

MIM Notes



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The Official Newsletter of the Maoist Internationalist Movement (MIM)

Free

Criticism of ports deal shows a fascist side

ALITO SWORN IN AS JUSTICE

Euro-American nation's legal system continues to be a tool of national oppression

March 7, 2006

Former federal appeals court judge Samuel Alito was sworn in as a Supreme Court justice on January 31. Among other things, Alito is known for his ambiguous views on enforcing the "one man, one vote" principle in relation to what are called reapportionment and redistricting. The concept of "one man, one vote" has been important in situations where minority voters have been marginalized by giving other groups different kinds of advantages in government representation. Although MIM does not support voting in the multi-party imperialist political system in the United States, it is hypocritical and backward for the bourgeoisie and its allies to claim that being able to vote for a party of choice is superior to the dictatorship of the proletariat, but squelch minority voters repeatedly. The United States pretends to support multi-party democracy, but in reality it subverts multiparty democracy



in the United States, and in other capitalist countries, in various ways and even when all the parties are subservient to imperialism.

Struggles over reapportionment and redistricting that involve oppressed people are ongoing. Undocumented

migrants (as well as most prisoners with felony convictions, and even released ex-felons in some States) are unable to vote despite living and working in the United States. However, politicians from Ohio want to amend the

March 8, 2006

Since politicians and commentators in the major media began criticizing the DP World / P&O ports deal around mid-February, a peculiar line of reasoning has come to the fore in the United States among liberals and the so-called left. The line of reasoning has been articulated by people from Teamsters president James Hoffa to some opportunist white-nationalist groups calling themselves "socialist." It goes something like this: instead of threatening the civil rights of ordinary (read: white) Americans with things such as the Patriot Act and wiretapping, the Bu\$h administration should instead focus on port security and not let business interests cloud its judgement in the War on Terror. It is a familiar tune. Another variation on the theme is that the United States should go after the "real" terrorists and pick up the ball on Osama bin Laden. This time, however, Bu\$h's critics are justifying future warmongering against the United Arab Emirates and sometimes openly supporting a fascist-nationalist economic policy.

The initial reaction to the P&O deal at a time when very little concrete was understood showed an enormous amount of ignorance. Politicians talked about DB World "owning" ports. Also, politicians proposed that all security personnel at ports in the United States be U.S. citizens, repeating the idea that migrants, documented and undocumented, are a terrorist threat. Later, however, there were endless denunciations of big business, corporate agenda, "neoconservative cabals," and cronyism.

Ignorant and racist statements about the P&O deal gave some way to anti-corporate and even anti-capitalist rhetoric as the mainstream media started discussing the Bush administration and family's alleged financial connections to the United Arab Emirates. Of course, the idea of Bu\$h as a symbol of corporate interests is not new. But the question remains whether liberal and leftist criticisms of Bu\$h are simply just more political posturing against Republicans. A similar question concerns whether Republican criticisms of Bu\$h over the P&O deal are just a face-saving effort in the midst of an unpopular Republican

Bu\$h hypocrisy in South Asia

**Support People's War!
Oppose militarism!**

By HC93, March 2, 2006

Hundreds of thousands of people filled the streets across India starting last week, when President George Bush visited

India, to send a message to Bush that mass murderers are not welcome as guests of the Indian people.(1) According to the reactionary New York Times, which portrayed the Indian masses as supporters of "the current global terrorist

networks," protesters burned an American flag and spoke of Bu\$h as an enemy of the Indian people. All of this is happening in a country that had the highest

percentage of people with a positive view of the United States in a poll last year, one of only a few countries, among the countries covered by the poll, that had a majority favorable view of the United States.(2)

The people of India are right. The United States government is the number-one killer in the world today. Yet, in talks with Indian Prime Minister Manmohan Singh, Bu\$h had the nerve to state: "On Nepal we agreed that the Maoists should abandon violence and that the king should reach out to the political parties to restore democratic institutions."(3) The U.S. invasion of Iraq has killed almost as many people in one month in Baghdad as have

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Bu\$h hypocrisy in South Asia

From 1...

died in 10 years of People's War in Nepal.(4) That's not to let the imperialists off the hook for Nepal, where the violence is a direct result of their support for a reactionary feudal government. National Security Adviser Steve Hadley stated that Bush and Prime Minister Singh agreed to support the feudal god-king of Nepal against the Maoist People's War, while adding that they encourage god-king Gyanendra to "reach out and include the political opposition."(5)

In Afghanistan on Wednesday, March 1, Bush's mere presence put the lives of Afghans in Kabul at risk. Streets outside the Kabul Palace were closed. Helicopters circled overhead. One helicopter carrying White House reporters fired machine guns at an unknown target, according to mainstream media.(6) Indian rulers organized similar measures to protect Bush in India, where over 5,000 security personnel were employed.

In deals with Prime Minister Singh, Bu\$h is threatening to break u.\$ and international law by offering nuclear technology to India. Since India has not renounced nuclear weapons, or joined the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty, such an offer is illegal. India tested nuclear weapons as recently as 1998. Meanwhile, the united States, with its partner in imperialism, Great Britain, is currently updating its own nuclear arsenal and conducted a nuclear weapons test in Nevada on Tuesday, February 28.(7) This is another violation of international non-proliferation law, and the development of these weapons increases the threat of

nuclear disaster for the world's people.

The offer of nuclear technology to India comes with the string attached that India vote to report Iran to the United Nations Security Council for treaty violations, which could lead to sanctions. Despite threats from the United States and others for enriching uranium, Iran is allowed to do so under the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty. It is the united States that is breaking the treaty in its development of next-generation nuclear weapons. In more utter hypocrisy, the imperialists cozy up with the Indian government, a proliferator of nuclear weapons, while attacking Iran, whom even the imperialists believe does not have nuclear weapons capabilities.

Many Indians oppose the united States' manipulation of India's foreign policy to make it serve u.\$ imperialist interests. Even the editor of a mainstream Indian newspaper, quoted by The Economist, put it this way: "The Indian street has been nourished by the view that America is a democracy at home and a dictatorship abroad."(8) This is right on. While the Euro-American oppressor nation gets to vote, organize and fight for its interests with their government's support, the majority of the people under imperialist control face brutal dictatorship. The united States has exported fascism to many Third World countries, such as the Philippines, where martial law was put into effect last week, and where conditions are returning to those of the brutal u.\$-Marcos regime of the 1970s.

As with militarism in general, it is u.\$ corporations, and the First World people engineering and manufacturing the

weapons, that stand to make billions of dollars off of the new generation of nuclear weapons being planned.(7) This is why MIM opposes militarism and not violence. The relatively tiny amount of violence being dealt out by comrades in Nepal is striking a huge blow against a system that is killing millions of people a year, and threatens to destroy the whole planet, by putting profits first. Just assuming a mere 1% chance that militarism will lead to nuclear war, our chances of survival over 100 years are only 36.6%.(9) People calling themselves humanitarians should support all struggles that will help put an end to militarism.

Notes:

1. Anand Giridharadas and Hari Kumar, "Thousands in India Protest Bush's Visit," The New York Times on the Web, 2 March 2006, <<http://www.nytimes.com/2006/03/02/international/asia/02cnd-protests.html>>.

2. "U.S. Image Up Slightly, But Still Negative American Character Gets Mixed Reviews," Pew Global Attitudes Project, 22 July 2005, <<http://pewglobal.org/reports/display.php?ReportID=247>>.

3. "IAEA hails US-India nuke deal," 3 March 2006, <<http://www9.sbs.com.au/theworldnews/region.php?id=127556@ion=2>>.

4. <http://www.imperialismkills.org/>.

5. White House Office of the Press Secretary, "Press Briefing by National Security Adviser Steve Hadley," Maurya Sheraton Hotel and Towers, New Delhi, India, 2 March 2006, <<http://www.whitehouse.gov/news/releases/2006/03/20060302-14.html>>.

6. New York Times, 2 March 2006, A18.

7. "U.S. Enters New Nuclear Age as Bush Seeks Funds for New Generation of Nukes," Democracy Now, 2 March 2006, <<http://www.democracynow.org/article.pl?sid=06/03/02/148233>>.

8. "The Great Indian Hope Trick," The Economist, 25 February 2006, 30, <http://www.economist.com/world/displaystory.cfm?story_id=5545462>.

9. "What is militarism?" <<http://www.etext.org/Politics/MIM/faq/milit.html>>.

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MIM Notes

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

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

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What is MIM?

The Maoist Internationalist Movement (MIM) is the collection of existing or emerging Maoist internationalist parties in the English-speaking imperialist countries and their English-speaking internal semi-colonies, as well as the existing or emerging Maoist Internationalist parties in Belgium, France and Quebec and the existing or emerging Spanish-speaking Maoist Internationalist parties of Aztlan, Puerto Rico and other territories of the U.S. Empire. MIM Notes is the newspaper of MIM. Notas Rojas is the newspaper of the Spanish-speaking parties or emerging parties of MIM. MIM upholds the revolutionary communist ideology of Marxism-Leninism-Maoism and is an internationalist organization that works from the vantage point of the Third World proletariat. MIM struggles to end the oppression of all groups over other groups: classes, genders, nations. MIM knows this is only possible 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.

Hand of Daniel Pipes in the Mideast conflagration

March 4, 2006

The uproar regarding cartoons depicting Islam's prophet as a man wearing a turban with a bomb in it is tied to a u.s. government official, Daniel Pipes. Now the same Daniel Pipes is going public saying that a civil war in Iraq would be a good thing for u.s. interests even if a bad thing from a humynitarian point of view. Among other things, he pointed out that while Iraqis are attacking themselves, they are too busy to attack u.s. troops.(1)

It turns out the Danish paper that first printed the cartoons did not carry out an innocent error of amateurs. The release had calculated politics behind it. MIM has checked on the facts in the following statement, all of which are true:

The editor of Jyllands Posten who ordered the publication of the cartoons is Flemming Rose, who has extensive connections to Daniel Pipes, another neocon fascist madman who runs Campus Watch, a neo-McCarthyite witch-hunting organization which vilifies American professors who criticize Israel or show sympathy for the Palestinians. President Bush wanted to name Daniel Pipes to the board of the US Institute of Peace, a government-funded arm of the State Department which organizes conferences and publishes books. When the raving extremist Pipes turned out to be too widely discredited to obtain Senate confirmation for this post, Bush forced his nomination through with a summer 2003 recess appointment to a temporary term at USIP without Senate approval. Daniel Pipes is the nepotist son of Richard Pipes, a Sovietologist who was a leading figure in George H.W. Bush's 1976 Team B, the incubator of today's neocon clique. At the time of his recess appointment, Daniel Pipes was accused by the very moderate Arab-American Institute of "hatred and bigotry" in the context of his "bizarre obsession with all things Arab and Muslim." (<http://www.aaiusa.org/pr/release08-14-03.htm>) This is the sick, racist point of view embraced by Jyllands

Posten.(2)

Pipes has also held offices in the State Department and Pentagon.

The position of the U.S. Government officially is that Al-Qaeda is to blame for the bombing of the mosque in Samarra known as the "Golden Mosque."(3) This bombing has now triggered intra-Iraqi fighting.

