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WAR MOVES

By John Catalinotto

Even as the State Department is adjusting Washington's United Nations resolution to win the compliance of its reluctant allies for weapons inspection rules that Iraq will find it impossible to comply with, the Pentagon is quietly setting the stage for all-out war. Enough weapons and troops to carry out the next assault are either in the region or on their way.

The Bush administration is set on waging this war of aggression despite its lack of support from traditional NATO allies in Europe like France and Germany and from client states in the Gulf region like Turkey and Saudi Arabia. It is moving ahead with these war plans in the face of a new but growing anti-war movement inside the United States.

On Nov. 4, U.S. Navy spokesperson Marge Holtz from the Military Sealift Command (MSC) said that three enormous cargo ships owned by the U.S. military had recently left San Diego and East Coast ports as "part of the repositioning of forces and equipment in support of the war on terror." (Reuters, Nov. 4)

The cargo ships—the USNS Bellatrix, the USNS Bob Hope (!) and the USNS Fisher—are almost as long as aircraft carriers and are capable of carrying 58 Abrams

battle tanks, 48 track vehicles and 900 other trucks, according to Holtz. Obviously, this equipment is meant not for small-unit actions against "terrorists" but for an invasion of a sovereign country.

The speedier Bellatrix left from the West Coast with equipment for the U.S. Marines. The others left East Coast ports with equipment for the Army. Military analysts expect them to join eight sister ships—each also over 900 feet long and 100 feet wide and packed with equipment—that are already anchored near the island of Diego Garcia in the Indian Ocean, a British base only days away from Iraq.

The MSC reported that there are another 13 massive cargo ships in U.S. ports awaiting orders to sail. Along with these government-owned ships, the MSC has chartered merchant ships to carry tanks, shells, bullets and even helicopters to the Gulf region.

50,000 troops already in place

Along with the equipment are the troops to use it. According to a Nov. 6 French Press Agency report, around 50,000 U.S. troops have already been deployed to the region, most of them in Kuwait. This rapid buildup has taken place quietly, without much publicity and with troop

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EL SALVADOR

200,000
march against
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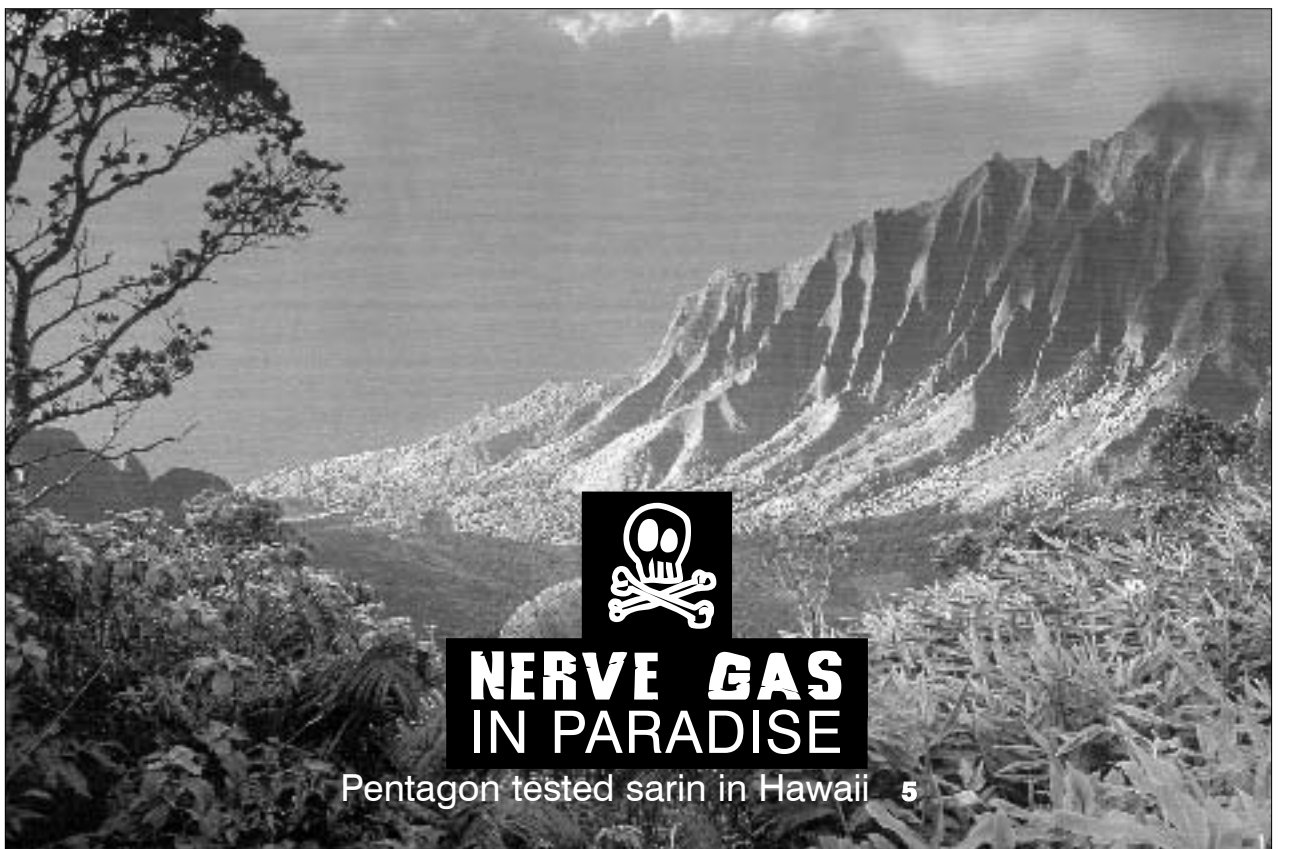
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NEW YORK

Fri., Nov. 8

The war and the elections. Hear a working-class analysis of the U.S. capitalist elections. Will the outcome spur on Bush's war plans? Did the Democratic Party's capitulation on war and the economy influence the results? Is voting the most effective way to win change and social justice? Come to a Workers World Party meeting. 7 p.m. At 55 W. 17th St., 5th Fl. For info (212) 627-2994.

