Imperialism attacks just about every Islamic force it can find

NEWT GINGRICH CALLS FOR WORLD WAR III

Former number three official in the U.S. Government, ex-House Speaker Newt Gingrich has called for President Bush to declare “World War III” on behalf of Israel.

“I mean, this is absolutely a question of the survival of Israel, but it’s also a question of what is really a world war,” Gingrich said. He then cited a litany of events that confirm this conclusion. “North Korea firing missiles. We say there’ll be consequences, there are none. North Koreans fire seven missiles on our Fourth of July; bombs going off in Mumbai, India; a war in Afghanistan with sanctuaries in Pakistan … the Iran/Syria/Hezbollah alliance.” In addition, he said “there is the war in Iraq funded largely from Saudi Arabia and supplied largely from Syria and Iran.”(1)

MIM’s position is that World War III by English, French and U.S. aggressors against oppressed nations has been going on since World War II. It’s just that Gingrich is getting around to noticing the increasing power of the Third World. His words also vindicate MIM’s founding documents from 1983 on the real question being imperialism’s overextension in the world.

The MIM Central Committee decision of May 17 concerning Iran and Islamic countries (6) came none to soon. This fine day July 16th finds the imperialists engaged in war with more and more organized forces of the Islamic countries, and specifically using Iran as an excuse.

In May, MIM said, “Overall, MIM finds the likelihood of anti-Islamic war higher than the likelihood of imperialist occupation of countries of our ex-comrades. The Islamic countries are at this moment engaging in aggression against imperialism’s overextension in the world. The Islamic countries are at this moment fighting imperialism — and so the imperialists are going to war to stop them.”(2)

The picture the U.S. warmongers try to paint—north Korea makes the missiles, ships them to Iran, who hands them to Syria, who gives them to Hezbollah—is not so.

U.S. alleges Iranians witnessed north Korean missile launch

Unbridled American aggression will only unite oppressed nations in resistance.

On 20 July U.S. Assistant Secretary of State Chris Hill stated in a public hearing that “one or more” Iranians attended north Korea’s recent missile tests. “Our understanding is that North Korea has had a number of commercial relations in the Middle East with respect to missiles,” he said.(1) Not coincidentally, these comments came just over one week into Israel’s most recent terror campaign against Lebanon—amidst calls from American political hacks to launch World War III and take the war to Iran.(2)

Hill retracted his statement the next day—sort of. “I have heard about the specific reports that Iranians were there on the day the missiles were fired, although […] I’m not a position to confirm the specific reports.”(3) But his point was made.(4)

Hill’s aspersions linked the campaigns to justify American attacks on Iran and north Korea, which are principally based on “anti-proliferation” arguments. There is no excuse for buying into the imperialists’ rhetoric about “weapons of mass destruction” and thereby leaving oppressed nations defenseless before imperialist aggression—just as there is no excuse for ramping up criticism of non-proletarian Islamic regimes in oppressed countries just as the Americans send in the special forces and saturate the ether with their crusader “clash of civilizations” bullshit.(5)

Two excuses for war with one stone

Big Amerikan media don’t show the real effects of Israel-Israel’s bombing in Lebanon. These pictures are from www.indymedia.org.

On the web: www.etext.org/Politics/MIM
July 4th celebrations 2006

University of Oregon attacks MIM Notes

Eugene, OR—As fireworks exploded overhead for July 4th weekend, and newspapers bragged of so-called freedom in this so-called free country, University of Oregon Eugene security physically attacked a MIM Notes distributor. Eugene police then arrived to say that University of Oregon has the right to use force to detain people on its property.

The MIM Notes distributor was in a car when University of Oregon Eugene security officer Cameron pulled up, threatened the distributor with pepper-spray, and reached into the car to twist the driver’s arm. (This happened at approximately 10pm July 3rd.) Told in no uncertain terms that his actions constituted assault and kidnapping, Cameron proceeded. The driver had already spoken to security on the same block and received no indication that there was private property or any problem. Quite the contrary, an orange “detour” sign from the roads started on the block and another existed where the attack occurred—an indication that the roads were in fact public anyway.

Unlike at previous times, the road in front of University of Oregon, Eugene’s student center did not even attempt to close off as the detour allowed drivers through. The driver asked repeatedly to speak to the attacker’s supervisor. The attacker, Cameron lied and said he was on the way. Cameron was shown the newspaper that was being delivered and still he continued his attack while claiming the right to see id and detain the MIM Notes distributors by force. Indeed, he referred to “papers” with his own made up story as if there were not distribution stalls right outside the buildings that MIM Notes appeared at.

When speaking with Eugene police, MIM learned that the University of Oregon is attempting to have things both ways. On the one hand, it does not want to close off its roads, because it wants access to the public, but on the other hand, it wants to close off to the public.

The Supreme Court has already ruled that public thoroughfares cannot be declared private property, even at an airport—precisely to disallow such security set-ups. The alternative to the University of Oregon is to gate off its property and make it invitation-only. As usual, university security justified itself with reference to thefts on university property. Again, that could be a reason to gate off the property. If theft is such a problem, then University of Oregon can inconvenience its own people to that extent. Instead, in all likelihood the question is one of having things both ways. Theft is not such a great problem that University of Oregon wants to gate off its own property. On the other hand it thinks nothing of attacking and detaining the public.

We are sure that faculty, researchers and students will find it absurd that the University of Oregon Eugene is trying to prevent the distribution of communist papers with reference to being “private property.” We recommend that all prospective members of the Eugene community consider some other university until that day University of Oregon’s administration allows Eugene interaction with the outside world. We’re quite sure that it is not only communists who do not want to be protected from communist papers by university officials with too much security money in the budget to spend. Eugene is not the kind of place that the world’s most intelligent people will want to live, study and work.

See also our web page on censorship in united States: http://www.etext.org/Politics/MIM/agitation/censor/index.html

MIM Notes

The Official Newsletter of The Maoist Internationalist Movement
ISSN 1540-8817

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. MIM comrades, are members of the Party. The Revolutionary Anti-Imperialist League (RAIL) is an anti-imperialist mass organization led by MIM (RCs are RAIL Comrades). MIM’s ten-point program is available to anyone who sends in a SASE.

The paper is free to all prisoners, as long as they write to us every 90 days to confirm their subscriptions. There are no individual subscriptions for people outside prison. People who want to print and/or distribute MIM Notes should contact mim3@mim.org. Most back issues of MIM Notes are available free on our web site. The web site contains thousands of documents, with ordering information for many more.

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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 MIM Internationalist parties of Aztlán, 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.”

MIM's investigation: Plagiarism charges against Ward Churchill

July 15, 2006—MIM investigated plagiarism charges against professor Ward Churchill and found them lacking and rather pointing to an ongoing criminal conspiracy against his civil rights. We will start with the naked truth of the charge. MIM cites the University of Colorado and then proceed to a larger, more intelligent discussion.

First of all is timing. The report admits that no plagiarism complaint came to the University of Colorado until 2005, well after Ward Churchill’s comments on 9/11 catapulted him to even greater levels of fame. For MIM, this is prima facie evidence that the complaint is not a case of plagiarism. Indeed, University of Colorado admits that one of the two plagiarism complainers never came forward but in fact filed that Ward Churchill is an ethnic fraud, the type of complaint the right-wing talk show hosts and other political enemies are making.

This leaves MIM with the University of Colorado’s interpretation of the “Dam the Dams Campaign” controversy. We reviewed the University of Colorado report showing the similarities in writing in Ward Churchill’s articles concerning the dam situation in a region of Kanada.

