunate Events” is based on the first few books of Lemony Snicket a.k.a. Daniel Handler’s ongoing fiction “Series of Unfortunate Events,” which deals with the adventures of the three Baudelaire orphans. “A Series of Unfortunate Events” has been compared to J. K. Rowling’s “Harry Potter” series in terms of popularity with children, but has received much less press. A large number of movie viewers may become new Lemony Snicket fans after seeing the movie, which has a bearing on the movie’s impact.

Although this review is not particularly interested in how “Unfortunate Events” compares with the books artistically, the movie is supposedly similar to the books. Someone mysteriously burned down the Baudelaires’ lavish mansion and killed their wealthy parents. The orphans’ distant relative Count Olaf doggedly pursues the children, trying to take their inheritance. It seems that he was somehow involved in the arson. Each of the orphans is “smart” or “talented.” Violet is good at inventing gadgets; she’s like MacGyver. Klaus is good at absorbing information from books. Sunny excels at bitting things, and in the movie, she can speak “baby” fluently, or think complex thoughts. (The movie captions Sunny’s (the baby) mumbling as “babble talk with wibby subtitles, which is supposed to be funny.)

“Lemony Snicket’s A Series of Unfortunate Events” is definitely not the first conical or satirical movie in which a child character resists a disliked adult who, despite his or her good intentions, gets involved in ridiculous antics. For example, looking back way back, there is Jean Vigo’s “Zéro de conduite” (1933). Of course, there is the whole “Home Alone” series (1990, 1992, 1997, 2002). Other recent movies of this kind include “Max Keeble’s Big Move” (2001). However, few movies are as thorough as “Unfortunate Events” in portraying adults as being dim-witted compared with children.

Even Lemony Snicket’s (Jude Law) antics are ridiculous compared with Klaus (Liam Aiken) and Violet’s (Emily Browning) seriousness and sober-mindedness. He pretends to be writing down a true story, but he is way too excited. The movie pauses its bringing-to-life of Lemony Snicket’s story to show Lemony Snicket himself; while doing this, it distracts from the seriousness of the dialogs. Without important or given to care; the orphan children have to take care of each other, but Klaus and Violet are successful in taking care of Sunny. This reflects a reality that many persons in the united states are familiar with: the decay of some forms of childcare under patriarchy, without the emergence of alternative forms of childcare that are further away from patriarchy, and signs that there are alternatives to biological parents’ parenting their own children only.

The Baudelaires are English, but in the real world, after imperialism is overthrown, oppressed nationalities whose cultures are especially may experience a restoration of patriarchial forms of childcare while patriarchy is still being destroyed. For example, imperialism causes some children in the internal semi-colonies of the united states to become orphans. Without imperialism, there may be fewer orphans, but temporarily more children in patriarchal childcare in nuclear families.

Certain patriarchal forms may resurge after imperialism is destroyed, but patriarchy will still need to be destroyed. This includes the practice of placing orphaned children with relatives even though they may be abusive. “Unfortunate Events” deserves praise for trying to illustrate painfully—Olaf slaps Klaus across the face at one point—that there will be no end to child abuse while the institution of childhood, and patriarchy more generally, remains.

Count Olaf is after the Baudelaires’ inheritance, and the movie does not question class and patriarchal practices of inheritance, but it is not so much that the children want to keep the inheritance for themselves. Legally, the children have to die before Count Olaf can get the money. They may just be trying to survive. Olaf relies on different kinds of force, intimidation and threats to control Klaus, Sunny, and Violet, and other persons’ actions and hate for children effectively protect Olaf, but the Baudelaires repeatedly outsmart Olaf, even Sunny. The point here is not that infants are capable of deceiving adults, but rather, that infants, too, are oppressed under patriarchy since gender oppressors obtain benefits from infants through a system that subjects children to violence and servitude. “Unfortunate Events” illustrates this in such a way, it is able to take advantage of Sunny’s small size. It may be given that Olaf will go for the most vulnerable child, but he repeatedly calls Sunny a “monkey” to demean her. Later, he puts her in a cage. What Olaf thinks about children is a condition of his actions toward them.