The appearance of Pipes at this time in the media suggests u.s. involvement in the bombing. President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad of Iran has suggested that Al-Qaeda would receive clearance to bomb the mosque from the CIA, as both seek a civil war in Iraq.

One thing for sure—Sunni and Shia peoples lived in tension but relative peace prior to the bombing and prior to the u.s. invasion. The tensions were there but the bombing of the Golden Mosque did not happen till Uncle Sam's arrival. Although some point to George W. Bush as a moron, he knew from his father and his father's advisors that civil war was a likely result of taking Saddam Hussein from power.

Aside from the suspect u.s. interests in stoking up a civil war, there is also the influence of oil speculators. Chaos inside oil-supplier Iraq and tension with oil-supplier Iran contributes to an increase in the price of oil on the market, and that benefits anyone who happens to hold oil, including u.s. oil producers. This may be the reason that Iran and the United States



of multi-millionaire speculators can easily point toward war with Iran, Nigeria and other oil-supplying countries that just so happen to have Islamic religions. It's just another reason that peace is impossible with capitalism. There is enough tension in the world without wondering what part comes from oil speculators.

MIM says to the people of Iraq not to be taken for fools by the United States. Kurd, Sunni and Shia peoples are not really exploiting each other for much. The real winner of conflicts over material resources is the united States.

We have read the reports of Sunni and Shia people carrying out ethnic cleansing of neighborhoods. We have seen it all before in u.s. instigated division of oppressed peoples. The people of Iraq should unite to throw out their Yankee occupiers and restore people to their old neighborhoods in peace.

Notes:

1. <http://www.abc.net.au/lateline/content/2006/s1582736.htm> Australian Broadcasting Corporation TV PROGRAM TRANSCRIPT LOCATION: <http://www.abc.net.au/lateline/content/2006/s1582736.htm> Broadcast: 02/03/2006

2. http://mathaba.net/0_index.shtml?x=523587; see also, http://bellaciao.org/en/article.php?id_article=10253

3. http://www.usatoday.com/news/washington/2006-03-03-casey-iraq_x.htm

The U.S. official admitted there was no evidence for fingering Al Qaeda.



German social-dems, Greens assisted Iraq war

March 5, 2006

German intelligence was on hand to assist the U.S. invasion of Iraq that ousted Saddam Hussein, according to the New York Times. Classified U.S. information shows that Germany, led by social-democrat Chancellor Gerhard Schroeder, passed information to the United States on how Saddam Hussein was planning defense of Baghdad.(1)

The Guardian reports: "Two German agents based in Baghdad gained access a month before the US-led invasion of Iraq in 2003 to a sketch, covered in clear plastic, showing the proposed defensive lines for Baghdad, and that a German intelligence officer based in Qatar handed it to US intelligence."(1)

The Foreign Minister of Germany at the time was Joschka Fischer, a Green Party leader. MIM is of the opinion that the involvement of Schroeder makes it likely that Putin was also involved. Schroeder serves on Putin's board directing Russian fossil fuel company, Gazprom.(2)

Schroeder ran an election campaign in 2002 and won originally based on the premise that Germany should not aid U.S. war efforts.(3) Prior to his campaigning on that question, his party was losing to another party that is now in power in Germany. Schroeder's governing coalition back in 2002 included the Greens, which took a posture against the Iraq War.

Now the Germans are going through a process of self-discovery, with the Greens calling for a probe of themselves.

In the world of private property, diplomacy is secret just as many business secrets are proprietary information. The information that candidates give their electorates is phony, and there is an incentive for that information to be phony under capitalism.

Anti-militarist people in imperialist countries, the people who do not want war to be a regular and ongoing way of life, should side with the real anti-militarists in the Maoist Internationalist Movement (MIM). The Greens and social-democrats are faking their interest in peace.

Notes:

1. Ewen MacAskill and Samuel Loewenberg, "Secret papers reveal German spies passed intelligence on Iraq to US before invasion," Guardian Unlimited, 28 February 2006, <<http://www.guardian.co.uk/Iraq/Story/0,,1719604,00.html>>.

2. "Schroeder attacked over gas post," BBC News (Web site), 10 December 2005, <<http://news.bbc.co.uk/2/hi/europe/4515914.stm>>.

3. "Schroeder wins re-election," CNN.com, <<http://edition.cnn.com/SPECIALS/2002/germany.election/>>.

"German Chancellor Gerhard Schroeder has won a second term in office — but only just — after a campaign in which he ruled out participation in military action on Iraq. In the closest national election since World War II Schroeder's Social Democrats and their Green coalition partners won by about 10,000 votes."

What is Mimnotes.info?

<http://mimnotes.info>

Mimnotes.info publishes news articles and culture (media, movie, music, video game and other) reviews from the standpoint of the world's exploited and oppressed under imperialism, capitalism, and patriarchy. Inspired by the Maoist Internationalist Movement, mimnotes.info ("MIM notes dot info") opposes all group oppression, including the oppression of gays and lesbians, wimmin, and youth. The imperialist-patriarchy is full of horrors and misery for the world's oppressed majority. Mimnotes.info aims to build public opinion for revolutionary change. Nothing short of revolution can end this messed-up system.

Knowing the world and conditions inside the belly of the beast is key. Equip yourself with mimnotes.info and write for mimnotes.info.



We must strive to unmask the minds of the people by revealing the truth.

Criticism of ports deal shows a fascist side

From 1...

president. The criticisms of Bu\$h as being too soft on national security and too hard on Americans, because of the Patriot Act and wiretapping, have a reactionary overtone that does in fact reflect a deeply reactionary political tendency. This tendency is one of outward fascism, and democracy internally for the imperialist-country, particularly oppressor-nation (Euro-American), population. The people of the world are subject to militarist and fascist repression, death squads, and assassinations, while the Euro-American population is largely untouched by all the violence. Some Demokrat criticisms of Bu\$h over the P&O deal are political posturing as elections approach, but it is also true that the dynamics of the U.S. two-party system and imperialist multiparty democracy in general have a directionality to them and can lead to fascism under the necessary economic and political circumstances. The economic conditions of the Euro-American working class are far from dire, but the perception that foreign ownership, nations and workers are a threat to the Euro-American working class is extremely dangerous.

With the style of fascism where the repression is directed outward, it is no longer enough to pressure politicians to stick to their democratic pretensions and preserve internal democracy for the oppressor-nation population. It has never been enough to do that. There is no strong anti-fascist movement without anti-imperialism. Failure to recognize this has led to a situation where Americans have freedoms while migrant workers and other Third World people, and also ex-Soviet people, are ruthlessly repressed. A consistent anti-imperialism also requires some understanding of U.S. parasitism and the scope of imperialist economic privilege. Otherwise, calls to nationalize American industry in defense against corporations are just calls for the imperialist-country working class to have a greater share of finance capital and imperialist profits.

Polls show that a large majority of American adults oppose the P&O deal, which would allow the Dubai Emirate-owned Dubai Ports World to own management contracts for certain operations at several ports in the United States.(1) This is the case even though most Americans say they know that the U.S. government, not the company, would be in charge of port security. Some of this apparent discrepancy is related to anti-Arab chauvinism and assumptions about even Middle Eastern allies of the United States being untrustworthy, but there also some economic overtones. Democrat and also some Republican opponents of the

P&O have drawn from anti-outsourcing rhetoric, and there are also indications that some extremely reactionary imperialists see a growing and competitive economy in a Middle Eastern country as posing a threat to some American financial interests.

Criticism of Bu\$h for neglecting the rights of Americans has an economic aspect to it. The controversy over the P&O deal reveals this clearly when “progressives” such as Common Dreams and Truthout publish and reprint a protectionist article, to take just one example, accusing neoliberal “globalists” of selling American industries to foreigners. The same nationalist article, by liberal broadcaster and writer Thom Hartmann, takes the viewpoint of the Euro-American nation at the same time it gives a voice to white-worker chauvinism.

“Thus it shouldn’t surprise us that the cons have sold off our ports as well, and will defend it to the bitter end. They truly believe that a ‘New World Order with multinational corporations in charge instead of sovereign governments will be the answer to the problem of world instability. And therefore they must do away with quaint things like unions, a healthy middle class, and, ultimately, democracy.”(2)

In this scientifically bankrupt statement, there are only two possibilities: neoliberalism or sovereign imperialist nations. But the privileges that the imperialist nation has, must be secured through repression. Military conflicts are inevitable. The crises of the decadent imperialist system also generate contradictions and instability in the world. The solution to all of these things is ending the unjust and oppressive imperialist system, not preserving the political and economic dominance of the Euro-American nation.

Thom Hartmann pines for the good old “pre-Reagan days” when “American companies made profits that were distributed among Americans.” In actuality, profits are still being distributed among Americans. Hartmann wants even higher standards of living for the reactionary Euro-American working class and “middle class.” He is nostalgic for when Euro-America had more “good manufacturing jobs” and more manufacturing companies. Hartmann lists some fifty American industries with significant foreign ownership. Hartmann implies that a protectionist economic policy is needed. But Hartmann’s words also lend support to proposals to nationalize American industries to make them serve the interests of American labor. But such a seizure of the “means

of production” would just be a seizure of the means of super-exploitation of Third World workers and obtaining imperialist profits.

In his piece, Hartmann also wants Americans to see China as an enemy because of what one Chinese official said about the United States intervening over Taiwan. Furthermore, Hartmann attacks migrant workers in this piece.

“Everything today is driven by profits for multinationals, supported by the lawmaking power of the WTO. Thus, parts for our missiles are now made in China, a country that last year threatened us with nuclear weapons. Our oil comes from a country that birthed a Wahabist movement that ultimately led to 14 Saudi citizens flying jetliners into the World Trade buildings and the Pentagon. Germans now own the Chrysler auto assembly lines that turned out tanks to use against Germany in WWII. And the price of labor in America is being held down by over ten million illegal workers, a situation that was impossible twenty-five years ago when unions were the first bulwark against dilution of the American labor force.”(2)

The fact that commentaries such as Hartmann’s pass for progressive opinion shows that there is hardly any real progressive movement to speak of in the United States, much less a leftist one. Various “progressive” criticisms of Bu\$h

over the P&O deal consistently side with imperialism and equate opposing multinational corporations with retaking ownership of American monopolies, and with improving the standards of living of the oppressor-nation population. Such a position, failing to recognize the relationship between imperialist privilege, on the one hand, and violence in the world, easily turns into warmongering against Third World and peripheral capitalist countries. Hostility toward the UAE may not amount to a war against it, but the hostility is part of a general anti-Arab and anti-Middle Eastern chauvinism that has real consequences for other countries currently in the crosshairs of U.S. militarism.

Notes:

1. “High Opposition to Dubai Ports Deal in U.S.,” 5 March 2006, <<http://www.angus-reid.com/polls/index.cfm/fuseaction/viewItem/itemID/11101>> (7 March 2006).

Dana Blanton, “03/02/06 FOX Poll: Most Oppose Port Deal; Republicans Lose Ground,” FOXNews.com, 2 March 2006, <<http://www.foxnews.com/story/0,2933,186634,00.html>> (7 March 2006).

2. Thom Hartmann / Common Dreams, “When Americans No Longer Own America,” 27 February 2006, <http://www.truthout.org/docs_2006/022806N.shtml> (7 March 2006).