Here our first concern is why the University of Colorado chose history as its provenance for a charge of plagiarism. Did “Dam the Dams” think it was writing history when it gave Ward Churchill its leaflet? We believe that the University of Colorado knew very well that the activist did not think of itself that way, and regarding Dam the Dams in that light is evidence of malice by the University of Colorado.

University of Colorado’s complaint boils down to saying that Ward Churchill’s footnotes referring to an article with Dam the Dams as a co-author of an earlier article were not enough. This is a subtle point. University of Colorado is not denying that Ward Churchill was an author of the original article published on the topic. We also have not seen University of Colorado deny Ward Churchill ownership. It is merely saying the original article had the “Dam the Dams Campaign” as a co-author that does not always appear in subsequent versions of the article. (1)

MIM’s examination of Ward Churchill’s footnotes shows that the first few were actually comments on the content of Churchill’s own document. The first in the 2002 Struggle for the Land says:

“This is not to say that everything is “okay” in the United States. For a succinct treatment of right-wing anti-Imperialist: “Lower Forty-Eight,” see Daniel McCool’s Command of the Waters: Iron Triangles, Federal Water Development, and Indian Water.

These sort of footnotes are not really sources but recommendations for further reading. A later footnote again refers to Dam the Dams, but apparently University of Colorado says the footnote should have had greater prominence or listed Dam the Dams as a co-author.

Activists and intellectual property: University of Colorado’s credibility threat. MIM knew right away that the “Dam the Dams” controversy was likely part of a criminal conspiracy, because MIM comrades come from backgrounds in single-issue movements. We know first-hand what it is like trying to get media attention for a good cause. People who do not have the political experience and thought about the motivations for approaching someone like Churchill. We found it highly improbable that anyone in an environmentalist movement objected to Ward Churchill’s publication of leaflet material—except maybe after 9/11 comments by Ward Churchill. In fact, we find it likely that organization activists tried to co-opt Ward Churchill or include him as a member. Even now that MIM has the most-read communist website exceeding traffic for Cuba’s web page lately, we still find some reason that we ourselves would give Churchill documents to.

MIM cites 2nd Amendment, gets banned

MIM recently sent free issues of our magazine MIM Theory 14: United Front to many of our comrades behind bars. The response by prisoncrats was widespread censorship, which should be of concern to everyone from the National Rifle Association (NRA) to New African Liberationists. The Eastern Oregon Correctional Institution, sent a stack of violation notices and a complaint in Oregon State Penitentiary forwarded us a copy of a violation notice that they never sent to us themselves, despite regulations requiring them to notify both the sender and the intended recipient. All of these censored MT14 complaining about page 92 and 96 of the Black Panther Reprints section of the magazine. On page 92, Field Marshall Don Cox says, “more and more gun control legislation, the guise under which the people are being umaired, is being passed every day to take away the democratic right to bear arms, which in turn dehumanizes you by preventing you from exercising your human right to self-defense.” While most NRA supporters will balk at the Panthers efforts to unite the oppressed for self-determination, if they want to protect the right to express one’s opinions on the right to bear arms and shoulders they should support MIM in this case.

The main article on page 96 is “Message to Revolutionary Women” from Candi Robinson, which stresses the inherent unity of Black people in revolutionary struggle, while acknowledging the need for Black women in the movement to educate Black men about gender inequality, among other things. The prisoncrats did not specify which part of either of these articles was deemed “inflammatory material”, the reason given for its censorship.

Washington State has simultaneously issued an across the state ban of MT14, as well as MIM Notes 328, 330 and 331.

Despite a US District Court ruling in 1999 that disallowed the WA Department of Corrections (DOC) from an across the board ban of MIM publications based on our declared purpose of “struggle[ng] to end oppression by build[ng] public opinion to seize power through armed struggle,” they have blocked all four of these publications from entering WA prisons without providing any specific justifications. The only justification given by authorities at Stafford Creek Correctional Facility is WA DOC 450-100, which includes over 30 different reasons that “Incoming Mail can be rejected for.”

One comrade in Washington did write us to tell us his MIM literature had been censored, with the reason give that it “advocates armed violent struggle against authority.” This misrepresents MIM to imply that we advocate that prisoners use violence against Correctional Officers (COs). On the contrary we expressly discourage prisoners from getting into physical confrontations with anyone. We have a long history of comrades behind bars who have stopped getting in trouble for violence after finding more effective means of self-defense through legal battles and public opinion building.

The idea that MIM can be censored because we recognize the need for armed struggle by the oppressed to liberate themselves from imperialism is illegal despite regular attempts by prisoncrats to do so. According to Procunier v. Martinez, the Supreme Court upheld the right of prisoners to receive mail, regardless of the prison official’s opinion of the mail content, as long as there are no legitimate restrictions from the prison related to correctional purposes. Our belief in the need to seize power through armed struggle is that we share with Thomas Jefferson, Abraham Lincoln and the founding fathers of the United States government.

Just prior to going to print, a comrade in Washington State Penitentiary sent us a Mail Restriction Notice for MT14 and the three MIM Notes issues that did state the reason for censorship as being “Advocates armed/violent struggle against authority” and goes on to cite pages 80 and 94. Curiously, neither of these pages contains even a discussion of armed struggle. The first is our statement “MIM on Prisons & Prisoners”, which our readers will be familiar with. It merely explains why we oppose the current prison system, how we would change it and the role of prisoners in the larger anti-imperialist struggle. Page 94 is an interview with David Hilliard explaining the ideology of the Black Panther Party. As far as we can tell, these pages were chosen arbitrarily, but we are currently investigating a more thorough explanation in order to combat these instances of censorship.

These instances of censorship are not isolated incidents, but part of a long history of struggle with various departments of the criminal injustice system. Regardless of their reasoning for singling out certain pages to justify censorship, just as US court rulings do not allow the censorship of Abraham Lincoln for his statements on the importance of overthrowing the state, they do not allow the censorship of our materials because someone disagrees with our beliefs. We welcome anyone who agrees with us on this point to join our struggle against censorship in Oregon and Washington prisons.
Imperialism attacks just about every Islamic force it can find

From 1...

imperialist troops than our ex-comrades are. Some of our ex-comrades have tolerated a party that formed on the basis of opposition to seeing the principal contradiction between imperialism and the oppressed nations. These ex-comrades stupidly tied themselves to a tool of anti-Islamic chauvinism.

Israel’s incursion seizing ground and air in Lebanon not occupied since 1996 is further proof. On July 16, Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice also opposed a cease-fire between Hezbollah and Israel. If we at MIM got something wrong, it was slight.

“The people of Iraq are doing far more to shake the empire than any other armed struggle. Places two through five might very well go to Afghanistan, Iran, Pakistan and Palestine.”

Now we have to add Lebanon to the list of those to fight imperialist occupation forces.

The general idea that occupation forces are going to Islamic countries is correct. Yet it remains true even as fighting goes on in Lebanon on the ground, air and sea that fake anti-imperialists do not correctly prioritize the struggle. They remain silent as alleged Maoists say they support “neither Islam, nor imperialism.” This petty-bourgeois formulation is completely intolerable. The formulation arose specifically to evade what Mao said about the principal contradiction. It shows that there are problems with basic anti-imperialism among those calling themselves Maoist and it also demonstrates the active penetration of imperialist agents into our ranks.