Thu., Nov. 21

Rally: Wage war on poverty & racism, not on Iraq. Program includes: Rev. Herbert Daughtry, Ramsey Clark, Councilmember Charles Barron, Jasmin Cruz, Rev. Paul Mayer, Larry

Holmes. Co-sponsored by MLK Jr. Peace Now Committee of the House of the Lord Church and ANSWER. 7 p.m. At House of the Lord Church, 415 Atlantic Ave., Brooklyn. For info (718) 596-1991 or (212) 633-6646.

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Fri. & Sat., Nov. 15-16

National Conference on Civil Liberties, Democratic Rights, and the Case of Mumia Abu-Jamal. Sponsored by the Mobilization to Free Mumia Abu-Jamal. At University of California at Berkeley, Dwinelle Hall. Fri. 6 p.m. registration, 7:30 p.m. opening session. Sat. 9 a.m. registration, plenary, workshops. Mass rally at 7:30 p.m. For info www.freemumia.org.

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'Beltway Sniper' case

Media try not to embarrass Pentagon

By Pam Parker
Washington, D.C.

As the U.S. government prepares to go to war yet again, the question on many people's minds about the "Beltway Sniper" case is still not being asked by the media. Are the 10 people killed in the Washington, D.C., area delayed "collateral damage" from the last Gulf War?

John Muhammad cleared land mines and qualified as an expert with the M-16 rifle while serving in the Gulf War before being honorably discharged in 1994.

The person arrested with him and also charged with murder in the case, 17-year-old John Lee Malvo, emigrated to the United States from Jamaica. He was undocumented and homeless.

Six out of the 10 murders occurred in Montgomery County, Md., an affluent suburb of Washington, D.C. Nearly four times as many murders occurred in D.C. proper during this same three-week period, but were given very little attention.

Muhammad's conversion to Islam is offered as an explanation for his "hatred of America," and Malvo's immigrant status has been used to justify the racist policies of the INS against other immigrants. As usual, the accused have already been tried and convicted in the media.

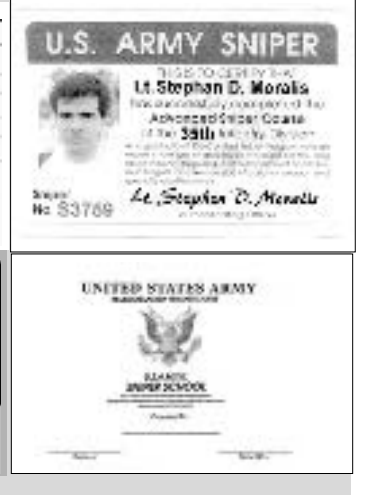
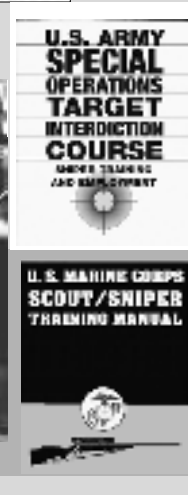
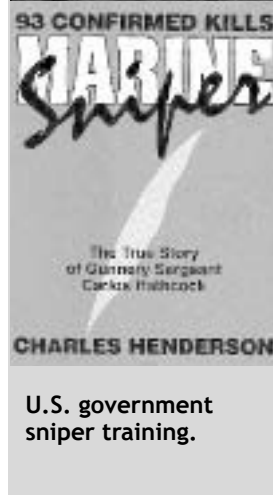
Meanwhile, very little attention has been paid to the fact that, over the past 50 years, the vast majority of serial killers and domestic snipers have been veterans of the U.S. military.

Ignoring the obvious

Although there was endless speculation about the psychological makeup of the shooter(s), for weeks most "experts" stayed away from making the obvious connection between sniper training and the armed forces or the police. Some actually offered the view that similar training could be acquired over the Internet or by playing video games.

Many working class youth join the military to acquire marketable skills or for other economic security. In exchange they sign away their freedom and are many times forced to slaughter working people of other countries—who have much in common with them. So how does the Pentagon turn young people into killers?

According to an article in the Oct. 25 Toronto Globe and Mail, David Grossman, a former U.S. military psychologist, says that soldiers are taught to remove themselves from human suffer-



U.S. government sniper training.

ing by a process called "disengagement." This process breaks down the natural human aversion to kill. The military increased these training tactics in reaction to soldiers' hesitancy to kill when commanded. The military implemented this training specifically to increase the "trigger pull ratio." This training is specifically tailored for infantry soldiers, snipers and other military personnel who may have to kill people up close.

Serial killings were all but unheard of 50 years ago. Could it be a coincidence that this tactic of "disengagement" appeared at about the same time?

A sampling of the most notable snipers shows a clear connection between military training and the propensity to take innocent lives. Timothy McVeigh, the Oklahoma City bomber, and Robert Flores, a 41-year-old nursing student who recently opened fire on several professors and classmates before killing himself in Tucson, Ariz., were both Gulf War veterans, like John Muhammad.

During a six-week period this summer, four special forces soldiers returning from the war in Afghanistan brutally murdered their spouses. Two also killed themselves.

Jeffrey Dahmer; David Berkowitz—dubbed by the press the Son of Sam—and Charles Whitman, who killed 16 people and injured 31 others in a 1961 sniper shooting rampage from the top of a tower in Austin, Tex., were all military veterans.

In fact, the very first documented serial killer, Howard Unruh, was a 28-year-old veteran of WW II who shot 13 of his New Jersey neighbors in 1949.

However, connections like these were ignored by the media in favor of racist stereotypes regarding Muslims.

Racism is also the undercurrent of the breakneck "rush to justice."

So far Maryland, Alabama, Virginia, Louisiana and the federal government are battling over who should try Muhammad and Malvo. The issue is not which jurisdiction was most affected, but which is most likely to impose a swift death sentence.

If the decision were based solely on which community was most affected, Maryland would be the obvious choice. The other authorities, however, argue that since Maryland implemented a moratorium on death sentences and has "liberal" appellate court judges who have only imposed three death sentences since 1976, the state is an unacceptable choice.