Khrushchev secret speech failed

March 5, 2006

Fifty years ago on February 25, Soviet leader Khrushchev gave his famous “secret speech” denouncing Stalin for the “cult of the individual” and “cruellest repression.” Nonetheless, a poll shows that support for Stalin in Russia is rising. The latest poll shows that 50% regard him positively, up from 46% in 2003.(1) That is especially high considering that Russians regularly give other political leaders ratings in the teens or twenties.

MIM does not question that Stalin carried out extensive repressions. At the same time, we have to be the ones to point out that he doubled the life expectancy of his people.(2) People who think it was so easy should consider that despite medical advances, life expectancy for Russian men now is the same as when Khrushchev came to power and gave his counterrevolutionary speech. It’s easy to do worse than Stalin.

Writing in the Washington Post, Khrushchev’s great-granddaughter gave us reason to cheer:

“Yet nearly 50 years to the day from that speech, my great-grandfather has

become a scapegoat for many of the perceived ills of post-communist, ‘democratic’ Russian society. And Stalin, the man he exposed as a brutal dictator who terrorized and oppressed the nation, is enjoying a virtual rehabilitation, with opinion polls revealing his shocking popularity, especially among the young.”(3)

Thank you, Nina L. Khrushcheva. Your great-grandfather failed. The ex-Soviet people’s memory of reality is stronger than bourgeois propaganda.

Notes:

1. Tom Parfitt, “The real secret of Khrushchev’s speech,” 24 February 2006, Guardian Unlimited, <<http://www.guardian.co.uk/russia/article/0,,1716627,00.html>>.

2. Check MIM’s Web site for details: <http://www.etext.org/Politics/MIM/faq/stalin.html>

3. Nina L. Khrushcheva, “Why Russia Still Loves Stalin,” 12 February 2006, B03, Washingtonpost.com, <<http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/article/2006/02/11/AR2006021100845.html>>.

Ports controversy shows threat of fascist nationalism not isolated to Republican Party

February 25, 2006

Democratic and Republican Congress members and other politicians have been criticizing President Bush since mid-February for a planned United Arab Emirates government takeover of P&O, a United Kingdom company with management contracts at several sea ports in the United States. The takeover was approved by an interagency governmental panel called the Committee on Foreign Investments in the United States (CFIUS), which is headed by the Treasury Secretary and accountable to Bu\$h. CFIUS member agencies include the Departments of Defense, Homeland Security, Justice, and State, and the National Security Council. The management contracts at the East Coast ports are part of a larger deal that also affects many non-U.S. ports. P&O is one of the largest container port operators in the world.

Bu\$h has defended the CFIUS' approval of the Dubai Ports World / P&O deal. Demokrat opposition to Bu\$h on this issue is just one more illustration of the fascist tendencies of the liberal segment of the Euro-American nation.

Like conservatives, most of the white-nation liberals advocate for the interests of one subgroup of the white nation or the other, not the world's oppressed, and are united in their support for the white nation's self-interests and its position of political and economic dominance. The broad left-wing of the white nationalists, from "Fahrenheit 9/11" (2004) director Michael Moore to news outlets such as the San Francisco Chronicle, have acted as mouthpieces for those who focus on proximate causes and believe for various reasons that the events of September 11, 2001, were due to a conspiracy involving the Saudi government, and the complicity or negligence of Bu\$h's administration or his family. The United Arab Emirates government was also fingered for complicity in 9/11. Now, Demokrat politicians have latched onto fundamentally racist anti-Arab sentiment, and white-nation and white-worker chauvinism, and slammed Bu\$h for "selling" ports to Dubai Ports World, owned by the Dubai government in the UAE. The Tallahassee Democrat newspaper quoted Florida Democrat Party chair Karen Thurman as saying this week: "Our ports, the most vulnerable in the country because they've not been thought about as national security, are now being owned by foreign businesses." (1) Thurman continued: "Republicans actively outsourced American jobs and now they're outsourcing our American security." One of the ports that would be managed by DP World is located in Miami, Florida. DP World would not be managing port security at any of the ports involved in the P&O deal. The container

terminal operations are already handled by a foreign company, P&O, which has run the container terminals for years.

Port authorities have complained about the planned takeover by DP World. The Port Authority of New York and New Jersey has filed a lawsuit to block the P&O deal. More interesting than the legal and technical merits of these complaints are the reactions of politicians and the media to the P&O deal.

The Associated Press' Ted Bridis vaguely wrote nearly two weeks ago, in the context of the planned purchase of P&O and the management contracts, that the United Arab Emirates is "a country with ties to the Sept. 11, 2001, hijackers." (2) Bridis' article mentions an FBI investigation: "[the UAE] was an important operational and financial base for the hijackers who carried out the attacks against the United States, the FBI concluded." (2) Elizabeth White of Associated Press this past week raised the issue again in an article discussing the 9/11 Commission Report's statements on the UAE. (3) A February 16 New York Times editorial offers the weak evidence: "Many of the Sept. 11 hijackers and planners traveled through that country, and its banking system was used in preparing for the attacks." (4)

CNN's Lou Dobbs, who wants to step up the militarization of the U.S. imperialist border and frequently portrays migrants as a terrorist threat, has been criticizing the P&O deal nightly on his show "Lou Dobbs Tonight." Dobbs has repeatedly in the past two weeks described the United Arab Emirates as a country with "ties" to the 9/11 attacks. Dobbs on February 17 even slandered the Dubai-owned DP World on national television by saying that the company itself was "a company and country with ties to the Taliban and radical Islamic terrorists." (5) A week later, Dobbs lauded the activism of U.S. workers allied with extremely reactionary imperialists: "The hard-working rank and file at our nation's ports are completely against this Dubai Ports deal. These Teamsters workers know better than anyone else how the deal will compromise the nation's port security. They say they were out in force — they were out in force today in 20 cities across the country to protest this deal." (6) Dobbs criticizes the Bush and Clinton administrations as being subservient to business interests and neglectful of national security. Dobbs has repeatedly read selected letters, from viewers of his show, suggesting that the P&O deal is just another instance of outsourcing (even though the container terminal operations are currently staffed by U.S. workers mostly).

Critics of the CFIUS approval of the ports deal have blurred together economic and national-security concerns in their

effort to criticize Middle Eastern foreign investment in the United States and whip up xenophobic and jingoist sentiment superficially directed at the United Arab Emirates as a supposed coconspirator of Osama bin Laden. West Virginia Democratic U.S. Representative Nick Rahall in a muddled statement published February 25 on HuntingNews.Net writes:

"I am troubled by the revelations of the past week. This Trojan horse trade policy should not be let through America's most vulnerable gateways. I do not believe that we should surrender the security of America by outsourcing our port operations to foreign countries or interests. I think the billions American taxpayers have been asked to commit to defend our shores ought to profit American workers and American businesses not line the pockets of foreign interests." (7)

Democratic U.S. Senator Patty Murray of Washington said in a news release: "Outsourcing the ownership of this critical homeland security priority to Dubai Ports World without a thorough review makes no sense at all. . . . For too long we've ignored this issue. It is now time that we put the American people's interests first and put the U.S. in charge of our own cargo security." (8)

Democratic U.S. Senator Hillary Clinton has also criticized the Dubai ports deal. Clinton blurred together two separate issues, saying that the CFIUS' review of the ports deal — this particular review — was of questionable quality, but also saying that all foreign governments should temporarily be banned from controlling operations at ports because of questions about "the prospect of a company owned by a foreign government controlling operations at U.S. ports. Only 5 percent of containers that enter the United States through ports are actually inspected, despite repeated warnings by security experts that ports are a prime target for terrorist attacks." (9)

Some have accused Democratic leaders of race-baiting in their attempt to posture against Bu\$h and Republikans. The outcry over the P&O deal does in fact have little to do with a concern over problems relating to oversight and more to do singling out Middle Eastern countries unpopular in the United States and riding on anti-Arab sentiment. The Democrats, however, aren't just vying for the fascist vote; they contain fascist elements themselves. The particular way in which they have sloppily blurred together economic and national-security concerns is just the latest indication that they are representatives of militant imperialist-nation workers and extremely reactionary imperialists.

Mainstream media outlets, both conservative and liberal, and politicians have long drawn vague connections

between border security and the economy. They have done this in a way that dovetails with the demands of major U.S. labor unions, such as the AFL-CIO, which has accused Bu\$h of being soft on border security and supports the legalization of undocumented workers only as a way of controlling them. This mixture of Euro-American nationalism and white-worker chauvinism, beside targeting and setting up migrant proletarians for fascist repression, has taken jingoist forms with respect to so-called "Communist" China. The Dubai ports deal has brought to the surface the undercurrent of anti-Arab xenophobia and jingoism in the economic demands of U.S. workers. There is only a tiny amount of outsourcing to Middle Eastern countries, but with the so-called War on Terror, these countries make a convenient outlet for the frustrations of U.S. workers who perceive their imperialist-country economic privileges to be endangered. Of course, the reactionary Euro-American working class has strongly supported the imperialist wars against Afghanistan and Iraq, but the Dubai ports deal controversy has given rise to attempts by U.S. workers to give their chauvinist attitudes toward Arab peoples an explicit economic rationalization in terms of employment and wages, not just workplace safety. Some of this rationalizing is just more hysteria. The port operations that are the subject of concern would most likely remain staffed by unionized U.S. citizen workers.

From coast to coast, the labor aristocracy has mobilized to attack the United Arab Emirates. Teamsters and AFL-CIO members in Seattle have gone to the streets to protest the Dubai ports deal. The Seattle Post-Intelligencer reports: "Standing near the Port of Seattle's Pier 46, protesters — most of them Teamsters and International Longshore and Warehouse Union members — questioned whether the sale to Dubai Ports World would harm the country's safety." (10) The director of the Joint Council of Teamsters No. 28, based in Tukwila, Washington, claimed that hazardous cargo from DP World-managed ports could pass through the Port of Seattle, although DP World would not be managing any operation at the Port of Seattle. Most longshore workers and stevedores in the United States make more than \$20 an hour. Teamsters president James Hoffa has also denounced the P&O deal, talking about "President Bush's corporate agenda gone wild" and slipping in a call for the government to allow Homeland Security Department employees to form unions. (11) Hoffa also made a call for three U.S.-owned companies to be given a "chance" to bid on P&O's assets in the United States even though they were not

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Ports controversy shows threat of fascist nationalism not isolated to Republican Party

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among the top bidders for the private British company.

Reactionary agitation among U.S. workers is not limited to port workers. Others, such as information technology workers, are worried about outsourcing, and some in the IT industry are contemplating an increase in IT outsourcing to Middle Eastern countries. The Computerworld magazine for managers recently drew a parallel between the P&O deal and other business deals. "The United Arab Emirates, which is currently at the center of a controversy over whether outsourcing the management of six U.S. ports to a company based in the Persian Gulf should be allowed, wants to do more than manage ports: It wants Dubai to become a major IT outsourcing destination."(12)

All sides in the debate within the oppressor nation cite nationalist economic and political interests to bolster their position. Some realists in the government and business know that alienating the UAE, and potentially other Middle Eastern countries and investors, could have economic and political repercussions. Some have speculated that the fallout from the controversy over the ports deal could threaten the privacy of foreign investment deals generally. For the sake of struggling against fascism, people should encourage the United States to stick with its bourgeois-internationalist pretensions. The world's oppressed do not benefit from economic cooperation between the imperialists and other capitalists, but they also have no interest in seeing Euro-American nationalism flare up and turn into more aggressive war, more repression of migrants, and more repression of oppressed-nation people in the United States. The controversy over the P&O deal involves more than just port security concerns, and intersects with militarist and anti-immigrant movements, and virulent white nationalism.