This sort of difficulty goes from the grass tips of the movement to work its way down and complicate political activities against imperialist war. In the past, MIM has tried to criticize fascist Limonov in Russia, but he says more and more often that “each year I get closer to Islam.” Limonov the fiction writer is more intuitively correct on the sides he thinks they have managed to support or conduct People’s War without opposing imperialism. MIM will now have to bite its tongue about Limonov, because of all the garbage calling itself “Maoist” these days.

On July 16th, leaders of the “G-8” including Russia and the United States held a meeting and told Israel that it should rein in its bombing of Lebanon after four straight days of attacks on civilian targets(2) including airports, roads, bridges and tourist infrastructure. Israel escalated its imperialist attacks when the oppressed Arab people proved their ability to counter-attack when Islamic organization Hezbollah killed 8 Israeli soldiers and captured two more in a cross-border raid.

Ironically, this cross-border raid is exactly the kind of thing that the imperialists have asked for. The United States has labeled Hezbollah “terrorist,” but terrorism does not apply to military acts against soldiers such as Hezbollah carried out. Here was Hezbollah acting according to usual rules of military engagement when Israel went berserk.

Again, before the imperialists started using the word “terrorism” to refer to anything they don’t like politically, the word meant: “n: the calculated use of violence (or threat of violence) against civilians in order to attain goals that are political or religious or ideological in nature; this is done through intimidation (sic.) or coercion or instilling fear.”(3)

Yet what was Israel’s response in Lebanon if we disregard the press releases that the media so willingly lap up:

“Since Wednesday, 63 Lebanese, including two soldiers, have been killed and 167 others have been wounded, according to Lebanon’s internal security forces. (Watch Lebanese try to cope with violence in Beirut — 4-10)

The IDF reported that at least four Israeli civilians and eight Israeli soldiers have been killed, and more than 100 others have been wounded.”(4)

These numbers are still true July 16th in a general way: Hezbollah has killed more troops than civilians while Israel has killed vastly more civilians than troops. So where does the definition of “terrorism” really apply needs to be asked.

Now Israel is threatening Iran and Syria with war, though some military analysts say it would be unwise. Most indicative of Israel’s public opinion drive is Israel’s claim that 100 (400 according to Gingrich) Iranian troops are helping Hezbollah in Lebanon, a large enough force to be significant but small enough not to make much difference. The word “terrorism” was used: “how come we did not detect it?”

Saudi lackeys rushed to defend Israel with words. Nonetheless, the Arab League found itself forced to say that the peace process was dead.(5) Discussion of a general regional war is hot in the air.

Conspicuously absent is Egypt, but that’s no surprise given all the U.S. aid it receives. Then again, there is also Turkey. How long will Turkey go on watching U.S. imperialism ruin the entire region we wonder.

In May, MIM’s Central Committee voted: “Tolerating the chauvinism of the First World Trotskyists only increases the opportunities for imperialist aggression.”

Thanks in part to the Iran-bashing of fake anti-imperialists led by state agents and thanks to the pettybourgeois wavering on the principal contradiction, the imperialists succeeded in rallying imperialist public opinion on Iran—even while Bush’s poll numbers were in the low 30s. Now Israel attacks Hezbollah while citing Hezbollah’s links to Iran and justifies aggression by land, sea and air against Lebanon just for harboring Hezbollah. Unscientific polling by CNN shows 61% support for Israel. So MIM’s Central Committee quote above proved correct almost right away.

Support for Israel is something MIM warned on again and again. Instead of following the real Maoist leaders, who warned about American labor aristocrats gung-ho for Israel, some fools listened to others about an exploited white proletariat about to rise up that just needed its demands for bikini-wearing in Afghanistan to be met. Making such concessions to the labor aristocracy of the West never does any good.

A combination of state agents and people confident in the white so-called workers downplayed the possibility that Iran-bashing could lead to war, not to a new international imperialist declaration of World War III. Tied to that was illusions about white so-called workers having seen through Bush, with his poll numbers so low, their reformism typical of labor aristocrat circles. This reformism was so shameful that some continue to defend a deal with the CIA & Democrats against Bush. These dogshit worshippers of the labor aristocracy refer to Ray McGovern as a mere “former CIA analyst.” He was in fact, a major cog in the Ford administration, the very same administration in which Rumsfeld first became Secretary of Defense. Yes, that is the same McGovern and Rumsfeld who warned on again and again. Instead of correcting almost right away.

Real Maoism will continue to arise in the imperialist countries to oppose imperialism and also give impetus to an eventual rise of Maoist People’s War in the occupied Islamic countries themselves.

Notes:
3. See dictionary.com

Did you know? There are more than 200 back issues of MIM Notes available on the MIM website? Not only can you browse more than 15 years of the newspaper, you can also keep up with the very latest on MIM agitation campaigns, prisoner news, all the latest on the U$ war, and much more. MIM’s website is an indispensable tool for the revolutionary
India leads in world support for Bush
International poll results prove MIM right again

By International Minister, June 22, 2006

International poll results released by the U.S. foreign policy establishment June 13 show anti-Americanism spreading globally.(1) To those familiar with our organization, this is no longer surprising. Opposition to the United States is the main locus of anti-class struggle in the world. Marxism-Leninism-Maoism is not dead because, anti-Americanism is greater than ever.

Given that most educated people already know where the trend has been going, what is new in these poll results also justifies MIM’s rejection of fake communists trying to oppose “both” imperialist countries (none of which are Islamic) and Islamic oppressed nations. There is no middle ground between U.S. imperialism and oppressed nations including their reactionary Islamic governments under attack by U.S. imperialism.

The survey asked the question how confident countries are in the international leadership of George W. Bush. One could guess that Americans are most confident in Bush, since Americans voted him in in 2000 that is now out-of-date. At a time when Americans had 70% confidence in Bush, Israeli’s had only 63%.(2) The other imperialist countries were all under 50% support for Bush already by 2003.

So one would be wrong to guess Israel surpassed Americans in love of Bush. One might think that it must be the British or Australians and it must be close to what Americans think.” Again, it is wrong.

Now that 50% of Americans report confidence in Bush’s international leadership, 56% of Indians report the same—the top for all countries surveyed.

This is further vindication of the themes MIM has developed in the last two years against incorrect trends in the international communist movement. The world for India is so high because Bush has consistently attacked Islamic nations since 2001 and the exploited of India wrongly prioritize attacking Islam above attacking Bush—false consciousness.

While there is only a very small Islamic population inside U.S. borders, India itself has a large Islamic population and a history of division with Pakistan, an Islamic oppressed nation.

The rulers in Russia and China have the view that keeping Uncle Sam busy with Islam is good for them. It should be a different matter when it comes to communists supporting that.

Too many supposed communists have looked on indifferently or have given conniving aid to Western Liberal attacks on Islamic culture as if there really is a culture war and not a class war. These Liberal and their pseudo-communist sympathizers attack the international proletarian. We can now say they have already succeeded. Bush has made real headway in India.

Recently Nepal has been in the news, but the long-run health of the international communist movement hinges on India above all else. It is going to be a while before the Chinese and Russian peoples shake off the influence of their revisionists, but India has fresh legs for revolution. Revolution in India will influence China and Russia and could easily become a turning point in history. The liberation of the Indian people to free their imperialism, because Iran has the veil or because Palestinians need charity and some want to kow-tow to imperialism to get it or because Afghanistan does not allow bikinis in public—these are profound enemies of the international communist movement.