Maryland Attorney General Douglas Gansler counters that Maryland will indeed seek the death penalty in Muhammad's case, even though he's unable to sentence the juvenile Malvo to death. Forget the fact that current Maryland law says that even if the moratorium is lifted, the death penalty may apply only to multiple murder cases committed at one time.

The state of Virginia offers new "anti-ter-

rorism" laws that enable the state to seek the death penalty for juveniles. It also holds anyone related to a capital offense culpable. It promises that even if it is shown that Malvo did not pull the trigger and he is a juvenile, these factors would not save him in Virginia.

U.S. Attorney General John Ashcroft, while leveling 20 federal charges against Muhammad, left no doubt as to his motivations: "I believe that the ultimate sanction should be available here." Forget the fact that murders are generally tried under state laws. Whatever happened to "states' rights"? Wasn't that the cornerstone of right-wing rhetoric for years? No matter. Prosecutors in the U.S. Attorney's Office invoked the Hobbs Act as a way to subject the pair to the federal death penalty.

The Hobbs Act states that it is a crime to "obstruct, delay or affect" interstate commerce through robbery or extortion. The U.S. prosecutor is attempting to use the accusation that the two asked for \$10 million as justification for the charge.

The federal government was allegedly so anxious to try the case that a federal agent interrupted an interrogation by county prosecutors and whisked Muhammad off to Baltimore. Which raises another question: Were these investigators getting Muhammad to talk about his motive for the shootings? And might that be embarrassing to the military? □

LGBT groups take stand against war

By Leslie Feinberg

A number of leaders of lesbian, gay, bi and trans groups across the United States have announced their plans to hold a media conference on Nov. 8 in Portland, Ore., to "address the impending war against Iraq, the Bush administration's continued infringement on civil rights and civil liberties in the United States, and their implications on the wider LGBT community."

The news conference will take place at the opening of the annual Creating Change conference, sponsored by the National Gay and Lesbian Task Force (NGLTF).

An impressive list of confirmed speakers at the press conference includes: Faisal Alam, founder and director of Al-Fatiha Foundation for LGBT Muslims; Surina Khan, executive director of the Interna-

tional Gay and Lesbian Human Rights Commission; Dayo Gore, chair of the Police Violence Working Group, Audre Lorde Project; Lorri L. Jean, executive director of NGLTF; Craig Bowman, executive director of the National Youth Advocacy Coalition; Joseph DeFilippis, coordinator of Queer Economic Justice Network; Mandy Carter, long-time anti-war activist from Durham, N.C.; Katherine Acey, executive director of the Astrea Lesbian Action Foundation; Susanna Fried, co-chair of Amnesty International OUTfront Steering Committee; Kay Whitlock, special representative for LGBT Programs of the American Friends Service Committee; YK Hong, organizer and activists, Freedom Trainers; and Carmen Vasquez, long-time LGBT activist from New York City.

In the news release, Faisal Alam stated,

"The Bush administration continues to violate domestic and international law by its continued aggression in the name of a 'war on terrorism.' We must stand united as a progressive LGBT community and speak out for peace and justice.

"National Gay and Lesbian Task Force should be applauded for creating an opportunity for progressive LGBT people to discuss the Bush administration's domestic and foreign policies and their impact on our communities," Alam added. "We urge NGLTF and other justice-seeking LGBT organizations to take a firm and vocal stance against war, while standing firm in its commitment to social justice."

News conference organizers said they plan anti-war mobilizing actions, including leafleting, distributing buttons and stickers, petitioning and holding a community-

wide dialogue about the war, the Bush administration's post Sept. 11 policies and how they have impacted on LGBT people and organizations.

Those supporting the news conference and anti-war organizing include the Out Against the War Coalition, the Fairness Campaign of Louisville, Ky., African Ancestral Lesbians United for Societal Change, Queers Against the War, Queers for Racial and Economic Justice, the Queer Economic Justice Network and the Lavender Green Caucus of the U.S. Green Party.

Kevin Weaver, spokesperson for the Out Against the War Coalition, urged the lesbian, gay, bisexual, trans and intersex communities, "including national and international organizations, to take a clear, visible and vocal stand opposing all wars, espe-

Continued on page 4

FLOC suit vs. Ohio state troopers

Farm workers win ruling on racial profiling

By Leslie Feinberg

At a moment when racist profiling appears to be the national policy of the Bush administration, the Farm Labor Organizing Committee has won an important and precedent-setting civil rights victory.

The Equal Justice Foundation of Columbus, Ohio, had filed a class-action lawsuit in 1996 on behalf of FLOC, a union representing migrant and seasonal farm workers in the northwest region of the state.

The lawsuit was spurred on after State Highway Patrol troopers pulled over Jose Aguilar and Irma Esparza near Toledo for a minor violation—an alleged faulty headlight. Troopers reportedly seized the two Latinos' valid green cards, confiscating them for four days without giving them a receipt or information about how to recover the critically needed documents.

The legal suit maintained that the troopers had violated the farm workers' constitutional rights by interrogating them about

their immigration status and taking away their documents solely because they were Latinos.

The troopers claimed immunity. But after long years of pressing the case, FLOC won a decision in the United States Court of Appeals for the Sixth Circuit on Oct. 21. The appeals court upheld a district court ruling that the troopers were not immune to prosecution in racial profiling lawsuits. The appeals court decision added that state police could not legally confiscate green cards without probable cause.

The case now goes back to the district court.

FLOC President Baldemar Velasquez expressed elation about the decision. He said, "After dragging on for six years, this landmark civil rights case is showing true progress. The federal appeals court has clearly stated that state troopers are not above the law. Now that we have triumphed over their delaying tactics, we can bring this matter to a just resolution, which will hopefully result in sweeping changes in law enforcement policy." □



WW PHOTO: MAUREEN SKEHAN

Boston march backs bilingual ed

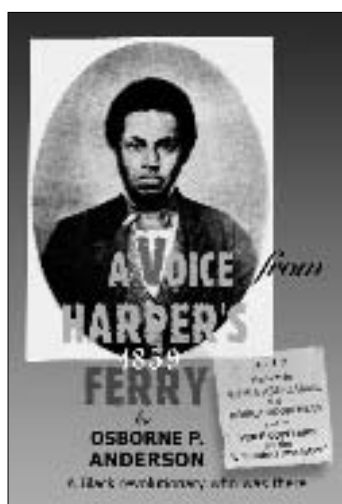
Some 500 people joined a spirited march through a Latino neighborhood in Boston on Nov. 2 to urge defeat for a ballot initiative that would eliminate bilingual education in Massachusetts.