It must be admitted that the imperialists defending the P&O deal are correct in that Dubai poses no threat to the United States, which has troops in Dubai. The UAE government has materially supported the United States' imperialist reactionary wars against Afghanistan and Iraq. And the Euro-American nation, investing in, and trading various commodities with, the United Arab Emirates, benefits from the exploitation of the mostly migrant workers in the UAE. Fascist-leaning liberals pretend to fear for the United States' national security, but this tail-wagging-the-dog view of the United States' relationship with governments of Middle Eastern countries has no bearing on reality. Anti-Semites claimed 9/11 was an Israeli conspiracy. The refrain of other white-nationalist critics of Bu\$h was to finger

Saudi Arabia and other Middle Eastern countries and point to Bu\$h-administration negligence or complicity. In this vicious dynamic, what is missing is an understanding of the United States' role as the biggest terrorist and militarist on the planet, and its domination of the world economy.

Notes:

1. Bill Cotterell, "Democrats call for party unity," 22 February 2006, <<http://www.tallahassee.com/apps/pbcs.dll/article?AID=/20060222/NEWS02/602220324/1010>> (25 February 2006).

2. Ted Bridis, "U.S. not blocking Arab firm's bid to oversee ports," 12 February 2006, <http://www.sltrib.com/nationworld/ci_3501244> (25 February 2006).

3. Elizabeth White, "9-11 report detailed possible associations between UAE, bin Laden," 23 February 2006, <<http://www.newsday.com/news/local/wire/newjersey/ny-bc-nj—ports-binladen0223feb23,0,3688533.story>> (25 February 2006).

4. "Protecting the ports," 17 February 2006, <<http://www.iht.com/articles/2006/02/16/opinion/edport.php>> (25 February 2006).

5. "LOU DOBBS TONIGHT : Two Marine Corps Helicopters Crash In Africa; Members Of Congress Moving To Criticize and Block Sale Of U.S. Ports To Foreign Company; Muslim Clerics Calling For Fatwa Against Cartoonists," aired Aired February 17, 2006 - 18:00 ET, <<http://edition.cnn.com/TRANSCRIPTS/0602/17/ldt.01.html>> (25 February 2006).

6. "LOU DOBBS TONIGHT : Arab Firm Agrees to Delay Takeover of U.S. Ports; Scrap CFIUS?; Pete King Interview; Lucy Duncan Scheman Interview; Army Chief Warrant Officer Ray Johnson Is Returning To War Four Decades After Vietnam," aired February 24, 2006 - 18:00 ET, <<http://edition.cnn.com/TRANSCRIPTS/0602/24/ldt.01.html>> (25 February 2006).

7. Nick Rahall, "RAHALL REPORT: Teaming to Protect and Progress on Ohio River," 25 February 2006, <<http://www.huntingtonnews.net/columns/060224-rahall-report.html>> (25 February 2006).

8. "Port Security: Senator Murray Calls for Investigation into Bush Administration's Approval of Transferring Control of 6 U.S. Ports to Dubai Ports World," 21 February 2006, <<http://murray.senate.gov/news.cfm?id=251786>> (25 February 2006).

9. "Menendez, Clinton, Lautenberg, Boxer Urge Frist to Immediately Consider Legislation to Block Foreign Governments from Controlling Operations at U.S. Ports," 21 February 2006, <<http://clinton.senate.gov/news/statements/>

details.cfm?id=251764&&> (25 February 2006).

10. Brad Wong, "Unions fight for safety of port workers at rally," 25 February 2006, <http://seattlepi.nwsource.com/business/260835_portlocal25.html> (25 February 2006).

11. James P. Hoffa, "Hoffa Calls on Congress to Block Bush-Supported Dubai Takeover of U.S. Ports," 21 February 2006, <<http://www.pnnewswire.com/cgi-bin/stories.pl?ACCT=104&STORY=/www/story/02-21-2006/0004286425&EDATE=>>> (25 February 2006).

12. Patrick Thibodeau, "Dubai wants

IT business as well as U.S. ports," 23 February 2006, <<http://www.computerworld.com/managementtopics/outsourcing/story/0,10801,108927,00.html>> (25 February 2006).

13. Tom Davis, Mitchell Maddux, and Hugh R. Morley, "Port workers uneasy," 23 February 2006, <<http://www.northjersey.com/page.php?qstr=eXJpcnk3ZjcZn2Y3dnFlZUVFeXkzJmZnYmVsN2Y3dnFlZUVFeXk2ODg0ODU0JnlyXJ5N2Y3MTdmN3ZxZWVFRXl5Mg==>>> (25 February 2006).



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.

International Wimmin's Day, Not International Warmongers' Day! Cancel the pseudo-feminist war-mongering demonstrations against Iran!

MIM had just published its article on NOW's (National Organization for Women) current efforts to stir up wars against Third World countries, when we learned that a supposedly Marxist group plans the same thing this year, 2006—for International Wimmin's Day. At a time when people around the world are talking about U.S. military threats against Iran, pseudo-feminist neo-conservatives masquerading as some kind of "Marxist" are planning a rally against Iran, not in Iran, but in New York City, Frankfurt and the like.

Here is what the press release for the rallies says:

This week, starting March 4 in Frankfurt, Germany, women and men are marching through city centres and will rally at the Hague on March 8th. The call from the organizers of the European Great Walk (Campaign for the Abolition of All Misogynist, Gender-Based Legislation & Islamic Punitive Laws in Iran) starts with:

"If you are against death by stoning!

If you are against forced veiling!

If you are against the prosecution and imprisonment of women!

If you are against lashing a woman's body!

If you are against any form of patriarchy!

If you are against the medieval laws of Iran's Islamic Republic of Iran imposing inequality on women!-

Join the [European] great walk against anti-women laws in Iran's Islamic Republic on 8 March 2006!"(1)

Those would be great slogans—in Iran. Here in the imperialist countries it is perfect timing for the CIA & Mossad preparing the basis for a war on Iran, just as Bush ordered. The rallies read just like the orchestrations from offices of the Pentagon—and yes, there are offices dedicated to manipulating the gender question in the Third World in the Pentagon.

The leaflet is so thinly disguised as war-mongering, that there is no actual discussion of whether stoning or lashing is worse than the damage delivered by the Amerikan institution called Hollywood. There is absolutely no discussion of U.S. support to regimes that engineered these conditions. Yet somehow, Americans see fit to sloganeer about Iran's particular manifestation of patriarchy in a way to rile up the oppressor nation whites.

It would be hard to imagine a more perfectly wrong rally to hold. The combination of reactionary ideas masquerading as feminism is astonishing.

In the first place, the rally is not being organized in Iran. It's being held in countries considering bombing Iran as we speak. It's being held in countries where the oppressor nation whites have their own reasons for entering politics, their own reasons for hating Iran.

Within Marxism, we call it the Trotskyist or "Wang Ming" line to act as if the world were one place with people all the same everywhere and not accounting for the

national conditions in each country. These people believe it is unnecessary to investigate conditions in each country and act accordingly.

In the second place, out of all the backward conditions for wimmin in the world, the pseudo-feminists in coordination with the CIA picked exactly one country to demonstrate against at this particular time—Iran. These pseudo-feminists are being manipulated by people who consider themselves "real men." Bush's appointee to the United Nations John Bolton said, "everyone wants to go to Baghdad, but real men go to Iran."(2) As we write this, the government is pushing Iran around in the UN in the same procedure that we saw applied to Iraq before the occupation there.

If we are very lucky, the imperialist media will ignore this crypto-Trotskyist rally in New York and similar pseudo-feminist rallies in Europe. If not, the imperialist media will adopt the slogans from the rally, and the oppressor nation people will remember the slogans as one more reason to go to war against Iran. There is ample precedent: just before the war on Afghanistan, the imperialist media quoted Robin Morgan on "do something" about the Taliban widely.

Some of the pseudo-feminists claim to be opposed to wars. It does not matter: it's not their media that will be covering the demonstrations mainly. It will be the imperialists quoting them as often as they choose. The pseudo-feminists should

show that much knowledge of politics and back down for that reason alone.

We are thankful that this year NOW (National Organization for Women) is spending International Wimmin's Day in Venezuela. We hope there will be no arrogant "teaching" of Venezuela's wimmin as if Amerikan conditions were the same as in Venezuela's.

The years where we get a break from right-wing chauvinism on International Wimmin's Day of course we have to get hammered from the left-wing of white nationalism, Trotskyism. All good communists should set about taking down phony Marxism as a contribution to a genuine celebration of International Wimmin's Day.

Down with white nationalist sabotage of the anti-war movement!

For peace on International Wimmin's Day!

Notes:

1. IWD Solidarity 2006: IWD Event NYC- Solidarity with the Great Walk Against Anti Women Laws in Iran's Islamic Republic"

Break the Chains! Unleash the Fury of Women as a Mighty Force for Revolution! [RCP=USA slogans—ed.] Here in NYC, on March 8th, 2006, International Women's Day: European Great Walk: www.karzar-zanan.com

<http://www.karzar-zanan.com>

2. <http://www.pitt.edu/~gordonm/Pubapp/GRMNT63005.htm>

Conservative press cheers: Imperialist parasites march against Iran

Imperialist country parasites and Third World lackeys led by a pseudo-Marxist organization calling itself the "Revolutionary Communist Party-USA," (RCP=USA) marched in favor of lynching Iran on International Wimmin's Day, March 8 in Berkeley, California.(1) They had built their rally against the veil and stoning in Iran. Fortunately, many imperialist news services did not cover the event, but it received backing from the intellectual headquarters of reaction in the united States.

On March 8, International Wimmin's Day, the epicenter of conservatism called the "National Review" organized by people regularly invited to the White House, serving in the White House and partying with the White House after hours chose as their contribution to International Wimmin's Day the exact same thing as the phony communist RCP=USA, a discussion of stoning in Iran. Interviewing Phyllis Chesler, with pointed ideological goals, the National Review put out an olive branch to the RCP=USA left-wing of white nationalism which is now to unite with the rest of white nationalism against Iran:

Lopez: To what extent is there easy

common ground on the Right and the Left as far as a new feminism goes?

Chesler: Perhaps such categories as "left" and "right" are no longer useful. I write about this at length in *The Death of Feminism*.(2)

We agree with Chesler analytically though we despise her lynch-mob ideology, because for many years the "left" and "right" of Amerika have been united in one white nationalist oppressor unit.

Ironically, the RCP=USA has called David Horowitz "fascist," but one of his major outlets on the Internet also chimed in March 6th: "the militant Islamists and their Western multicultural apologists refuse to admit that Islam, not Israel, practices religious and gender apartheid and that Islamic practices—such as female genital mutilation, daughter- and wife-battering, honor killings, polygamy, forced arranged marriage of children, stoning, amputations and public hangings—are barbaric and evil. Such barbarism has not been caused by the West."(3) This is the same exact publication "FrontPageMag" that red-baited the movement opposing invasion in Iraq saying that MIM led it.