Another poll discussed by Voice of America that MIM has validated from its own research shows that Islamic winnins do not view Western winnins as free, but surrounded by and degraded by things like promiscuity and pornography. While American and western women enjoy legal gender equality, there is a certain cultural degradation of women that they don’t favor. So, there are certain things that are admired in the west, but other aspects that are not, that they don’t want. This perception is likely taken from Bollywood films, which are, of course, consumed readily in the Muslim world.

This is the achievement of the imperialists—to divide also Western winnins and Islamic country winnins. Fortunately, this division we can accept, because the Islamic winnins are right and the stupid Western Liberals are wrong. Western complicity is not the Islamic winnin fight Islamic winnin in India. This is currently an Achilles Heel for the international communist movement and also the international winnin’s movement, which achieves its own unity in tandem with the proletarian movement.

The world does not always work in a straight-line national fashion. What Bush does may actually have more impact in Indian public opinion than American public opinion. That is just another reason we cannot take lightly the fakes and lackeys of Uncle Sam polluting our communist movement.

George Bush has done more to unite the international proletariat than any single communist party. Yet he has also had some success exactly where we communists need ours. On June 22nd, Vice-President Cheney re-emphasized the India link. According to the Financial Times:

“The US administration set out its strongest defence of the civilian nuclear assistance agreement with India, when Dick Cheney, vice-president, called it ‘one of the most important strategic foreign policy initiatives of our government.’”(3)

The United States is the largest single exploiter of Third World people. We call on genuine communists to push aside the lackeys and fake leaders and make sure that their leaders are not aiding or conniving with anti-Islamic culture warriors dividing the international proletariat. If our leaders do not target U.S. imperialism as the principal enemy and they do not specifically undertake a campaign against anti-Islamic chauvinism at this time when the culture warriors are running amok, then they are not reflecting the tactics of the exploiters to divide the exploited. Campaigns to isolate Iran on International Winmin’s Day or attack Iran’s nuclear energy program are examples of completely counterrevolutionary activity that must be actively denounced in the interests of international proletarian unity.

Notes:

Abu Ghraiib, Haditha and more
‘Support Our Troops’ and parasite left share blame

The U.S. military is still in a pickle about what to do concerning Marine murders of Iraqi civilians in Haditha, Iraq. Even worse, even CNN is having to report that such incidents of troops killing civilians are like rain drops in a storm.

“And that investigation is only one of several into allegations of civilian deaths at the hands of U.S. forces in Iraq. The U.S. military said Sunday that four U.S. soldiers in Iraq have been charged with participation in the ‘rape and murder of a young Iraqi woman and three members of her family.’

Four soldiers were charged with murder in the deaths of three Iraqi detainees during an operation in Salaheddin province in May.

Seven Marines and a sailor have been charged with murder in the death of an Iraqi civilian in Hamdaniya in April.

Last week, Prime Minister Nuri al-Maliki called for a review of coalition forces’ immunity from Iraqi prosecution, saying such an exemption emboldens those troops.”(1)

People who do not read the media at all should read about these incidents. MIM would like to talk about how we analyze the murders of civilians in Iraq.

MIM found the following definition of “terrorism” at dictionary.com:

n : the calculated use of violence (or threat of violence) against civilians in order to attain goals that are political or religious or ideological in nature; this is done through intimidation (sic.) or coercion or instilling fear.

So the first point is that ideologically, people opposed to terrorism cannot just “support our troops.” The “Support Our Troops” movement of recent years formed in reaction to the divide between civilians and troops formed during the Vietnam War. Thanks to Abu Ghraiib, Haditha and countless other incidents we should now have a reminder why the “Support Our Troops” movement was wrong to form in the first place.

This is just a reminder that those people carrying out anti-social acts in Iraq return to the United States, most of them never detected by any investigation. Haditha had a successful cover-up directed by politicians at first. A popular cover-up is that civilians died in air strikes—which makes it OK by imperialist reasoning. Even ultra-reactionary Fox News admitted that one excuse was that the civilian deaths came from “sectarian violence” (religion) among Iraqis, when in fact it was U.S. troops responsible.(2)

Like it or not, even the proven potato-peeler or truck driver in Iraq has complicity. “Support Our Troops” delivers the wrong message for this sort of situation. In fact, we can thank “Support Our Troops” for abetting Hadithas in the first place.

There is good reason that civilians react to soldiers a certain way given the corrupt nature of politicians who cannot be...
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to try to publish.

Thanks to Churchill the whole dams issue for Kanada is on bookshelves all around the world. Here we must digress again to note that we know from experience. We have some criticism of anarchists here, because it is their lack of organizational accountability that makes these charges against Churchill possible. If MIM were to try to track down a stable organizational form for the dam-related environmentalist movement we would have trouble as a Google search would quickly reveal. The Ward Churchill case on the surface looks like another backstabbing by the environmentalist movement against the indigenist movement—or at least that’s what the University of Colorado believes. Churchill imporision of. It’s an important political point, because it is evident that Ward Churchill took a risk out of a sense of duty to the movement. He took a risk that association with an amorphous movement would later be against himself—probably in part because Churchill has even more sympathy for anarchists and similar organizational ideas than MIM does. Rather than be attacked for that, he should receive a medal for going out on a limb for an important cause. What the University of Colorado is doing is nothing but a straight-up attack on the University of Colorado and its movements that may not choose to organize themselves in manners suitable to university administrators. Hard as it may seem to faculty members, many activists write with the hope of hooking a greater audience by any means—and not to attain incentives to the movement. Even the most anarcho-digressionists have already decided that organizations need not be transparent to government institutions such as the University of Colorado: the First Amendment guarantees people the right to organize themselves as they see fit—including how they choose to organize themselves to Ward Churchill.

That is a problem in our proletarian movement globally, but it is really a digression from the University of Colorado’s blameworthiness in the situation. While a whole cabal of ararmchair scholars might not appreciate the motivations of an environmentalist activist enlisting Churchill’s aid and doing so without a movement structure (yes, annoying and we don’t agree with it, but it does happen often, a fact of life), we do know that the University of Colorado did not apply standards to itself that it applied to Ward Churchill.

The original 124 page report against Churchill said:

“he maintains that the editor took Dam the Dams’ name off the essay without his consent. This claim, like many of Professor Churchill’s claims, is difficult to verify.”

Yet when we go to find who in “Dam the Dams Campaign” said Churchill was plagiarizing them, we did not see the University report make a reference. (See page 83.) It appears that University of Colorado intends to promote anonymous charges without giving Ward Churchill the chance to contest the nature of the anonymous condemnation or its maker. In contrast, Churchill’s response to the matter was much more straightforward. Talk about “difficult to disprove”: it’s hard to disprove a phantom.

Then there is the matter of the University of Colorado should know about the nature of journalism including libel, something that University of Colorado has done to Ward Churchill:

“the facts and ideas are never protected by a copyright. Rather, the copyright pertains only to the literary, musical, graphic or artistic form in which an author expresses intellectual concepts.”


The 2002 edition of the same book says the same including:

“The types of creative expression eligible for copyright protection include literary, graphic, photographic, audio-visual, and musical works.”

Die-hard journalists who actually read competing news sources know that in the heyday of Reuters’ competition with Associated Press, their articles were often almost verbatim copies of each other. The law protects “scops,” but not something like the Dam the Dams article, which has no claim to being art work or a first-time scoop anymore.