Many youth and teachers joined the protest, organized by Sociedad Latino and City Life/Vida Urbana. Ron Unz, a Silicon Valley multi-millionaire, organized the racist ballot question with backing from conservative "think tanks" like the Bradley Foundation. Many anti-war activists from the Act Now to Stop War & End Racism coalition joined the march for bilingual rights, pointing to the Unz initiative as another front in the government's war at home against immigrants.

—Maureen Skehan

A VOICE from HARPER'S FERRY 1859

By Osborne P. Anderson, a Black revolutionary who was there. With an essay on 'The Unfinished Revolution' by Vince Copeland & new prefaces by Mumia Abu-Jamal and Monica Moorehead. 128 pp, photographs. WORLD VIEW FORUM, 55 W. 17th St., 5th Fl., N.Y., N.Y. 10011 \$18 15% discount at www.leftbooks.com



WW PHOTO: DEIRDRE GRISWOLD

French delegation brought 250,000 petitions for Mumia Abu-Jamal release.

Libérez Mumia!

Delegation brings solidarity from France

By Betsey Piette Philadelphia

More than 200 demonstrators rallied at City Hall here on Nov. 2 to demand that the court hear evidence it has so far ignored in the case of political activist and journalist Mumia Abu-Jamal. Abu-Jamal is on death row for the 1982 shooting of a police officer that self-described hitman Arnold Beverly has now confessed to, but the court has so far refused to admit into evidence a videotape of Beverly's confession or call him in for questioning.

A 50-person delegation from France, Guadeloupe and French Guiana took part in the protest. The delegates included French and European deputies, mayors of six French cities that have made Abu-Jamal an honorary citizen, labor leaders, communists and other activists.

The delegation led the demonstration, carrying a banner in French that demanded freedom for Abu-Jamal.

The rally was held on the weekend before Election Day to highlight a dangerous political situation: Both Pennsylvania gubernatorial candidates, Democrat Ed Rendell and Republican Mike Fisher, ran pro-death penalty campaigns.

Fisher is the state attorney general of Pennsylvania. Rendell is a former district attorney and one-time mayor of

Philadelphia. As a candidate for governor he publicly called for the execution of Abu-Jamal.

Following the rally, demonstrators marched to Rendell's Center City campaign office. Abu-Jamal supporters held a short rally in front of the nearby Union League building on South Broad Street. The Union League has historically been the target of many demonstrations because of its history of discrimination against women and people of color.

Rally speakers included Pam Africa from the International Concerned Family and Friends of Mumia Abu-Jamal, members of the French-speaking delegation, Sam Jordan from ICFFMAJ, Viola Plummer from the December 12 Movement, Monica Moorehead from the International Action Center, Benjamin Ramos from the Vieques Support Campaign and a representative of the Leonard Peltier Defense Committee.

The French delegation brought petitions containing 250,000 signatures and calling for freedom for Mumia Abu-Jamal. The delegates sought an audience with Pennsylvania representatives. The delegation also carried a letter from Danielle Mitterrand, the widow of former French president François Mitterrand, to Rendell, reminding him of a promise he had made to her when he was mayor that he would look into evidence of Abu-Jamal's innocence. □

LGBT groups take stand

Continued from page 3

cially the Bush administration's unjust war against the Iraqi people."

The news release listed LGBT and allied organizations that have issued or will soon issue statements "opposing the Bush administration's (current and past) war plans and its continued infringement on civil rights and civil liberties since Sept. 11."

These groups include: Al-Fatiha, the Audre Lorde Project, the National Youth Advocacy Coalition, The International Gay and Lesbian Human Rights Commission, the Astrea Lesbian Action Foundation, the Unitarian Universalist Association, the United Church of Christ, the Christian Church-Disciples of Christ and the American Friends Service Committee.

In addition, the AFL-CIO labor federation's Pride At Work—a broad organization of LGBT union members—issued a resolution Oct. 3 "against U.S. preemptive attacks and war."

The Out Against the War Coalition news release concluded that since Sept. 11, hundreds of thousands of people have rallied and marched in cities across the U.S. and around the world to protest the domestic and foreign policies of the Bush administration.

The International ANSWER coalition—Act Now to Stop War & End Racism—formed shortly after Sept. 11, has invited LGBT leaders to speak at every one of its mass demonstrations against the U.S. war and the racist roundup of Arab, South Asian and Muslim people in this country. □

New details of bio-chem warfare emerge

U.S. tested nerve gas in Hawaii

By Deirdre Griswold

If the U.S. military would test deadly nerve gas on its own troops, then what other horrendous crimes would it commit against the people, here and in other countries?

The Pentagon has slowly been releasing information about Project 112, its chemical and biological weapons program in the 1960s and 1970s.

Even the summaries it is making public are evidence of criminal conduct. But what court will take on the "either you're with us or you're against us" military behemoth?

The details are chilling. For example, in

April and May of 1967, in a project code-named "Red Oak," the Defense Department conducted a test of sarin gas—one of the most deadly nerve agents ever invented—in the Upper Waiakea Forest Reserve on the beautiful island of Hawaii. A Nov. 1 Associated Press story says that "The testers detonated sarin-filled 155 mm artillery shells to study how the nerve agent dispersed in a tropical jungle."

Native Hawaiian people have been struggling for a long time to get back control of their islands from the U.S., which seized them in 1893.

Where did this gas go? Did it become absorbed into the ecosystem? The health

effects of long-term exposure to low levels of sarin have not been determined, the Pentagon admits.