While we are on the topic, the RCP=USA's friends at FrontPageMag also had this to say:

Those who defend the rapists and their culture (no matter where they are located on the spectrum of politics) have unconsciously adjusted their perceptions of how Muslim males should act.(3)

After reading that, after knowing with what power such a line is going to be distributed and after realizing what the imperialists' strategy is, no real internationalist or real feminist can dare oppose MIM's line "all sex is rape."

Another fairly important press service got involved with the day via Iran. According to Alison Langley, though, we are talking about three—that's THREE—stonings for adultery in Iran in 2005 that might have happened.(4) Even heterosexual men have killed more than three heterosexual men over adultery in the united States in the same period. Langley openly argued that courts should be biased in favor of female defendants even where murder is involved.

The International Wimmin's Day rally against Iran in the imperialist countries is an example of "friendly sectarianism." This is the consequence when an organization attempts to recruit some token Third World people and Pentagon

pseudo-feminists while saying to hell with the consequences for the international proletariat. The activity of the RCP=USA was coordinated in political substance and to the day with the highest reaches of imperialist power.

Notes:

1. <http://www.indybay.org/news/2006/03/1806829.php>

The self-congratulating rally news article said this in its first paragraph:

"On the occasion of March 8 International Women's Day, a rally and March was held in Berkeley in solidarity with a 4-day march in Europe organized by the Campaign for the Abolition of All Misogynist, Gender-Based Legislation & Islamic Punitive Laws in Iran. The call for the European march begins: "If you are against death by stoning! If you are against forced veiling! If you are against the prosecution and imprisonment of women! If you are against lashing a woman's body! If you are against any form of patriarchy! If you are against the medieval laws of Iran's Islamic Republic of Iran imposing inequality on women! - Join the great walk against anti-women laws in Iran's Islamic Republic on 8 March 2006!"

2. <http://www.nationalreview.com/interrogatory/chesler200603080751.asp>

3. <http://www.frontpagemag.com/Articles/ReadArticle.asp?ID=21502>

<http://www.frontpagemag.com/Articles/ReadArticle.asp?ID=21518>

4. INT'L WOMEN'S DAY: Death Penalty Rare for Women, But On the Rise in Iran and China Alison Langley* <http://www.ipsnews.net/news.asp?idnews=32410>

International Wimmin's Day and peace with Iran

"The changing atmosphere toward Iran in Washington's corridors of power has affected the national mood. A Los Angeles Times poll on January 27 indicated that 57 percent of Americans back an attack on Iran if its defiance persists. A Pew Research Center poll released on February 7 showed that public concern over Iran's nuclear program has risen dramatically in the past few months."—Jerusalem Post

"Today, 27% of Americans cite Iran as the country that represents the greatest danger to the United States - in contrast to just 9% in October." —Jerusalem Post, March 4 2006, days before International Wimmin's Day demonstrations against Iran

"Multiple pieces of independent evidence suggest that America is embarked in a premeditated path that will lead inexorably to the use of nuclear weapons against Iran in the very near future. Facing clear evidence of this peril, we cannot wait for the final proof – the smoking gun – in the form of a mushroom cloud. Whether you are liberal or conservative, antiwar or pro-war, if you believe this would be catastrophic for America and the world, the time to act to derail it is now!"

—antiwar.com, the publication of the Amerika-first paleo-conservatives

Many Amerikan pseudo-feminists say they are opposed to the U.S. wars, but today they demonstrated against stoning in Iran. It is the activity of NOW, Robin Morgan, Azar Nafisi and their male chauvinist allies propping up these wars. The troops themselves in Iraq have said they want to come home. The Iraqi people have spoken in polls that they want the united States out.(1) But NOW continues business as usual advising Iraq on its constitution. NOW continues complaining about conditions for wimmin in Iraq. NOW stirs up a sense of a mission unaccomplished while feebly opposing the war that it does not directly run—at least not in public. The ties of the Pentagon to NOW remain unexamined, and they should be examined.

Robin Morgan claims she opposes war on Afghanistan. Yet she and others go on stirring up hatred against Afghan patriarchy in particular.

Sure, Robin Morgan did not give the order to the U.S. Army to enter Afghanistan. This kind of thinking is an example of the low moral standards of the left-wing of white nationalism. The left-wing of white nationalism is effective in stirring up public opinion of hatred against Iran, Afghanistan etc. It is ineffective in bringing these wars to an end.

After Robin Morgan and the others get the united States out and clamp down on their own nations' aggressors and after they achieve near communist-perfection on the patriarchy question in their own country and stop abusing wimmin of other countries, MIM will be the first to roll out the red carpet stretching from New York

to Tehran, along which future angels from the united States will be able to go forward to criticize the existing patriarchy in Iran. In reality, we do not believe medievalism of any sort would survive the fall of u.S. imperialism, which would set off a series of global chain-reactions.

Some day, the united States will have to get out of Iraq and Afghanistan. There will be a date that troops leave and another date in which bases disappear and another date in which secret military operatives have to leave. Then we will know how long the war was and how many people it killed in what phases. We will be able to divide the number of casualties by the number of days and know how many deaths per day resulted from direct militarist action.

While it is true that Robin Morgan did not order the troops into Afghanistan, she did prolong the war. Who is to say that if it had not been for her and her brand of pseudo-feminists, the united States would not have left by now? If the only motive was to find Osama Bin Laden, perhaps after Tora Bora Amerikans would have realized he escaped, that he did not wait around to be captured. Our leaders could have been ridiculed for thinking that Osama Bin Laden was waiting around for a shoot-out, but pseudo-feminists gave Amerikan imperialists a reason to stay in Afghanistan and "complete" some kind of mission anyway. The sense of "hot pursuit" of Bin Laden when he could be in any country by now can gradually trail off, but the impressions that pseudo-feminists create are ongoing. They are responsible for a share of percentage points in public opinion and hence the war.

The number of wimmin that the united States kills in Iraq in a single year is greater than the total number of wimmin killed by stonings in Iran in a decade; even though Iran is more than twice the population of Iraq. Now that the U.S. military has a solid 8% portion of females in Iraq,(2) we can say that the Amerikan female kills several times more Mideast wimmin per day than stoning does. And we know this is not counting the half million Iraqi children killed by u.S. sanctions on Iraq as admitted by Secretary of State, the female Madelaine Albright.

Hey, and MIM has a message for the pseudo-feminists out there who do not know that already—at least sometimes, get your noses out of those white nationalist porno magazines like Cosmopolitan; stop watching "Sex in the City" reruns and study society and politics! Your de facto leader today is Azar Nafisi, someone who admits to escaping to the bathroom during political struggle. She wants the right to say that patriarchy is violent and has to be fought in a particular way, but she gives us the feeling she is listening to the Beatles sing, "you say you need a revolution" when something serious has to be examined.

According to the Feminist Daily News, stonings stopped in Iran in 2003 while

some even more militarist and more chauvinist clowns demonstrating today say it is still ongoing. Does MIM know the truth about that, does the Amerikan public, does the R&P=u\$A? We doubt it, because especially in a war climate the truth is the second victim, after the people. People in the Middle East/West Asia need to take that into account: what can they expect us to know? How is the Pentagon manipulating public opinion and what are the oppressor nation whites predisposed to believe anyway? If Iran stops stoning and no one reports it, what is the impact of that?

For the number of stonings we are talking about, it would be child's play for the CIA to pay some mullahs to carry them out. Recently, the Bu\$h administration admitted to creating a "diplomatic" office just for Iran with hundreds of agents.(3) NOW, Azar Nafisi, Robin Morgan etc. are whitewashing the real power by pointing to divergent customs of patriarchy. The scale of what u.S. imperialism does has to be taken into account in a real way. For a few agents to set up a few stonings, a few lashings—it's nothing. A few oil speculators could do it to increase Iran's tension with the united States and send up the price of oil. Recently, a CIA agent admitted that the movie, "Syriana" rang true to him, and he was a Mideast agent,(4) so he ought to know.

The reason "Syriana," CIA agents and imperialism are not real to pseudo-feminists is that they are actually obsessed with their gender privileges. Azar Nafisi admitted to breaking with the anti-imperialist movement over lifestyle questions. Once she became entitled to enjoying sexual life the way men do, she would not give that up, even if it meant selling out her sisters in Iran. She sensed that somehow anti-imperialism threatened her gender privileges that placed her in the global elite sexually.

Azar Nafisi attacked anti-imperialism

from the right, in defense of lifestyle. We also have those who pose ultraleft and attack anti-imperialism in the name of lifestyle. Both rightists and ultraleft purists are more concerned about their lifestyle and being allowed to live it without hypocrisy than they are about the issue of war and peace. War and peace is a group question—conducted at the national level, and also the class and gender level. Individualist approaches sanctifying lifestyles have no business calling themselves anti-militarist. Azar Nafisi, Robin Morgan, NOW and various male chauvinist pigs should live in hypocrisy: it's a far better thing than joining the warmongering patriarchy wholesale.

Notes:

1. "Secret MoD poll: Iraqis support attacks on British troops"

By Sean Rayment, Defence Correspondent

<http://telegraph.co.uk/news/main.jhtml?xml=/news/2005/10/23/wirq23.xml&sSheet=/portal/2005/10/23/ixportaltop.html> See also, 80% in Iraq Distrust Occupation Authority

Results of Poll, Taken Before Prison Scandal Came to Light, Worry U.S. Officials

By Thomas E. Ricks

Washington Post Staff Writer
Thursday, May 13, 2004; Page A10

2. Bloodiest day for U.S. women Marines killed in Falluja attack

<http://www.cnn.com/2005/WORLD/meast/06/24/iraq.main/index.html>

3. New US focus on promoting democracy in Iran

By Guy Dinmore in Washington

Published: March 2 2006 23:51 | Last updated: March 2 2006 23:51

www.ft.com

4. "Seeing Only Evil: An Interview with Retired CIA Agent Robert Baer" <http://www.chronogram.com/issue/2006/02/news/index.php>

Troops want out: Where will the "Support Our Troops" movement go now?

March 1, 2006

A poll shows that U.S. troops want to come home from Iraq and do not support those saying it is "cut and run." When Bu\$h started the war, he compared it with the occupation of Germany and how long it went on in order to create change.(1) To this day, U.S. troops are in Germany after World War II.

MIM now quotes from a U.S. military community publication:

"About half of American troops in Iraq believe the U.S. military should leave the country within six months, and three out of four think they should pull out within a year, according to a first-of-its-kind attempt to scientifically gauge the opinion of troops in a war zone.

"The poll, released on Tuesday by national pollster John Zogby, includes

face-to-face interviews of 944 randomly selected military personnel at four large U.S. bases. Among the findings:

"- 29 percent said U.S. troops should withdraw immediately. Another 22 percent said the U.S. should withdraw within six months, and 21 percent within a year. Just 23 percent said they believe troops should remain as long as they are needed.

"- 58 percent said the reasons for the U.S. mission in Iraq is clear in their minds; 42 percent said it was unclear or they were unsure.

"- 85 percent said they believed a main reason for invading Iraq was to retaliate for Saddam's role in the 9/11 attacks. That's despite the fact that there is very little concrete evidence linking Saddam

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The Philippines: Uncle Sam as usual labelling the good guys as bad guys

by International Minister
MIM has become involved exposing the political situation in the Philippines especially because the U.S. so-called War on Terror has labelled two opposition groups there as "terrorist." One is Muslim and the other communist.