There is a good reason for the law on copyright and journalism. It would become difficult for various newspapers to comment on or report the same news stories if they ended up using similar words, because inevitably one paper would publish “first” on observable facts of say the bombing of Iraq. Making all subsequent writers “plagiarists” was not a good idea. In the case of history, it is often a case of writing an extended “scop” using sources no one has bothered with perhaps for hundreds of years. So write history is not really analogous to what Churchill did for the environmentalist movement.

Churchill is a bad guy,” it becomes possible to start the process of unraveling any social research. The real hotheads are asking for and abating what may become perjury if it ends up in court. That should be happened here in a public denunciation of the conspiracy to deprive Ward Churchill of his civil rights. No encouragement should go to people who come forward with their little white collar backstabbing. Instead, the media and university are giving credence to the idea that Ward Churchill is a bad guy and crucially in a non-academic article in the case of “Z Magazine.” Maybe next the University of Colorado will evaluate professors’ comments to their spouses at dinner, and check the footnotes.

We at MIM are quite sure that academic authorities like Phil DiStefano realize that “Z Magazine” is not a source of true career advancement. We’ve also quite sure that these same authorities realize that journalism is not subject to the same plagiarism rules as academic. Because the authorities involved know very well that “Z Magazine” is extra-curricular, MIM sees further evidence of a conscious criminal conspiracy against Ward Churchill’s civil rights. We are still demanding prosecutor action against DiStefano and others. The evidence continues to pile up without action.

We find it disingenuous in the university’s report that just because such an article appears on a resume prepared by a university secretary, that suddenly we are to believe that academic authorities do not know which articles count for career advancement and which do not. They know very well, but they we at MIM. We suggest to people attacking Churchill should also think the same of his critics. Like it or not, there is the question of defending truth production in a politically charged atmosphere—instead of denying that truth does emerge from such atmospheres.

The troglodytes pursuing Ward Churchill realized they could not win an upfront battle over politics or the First Amendment, so they turned to the tried-and-true white network to produce a different result.

What we are now typical in the daily low-life of white collar politics. People who had worked with Ward Churchill in the past are being called on to withdraw permission to use their materials in an act whites usually call “Indian-giving.” By this means of white collar politics, anyone’s work can be destroyed. By simply going back to people interviewed or worked with, and persuading them that “Ward Churchill is a bad guy,” it becomes possible to start the process of unraveling any social research. The real hotheads are asking for and abating what may become perjury if it ends up in court. That should be happened here in a public denunciation of the conspiracy to deprive Ward Churchill of his civil rights. No encouragement should go to people who come forward with their little white collar backstabbing. Instead, the media and university are giving credence to the idea that Ward Churchill is a bad guy and crucially in a non-academic article in the case of “Z Magazine.” Maybe next the University of Colorado will evaluate professors’ comments to their spouses at dinner, and check the footnotes.

Notes:

1. An anonymous discussion — apparently by surgeons—on the topic of “self-plagiarism” including how common it is, see, http://www.wame.org/selfplag.htm


Abu Ghrailb

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counted on in any case. The basic message is: if you find yourself in Iraq and a certain situation for whatever reason, you have to do something to get out of it or stop it. Politicians have not managed to bring the troops home, but in the meantime u.s. civilians are right not to respect troops that do not do something about their situation also. To their credit, 72% of troops said in February that they believe they should be brought back to the United States within a year, according to a scientific poll. (3)

In fact, to their credit most people supporting “support Our Troops” now also believe troops should return to the United States. In the meantime there is still a problem — partly because the petty-bourgeoisie wants the troops home because of the cost, not out of internationalism or opposition to murder civilians. We here are quite sure that the inevitable longer this unjust war goes on. Some of MIM’s former critics...
Observers not fazed by anti-Churchill blitz

BOULDER, COLORADO  
28June2006

Hours after newspapers hit the stands with the University of Colorado’s Chancellor’s call to fire Ward Churchill, MIM Notes hit the streets. We thought we would need to do some “attitude adjustment” work, but instead we found about three-quarters of people still had not made their minds up about the Ward Churchill case. The front page media bombardment over months had little success in attacking Ward Churchill.

Ward Churchill is not the usual rednecks in Colorado want Churchill fired along with any other professor who opposes the United State’s wars in the world. Yet among people up close in this conflict and people on the fence, the attack machine has failed. Even some white people know a slime machine when they see it based on experience in white collar politics.

It was some consolation that the majority among those with an opinion favored Ward Churchill. In the words of one Boulder student “free speech just took a big hit.”

The University of Colorado has been trying to fire Ward Churchill since his comments about 9/11 riled up America’s Eichmanns, who Churchill had the gall to name by name in a reference to cogs in a machine. MIM took the comments as meaning that Americans in the World Trade Center deserved their fate.

In so doing, Ward Churchill did nothing the Allies did not do in reference to nuclear bombing of Japan or conventional bombing of German cities. It was the Americans who spread “co-responsibility” as a concept of war blame involving civilians during and after World War II. (1) MIM agrees with Ward Churchill’s comments. In fact, it is naive to think Americans are not co-responsible for the daily war horrors of the united states and its ally Israel in the Middle East. Votes and tax dollars are directly implicated. We cannot be surprised as civilians if Arabs attack us after we attack their civilians.

Now the white attack network has been called on to review Ward Churchill 1000 times more carefully than the rest of the faculty at the University of Colorado. The governor and various dogs have encouraged everyone to go back and make new charges against Ward Churchill including plagiarism charges. (2) Had federal prosecutors acted in the first rounds of this conflict to prosecute the people who suggested firing him for his speech about Eichmanns, for criminal conspiracy to deprive Ward Churchill of his civil rights, these follow-up white lies would not have happened.

See our Ward Churchill page: http://www.etext.org/Politics/MIM/mn/sept12001/index.html
Notes:  
2. See article in this issue of MIM Notes.

MySpace caves into patriarchal white hysteria

F@&% the for-profit paper media

The perfect mainstream print media news story hit in June when a 16-year-old white womyn went off to Palestine to marry a 20-year-old she met on myspace.com. Instead of upholding marriage, the Bush administration mobilized a persyn-hunt and brought her home after she disappeared from backwaters Michigan June 5th in order to elope.

The story was perfect for anti-Arab newspapers like the New York Times and Washington Post. Their anti-Arab competitor Murdoch owns myspace.com. For one, for years, the print media (on paper) have sought to persuade the public that the Internet is a dangerous place filled with inaccurate information, credit card scams and homicidal plots.

For two, the message of this story—despite the fact that even Bush administration officials admitted “no crime occurred”—was that dating or marrying a Palestinian was an international emergency.

For three, the print media demagogues got to combine all that with “pro-family” rhetoric of aiding parents desperately seeking control of their 16-year-old daughter. As it turns out, parents and Michigan prosecutors intimidated the womyn into turning over her passport; even though she is now 17 and still says she wants to marry her West Bank boyfriend.

Earth-to-white hysteria: 16 is the legal age for marriage. If you don’t like it, change the age. We rather think it should be lowered. If parents are so insecure, they should think about training their daughters to be more fully independent by age 16.

In response to the hoopla, myspace.com made it more difficult for older users to contact younger ones. This act of “protection” makes interaction between adults and children less likely. It’s nothing new for police-state logic, one scare justifying a whole lot of repression.

Uh, and Earth-to-Arab bourgeoisie—yes this hoopla in the media means that Amerikkkans don’t count you as white. In fact, you are somewhere lower than any oppressed nation trapped inside U.S. borders in Amerikkkans’ eyes, because 16-year-olds going off and getting married is not usually front-page news. Usually they wait long enough to Lynch someone. In your case, they acted before two people could get sight of each other.