Like so many other movies that feature child characters, “Unfortunate Events” represents or misrepresents a particular aspect of children’s oppression under patriarchy without even trying to portray what children have in common socially. For example, just looking at the movie, it is hard to imagine that Klaus (a boy, nearly a teenager), Sunny (baby) and Violet (a young teenage girl) have anything in common as children. No other child characters appear in the movie. “Unfortunate Events” does go a little bit further than other movies by suggesting that the Baudelaire orphans all have something in common, and maybe even that they are children “against the world” of stupid grown-ups, but the children are supposed to be talented and unique, that is, different from other children. So, Klaus, Sunny, Violet are exceptional. However, “Unfortunate Events” does do a little bit to show how children in general can survive despite, and because of, adults’ mental illnesses. In the presence of his troupe, Olaf scolds Klaus and Violet for not making roast beef for dinner, as if he could afford roast beef, but he plainly lives in a dilapidated, unkempt mansion. Also, Olaf seems to be oblivious to the fact that he’s himself an actor, and just presenting himself in leading roles. Some kind of mental disturbance may be a cause of Olaf’s brandishing a knife to threaten the children. Olaf is intimidating, but at relatively likable Uncle Monty’s place, he is extremely careless with his disguise and is explicitly less aggressive and behaves more like an impostor. Olaf’s lack of self-control poses a risk to the Baudelaires, but is also a weakness that they take advantage of.

In the real world, the mental abilities of some parasites living in imperialist citadels are decaying for different reasons. (This doesn’t necessarily appear as “mental illness.”) To the extent that this deterioration of mental abilities, and this descent to lower modes of thinking like sentimentalism or what-feels-good subjectivism, worsens as metropolitan imperialist-country parasites get older, the possibility is raised that some oppressor-nation children will dictate to oppressor-nation adults—and particularly that oppressed-nation children will dictate to oppressor-nation adults. This is in top of the fact that children are gender-oppressed and have an objective basis to support the revolution in different ways, whereas the majority of oppressor men and women, who are exploiters and gender oppressors, do not. Although “Unfortunate Events” does not deal with revolution, it is interesting to see the Baudelaires orphans take matters into their own hands because they think they know better than the crazies, fools and idiots surrounding them. It is not so much that stupidity (whatever this means) is peculiar to gender oppressors like adults in oppressor nations. On the contrary, adults may have a sort of monopoly on cognitive development because of the social exclusion of children in so many different ways—but children ought to be encouraged to recognize their differences with other persons and take important...
Snicket

From previous page...

matters into their own hands if the supervising adults refuse to change their management ideals.

It is possible to tease out these themes further, but overall, “Unfortunate Events” deserves a neutral rating for doing little to change the status quo. Some of this has to do with the fact that there is so much bullshit in this fantasy movie to wade through to get to anything meaningful. Also, the movie undermines its own best elements. For example, Aunt Josephine’s various fears seem irrationally especially when her house’s foundation is built onto the face of a cliff above Lake Lachrymose, but her seemingly irrational fears about unlikely home accidents turn out to be premonitions; the idea is that Aunt Josephine wasn’t that crazy after all. The Baudelaires aren’t enthusiastic about accompanying eccentric Uncle Monty on his trip to Peru and seem to feel that people are pushing them around, which alludes to a certain reality under patriarchy by which children are pressurized into a restricted group of households, usually relatives’, but Lemony Snicket suggests that sticking with Uncle Monty would have been ideal for the Baudelaires. The Baudelaire mansion was defunct and seems to have been deserted. The movie seems to portray the Baudelaire mansion as located in what looks like a suburb in industrial England. In the “Harry Potter” movies (2001, 2002, 2004), there is at least a sense of how the witches and wizards’ fantastical inventions came to exist (by magic), and there is a more or less clear separation between the Muggle world, which looks like the real world, and the wizard world. In “Unfortunate Events,” it is difficult to discern any history behind the simultaneous existence of Olaf’s power door locks and Mr. Poe’s “car stereo”: a bulky audio tape reel player.