Another test had taken place in the Olaa Forest, also on the Big Island of Hawaii, exactly one year earlier, in April and May of 1966. Called "Yellow Leaf," it involved detonating 20 "bomblets" filled with *Bacillus globigii* bacteria (BG), which is related to the germ that causes anthrax. "Although at the time officials believed that BG was harmless," reported the AP, "researchers later determined that it can cause life-threatening infections in people with weakened immune systems."

This test had originally been planned for the Panama Canal Zone, but the Pentagon says that "international considerations" forced it to be moved to Hawaii. At that time, there was a growing movement in Panama for sovereignty over the canal zone. In February and March of 1963, U.S. planes had sprayed BG on an area near the Fort Sherman Military Reservation in the zone. That operation was called "Big Jack, Phase A." Was there a Phase B? Or was the militant young Panamanian movement able to stop it?

Back on May 23 of this year, the Pentagon made public documents showing that it had sprayed "live nerve and biological agents on ships and sailors in cold war-era experiments to test the Navy's vulnerability to toxic warfare." (New York Times, May 24) The documents described 12 tests carried out in the Pacific Ocean from 1964 to 1968 that exposed hundreds of sailors to the poisons.

The release of this information only came after veterans bombarded their representatives with health complaints. The

The deadly nerve gas sarin was released in the beautiful upper Waiakea Forest Reserve on the Big Island

Pentagon says it doesn't know if the sailors gave their "consent" to the tests or not.

Three of the tests used sarin or VX. Altogether, it is believed that 113 secret tests were planned under Project Shipboard Hazard and Defense (SHAD). Some used harmless simulants, but others used deadly chemicals and germs. The Pentagon has identified 5,000 service members involved in the tests at sea and an additional 2,100 involved in tests on land, said Dr. Jonathan Perlin of the Veterans Affairs Department.

Who knows what the Pentagon may be doing right now, as it mobilizes for yet another war?

Many veterans of the wars in Korea, Vietnam, the Gulf and Yugoslavia took part in the national anti-war mobilizations on Oct. 26. Some are suffering from what is called Gulf War Syndrome. Opposition to the war within the military services is bound to spread as the horrors of an imperialist war for all concerned become more widely recognized. □

Pentagon prepares to call up reserves

By John Catalinotto

Pentagon officials leaked plans in late October to mobilize up to 265,000 members of the Army Reserve and National Guard for their planned aggression against Iraq. This was roughly the same number mobilized during the 1991 assault on Iraq.

This means that about a quarter million workers, men and women, will be jolted out of their civilian lives and moved somewhere in the world far away from their homes and loved ones. They may or may not be ordered into combat.

Phil Anderson, a Senior Fellow for International Security at the Center for Strategic and International Studies, told the media, "No matter how you cut it, it will be a huge call-up. In the worst-case scenario, if you assume a large-scale operation in Iraq, you don't have any choice but to mobilize."

The assumption underlying this large mobilization is that even if the invasion of Iraq takes place rapidly, U.S. forces will occupy that country for years. The pundits have not yet openly discussed the possibility that the reservists might well resist taking part in such a war and occupation. But it is generating anti-war sentiment in the U.S. population before it has even begun.

There was a large call-up of reservists last year when the Bush administration took advantage of the aftermath of the Sept. 11 attacks to carry out plans to invade Afghanistan—plans it already had in place. The number of reservists on active duty reached 85,595 last June. It now is at

58,133, according to Army Lt. Col. Dan Stoneking, a National Guard and Army Reserve spokesperson.

Overall, between 125,000 and 130,000 reservists have been deployed or rotated in the past year, he said.

The call-up for Iraq would involve at least twice as many.

In recent years, the 870,000 members of the National Guard and Army Reserve have been called up for deployment in the Balkans and the Persian/Arabian Gulf.

This experience contrasts sharply with that of past reservists and National Guard. During the U.S. war against Vietnam, it was drafted and enlisted troops that saw most of the combat. Rarely were reservists put at risk.

George W. Bush, faced with possibly being drafted during the Vietnam War, used his father's influence to get a last-minute appointment to the Texas National Guard, thus escaping combat. He signed up for six years but only served four.

Now he is ordering a more working-class group of reservists and National Guard to disrupt their lives—and possibly kill or be killed.

He and the entire administration, which is so linked to the profit-hungry oil companies and the military-industrial complex, have been pushing hard for war at whatever cost, no matter how isolated the U.S. is or what anguish it brings to the Iraqi people and the working class in this country.

They arrogantly assume everyone here will just go along with their orders—an assumption based on wishful thinking on their part, not on reality or experience. □

INS, FBI seize and detain Palestinian activist

By Frank Neisser
Boston

INS and FBI agents raided the Cumberland, R.I., home of Palestinian activist Amer Jubran on Nov. 4 and detained him at the INS holding center in Providence. He was then transferred to a state prison in Cranston, R.I.

When Jubran's lawyer, Barry Wilson, made inquiries about him, he was told only that Jubran was being held pending investigation of violations of unspecified INS statutes.

Activists see the hand of "homeland security" in this illegal raid and detention, which follows the pattern of detentions of Palestinian activists around the country. Two days earlier, on Nov. 2, Jubran had led a march through the streets of Boston past the Israeli Consulate to demand an end to all U.S. support for Israel and full rights for the Palestinian nation.

Jubran has been a prominent activist in the Boston area in defense of Palestine. On June 10, 2001, he led a demonstration in Brookline, Mass., protesting a Zionist celebration of Israeli independence. He was arrested at the protest on fabricated charges, but they were dropped after a five-month people's campaign by the Committee to Defend Amer Jubran and Palestinian Free Speech Rights exposed flagrant police and city misconduct. The cops had tried to shut down a legal protest while they were actually being paid by the organizers of the Zionist festival.



Amer Jubran

WWPHOTO: DEIRDRE GRISWOLD

Jubran has worked with the ANSWER coalition on numerous protests against the brutal and genocidal Israeli occupation of Palestine, including marches and frequent pickets in front of the Israeli Consulate and a march this June 9 to again protest the Israeli Independence Day festival, this time held on Boston Common. He has participated and spoken at national ANSWER demonstrations against the Bush administration's wars, including the April 20 march of over 100,000 in Washington in defense of Palestinian rights and the Intifada.