The Bush move to block a marriage to a Palestinian comes amidst a flurry of Bush moves to tarnish gender relations among Arab and Islamic peoples. Real communists fight against this chauvinist tide.

Notes:
The Washington Post’s article attacking the Murdoch-owned myspace.com was titled “Invitation to Harm,” on July 4th, supposed holiday of freedom http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/article/2006/07/03/AR2006070300788.html
http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/article/2006/06/14/AR2006060401729.html

Abu Ghraib

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should see the light on this question and quickly.

Ironically, these “Support Our Troops” activists received conniving support from the deluded Euro-American left-wing of parasitism that says it “won” the Vietnam War. No, the Vietnamese won their War. For one, for years, the print media (on paper) have sought to persuade the public that the Internet is a dangerous place filled with inaccurate information, credit card scams and homicidal plots.

Had the reaction inside the United States to Abu Ghraib been strong enough, there would have been no Haditha. Instead, we found people such as Phyllis Chesler (4) talking about “torture” in quotation marks while completely omitting the murders in Abu Ghraib and we found others (including most calling themselves Marxist) who only wanted to criticize politicians and not the troops. From the beginning, MIM called the truck driver contractors in Iraq “exploiter-occupiers,” (5) but other parties calling themselves “socialist” and “communist” could not see fit to do the same for these people making six digits a year in Iraq. These other fake anti-imperialists want to kiss up to the labor aristocracy, the bought-off workers who are now mini-bourgeoisie themselves. They too share complicity for the crimes of the “Average Joe” in Iraq. Average Amerikan Joe in Iraq is an enemy of the international proletariat. In other words, this is something that most of the rest of the world already understands.

Notes:  
2. Soldiers plotted a rape and four murders for a week as admitted by Fox News, http://www.foxnews.com/story/0,2933,201796,00.html  
July 8—Continuing the battle against Security Housing Units in California prisons, MIM and RAIL comrades spent the first Saturday of June and the second Saturday of July out in front of the Bryant Street Jail in San Francisco. Security Housing Units, another name for Control Units, may have many features, but they are generally characterized by: permanently-designated prisons or cells with solitary or small-group confinement for at least 22 hours/day. All activities are solitary or small-group—eating, exercising and showering. And control units have virtually no programs for prisoners. Activists and governments internationally recognize these conditions as torture, and studies and testimony have shown that the sensory and social deprivation create severe psychological and physical problems for prisoners.

During visiting hours at the Bryant Street jail there are many friends and family members of prisoners passing into the jail building for visits are Black wimmin with young children. This is one of the results of locking up a larger portion of Black men than even under the Apartheid government in South Africa. According to the Bureau of Justice Statistics, in 2004 about 13% of all Black men between the ages 25-29 were in prison or jail.1 In addition to directly affecting the lives of the men locked up, imprisoning so many Black men directly affects Black wimmin and children who are forced to make it alone, and find a way to help out their family members both financially and emotionally.

In the past in this area news boxes across from our table, we saw on the front page an article about prisoners in California and Governor Schwarzenegger’s proposal to ship 5,000

Two excuses for war

From 1...

rather fanciful and quite base-awkwards, like Goliath complaining that David’s slingshot makes him nervous. But in a real sense American aggression unites the struggles of the oppressed, regardless of the level of conscious coordination. This is a key point that MIM stressed more than a decade ago in its founding documents. U.S. imperialism is doomed to overreach. As its military is stretched thin—now: Afghanistan, Iraq, Korea, Iran, next: Lebanon, Syria, Somalia, Colombia and so on—a victory for the resistance in one country will create the opportunity for victories in others.

Japan and the United States sought United Nations sanctions against north Korea after its missile tests on 4 July. Japan—echoing its Uncle Sam—even suggested it might carry out preemptive strike against north Korean missile sites—a violation of its own pacifist constitution, drafted by U.$. occupation in California prisons. While most of the people we talked to did not know much about Security Housing Units, most had direct experience with repression behind bars and were quick to sign our petition and understand the issue. Many stop to talk about other aspects of repression and inhuman conditions in the prisons, underscoring that the fight against the SHU is just one aspect of a much larger struggle against the criminal injustice system as a whole.

A majority of the people walking in to see us on the visits are Black wimmin with young children. One is the results of locking up a larger portion of Black men than even under the Apartheid government in South Africa. According to the Bureau of Justice Statistics, in 2004 about 13% of all Black men between the ages 25-29 were in prison or jail.1 In addition to directly affecting the lives of the men locked up, imprisoning so many Black men directly affects Black wimmin and children who are forced to make it alone, and find a way to help out their family members both financially and emotionally.

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prisoners out of state to address the overcrowding that exists in this state’s prison system which now operates at 200% of capacity.2 The prisoners slated to be shipped out of state would all be “illegal immigrants” who have been convicted of crimes. New legislation would allow the state to ship these prisoners out of state without their approval. This means families of these mostly Mexican men, no doubt already facing financial hardship in a country that refuses to allow them legal status and with at least one family member behind bars, will now be unable to visit their loved ones. Family visits are one of the few things proven to reduce recidivism rates in prisons. And these visits are very important both for the prisoner and for the family members to maintain a connection. Schwarzenegger is proposing further punishing those already most oppressed by the American imperialist system within its own borders - Mexican migrants.

The Governor’s plan also noted that the state needs to add more than 51,000 beds (roughly 10 large prisons) over the next 15 years, to meet demands of the growing prison population. This is in the state that already has the largest prison population in the world. In addition, the administration is moving to limit the number of times prisoners can flush toilets and even considering reducing the amount of drinking water because of stresses on sewage systems and shortages of fresh water.2

Prison administrators in California introduced the toilet flush limit to High Desert State Prison at the end of 2005 as an experiment. Several prisoners there wrote to MIM explaining the situation and describing a protest being held to fight these unsanitary conditions:

“Prisoners here are housed two per cell, and placing the timers on the toilets will force the prisoners to have to smell his cello’s shit because mates have rules called ‘down one - drown one,’ meaning as soon as the ‘turd’ comes out, it must be flushed and you must keep flushing the lingering smell. Prisoners also use the toilets to wash our personal clothing because we cannot send our personals to the laundry, only state clothing.

“On the weekend when the prisoners received word on what was happening to the toilets, all inmates/ale races on D-facility got together, united and agreed to board up the cell windows during 4-o’clock count to protest the inhuman situation.”

As repression grows, prison resistance is growing in the fight will grow. MIM calls on California prisoners to get involved with United Struggle from Within to build the struggle against the criminal injustice system. And we call on friends and family members of prisoners to join the fight on the outside. Come out to the Bryant Street Street Jail in San Francisco on the first Saturday of every month from 10am to noon to help collect petition signatures, distribute literature, and protest the Security Housing Units.

Notes:
2. SF Chronicle, July 8, 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 to suffer on the side of war—profiteering 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 percent one percent chance of world wars 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.
Migrant Movement United on the Fence

During recent migrant rights demonstrations, MIM has reported on the broad unity of many oppressed nations, but a very diverse crowd that ended up being even bigger than organizers expected. This indicated that it was not just about identity politics, but rather it was about unity among the oppressed.

A recent organizing forum in San Francisco not only had the perfect balance of speakers from many oppressed nations, but also a diverse crowd that ended up being even bigger than organizers expected. This indicated that it was not just about identity politics, but rather it was about unity among the oppressed.