In “Unfortunate Events,” no attempt is made to explain the fantastical inventions and fantastical situations; they’re simply there. While “Harry Potter” and “Unfortunate Events” may both be products of idealism, “Unfortunate Events” makes no effort to ground its fantasticism in any reality, not even a fictional one. As a result, it encourages idealism and brainwashes people looking for patterns in objective reality that are based on history. Sequels to “Unfortunate Events” may explain some of the stranger elements of the movie, but as it stands, the movie’s redeeming elements have the context of a fantasy world.

“Unfortunate Events” is very dream-like, but real childhood is a nightmare in which children are coerced, silenced, terrorized, and made to be fearful. The victimization of children is not a consequence of just incompetent or malicious caretakers, but will happen as long as children as a group are oppressed under patriarchy. It is doubtful that the adults and even the children who laugh at Klaus, Sunny and Violet’s expense will understand this after leaving the theater.

Task report

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work with MIM is realizing that one likes bourgeois ideology and does not want to waste MIM’s time. There are all sorts of alternatives to MIM ranging from Republican to Trotskyist organizations. MIM is not asking for votes or for trust. Because what we have to accomplish is different than what Burger King or John Kerry attempt to accomplish and because we do not have the bourgeois resources sufficient to simply replace the government, we must focus on continuous improvement by taking up self-reliance. The exploited and oppressed camp must have a different outlook than Burger King and other businesses serving consumers. “Ask not what the party can do for you but what you can do to create public opinion and the independent institutions of the oppressed” should be our motto.

Part of adopting the right approach is puncturing myths about the party. For example, PIRAO is defunct. I’m still here, but I and other comrades are busy with such a wide range of things that for all practical purposes concerning the outsider, PIRAO is defunct. Now, some people will react by becoming discouraged. Others will see the party as underdog status. Part of my job is to report on this accountably, so people will know our strengths and weaknesses. Though we are in a weak position, other organizations and activists do not issue reports as regularly and accountable as we do. So my point is not to say we are inactive, only that for practical purposes PIRAO is defunct.

Originally, we had hoped PIRAO would serve as an organization for people under the tightest discipline. As one might think, that is not our strong suit in the majority-exploiter countries. Yet, as it stands we do not have the leadership to implement even partially some aspects of the PIRAO concept for people willing to do disciplined work or for people who need disciplined structure. That is up to you, our reader to become PIRAO leaders.

PIRAO has attempted to communicate throughout the movie that it’s like to do work that we call “infrastructural” as opposed to direct public opinion or theory writing.

MIM holds no base areas or government power. That’s a key point in understanding what kind of accountability applies to MIM. Again, if one thinks there is some kind of huge stash of centrally-located resources that need to be employed, that is not the case, at least not right now.

Although we have more readers than any other organization in the English-speaking world calling itself “communist,” we also reach our limits and that is also an example of puncturing myths. For example, why are we stuck at around 40,000 readers, I do not know. That could just be our limits as individuals here, so it’s encouraging to see a deeper readership. Perhaps the deepening of readership will lead to people’s making contributions to the struggles that will get MIM out of this rut, if not now, then by steady improvement, soon enough.

In fact, the readership this month was on the web page and our readership. The number of files taken increased 61% in one year and that is a major accomplishment by comrades submitting their articles and other web files. Of course, MIM does all that by going through a political weeding-out process. We have proved that it is possible to oppose all opportunism and come up with big numbers.

There is not a single “job” that the party center does that it always did. MIM comrades printed first and then became journalists, editors and graphics workers. MIM also did not have the money, transportation and other resources and skills that it has now.

The good thing about the way the MIM web page is set up is that people can arrange their own printings and distribution and not “trust” the party. The party has more than earned “trust,” but in the most important senses, “trust” is not an important question. We encourage everyone to keep their eyes on “impact.” Decide for yourself if you like what MIM Notes says and whether you “trust” the party or not, do something to distribute MIM Notes if you like it. That’s what we mean by keeping the eye on “impact.”