U.S. military domination of the Philippines

Both organizations labelled "terrorist" have existed for generations and existed at a time that a U.S. military base dominated Filipino politics. The politics connected to that base are still much in the air in the Philippines. Under a new agreement, U.S. troops can visit the Philippines. On November 1, 2005

an American Marine who was out on liberty for only a few hours decided to have "consensual sex" with a young Filipina he met only that night, in a van occupied by five other American marines and their Filipino driver. The victim has since accused LCpl. Daniel Smith of raping her, and his companions of cheering Smith on while he was at it.(1)

Because the united States has such a bloated military, this happens all around the world. Treaties protect u.s. troops against prosecution, and when those treaties do not, the troops are bound to feel politically used.

MIM has a word of advice for Americans. Joining the military and going abroad is going to cramp your sex life. If you do manage to mix with people from

other countries, even if treaty does protect you, you will end up a sickie like Charles Graner in Abu Ghraib or even worse, because Graner has admitted what he has done while other higher-ranking officials have not. People everywhere are going to doubt that you could be having consensual sex with their people: there is too much power imbalance to believe it. If you stay at home, don't join the military and don't carry guns around, you will be better off.

The false support of democracy

Naturally, in continuing the same old politics in new guises such as fighting so-called terrorism, the Bu\$h administration says it is supporting freedom and democracy. Currently, that means the regime in power in the Philippines receives u.s. aid and Bush does not call it "terrorist," just the regime's opponents.

The truth is the opposite. Hamas in Palestine is officially designated terrorist by the united States and it just won elections. President Macapagal-Arroyo is supposedly not "terrorist," but videotape shows her fixing elections for a one million vote margin victory.(2) Not surprisingly, President Macapagal-Arroyo faces diverse opposition trying to remove her ranging from so-called terrorist Muslims and communists to military officers sworn to protect the constitution.

The false support of freedom

In the midst of military coup attempts

to remove President Macapagal-Arroyo and put in civilians, President Macapagal-Arroyo briefly imposed martial law. We are now supposedly a few days past that martial law, but she continues to detain her opponents. MIM received the following press release on one Filipino Crispin Beltran.

"On February 25 at around 8:30 am, a day after President Gloria Macapagal Arroyo declared her state of "national emergency" known as Presidential Proclamation 1017, AnakPawis Party list representative Crispin "ka Bel" Beltran was arrested by the PNP's CIDG agents led by Major Rene Corpuz in his home at San Francisco, Bulacan without presenting any warrant. The Arroyo administration is pressing him for inciting to sedition.

"For the last two decades, Congressman Beltran popularly known as Ka Bel has been a significant figure in the historical struggle of the Philippine labor sector and the poor masses for the recognition of rights and welfare. Due to his dedication and determination to the worker's cause, he was delegated as the Chairman Emeritus of the Kilusang Mayo Uno (KMU). He is also the founding Chairperson of the International League of Peoples Struggle (ILPS).

"From 2001-2003, he was one of the three solons of the Bayan Muna Party list and from 2004 up to the present, he is the chairman of the committee on labor and urban poor concerns in the house of

representatives.

"Ka Bel, 73 is never new to political persecutions as he tasted the first during the martial rule of Marcos. He was imprisoned in Camp Crame in 1982 due to trumped-up cases filed against him by the Marcos dictatorship. He suffered intolerable physical and mental torture from the military.

"On the morning of March 2, Ka Bel was rushed to the emergency room of the Philippine National Police General Hospital because of a mild attack of hypertension and his blood pressure rose to 170/100. His family said that Ka Bel complained of chest pains and having a hard time in going to sleep as memoirs of his tortures 21 years ago keep on haunting him. Aside from hypertension, Ka Bel is also suffering from arthritis and diabetes.

"The Arroyo administration seems to be really extraordinary as it ensures the heavily guarding of the bed bound Ka Bel. He is clearly being treated more than a criminal.

"As the PP1017 of Arroyo was lifted on 11:00 am of March 3, there is still no order for the release of Ka Bel and Joel Virador of Bayan Muna who was also arrested on February 27 at a Philippine Airlines Ticketing office in Davao City and the four Party list representatives who recently were taken into custody at the House of Congress (Satur Ocampo and Teddy Casiño of Bayan Muna, Liza Masa of Gabriela, and Rafael Mariano

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Troops want out: Where will the "Support Our Troops" movement go now?

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Hussein to al-Qaida, and that several independent inquiries have found no links whatsoever between Saddam and the attacks on Sept. 11, 2001."(2)

Now that the facts are clear, it will be interesting to see what the pro-war chauvinist "Support Our Troops" movement is going to do. The "Support Our Troops" movement to seize Iraqi oil spread nationally and went so far as to co-opt entire monopoly-capitalist radio station chains.(3)

MIM believes that the shift in troop opinion is yet another indication that the Iraqi people are winning. The Iraqi people had to fight hard to get to this point of clarity, this moment of truth.

When "W" Bu\$h went to war, he already had his father's advice and the advice of Bush Sr.'s intelligence and security people that the result of an Iraq invasion would be a civil war. Now, we see Bu\$h allowing a civil war to develop in Iraq. The bombing of the Shia Muslim shrine in Samarra has set off an exchange of massacres inside Iraq at just the moment that the u.s. troops are ready to go home in their own minds.

The Prime Minister of Turkey Recep Tayyip Erdogan has reportedly pointed the finger at the right place for the bombing of Shia holy places — the united States: "Do you think Sunnis [a rival splinter of Islam —ed.] staged those attacks? No Sunni can put a bomb on a tomb, this is

provocation, some want to start a clash between Sunnis and Shiites in Iraq. First they incited ethnic clashes in Iraq, now it is the time of starting sect clashes."(4) The united States was in charge of security at the holy shrines. So, the u.s. connection is obvious despite Bu\$h's denying that a civil war is about to start in Iraq, as if he had no connection.

In this context, Saddam Hussein has played an honorable role for the time since his arrest, even while he massacred communists with a CIA list to start his career. After the shrine bombing, Saddam Hussein called for national unity at his U.S. jerry-rigged trial.(5) With scores dying every day in inter-ethnic or sectarian violence, Saddam Hussein certainly does look the angel compared with Bush. This has to do with the particular role of Saddam Hussein's class — the national bourgeoisie. Once deprived of his CIA lackey role, Saddam Hussein reverted to national bourgeoisie. That class must alternately vie for independence from the imperialists while creating alliances with imperialism, because of its lack of independent power in the cases of Third World countries. We cannot condemn Saddam Hussein and Bush equally, because of the reality for all Third World leaders facing u.s. imperialism.

In the race to lackeydom, a Kurdish organization named "KurdishMedia" in England has played a shameful role.(6)

It essentially tattles on Erdogan to the imperialist population for pointing the finger at the united States for the shrine bombings. Simultaneously the Kurdish leader highest in the Iraqi government named Jalal Talabani opposed a visit of the Iraqi prime minister to Turkey.(7) The Kurdish people have produced many communist militants which the world must thank them for. It is time for Kurdish leaders to come forward who recognize what banking on U.S. imperialism means for issues of war and peace.

Notes:

1. See Bush mention Japan and Germany and also say the troops will stay as long as necessary as to bring "democracy" to Iraq:

"President Bush Announces Major Combat Operations in Iraq Have Ended," 1 May 2003, <<http://www.whitehouse.gov/news/releases/2003/05/iraq/20030501-15.html>> (1 March 2006).

In another speech, he said it again, "We must fight this war until the work is done." Then, he mentioned Germany and Japan again. "The United States did not run from Germany and Japan following World War II. We helped those nations to become strong and decent, democratic societies that no longer waged war on America. And that's our mission in Iraq today."

"President Discusses Progress in Iraq," 9 October 2003, <<http://www.whitehouse.gov/news/releases/2003/10/20031009-7.html>> (1 March 2006).

2. Gordon Trowbridge, "Troops poll: Pull out of Iraq in six months," 28 February 2006, <<http://www.armytimes.com/story.php?f=1-292925-1566644.php>> (1 March 2006).

3. "Clear Channel Provides over \$1.5 Million in Media Support to the USO," <<http://www.clearchannel.com/Radio/PressRelease.aspx?PressReleaseID=1214>> (1 March 2006).

4. "Erdogan Says Recent Attacks On Shiite Holy Places Are Provocation," 26 February 2006, <<http://www.turkishpress.com/news.asp?id=110023>> (1 March 2006).

5. Megan K. Stack, "Saddam Implicates Himself in '82 Executions," 1 March 2006, <http://www.latimes.com/news/nationworld/world/la-030106saddam_lat_0.699363.story?coll=la-home-headlines> (1 March 2006).

6. Vincent Boland and Steve Negus, Khasraw Saleh Koyi, "Turk PM Erdogan insinuates US involvement in Shia shrine bombing," 28 February 2006, <<http://www.kurdmedia.com/news.asp?id=11519>> (1 March 2006).

7. "Iraq's leaders squabble as death toll mounts," 28 February 2006, <<http://news.ft.com/cms/s/19e52b72-a889-11da-aeeb-0000779e2340.html>> (1 March 2006).

Colorado censors MT7

I deeply regret that I have exhausted all avenues of recourse available to me to fight the censorship of the letter and [MIM Theory 7] you sent me. It was never been satisfactorily explained to me why I am not allowed this material, but I assume these government puppets censor out of ignorance. The u.s. regime would keep your political viewpoint stifled and silent to the ears of the proletariat, lest the proverbial appletart of elitist wealth be overturned by the uninformed, poor, overburdened masses. I have had the magazine sent back in hopes that someone else can benefit from it.

— a Colorado prisoner, 27 December, 2006

MIM adds: Yup, that about sums it up. MIM has the honor of the mighty censorship efforts of prison systems throughout the united snakes, and the censors are happy knowing that each publication of ours they reject is a disproportionate strike against our propaganda efforts, as they are keeping our literature from the u.s. population that wants it most badly. The prisoncrats' desperate fear of allowing our materials into the prisons gives the lie to the prisons' claim to be for "rehabilitation" or "corrections;" they're terrified of a little political education for the prisoners. MIM will be protesting this censorship, and forwarding the Colorado prisoner some materials to help h continue the struggle from the inside.

Pilloried in Missouri

They have these benches here that they use for torture. If a prisoner refuses a cellie, these imperialists hand-cuff that prisoner to a bench until he agrees to go in a cell or a cell is found for him. Prisoners have been left for hours cuffed to a bench, and during this time they are denied food and access to the toilet.

— a Missouri prisoner, 11 December, 2006

A Big Red Spot in Kansas

I apologize for my late correspondence. I was passing around the petition for names to close down control units and ran into a bit of a problem with the hacks. Unfortunately, they confiscated the petition. I was to be written up for disruptive behavior and incitement to riot, but after a lengthy argument with the officials (who obviously took into consideration my past history of winning civil actions) they dropped the charges. They will take it out on me by keeping me in the SHU longer now.

I got the newsletters you sent and have distributed them throughout the cell-house after reading them myself. I have gotten positive feedback on them so far and some guys ask me for more. I am pleased to report there has been a rash of political discussions lately and their direction is satisfying to listen to. Any extra literature I am sure I can feed into the Big Red Spot forming here in KS.