A legal team is being assembled to defend Amer Jubran. Supporters can write to him at Amer Jubran, ID # 122331, Intake Service Center, P.O. Box 8249, Cranston, RI 02920. □

MARKET ELECTIONS: HOW DEMOCRACY SERVES THE RICH

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Anti-war protests continue across U.S.

By Leslie Feinberg

Even as the huge national anti-war demonstrations were taking place in **Washington** and **San Francisco** on Oct. 26, thousands more people were marching in cities across the country.

More than 10,000 people marched in **St. Paul, Minn.**, from the St. Paul Cathedral to the State Capitol building. More than 50 groups endorsed the demonstration.

Some 3,000 protesters marched and rallied in the **Maine capital of Augusta**. One veteran activist estimated that it was the largest protest in Augusta since Spiro Agnew came to town in 1972.

An estimated 3,000-5,000 marched in **Seattle** to the theme "Stop the war before it starts."

A demonstration estimated at 4,000 marched in **Chicago**. Thousands more came out in **Denver**.

In **Taos, New Mexico**, 2,500 marchers gathered outside the home of Secretary of Defense Donald Rumsfeld.

Some 1,000 people marched in **Madison, Wisc.**, and in **Albany, N.Y.**

In **Nashville, Tenn.**, 600 activists held an anti-war, anti-weapons march.

Salt Lake City had a rally of 300.

Hundreds rallied for peace in **Durham, N.C.** More than 200 protested in Rock Hill, S.C., at Winthrop University.

An estimated 50-75 people in **Sioux Falls, S.D.**, assembled on the busiest street corner in the city to protest the U.S.

war drive. Two members of the South Dakota Peace and Justice Center held a banner that read: "Attack Iraq? NO!"

In **Terre Haute, Ind.**, 65 people protested the war.

In **Texas**, marches took place in **San Antonio** and **Austin**—Bush's hometown.

A week earlier, around 1,500 people had marched in **Tucson, Ariz.**, against the war.

Demonstrations continued the following weekend. On Nov. 3, hundreds rallied at an anti-war protest outside **MacDill Air Force Base** near **Tampa**. The protest was organized by the African People's Socialist Party.

That same Sunday, thousands of young people swelled the ranks of 15,000 New Englanders protesting the war on **Boston Common**. Speakers included actor Tim Robbins, Howard Zinn, and Boston City Councilor Chuck Turner, who urged participants to demonstrate in Washington on January 18-19. The rally and march were sponsored by United for Justice with Peace. □



Taos, New Mexico



Chicago



Boston

WWW PHOTO: MAUREEN SKEHAN

Thousands People's

By Monica Moorehead

The 2002 midterm elections are finally a thing of the past. The Republicans are gleeful that they now have control of both houses of Congress. The Democrats are down in the dumps because they lost ground, especially in the Senate.

What about the masses of the people, those who voted and those who did not? Did they give George W. Bush a mandate for his war on Iraq, as the administration is claiming?

The answer is emphatically no. Anti-war sentiment has steadily been growing among the people, but had little room to express itself in the elections because the Democratic Party had already caved in and given Bush the resolution he wanted to go ahead with the war.

But there is a way that millions of people can register their opposition to Bush's plans to spend hundreds of billions of dollars in an unprovoked attack on Iraq. It's called the People's Anti-War Referendum.

It was first announced at the historic Oct. 26 anti-war marches and rallies in Washington and San Francisco. More than a quarter of a million demonstrators and millions more watching and listening to live coverage over C-SPAN and Pacifica Radio heard about the referendum, initiated by the Act Now to Stop War & End Racism coalition. A week later, tens of thousands have already registered their

Bush didn't wait for election for war moves

Continued from page 1

movements disguised as "war games."

Some 400 warplanes are already in the area, and three aircraft carriers are on the way. In addition, Gen. Tommy Franks, head of the U.S. Central Command, announced the command's move from Florida to Kuwait.

Military analysts call it the largest gathering of U.S. military power in the region since the 1991 war against Iraq.

The Pentagon also announced plans to call up as many as 265,000 reserve and National Guard troops for deployment wherever they were needed around the world. The implication is that about that many troops would also wind up in the Gulf region to back up the invasion of Iraq.

Faced with this aggressive military buildup force and the Pentagon's potential to rain terror on the Iraqi population, the government in Baghdad announced its readiness to go along with a new United Nations Security Council resolution.

"If a resolution is issued that respects the UN Charter, international law and Iraq's sovereignty, security and independence, and does not provide a cover for America's ill intentions, we will look into whether we will deal with it," Saddam Hussein was quoted as saying. (Washington Post, Nov. 6)

Bush regime wants war

The Bush administration, and especially the ideologically committed cold war veterans around Vice President Dick Cheney, Defense Secretary Donald Rumsfeld and his assistant Paul Wolfowitz, have shown no sign they will accept any concessions from the Iraqi government. The U.S. government wants to wage war.

Long before the Sept. 11, 2001, attacks on the World Trade Center and the Pentagon, this grouping made clear its intentions to finish the war started in 1991 by seizing Iraq and changing its government to one completely compliant with the in-

terests of U.S. oil monopolies.

Within days after the attacks here last year, this group, along with other veteran cold warriors, including Richard Perle and Henry Kissinger, and right-wing politicians like Newt Gingrich, met behind closed doors to discuss using the disorientation in the population caused by the attacks to mobilize for a "crusade" against any who resist U.S. domination. This included the governments of North Korea, Iran, Syria and Cuba, but had as its first target Iraq.

Since then this grouping has produced the so-called National Security Strategy document, publicized in the New York Times on Sept. 20. This document clearly lays out—with the obligatory mention of democracy as a goal—a plan to maintain U.S. domination of every world region. It includes U.S. hegemony over all its imperialist rivals in Western Europe and Japan and the prospect of returning the rest of the world to the status of 19-century style colonies.

The document dictated the expansion of "free trade"—meaning, for example, no state subsidies for farmers in poor agricultural countries while the U.S. subsidizes agribusiness here with billions of dollars—and even insisted that countries not tax progressively.