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 work. 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 not only 60.5% after 50 turns. In other words, a seemingly small one percent 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.
Under Lock & Key
News from Prisons & Prisoners
Violence in Oregon

Recently some violence occurred at theSnake River Correctional Institution. Due to differences between some inmates, it created a situation that could have been avoided. It is for this reason I would like to address the great need for unity, and what unity through the ages has done for small groups of people.

Everyone knows, or should know, that the prison finance system, the justice system, is presently popularized to be part of the public on television or in most books. The justice system in this country nowadays bases its decisions largely on community opinion. If a decision to be made by a court might be right and just but contrary to popular ideology, more often than not, the court will rule in light of what commercial society would think.

The reason the prison population isn’t noticed as a force of intelligence because a portion of this population is more concerned with looking good to their friends, getting caught up in the rumor mill, and extorting from the weak. Most of those involved in this are more intelligent than that, but let peer pressure take over their common sense and their depth of humanity. Those who are oppressed by other inmates are usually highly intellectual people with the knowledge and resources to assist the inmate oppressors in areas important to their (and our) cause. The extorted don’t fear the ability to help others, rather they crave it, but instead fear the extorters’ actions after a completed task. Without unity the officials of the prisons, cities, and the country will forever oppress the little man.

Throughout world history, smaller bands of people have united together to form one mighty force to impress upon the tyrants of the era their human need to be heard and treated as a people equal to that of any other in the world... Brothers and sisters, it is time to put away childish ways of thinking and see who the real battle is against. It is time to become a new kind of society. Each one of our prisons has a wealth of resources at its disposal. The American government wants prison reform? Let’s give it to them. It doesn’t take violence, not in our lifetime.

Prisoners can use their minds to achieve a goal, as long as they know what that goal is. We have a goal, people. How long are you going to sit on your hind ends and let others decide what time you go to bed, wake up, and shower. Contrary to what many may be thinking, it doesn’t have to be done with violence against each other.

Many people feel angry about some of the immoral crimes some have done to the point of hating for those people. You might ask yourself how you are to deal with that in these times. Hate is an emotion/feeling that takes a lot of mental energy. These energies can be put to better use in other areas. The point is that hate for other inmates could be what is keeping a lot of our warriors in chains. At first it is hard to put into practice, but, like other abilities, it gets easier and easier.

Violence against fellow captives is what the autocrats want. They depend on this to show the unknowing public how ‘dangerous’ their ‘jobs’ are. When, in truth, they are nothing more than glorified George Jetsons who push the buttons and keep on running while the real people don’t have to be this way. Oppression is right in the faces of every locked-up person banned from society.

For those at SRCI, one inmate who became upset because those in charge of scheduling television viewing kept forgetting to schedule his favorite program, wrote to the Oregonian newspaper when the institution was going to be transferred. The prisoners informed SRCI could only host PG-rated movies. Our anger towards each other is pointless while being held within. There will be other times for violence. While in prison it only defeats our purposes. This has been taking place. There will be a time for the actions that one may feel violent and just. But, for our goals, it is not now. This is your call to arms where the weapons are pens and intelligence. That is, unless you like being thought of as a stupid misfit shunned by an uncaring capitalist society.

—An Oregon Prisoner, October 2004

Prison Abuse in Iraq and U.S.

I greet you in strength. I received MIM Notes, it was absolutely refreshing to read a political diatribe on the imperialist and the current epoch, i.e., imperialism. The newly exposed torture and abuse of Iraqi prisoners at the hands of agents of the bourgeoisie, in which some were revealed to be correctional officers in the U.S., has created a new opportunity. I think as a movement we have an opportunity to galvanize and create genuine consciousness as to the culture of oppression that has been taking place in this country for decades. I think a tactic that can be applied is to show the bourgeoisie domestic policy of prisoner oppression and continued sanctioning of this policy by government officials and the judicial system and how they extended this policy to the rest of humanity. History will not forgive revolutionaries for not making use of the concrete material conditions in relation to the continuous ignominious subjugation of the proletariat.