- a Kansas prisoner, 27 January 2006

MIM adds: We hope all those other prisoners in KS who are reading this comrade's MIM Notes will write in for their own subs, as should everyone who is getting their MIM Notes through a friend. You can give us even wider circulation this way, and it's good insurance against transfer or otherwise losing contact with your newspapers.

Arkansas library a black hole for books

I would prefer that you all not donate books to this prison library. They do not do right by

Under Lock & Key

News from Prisons & Prisoners

us. Our access to the library is extremely restricted. You could donate books and we would never see them. You'll do better sending them to my comrades and myself. We'll share them and make sure they touch the right hands.

— an Arkansas prisoner, 16 January 2006

COs insult prisoners' mothers in Maryland

I'm currently on medical segregation. All the inmates on my tier and two others are protesting — banging doors, yelling, flooding the tier, etc. — because some guards beat up one of the inmates while he was wearing handcuffs. The guards have also been verbally abusing us all through xmas saying things like "fuck your mother," or "I fucked your mother," or "your mother's a whore" and lots of other things. Anything they can come up with they'll say. I've been mostly staying quiet and to myself since I've been on segregation.

— a Maryland prisoner, 16 January, 2006

Guard abuse and death threats in MO

An officer has violated my civil rights. I had been on hunger strike for 30 days when I got sick and had to be sent out to the hospital. A C.O. told the nurses and paramedics who were taking me to the hospital that I like to hold nurses hostage.

When I returned from the hospital the same officer said "fuck that nigger, take the bed out of the room." He made threats on my life, and forced me to sleep on the floor for a week. For weeks I have been writing the case workers about this officer, and yet they leave me in the unit with this man.

— a Missouri prisoner, September 2005

AR DOC is covering for guard abuses

On 27 December, 2005, a Department of Corrections spokeswoman knowingly lied to the news media claiming the reason there were "more forceful removals of inmates from cells in 2005 than in previous years" was that prisoners "are more violent and want to hurt officers."

The fact is the officers are instigating most of the incidents. At the Tucker Max Unit, for example, many guards are kids under 25, just out of school and without proper training in how to deal with prisoners. Most of the problems occur in lockdown cellblocks where officers are required by policy to take telephones, food trays, mail, legal supplies, etc. to inmates. But when prisoners request these things, officers will ignore their duty, especially if the requester is on the third tier. The officers' reply is "I'm not climbing those stairs." If the inmate continues to make the request, officers will readily reply: "lay your bitch-ass down!" Then when the inmate raises his voice to get the attention of the control-booth officer, he's told "pack your shit!" meaning he's about to be placed in punitive isolation. Should the inmate insist on seeing the supervising officer regarding the attitude and actions of the officer who has denied his requests, he's sprayed with mace, handcuffed

and beaten. All because a juvenile officer refuses to perform the duties of a guard.

The surveillance cameras in every cell block will attest to how the officers play around on duty and use force when it is not required. Yet rather than train these kids in their jobs, the department misleads the public by claiming inmates are instigating violence.

— an Arkansas prisoner, January 2006

Retaliation in Kansas

I admire your idea of trade, not charity [in the Books for Prisoners program], and am very willing to contribute on various levels. I've begun by talking to other prisoners about MIM. Due to my active fight against Kansas's facilities, I have once again been transferred. This time they've moved me as far away from my friends and family as possible. To be expected, though it will not hinder the fight.

— a Kansas prisoner, 28 December 2005

Bad library in Illinois

We have no library where you can send books here. Our prison is located in rural southern Illinois and has the flavor of the South during the '50s and '60s if you get my drift. We are locked down about 22 hours/day, with no programs or jobs, just a lot of downtime.

I am a civil rights litigator who is often in the segregation unit or SHU and without access to the already-outdated books in the prison law library. So any help you can give me with that would be greatly appreciated.

— an Illinois prisoner, 27 December 2005

MIM responds: Our supply of legal books is so limited that we have no books on hand that will serve this comrade's needs. We rely on donations and make this offer to all readers: you send us a law book, we'll send it to a prisoner who can use it. Copies of the Prisoners' Self-Help Litigation Manual are especially welcome.

Bad water at Pelican

On February 12, 2006 inmates were notified in ad-seg A-yard that inmates are to not drink any water nor be around it because it's badly polluted with bacteria. My concerns are this, a lot of worries and questions raise now, like how long has this water been polluted with bacteria? Should the state prison pay coverage free to test every inmate for bacteria? Should the CDC be held accountable if anyone gets sick or dies because of bacteria? Should prisons have prepared long ago to make sure all water systems had been properly filtered, tested and screened to prevent such dangers? I say yes.

This is a good time for inmates to write to outside resources, attorneys, state officers and support groups as well as addressing these matters to the prison themselves. I hope when inmates and outside resources read this I hope people start acting to do something and address these dangerous concerns.

- a California prisoner, January 2006

California BMU pilot

I'm writing to let all the prisoners who still haven't laid down know that these COs are pulling some underhanded shit. They just came up wit this program called the BMU

program: Behavior Modification Unit. It is a pilot program they put in effect for a 24 month period beginning November 21, 2005 through November 21, 2007 at which time it will lapse by operation of the law or will be promulgated through the administrative procedures act. Any prisoner who generates two serious 115s or one serious 115 and two administrative 115s within 180 days is considered a program failure, and is placed in BMU. They send all of you property home except:

1 wedding band, Soft cover religious material, Eye glasses (one), Athletic shoes (one), Table of lined paper (one), Embossed envelopes (15), Legal material, Canteen (45 bucks).

Also they got this new law about who refused to participate in racial integration will be placed in BMU and all your property sent home: photos, TV, radio, watch, chains, everything that's not on the list. But all I can say for those who are still here, it is time to stand up for our rights because it's only going to get worst. Right now it's up to us to shut this punk shit down.

- a prisoner at High Desert in California, January 2006

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.

Reality behind chaos

Prison violence is an inevitability, especially in California. So, it shouldn't surprise anyone Calipatria State Prison (CSP) in southern-California exploded into an inmate-against-guard melee on August 18. The riot, which spread to other areas of the prison, resulted in one inmate being fatally shot, and 25 from each side being injured.

This is a prime example of what ails the California Department of Correction and Rehabilitation (CDCR), the most violent and dysfunctional corrections department in the country. Punitive prison conditions — i.e., overcrowding, lengthy sentences, and horrendous medical — cause prisoners to lash out like animals out of pure frustration. As an inmate who has lived under these conditions for years, prison violence never surprises me anymore. Without anything to lose, people are capable of anything.

In the case of Calipatria, once the alleged perpetrators are taken to segregation or moved to other prisons, the thousands of CSP inmates who weren't even involved will feel the brunt of the guard's wrath. Once the prison is completely locked-down, then the guards will slowly and methodically mete out their revenge. Under the justifiable guise to search for weapons, they will destroy, confiscate, and throw away as much inmate personal property as possible in order to punish the population for what happened to their fellow officers.

Once this initial phase of retribution is complete, then the pangs of a lengthy lockdown begin to take its toll, and the mind truly becomes a terrible thing. When an institution is enveloped by extreme oppression — both sides become entrenched in their "us against them" mentality.

Regardless of post-incident excuses by the CDCR, they've had a myriad of chances to address the hell-like conditions of Calipatria. But they consistently make things worse by failing to recognize the insanity of their disastrous human rights policies. Through a lack of professional aptitude, an already psychologically unstable population simply deviates even further.

It shouldn't be a mystery why inmates don't respond positively to ultra-harsh penological methodologies. The California prisoner has become a rudderless Titanic heading full-steam into a wall of icebergs — coaxed along by the batons, bullets, and hazing of the guards. As a demographic, our self-destructive nature is catastrophic under the current correctional ideologies.

In the case of the Aug. 18 riot, the CDCR is as culpable as the riotous inmates for fostering an atmosphere reminiscent of Abu Ghraib, Guantanamo Bay, or even Attica.

-Buried Alive, A California prisoner, January 2006

Victory in fight against limitations on receiving books

Prisoners at Salinas Valley State Prison won an appeal in September 2005, allowing them to receive books from any bookstore that provides mail order. Previously the prison had imposed the arbitrary policy of limiting prisoners to book orders from Barnes & Nobels, Borders and Amazon.com. Prisoners at SVSP organized a group appeal, with 53 prisoners signing on and three prisoners speaking for the group. This appeal was denied at the first level but was won at the second level with the Warden's review. The fight against this policy demonstrates the power of prisoner unity and the potential to win battles within the system. Below is a copy of the argument used in these prisoners' appeal.

Our argument is quite clear. To quote the Dom under Publications 54018, inmates may subscribe to newspapers, periodicals, books (directly from the publisher or vendor). Wardens may approve inmates receiving new and used books and periodicals from sources other than the publisher or vendor. Now, according to C/O Alexander who is in charge of distributing packages, special purchases, etc., we are only allowed to receive reading materials from Barnes & Noble and Borders Bookstores which are supposedly the only vendors approved by the institution. This is false! A memo for a so called approved vendor list concerning books, newspapers and periodicals was never issued to the inmate population, even if there was, it would have been in violation of the DOM. I myself, as well as others, have received publications in the past from places other than the approved vendors, this was never an issue before. Why now? The DOM clearly states that we are allowed to receive books from any legitimate source.

Much of the population here who order books do so from small independent bookstores which tend to provide a better and wider selection of factual knowledgeable reading material at a fairer more affordable price, as opposed to the large chain bookstores who peddle mostly junk novels and books which are sold at inflated unreachable prices and which are of little or no intellectual substance. Also, many of the smaller independent bookstores provide indigent inmates with precious free books for prisoners programs such as the Prison Literature Project as well as many others. These organizations help keep us updated on current and historical events. By refusing us access and or eliminating those invaluable institutions to us, we are not only being denied the right to further advance our education and awareness of current events, we are also being subjected to repression and censorship! This is how these actions are having an adverse effect on the prison population and will continue to do so if they

are not looked into and overturned.

Desert View run by abusive staff

I am currently a ward of the state of California and a pretrial detainee. In July, 2004 I was transferred to Desert View MCCF, a private run prison in San Bernardino County. Desert View is staffed by the Geo group, but supervised by California Department of Correction officers. On July 28, 2004 I was participating in the weekly Islamic services when a Geo staff abruptly interrupted the services allegedly to ask about my facial hair. After presenting the Geo staff with medical documents for my facial hair the staff began threatening other participants. This incident was immediately reported to the CDC Sgt on duty. Over the next few days I was struck in the groin by the same staff and in another incident I was prevented from using the rest room for malicious and sadistic retaliatory reasons.

On the 5th of August 2004, I again was stopped by the same Geo staff. This time the staff informed me that it was against the institution policy to have a pocket size Qur'an. I immediately reported this incident to the same CDC Sgt. 45 minutes later, in front of the Islamic services the Geo staff grabbed me around the neck and attempted to swing with a metal flashlight. This happened in view of the institution camera. However the institution claims that after six days that they recorded over the video. The alleged was also the reporting staff, who did not take the names or statements of the witnesses.