Speaking at Trinity College, Dublin, on Oct. 12, 1999, Henry Kissinger defined globalization quite frankly: "The basic challenge is that what is called 'globalization' is really another name for the dominant role of the United States." He left out, of course, the hundreds of billions of dollars in profits that U.S. corporations and banks rake in from imperialist plunder, and also that behind the global expansion of U.S. capital is the iron boot of the Pentagon.

How will the people here react?

The Bush-Cheney-Wolfowitz-Rumsfeld gang is counting on Pentagon power to win quick victories, whatever the suffering for

From Korea to Germany

Protests tell Bush: Don't attack Iraq

By John Catalinotto

The huge anti-war protests in the U.S. on Oct. 26 organized by the ANSWER coalition have added momentum to the worldwide movement against a U.S. attack on Iraq.

In South Korea on the same day, student, peace, socialist, religious and civic groups converged at Insadong plaza in downtown Seoul, according to the online news service Base21. "The spirited rally loudly expressed their displeasure at the United States' plans to attack Iraq as well as send a clear warning to the next South Korean president, to be decided in December, that the South Korean people will oppose any efforts by their government to support the U.S. in the next stage of their 'war on terrorism,'" wrote media activist Terry Park.

A number of colorful banners were displayed, including portraits of President George W. Bush, National Security Advisor Condoleezza Rice, and Secretary of Defense Donald Rumsfeld, dubbed the "Axis of Evil." A Palestinian flag and a pink triangle waved in the crowd.

Protesters later marched to nearby Jong-myo Park. Members of the radical student group All Together promised, "This is only the beginning of our struggle. We will create a mass movement against any imperialist war." One marcher said, "Many Korean people are worried that the U.S. will attack North Korea after Iraq.

Clinton almost attacked in 1994, so it could happen again."

Ritter: Bombing could begin soon, movement must organize quickly

In Berlin, Germany, former Marine captain and current anti-war activist Scott Ritter told a conference on Nov. 1-2 that the Pentagon will have all the military elements ready to begin bombing Iraq by early December and to invade two or three weeks later. Ritter, whose participation in UN inspections convinced him that Iraq is not harboring "weapons of mass destruction," said he expected that the Iraqis would be unable to resist the U.S. military onslaught and that many civilians would suffer, should the war begin.

This former hawk who remains a Republican said the war could still be stopped if the U.S. remains isolated and the anti-war movement mobilized.

Ritter's message to the German public was to "make an effort to pressure the German government to stick to its 'no' to an Iraq war" and to "support the anti-war movement in the United States." The war could be stopped, he insisted, but the movement had better organize quickly.

Dr. Hans-Christof von Sponeck, former director of the UN humanitarian aid program for Iraq, accused the U.S. and Britain of lying about the existence of a program for weapons of mass destruction in Iraq. Von Sponeck said he was sorry the conference had to concentrate on stopping a new



Chennai, Tamilnadu State, India.

PHOTO: AIAIF

war instead of on stopping the murderous sanctions against the Iraqi people. A "no to the war" should go together with a "stop the embargo," said von Sponeck.

Others at the conference included the Iraqi ambassador to London, Dr. Mudhafar A. Amin; Dr. Jan Oberg of the Transnational Foundation for Peace and Future Research in Sweden; Barbara Lochbihler of Amnesty International and spokespeople from the German peace movement. The conference came a week after demonstrations in Germany of tens of thousands on Oct. 26 in coordination with the U.S. anti-war movement.

Civil disobedience in Britain

Thousands of people took part in over 150 different protests throughout Britain as part of the Stop the War Coalition's Halloween Day of Action on Oct. 31. It was the first mobilization there for massive civil disobedience.

The largest action was in London, where 5,000 people gathered in Parliament Square at 6 p.m. to block traffic in Whitehall—the area housing government ministries. Following speeches from Tony Benn, Tariq Ali and Lindsey German, protesters left the square to join up with Campaign for Nuclear Disarmament activists outside Downing Street, the prime minister's residence, for low-key civil disobedience.

Also, dozens of protests took place at universities and colleges, including occupations at Cambridge University, Liverpool, Manchester, Brighton and Leeds. In

Sheffield 500 students occupied a faculty building sponsored by Boeing. In Bristol, 700 people joined a vigil followed by a march to an army base, while in Cardiff protesters occupied the Welsh Assembly, halting proceedings.

Andrew Murray, chair of the Stop the War Coalition, said: "The Day of Action was a fantastic demonstration of the British people's opposition to the planned war. But it's only a taste of what will happen if Tony Blair supports a U.S.-led military attack against Iraq."

Following the success of the protests, the Stop the War Coalition announced a conference on Dec. 7 as well as another large-scale march through London on Feb. 15. The coalition is also preparing for protests throughout the country, should military action begin against Iraq.

India: 'Down with warmonger USA'

As part of the international actions on Oct. 26, the All-India Anti-Imperialist Front in Bangalore, Karnataka State, organized a protest at Mysore Bank Circle, where demonstrators burned a joint effigy of George W. Bush and British Prime Minister Tony Blair. They shouted, "No war, we demand world peace," and "Down with warmonger USA."

In Chennai, Tamilnadu State, on the same day, demonstrators from the local unit of AIAIF, including women and children, raised slogans against U.S. war plans. A similar action took place in Hyderabad, Andhra Pradesh State, at the Osmania

Medical College. Speakers warned that war in any part of the globe hurts the unity of the workers of the world. They appealed to the people to develop a movement to pressure the Indian government, led by the right-wing BJP party, to withdraw from joint military exercises with the U.S. □



South Korea, above and Greece, right.



U.S. not safe for Arab immigrants

Canada issues travel advisory

By G. Dunkel

Canadian officials are fed up. Arab, South Asian and Muslim Canadian citizens traveling from Canada to the U.S. have been detained in the United States, sometimes without their families or consulates being notified. In some cases the U.S. has secretly deported them to a third country. Three hundred Ontario residents were recently fingerprinted, photographed and interrogated before being allowed into the U.S.

The case of Maher Arar, a highly skilled communications engineer born in Syria, particularly rankled the Canadian author-

ities. U.S. immigration officials detained Arar while he was changing planes at Kennedy International Airport in New York on Sept. 26. They deported him two weeks later, and he wound up in Syria.