It will take a constant vigorous explanation and revealing of the hundreds of thousands of episodes of torture and abuse sanctioned by the state against prisoners in the country. There has to be a real pressure on the bourgeoisie media machine in such a way that they don’t gloss over or pusillanimously report on this condition. It may be idealist to focus on the bourgeoisie media machine, but I think they have a use. The key is to make impossible for the media machine to ignore the humongous nature of the bourgeois foreign and domestic policy in the treatment of prisoners.

—Virginia prisoner May 2004

MIM responds: The bourgeoisie media can freely ignore prison abuse in this country, until the public knows about it from other sources. It would be idealistic to base our strategy on the goal of getting the bourgeois media to carry the proletariat’s message. Instead, we build MIM Notes, our website and other publications as independent institutions of the oppressed. True, media exposure may be a result of our victories, but it is not their cause. To expose the prison abuse and torture that you refer to, we continuously publish reports on conditions in American prisons — and their connection to the torture in Iraq and around the world. For example, we publish this report from prison in Virginia control unit. It’s our job to get this information into the hands of other prisoners and concerned readers on the outside, to build public opinion against imperialism.

Texas prison system oppression and waste

Greetings to all my brothers and sisters in the struggle for justice and peace. I’m writing to you from one of Amerikka’s Texas Gulags, straight from the pit of hell, where Satan’s demons run this system — the Nazi Greys shirts; where innocent men and women are put to death on the Texas Concentration Camp death row; where men are murdered, beaten, and worked like dogs in their sweatshops, without pay.

We work years to stay out of trouble to earn what is called “good time and live class,” and then one mistaken decision can take all that away. A lot of times the cases are bogus. These officers can lie about anything.
and their word is always taken as right, but no matter what we say we’re found guilty, and we never win on the grievance process.

I’m doing time for giving one of these Nazi Greyshirts a black eye eight years ago. But they can murder, and do everything else illegal, and never see one day in jail. Texas is not the only corrupt system; this whole government is sick and corrupted. Our very own prison system can be heroes for only killing hundreds of thousands, but it’s not murder what he does? I do time for a black eye while all my loved ones stand by waiting for me to come home. I came down when I was 22 years old and I’ll soon be 33. All these years of my life gone.

All I can say is I’m with all of you in spirit and heart in this great struggle. One day I’ll be able to be on the streets and help if I can, but until then I can only write and say, “March on brothers and sisters and stay strong. The ones who keep the fight will prevail in the end.”

— A Texas Prisoner, May 2004

MIM responds: Thank you for your letter. When they impose a definition of crime under which you are in prison while the president is in his hot tub in Crawford, they not only do an injustice to you and your family and community, they also waste the vast human resources of millions of people who should be doing meaningful work for the people. And beyond that, they actively block those prisoners who are attempting to improve their lives from getting the education they need. See the letter below.

No library or education allowed in Texas

I have always had mixed feelings about the way America treats other countries. The politicians think they can just invade any country, go in, take over, and tell them what to do, while they sit in Washington collecting kickbacks.

I have talked with a couple other people so far and they want to learn more of your views. I would like some history books and political books about Lenin and Stalin for starters if they are available. I read most of the time but all I can get here are sci-fi and fantasy, mostly from other prisoners. They closed down the library after the librarian retired and only let people in school go to it. I have to work in the kitchen 8 hours a day and have too much education for them to put me in school [presumably a high school degree—ed.]

I am in prison for the second time for burglary. I need stability in my life and education, but denies them education, but denies them access to libraries when they seek to educate themselves even after working all day. Let’s purge this system with its insane and oppressive practices, and build a new justice system, as part of a new just society that prevents crime against all people using the vast resources of the oppression for the public good rather than the enrichment of the imperialists and their lackeys.