People at the event, whose families had migrated from many different parts of the world, repeatedly stressed that it was not a voluntary decision to immigrate to a new place. Rather they were displaced people, forced to go to a foreign land where they were not wanted. Many mentioned that their situation was not unique, that there is so much more to do among the oppressed.

Neil Young: Hippie patriotism

**Living with War**

**Neil Young**

**Reprise Records, 2006**

Ugh, hippie patriotism—can’t the hippies at least be the hippies of reactionary nightmares? We can recommend some of the songs on this album, which is 100% political. On the whole, the last song by itself kills the whole album—“America the Beautiful.”

Neil Young is a typical Democrat, crying for impeachment but wearing patriotism and even family on his sleeve. These are slow-to-moderately paced songs of a somewhat toned down psychedelic guitar. The sound is consistent Neil Young, but the politics is just Democratic Party patriotism.

We can recommend “After the Garden” and “Shock and Awe.” Neil Young asks in “Flags of Freedom,” “Have you seen the flags of freedom? What color are they now? Do you think that you believe in yours? More than they do theirs somehow.” He is also consistent in his grief for those taken by the war.

There is no doubting Neil Young’s Americanism. Yet what we need to learn fast is internationalism.

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Neil Young’s Amerikanism. What questions: Shall we beg the oppressor for mercy or force him to stop exploiting us? Shall we organize those whose interests are directly tied to migrant rights (ie. migrants) or those who are organizing to militarize the border? Shall we join the struggle of the majority of the world against the minority who are oppressors, bringing a quicker end to a system based on exploitation? or should we try to unite the oppressors and the oppressed and hope for the best?

Anything less than abolishing imperialist borders means accepting that there will be a class of people who are exploited and kept out along with a class of people who are allowed to enjoy that exploitation within imperialist borders. Communists work for an end to all exploitation and a world without classes. To meet that end it is incumbent upon us to push for proletarian unity among the oppressed nations first. Then americans will have to choose whether or not they support the oppressed on their own terms.

Regardless of their individual choices, the majority of the world will be united in demanding the self-determination of all people. We will continue to struggle over these questions as the pro-migrant movement prepares for more massive rallies on the amerikan Labor Day in September.

San Francisco Bay Area news: http://www.etext.org/Politics/MIM/sfbay/news.html
Debating the death penalty

I am writing to let you know that I have received the material you sent me. That being MIM Notes from Dec, Jan, Feb of 2005, 2006 and MIM Theory 14 from 2001. Thank you for sending them. I must say that your logic is impeccable and these materials certainly made some very interesting reading. However, there is one thing I have to disagree with you on. That is your belief in the death penalty.

I will be sentenced to death next month myself, but this is not why I disagree. You say execution will be reserved for murder or services to military enemies. I can understand wanting to execute one for treason, or for certain types of murder (e.g. murder committed for pleasure). There are those of us, however, who are deeply sorry for our crimes and can be put to good use.

Looking back now on the life I’ve led, I realize just how wrong I was. Ultimately, though I take responsibility for my own actions, the root of my problem was capitalism itself. You might ask how I can trace the root back to capitalism? The answer is that due to our capitalist government’s care only for wealth and pleasure, they have grossly neglected the people they have set themselves to rule over. As a result, no one cared about the abuse (mental, physical and sexual) that me and others like me have endured. Leaving us full of hatred and distrust for the world and everyone in it. So, naturally, I turned to drugs to escape reality. In the end, it would be drugs that tipped the scales in my mind and resulted in tragic loss of life, which I am wholeheartedly sorry for. I was a coward and ran from life, creating my own reality fueled by the scales in my mind and resulted in tragic loss of life, which I am wholeheartedly sorry for. I was a coward and ran from life, creating my own reality fueled by my own fantasy. I only hope the lessons I have learned can help others, who through their sorrow have come to the same conclusions.

So you see, to execute myself and others, who through their sorrow have come to this realization, would be a great waste of resources. People like me can be used to educate and even re-educate others of the evils of imperialist-capitalism, and how the problem can be fixed by Maoism.

I admit, I don’t know much about your teachings, but what I have read here feels so right. If you would educate me in Lenin-Maoxist-Maoist Thought, I would spread your teachings to others and help you in any way I can, through writing, etc.

I have little or no funds as I have been fixed by Maoism. I admit, I don’t know much about your teachings, but what I have read here feels so right. If you would educate me in Lenin-Maoxist-Maoist Thought, I would spread your teachings to others and help you in any way I can, through writing, etc.

Looking back now on the life I’ve led, I realize just how wrong I was. Ultimately, though I take responsibility for my own actions, the root of my problem was capitalism itself. You might ask how I can trace the root back to capitalism? The answer is that due to our capitalist government’s care only for wealth and pleasure, they have grossly neglected the people they have set themselves to rule over. As a result, no one cared about the abuse (mental, physical and sexual) that me and others like me have endured. Leaving us full of hatred and distrust for the world and everyone in it. So, naturally, I turned to drugs to escape reality. In the end, it would be drugs that tipped the scales in my mind and resulted in tragic loss of life, which I am wholeheartedly sorry for. I was a coward and ran from life, creating my own reality fueled by my own fantasy. I only hope the lessons I have learned can help others, who through their sorrow have come to the same conclusions.

The possibility of criminal behavior

Okay, so this is the twenty-first century and we’ve come a long way in our various contemporary gains, but it seems the law enforcement community wants to leap backwards, behind even our most modern advances by arresting, jailing and trying citizens for offenses they might commit, as opposed to crimes they’ve already done.

I’m not talking about the discovery of a newly identified criminal gene lurking in, well, probably everyone who’s ever been tempted to break the law.

I’m talking old witch-hunt-style, McCarthy-like speculation, conjecture and guesswork.

At least that’s how it sounded to me when some Los Angeles district attorneys announced that the non-violent crime of burglary would be excluded from the list of offenses now being considered for repeal under the Three Strikes law.

Their characterization of burglars transcends into another type of crime all together, quote: “A burglar is a rapist in the making,” end quote. In other words, non-violent burglars who broke into unoccupied, even vacant dwellings and open underground garages will not be eligible to have their current life terms reduced to sentences that fit the crime should this disprotable law be amended; leaving a significant number of non-violent people behind bars; in many ways defeating the very purpose of the people’s call for an amendment.

Such an adverse approach opens the door to a wide-spread policy of prejudgment, or punishment, or the mere possibility of criminal behavior.

Recent protests in Texas overturned such a policy when the Texas Alcoholic Beverage Commission voted to arrest potential drunkards in bars. Undercover agents would infiltrate public bars and arrest suspected drunks because, as spokesperson Carolyn Beck put it, they: “might have tried to drive.”

Ha, so much for designated drivers! So why stop there? Since the uniformed blame rape victims based on their attire, why not ban all tight, transparent or short apparel? Or, how about prohibiting all exotic dance and escort services? Why not even go as far as banning all athletic games due to their potential for player-on-player assaults? Of course, I am being facetious here, but this potential rapist assertion takes prevention to an absolutely ridiculous level.

It is yet another pathway toward this recent pattern of mass arrests based on labeling, grouping and presumption.

I believe MIM is right in its assertion that the feeling of being burglarized and I empathize with like victims, but life sentences for drug addicted and otherwise afflicted burglars is just downright inhuman.

On the other hand, I’ve gotta give the Texas citizenry credit, like the colorful and solidified immigrants now in protests, for refusing to sit silently by in the face of various repeated attempts at mass injustice.