I was found guilty in a state disciplinary hearing, and was placed in the SHU program for 28 months. After all the witnesses paroled, the stated pursued criminal charges. After fourteen months, one Geo staff testified that I knocked out four of his teeth and in the last nine months he had a heart attack. However, he did not testify that the teeth were dentures.

The other Geo staff testified that she has three bulging disks in her neck because she grabbed me. Her medical reflects she was in a car accident in which she sustained whiplash and she suffers from brachial plexus entrapment or degenerative disc disease. The medical report further reflects that she has posterior disc protrusion, abnormal curvature. In spite of all the obvious misrepresentation of the truth, I'm facing what may be a life sentence. Prior to this incident I've only had one discipline and that was in 1991. Based on this situation I was deprived of the chance to communicate with my last dying brother and I cannot express the sufferings of my family. What is truly sad is that the CDC Sgt has informed me that many times he has warned the warden about this behavior.

A few months ago the San Bernadino Sun newspaper did a story on the Geo group donating \$60,000 to the Governor's fund and strangely receiving a 20 million dollar contract.
- a California prisoner, November 2005

Join the fight against the injustice system

While we fight to end the criminal injustice system MIM engages in reformist battles to improve the lives of prisoners. Below are some of the campaigns we are currently waging, and ways people behind the bars and on the outside can get involved. More info can be found on our prison web site: <http://www.etext.org/Politics/MIM/agitation/prisons>

Stop Censorship in Prison: Prisons frequently censor books, newspapers and magazines coming from MIM's books for prisoners program. We need help from lawyers, paralegals and jailhouse lawyers to fight this censorship.

Books for Prisoners: This program focuses on political education of prisoners. Send donations of books and money for our Books for Prisoners program.

End the Three Strikes laws: This campaign is actively fighting the repressive California laws, but similar laws exist in other states. Write to us to request a petition to collect signatures. Send articles and information on three strike laws.

Shut Down the Control Units: Across the country there are a growing number of prison control units. These are permanently 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 problems for prisoners.

Write to us to request a petition to collect signatures. Get your organization to sign the statement demanding control units be shut down. Send us information about where there are control units in your state. Include the names of the prisons as well as the number of control unit beds/cells in each prison if that is known. Send us anti-control unit artwork.

MIM's Re-Lease on Life Program: This program provides support for our comrades who have been recently released from the prison system, to help them meet their basic needs and also continue with their revolutionary organizing on the outside. We need funds, housing, and job resources. We also need prisoner's input on the following survey questions:

1. What are the biggest challenges you face being released from prison?
2. How can these problems be addressed?
3. What are the important elements of a successful release program?

Facts on US imprisonment

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

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

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

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

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

2. Ibid., 1992 report.

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

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

5. Atlantic Monthly December, 1998.

Transamerica ruffles notion of progressive imperialism

Transamerica

Directed by Duncan Tucker, 2005

www.transamerica-movie.com

Mild spoiler warning

"Transamerica" opened in limited release in the United States on December 23, a week after "Brokeback Mountain"'s (2005) wide release. "Transamerica" has grossed about \$2.5 million domestically as of February 10, according to Box Office Mojo (www.boxofficemojo.com), compared with "Brokeback"'s \$63.5 million, which is not that whopping to begin with compared with more mainstream movies but indicates how marginalized "Transamerica" is, at its widest release playing at only 126 theaters.

Felicity Huffman plays Bree, a male-to-female transsexual womyn preparing to have sex reassignment surgery. It is a struggle. First, she has to deal with a psychiatrist (Danny Burstein) who acts caring and concerned, but seems reluctant to authorize her sex surgery and does so only as part of the treatment of her "gender dysphoria." The second challenge Bree faces is caring for a son (Kevin Zegers) whom she finds out she has from an old relationship only after he is put in jail in New York for shoplifting a frog. A minor, Toby is a street hustler and addicted to heroin, and an animal-lover. The plot of the movie revolves around Bree's avoiding telling Toby that she was ever Stanley, his father, while helping Toby establish a new life. Bree pretends to be a Christian missionary, which provides for some comic relief. Bree's therapist and friend Margaret (Elizabeth Peña) refuses to give her the final authorization for her sex reassignment surgery until Bree deals with Toby, this "part of [her] body that cannot be disregarded." "Transamerica" feels campy at times (due to comedic characters such as the pot-smoking "level-four-vegan" hitchhiker and Bree's horrifically cruel but strangely funny mother), but like all movies has a political aspect to it. In "Transamerica," some of the politics is more or less transparent.

Where the "America" part of "Transamerica" comes in is that Bree drives back to Los Angeles with Toby to save on airfare and traverses the country, stopping in Virginia, Texas, New Mexico, and Arizona. However, unlike "Brokeback Mountain," "Transamerica" does not try to mold its subject matter to make it a part of Americana.(2) In New Mexico, after Toby finds out that Bree is a transsexual womyn, Bree, drawing from a sometimes overly romanticized understanding of Two-Spirit people, tells Toby and a hitchhiker (Grant Monohon):

"Many societies throughout history have honored and revered transgendered people. The Zulu, the Yoruba [African indigenous peoples]. The Native Americans called us two spirit people..."

Then the settlers came. They tended to murder us on sight."(1)

"Transamerica" in this brief moment offers a rare, if condensed, history lesson on the role of colonialism and settlerism

in transphobia, homophobia, and the political and social domination of indigenous nations in the Americas. Whereas "Brokeback Mountain" in various ways implies a linear history of improvements in gay rights beginning with the white man's arrival, and an outward dispersion of progressive ideas about homosexuality from big cities to rural towns, "Transamerica" in contrast unsettles the notion that colonialism and now imperialism have been a progressive force for gay and transgender rights.

The United States' most renowned film critic Roger Ebert flatly ridiculed the idea that Bree's brief romantic flirtation with Navajo- and Zuni-descended Calvin (Graham Greene) was significant. Ignoring the Navajos' and Zunis' historical acceptance of transgender and homosexual people in certain roles, Ebert goes on to mock the idea that oppressed nations have an interest in opposing transphobia and homophobia even if individual oppressed-nation people do not always know it: "It is significant that Bree works in L.A. as a waitress in a Mexican-American diner; Mexicans, like Indians, apparently have a genetic tendency to open-mindedness."(3) Liberal Ebert frames the question in terms of tolerance, rather than self-determination and struggling against national oppression.

Bree lives in a Chicano neighborhood, and while they are zigzagging and making their way across the United States, Bree and Tony hitch a ride in the back of a truck and ride with Mexican laborers. Workers at the Mexican restaurant where Bree works teach her how to speak Spanish. Roger Ebert would undoubtedly say all of this is just part of the scenery, but for some moviegoers these things may allude to an alliance between oppressed nations and transgendered people oppressed or alienated under the imperialist-patriarchy. Although the metaphor isn't developed much further in the movie, gender "migrant" Bree (with migrant youth sex worker Toby going to Los Angeles to work as a porn actor) is literally a fellow traveler of Mexican migrant workers in "Transamerica."

The man named Calvin whom Bree meets helps Bree and Toby after they become stranded in New Mexico. Calvin has a drink with Bree at his home. It is Mezcal. "A friend of mine brings it up from Oaxaca every year." Indigenous Calvin's relationship with Two-Spirit people-admirer Bree is open to interpretation and may be symbolic to only a few moviegoers, but Bree's desire to use indigenous traditions to validate her transsexuality is a recurring and important theme. Gay activists in the past have drawn on knowledge of the Two-Spirit people of First Nations to construct a universal gay identity. This reviewer is not going to sort out all the problems with that here. Suffice it to say if Bree is not really half-Indian, as she claims for most of the movie, and doesn't have any real relationship to the traditional practices she admires, she should still use her

knowledge of the colonial and settler history to ally with oppressed nations. She should also focus on the here and now and look at how imperialism colludes with the patriarchal system that oppresses womyn and youth, and how the influence of the First World in some cases increases intolerance toward transgender people in the Third World. Just disowning whiteness in the form of changing one's cultural identity only goes so far, but Bree would be doing the world's oppressed people a favor by betraying the Euro-American oppressor nation politically.

"Transamerica" takes a swipe at European settlers who repressed, enslaved and even killed indigenous transgender and homosexual people, and this is a merit of the movie at a time when knowledge of this history is rare and continues to be suppressed. One limitation of "Transamerica" is that it does not directly and openly challenge the oppression of womyn. Bree's mannerisms are those of a "proper" middle-class, professional white womyn. Bree embodies a non-subversive femininity and never changes in this respect except to accommodate Toby in ways that I will get into later. This is complicated by the fact that First World womyn are privileged compared with youth and Third World womyn. People on the street treat Bree, when she is in stealth mode, as a member of what is called the gender aristocracy: made up of First World womyn who have less power than First World men, but who benefit from patriarchy overall for various reasons. Although she has some college education, Bree is a bus girl at a restaurant and a telemarketer, reflecting the gendered occupational segregation that continues to exist in the United States despite having decreased. Bree's femininity is also associated with dating men and taking part in the romance culture. First World womyn who enjoy relationships in the rape and romance

cultures tend to be gender oppressors, but they have relatively less power than the men. This relatively less powerful position is something Bree is compelled to accept as part of the package of being a transgendered womyn in a society that oppresses womyn, and the movie doesn't show Bree resisting this position or the larger oppression of womyn.

Some pseudo-feminists criticize transsexual people for perpetuating gender roles. This is often a lifestyle criticism and not the argument that is being made here. Non-trans womyn and men often have stereotypically gendered behavior, but that by itself does not make them reactionary even though men in particular may be part of a reactionary social group. At no time in "Transamerica" do we see Bree articulating a defense of male supremacy or even the romance culture. She is just acting how she believes a respected womyn of her economic class is supposed to act, and within that logic Bree's behavior makes sense. Even when it comes to Bree's individualism and her sometimes single-minded pursuit of sex reassignment surgery, we cannot say this is any worse than someone trying to lose weight for dating purposes, to use a familiar example that is not quite analogous. Transsexuality is not an ideology any more than being gay is an ideology; although, systematic research shows that many transsexual men and womyn become more aware of sexism and discrimination.

*For the rest of this review,
visit www.mimnotes.info*

The Philippines: Uncle Sam as usual labelling the good guys as bad guys

From 9...

of AnakPawis)

"The ranks of the progressive workers under the leadership of the Kilusang Mayo Uno-Cordillera condemn the dubious act of Arroyo in her desperate move to cling on her power. We demand the immediate release of Ka Bel and all of the progressive law makers and individuals illegally arrested under the much unjustified PP1017 of Arroyo!

"We reaffirm the call for the ouster of the corrupt, fascist and fake president Arroyo doing everything even to the extent of killing her own people in clinging to her power and inflicting unbearable hardships to the whole of the nation.

"RELEASE ALL POLITICAL PRISONERS!

NEVER AGAIN TO MARTIAL RULE!

JUSTICE FOR ALL THE VICTIMS OF HUMAN RIGHTS VIOLATIONS! OUST GLORIA!"

The word "terrorist" has become a justification for repression. The united States is giving backward regimes around the world the green light to abuse the idea of "terrorism" to proclaim martial law, detain opponents and fake elections.

Notes:

1. "Goodbye again," http://partners.inq7.net/newsbreak/cover/index.php?story_id=66031

2. http://news.inq7.net/nation/index.php?index=1&story_id=39902