Organizing against control units in Indiana

Revolutionary Greetings! I haven’t been able to communicate in a while because I’ve been busy with my court preparation and we are currently in a prison lock-down. I hope the included signatures help out with the struggle.

If you have any extra copies of the Anti SHU petition can you send them to me? I have some comrades that would like to send them to the outside and get them on the streets.

— An Indiana prisoner, August 2004

California Prison Guards: the real danger

I’ve come to a place that’s not dangerous because of the inmates, it’s dangerous because of the guards. Don’t get me wrong, ya do have some wacked people in here. But the people that are supposed to be overseeing ya safety are the ones putting your life in danger. If they don’t like me they can put a knife in my cell. If they don’t like me I can fall out and have a seizure in this cell. They’ll provoke you in a way that they actually want you to put hands on them. These are the folks who are supposed to be overseeing me. It’s just like the police on the street. Ain’t nothing different.

— A California prisoner, November 2004

California: Punishment for sagging pants

Folsom prison has its own rules and has been under investigation for corruption. There was one situation where a young Black brother was sagging his pants. Now the procedural way to deal with such a minor offense is to issue a verbal warning and if that fails the progressive discipline begins. However, in this whole system didn’t huston, instead his cell was searched and all appliances were removed. That night they sat in darkness! I hooked up a cookies complaint form and filled it out to the rest up him. People are afraid of reprisal.

— A California prisoner, November 2004

Lifers: get involved in the fight

As a lifer in the state of New York, I feel there is not much being done in the fight for good time for lifers. By saying this, I don’t mean to offend the few organizations that are fighting on our behalf. As lifers, I feel we need to become more involved in the fight for good time and get our families involved as well. Little do we know that our families hold some kind of power. Just imagine if all of our families were to come together and speak out against this fucked up justice system. They’d leave the government no choice but to listen. I’m speaking that when this comes to life, we’re going to have to make that happen. The only way we’re going to be able to make that happen is by coming together and fighting against this fucked up justice system. Fighting against this until we come, we’re going to have to make that change happen. I’m speaking that when this comes to life, we’re going to have to make that happen. The only way we’re going to be able to make that happen is by coming together and fighting against this system. Fighting against this system and making that happen is by coming together and fighting against this screwed up justice system.

The war on Iraq should open our eyes to what’s in store for us. This government will kill kids and women to accomplish their goals. Their goals are to accomplish what Hitler failed to. Do we have to go back to the same war and fight against this. They’d lose time and get our families involved as well. All we need to do is make the change happen. I’m speaking that when this comes to life, we’re going to have to make that happen. The only way we’re going to be able to make that happen is by coming together and fighting against this. They’d lose time and get our families involved as well. All we need to do is make the change happen.

— A New York Lifer, June 2004

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

To find a comparison with U.S. imprisonment of Black people, there is no statistic in any country that compares including apartheid South Africa of the era before Mandela was president. The last situation remotely comparable to the situation today was under Stalin during war time. The majority of prisoners are non-violent offenders(4) and the U.S. Government now holds about a half million more prisoners than permanent designated prisons or cells in prisons that lock prisoners up in solitary or small group confinement for 22 or more hours a day with no congregate dining, exercise or other services, and virtually no programs for prisoners. Prisoners are placed in control units for extended periods of time. These units cause both mental and physical harm to prisoners.

Write to us to request a petition to collect signatures. Send us information about the time. These units cause both mental and physical harm to prisoners.

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Fact of a successful release program?

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Notas Rojas
enero 2005, Nº 312  Fragmento del Periódico Oficial del Movimiento Internacionalista Maoista  Gratis

Bush reitera lo mismo: es posible un aumento de tropas en Irak

Escrito por mim3@mim.org y mousounya

Traducido por Célidas de Luna para la Liberación de Aztlan y América Latina

El 24 de mayo, Bush salió en la tele con el fin de preparar al público para las semanas y los meses que tocan en Irak. “Nuestros comandantes han estimado que menos de 115,000 tropas resultarán suficientes en este momento del conflicto”, dijo Bush. “Dado el reciente crecimiento de la violencia, mantendremos el actual nivel de tropas -138,000- por el tiempo que sea necesario”.