Notes: Paul Leavitt, “Texas Drops Bar-Arrest Sting,” USA Today, April 14, 2006: 3A

- a California prisoner, May 2006

MIM adds: This prisoner makes an important point about attempts at expanding the definition of crime to those with “potential” to be criminal. It is this genetic determinism logic that leads to imprisonment rates for Blacks and Latinos that are much higher than rates for whites. It is laws like these that help the criminal injustice system to prop up imperialism. Only by fighting imperialism will we be able to end the injustice that is
inherent to this system and create a true system of justice for the people.

No due process in Guantanamo or Pelican Bay

Many human rights organizations only like to focus their attention on prisons abroad, run by this government. As if the very exact same thing isn’t happening within this country’s very borders! The only difference between Guantanamo Bay and Pelican Bay is “location” and that’s it! The very same set of tactics being used in prisons over there are being used here.

Take my case for instance. My regular SHU term expired almost two years ago. So what they did was sixty days prior to my release they hit me with a Gang Validation packet, which of course held me back. Well I beat that a year ago. So once again I was taken back to committee. This time they hit me with an “indeterminate” SHU term for being a “security threat.”

Once this label has been attached to you it’s practically impossible to get out of here. Normally one is able to appeal their placement in ad seg. However, being that this is not a rules violation, one is unable to challenge it. Therefore our release is solely up to prison administration. Thus taking away our right to “due process.” Similar to the way due process was taken away from prisoners in Guantanamo Bay. That’s why they’ve even set up what we deem to be an “underground rules system.”

Basically what I mean is that they’re making up rules that don’t exist in any rules book. Nor have they been approved by Sacramento. Once again, something very similar to what the U.S. government is doing in Guantanamo. “Security threat” amounts to “national security threat” for us. Either term allows these fascist dogs to keep innocent people locked away in solitary confinement with absolutely no rights. Of course not that this surprises me one bit. Only idiots or Americans believe that this is a country of laws. At least laws that are respected when it comes to this country’s internal colonies.

- a California prisoner, June 2006

Fight the snitch program

This missive is in regards to being placed back on your mailing list for the newspaper, I am currently in the hole here at New Folsom for trying to push for change and bring to the masses attention this rat/snitch program they are pushing here. They are trying to force convicts into their offices to conduct interviews concerning things taking place on the prison yard and if we refuse to answer their questions we are subjected to extended lockdown with no fresh air for long amounts of time. And if we answer them in front of our peers on the tier the answers are considered unacceptable. So rather than acquiesce, we are asking all convicts or inmates to push against this process by refusing to comply with the interview process. Also MIM would like to get on your list for your book program so that I can further my studies as an advocate for liberation!

- a California prisoner, June 2006

On lockdown, fighting for communism

I am a prisoner in one of California’s prisons. I have been for almost 10 years since I was 17. Yes, I came in as a gang member but over the years my political eyes have been opened. I’ve read what Amerika (the U.S.) has done and continue to do in Latin America. I was born in El Salvador and during the 80s the “US” financed a war that killed thousands of people who only wanted freedom.

I want to ask you how I can go about starting a prison support group. What advice, help, or resources can we get from MIM? Also, how can I get MIM Notes?

Currently Latinos here in Calipatria prison are on lockdown. We have been for almost a year. We get no program at all. Our mail is read and held back. Our books are not given to us. We can get no visits (only 1 hour behind glass for by appointment visits). As far as beatings, just recently a few inmates (4) were in boxers and sandals. They got into an argument with a cop and the outcome was the inmates were beat down. One got beat unconscious. Then around 10 more inmates were cell extracted and beat. As far as access to the legal library we must have a court deadline. Those of us who wish to research our cases before going to court cannot. I would appreciate all the help and/or advice I (we) can get from MIM.

I’ve read books about Che Guevara, Castro, Stalin and the FMLN in El Salvador. I would love to learn more and help in any way I can to make us all one nation, one communist world. For us in here, the spoken and written word is very powerful. I want to educate, especially our youth. I want to help make more ripples. Get our youth ready for when the time comes we are strong and ready! - a California prisoner, June 2006

MIM responds: we sent this comrade a guide to forming a prison study group and hooked him up with our books for prisoners program. There are many prisoners like him, eager to study politics. We need supporters both behind bars and on the streets to help fund this important educational program.

Department of Corrections, or Corruption?

“Rehabilitation,” we’ve all heard the term before, and the concept is familiar, no doubt! How about “correction”??? Yet another term Amerika has grown fond of. Both words in all of their rhetorical splendor imply what? Constructive guidance! Quite the ideal concept for the individual who has deviated from the straight and narrow path of lawful abduction.

It’s great wonder that the prison union subscribes to the catchy title of “Department of Corrections,” this can be expected from an institution whose fundamental purposes is (idealistcally) to provide viable, tangible means of rehabilitation.

The average American’s conceptual understanding of prison is a vague one, somewhere between an outhouse and a reformatory. I, being a prisoner myself, know the very real truth of the sordid situation, first hand.

The individual who declared this corrupt system the “department of corrections” no doubt had a draconian sense of humor. If we were to dissect the intrinsic purpose of such an institution (as ideally purposed) we would discover that rehabilitation is the fruit of correction. Essentially “correction” of “error” is achieved.

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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 program. Send help to keep that line of communication open. Write to 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 us 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. The affect of these units leads to 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. Send us articles and information about these units 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 help in any way I can to make us all one nation, one communist world. For us in here, the spoken and written word is very powerful. 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 the Soviet “evil empire” 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 that country’s population.(5)

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

References:
2. Ibid., 1992 report
4. Figure of 51.2 percent for state prisoners there for non-violent offenses. Abstract of the United States 1993, p. 211
Under Lock & Key

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through the application of positive guidance. That is to say that “correction” is the production of “correct reparation.”

If a child swears in the presence of his mother, a bar of soap in his mouth may, or may not, prove sufficient in correction. The mother would like to think so, however the truth of the matter is that there are numerous contributing factors which must be taken into account. Foremost, a mother who swears herself is, in fact, conducive to the child’s error in that she encourages such profane language through example. Upon further inspection it becomes quite apparent that “correction” is not to be found in the presence of “corruption.”

Now this example may be taken literally, or it can be applied in contrast to our corrections system.

Looking at the dynamics of prison in general, we must acknowledge prison (as it stands) as a house of criminal psychosis. It houses a wide array of criminality ranging anywhere from petty theft to murder.

Now (ideally) these institutions are supposed to implement corrective measures which inspire positive change within the minds of their captive. Or does society honestly believe that merely locking up such minds (together) will society honestly believe that merely locking up such minds (together) will inspire positive change?

What is your revolutionary memory?

15 years ago, MIM wrote about the approaching war in Iraq:

“MIM wants the USA to lose this war, knowing that means the deaths of thousands of innocent people on both sides. This position is only justifiable if it is backed up by the commitment to fight imperialism to the bloody end ourselves, and to take full advantage of this defeat of U.S. imperialism to advance the cause of the international proletariat. Only in this way will the deaths of U.S. and Iraqi soldiers not have been in vain.”

The MIM Notes archive on Iraq has more than 50 full-text articles about the the US war against Iraq, from 1990 to 2000. Our current Iraq page has more than 50 more, covering current news, relevant history political theory, and organizing material.

Develop your revolutionary memory, and sharpen your tools for the next step forward.

http://www.etext.org/Politics/MIM/agitation/iraq/

What is internationalism?


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

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

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