“Si los comandantes necesitan más tropas”, dijo Bush, “las mandaré”. (1) El mismo día el senador demócrata Joe Lieberman se puso del lado del presidente diciendo en el CNN que la guerra en Irak era “una prueba generacional”. En vez de señalar que esta guerra ha fomentado el odio hacia el imperialismo estadounidense, Lieberman declaró que habría más ataques en el suelo estadounidense si las tropas no se quedan en Irak.

Mientras tanto, los senadores Hillary Clinton (D-NY) y Lindsey Graham (R-SC) hicieron un llamado abogando por unas “fuerzas militares más amplias”. Hillary Clinton expresó dudas en cuanto al financiamiento de las mismas pero dijo que no había otra opción. (2) Es posible que Grahan vea la guerra como una oportunidad de trabajo para los blancos jóvenes rurales de su estado, ya que Carolina del Sur ha perdido muchos puestos de trabajo, pero se niega a implementar cambios.

Los múltiples escándalos alrededor del tema de torturas de los prisioneros en Irak y Afganistán significan que otros imperialistas como la ONU están en una mejor posición para negociar. En este momento los gobernantes estadounidenses están tratando de aparentar flexibles ante el público. Nosotros pensamos que esta apariencia se dirige más que nada hacia la opinión pública estadounidense, y no tanto hacia otros líderes estatales.

La diplomática de Hillary Clinton, Madeleine Albright, dijo que apreciaba el reconocimiento del valor de la ONU por parte de Bush el 24 de mayo. El hecho de que Bush esté dispuesto a fomentar las ilusiones de la población electoral demócrata indica que existe una unidad bipartidista.

El MIM anticipa la introducción de un servicio militar obligatorio después de las elecciones a menos que los iraquíes u otros luchadores del Medio Oriente obtengan una enorme victoria militar o a menos que haya una desesperada lucha radical en contra del servicio militar obligatorio durante los meses que vienen. Por el momento parece que la posibilidad de sacar a EE.UU. de Irak es mejor que nunca. (1) Bush está “recibiendo palizas” a nivel internacional y hasta cierto punto dentro de EE.UU.; (2) Bush y Blair aparecieron ante la ONU buscando una bendición para la ocupación. Hay que enfatizar que si bien es cierto que EE.UU. están recibiendo palizas militares y latigazos verbales por parte de la opinión pública internacional, y que pronto Bush se enfrentará a las elecciones, es posible que dicha búsquedas del apoyo de la ONU tenga como su meta una consolidación de la opinión pública estadounidense con respecto al tema del servicio militar obligatorio. A los imperialistas les gusta decir que ellos “hicieron un intento” con la ONU y fallaron, de modo que necesitan implementar un servicio militar obligatorio. (Desde nuestro punto de vista, no es que el Tío Sam decidió arruinar el país mediante gastos de déficit para expandir las fuerzas militares o implementar el servicio militar obligatorio. De cualquier manera el imperialismo estadounidense está condenado a ser parte del basurero de la historia. Cuanto más luchan los iraquíes y los afganos, menos eficaces serán los mercenarios que llevaron a cabo reclutamientos.”

Los imperialistas las jugaran de las cartas que podrán jugar la Liga Árabe, una asociación de lacayos gobiernos independientemente. El 23 de mayo, los lacayos árabes sugirieron la idea de mandar tropas a Irak como parte de la fuerza internacional respaldada por la ONU. (3) Un milagro diplomático llevaría tropas árabes a Irak, y Bush podría lanzar un grito de victoria para las elecciones de noviembre.

Nosotros pensamos que es muy probable que todos estos esquemas se implementen con el fin de demostrar al público estadounidense que Bush “hizo el intento”, y de darles a los senadores Clinton y Lieberman las excusas que necesitan para respaldar diseños más agresivos. Es posible que Inglaterra sea uno de los pocos países que se nieguen a contribuir muchas tropas a los imperialistas estadounidenses. Un 66% del público electoral inglés se opone a que se manden ni siquiera 3000 tropas más a Irak. (4) Los imperialistas estadounidenses carecen de personal militar hasta tal grado que no son capaces de continuar sus operaciones ofensivas contra Irán, Siria o Corea del Norte. Cuatro hechos sobre los movimientos de tropas enemigas y la “estructura de sus tropas” demuestran por qué la capacidad militar de los imperialistas ha llegado al extremo, dada la ausencia de un reclutamiento militar obligatorio.

En primer lugar, las tres divisiones (alrededor de 50,000 soldados) recientemente retirados de Irak están clasificadas como “no disponibles para luchar”. (5) Hay que pensar que el reemplazo o se repare su armamento, en lo cual se tardarán unos cuantos meses, estas tropas no estarán disponibles para su uso en el extranjero. Estas divisiones han sido reemplazadas por reservistas y guardias nacionales. Cuál puede ser el alivio de menor entrenamiento y un armamento inferior estos soldados serán menos eficaces.

En segundo lugar, el enemigo ha tomado la decisión de retirar sus tropas del Corea del Sur para mandarlas a Irak, y no es para que los soldados del frente coreano obtengan una “auténtica” experiencia de combate. (6) La desesperación del enemigo es suficiente para que éste arriesgue un frente (Corea) por otro (Irak).

En tercer lugar, EE.UU. han empezado a buscar miembros de la Reserva Individual, en otras palabras, soldados que durante los últimos ocho años han estado en servicio activo o pasivo. Están sujetos a la posibilidad de ser movilizados a Corea del aviso, aunque no estén pasando por un entrenamiento junto con la guardia activa o unidades de la reserva pasiva. (7) Si bien los funcionarios frecuentemente se han negado a dar de baja a personal militar en servicio activo de acuerdo con el programa “poremos las pérdidas”, una activación de la Reserva Individual es el último paso que el gobierno puede dar para incrementar el número de tropas, si se evita la introducción del servicio militar obligatorio.

En cuarto lugar, EE.UU. también están planeando mandar a Irak sus unidades de entrenamiento de la fuerza de oposición (“OpFor”). (8) OpFor son los mejores soldados de las fuerzas militares. Su trabajo consiste en entrenar nuevas unidades de acuerdo con los estándares más altos. La presencia de estas unidades en Irak significa que los reclutas recién entrenados no tendrán ni idea sobre cómo pelear, de modo que logran a largo plazo (algunos de los mejores soldados de las fuerzas armadas en Irak) resultan en pérdidas a largo plazo (reclutas no entrenados que serán aplastados como moscas el año que viene, y sus compañeros fastidiosos o indispuestos a luchar terminarán matando a oficiales). Estos cuatro hechos indican que EE.UU. no tienen el personal adecuado para llevar a cabo sus planes, lo cual implica la introducción de un servicio militar obligatorio después de las elecciones, independientemente de que facción imperialista obtenga el poder estatal. El servicio militar obligatorio no es más que otra forma de opresión de los jóvenes, aún en países imperialistas. Los imperialistas estadounidenses se han dado cuenta de que no obtendrán apoyo material de los imperialistas alemes y franceses, y ni siquiera de la ONU. Los socios de un crimen que éste arriesgue un frente (Corea) por otro (Irak).

Estos hechos confirmarán la predicción del MIM de que los países imperialistas desesperadamente necesitan de recursos tercermundistas, terminarán expandiéndose más allá de su capacidad e involucrándose en difíciles guerras por recursos tercermundistas. El enemigo está cometiendo graves errores diarios. Pero nuestra victoria no será rápida: desafortunadamente, los imperialistas matarán a muchos proletarios antes de que sus errores estratégicos se manifiesten en sus propios países. Tenemos que minimizar nuestras pérdidas hasta el máximo grado posible mediante la organización de una resistencia a la guerra. No tendrán oponerse al imperialismo: la vida que Uds. salven puede ser la suya.

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