Arar's family still has not been in direct contact with him, though Syria has allowed Canada consular access to him.

The U.S. has ignored a number of diplomatic notes from Canadian officials angry about this conduct toward their citizens. It was causing quite a bit of botheration at the least, and anguish at the worst.

So the Canadian foreign ministry on Oct. 28 issued a travel advisory warning

Canadians born in Syria, Iran, Iraq, Libya, Sudan, Pakistan, Saudi Arabia or Yemen "to consider carefully whether they should attempt to enter the United States for any reason, including transit to or from third countries."

This was quite a shock to the U.S. political establishment, which is not used to problems, or even public complaints, from Canada. And the U.S. had just kicked off a \$15-million public relations campaign to convince Muslims throughout the world that it's okay to be a Muslim in the United States.

U.S. Ambassador Paul Cellucci quickly told Canadian Foreign Minister Bill Gra-

ham that the restrictions would be eased on Canadian citizens. Canadian officials welcomed the move but said they would keep the advisory in place until they saw the revised regulations in writing.

That's where the dispute remains. It is getting major media attention in Canada and U.S. cities close to the border.

For a country like Canada, which is so strongly overshadowed by U.S. imperialism, to take such a bold step testifies to the international isolation of the Bush administration and to the growing perception that its immigration policies are blatantly racist, anti-Arab and anti-Muslim. □

North Korea wants promise of no attack

U.S. rejects offer to negotiate

By Deirdre Griswold

The Bush administration is already positioning itself to take its endless war to Asia, once it has established a colonial-style administration over Iraq and the Gulf area.

Its immediate target is the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, which U.S. imperialist geo-strategists have coveted as a launching pad against China ever since revolutionary and anti-colonial victories in both these countries after World War II dashed U.S. big business's dreams of imperial conquest there.

Washington then committed hundreds of thousands of troops to a devastating war on the Korean peninsula from 1950 to 1953. In the name of defending "democracy," the U.S. rushed its armies to South Korea to prop up the brutal and corrupt dictatorship of Syngman Rhee and prevent the reunification of a country that had been divided after the war.

For almost 50 years, the U.S. government has refused to sign a peace treaty with North Korea to end that war, and continues to keep 37,000 troops in South Korea despite a massive popular movement calling on them to leave.

Despite this intense military pressure, the DPRK was able to implement many socialist measures in the north, including free education and health care and the building of a modern industrial infrastructure. With the fall of the Soviet

Union, however, and a period of devastating droughts and floods, its economy and agriculture were hit hard. This far northern land has had a particular problem getting enough energy to satisfy both industrial and civil needs.

In 1994, it shelved plans to build a graphite nuclear reactor after the U.S. objected that it could produce plutonium as a byproduct. Plutonium can be used in nuclear weapons production. The Clinton administration agreed it would help North Korea build a light-water reactor instead. Now, eight years later, the DPRK is still struggling with its energy needs and the light-water reactor has not been built. Nor has Washington come through with alternate energy sources, like fuel oil, in a timely fashion.

The Oct. 21, 1994, Framework Agreement signed by both countries was also meant to initiate a process of normalization of relations on the Korean peninsula. The DPRK and South Korea took many steps in that direction, including a summit meeting in Pyongyang, North Korea, in June of 2000 that resulted in a historic agreement signed by Kim Jong Il for the DPRK and Kim Dae Jung for South Korea.

President George W. Bush torpedoed all this when, in his State of the Union speech this January, he included the DPRK in a mythical "Axis of Evil." The Koreans made

it very clear to the U.S. that they regarded such language as tantamount to a declaration of war. (See Workers World interview of March 28, 2002, "Korean ambassador on Bush's speech: 'We consider it to be a declaration of war.'")

Around the same time, the Department of Defense released its Nuclear Policy Review, which projected plans to use nuclear weapons against seven countries, including the DPRK.

Finally, in October, the government of North Korea announced that the Framework Agreement was dead and that it would take whatever measures were necessary to resume its nuclear program.

Of course, this brought howls of indignation from Washington, even though the U.S. had killed the agreement, thereby giving the Koreans no other choice.

The DPRK then, through its United Nations mission in New York on Nov. 2, offered to open negotiations with the U.S. over its nuclear program. But within a day, the Bush administration had rejected the offer.

Even members of the U.S. establishment say that what the DPRK wants is assurances that it won't be attacked by the Pentagon. According to the Seoul-based newspaper Korea Herald of Nov. 6: "Former U.S. Ambassador to South Korea Don-

ald Gregg said yesterday that North Korea demonstrated flexibility in its standoff with the United States over the contentious nuclear weapons issue. Gregg, who visited Pyongyang, said in a news conference in Seoul that North Korean officials emphasized 'simultaneous steps' by Pyongyang and Washington to resolve the security concern.

"I think that they would like the United States to give them some assurances that we don't want to blow them out of the water," Gregg said. "I strongly felt in the last few days that the North truly fears a possible attack from the United States," he added. Don Oberdorfer, a fellow at the Johns Hopkins School of Advanced International Studies who accompanied the former U.S. diplomat, also said the North is desperately awaiting a security guarantee from Washington. "By suggesting a nonaggression pact, the North wants a legally binding commitment from the United States that there will be no aggression to the North from Washington," he said."

The prospect that the Bush administration could actually be contemplating a new war against Korea has people in the north and the south enraged. Solidarity with Korea against U.S. aggression will have to be an important component of the anti-movement now building around the world. □

U.S. sanctions to blame

Haitians flee growing poverty

By G. Dunkel

On Oct. 29 more than 200 Haitians and three Dominicans leaped off a boat that had been chased aground in Miami Bay by the U.S. Coast Guard. They tried to escape before the cops and immigration agents arrived. Live television footage shot from a helicopter showed people desperately jumping overboard. A woman lowered a young girl in a pink dress to a man waiting in chest-high water. People piled onto a pickup truck.

The cops loaded those they caught onto windowless buses.

Shortly after the news hit the airwaves, Haitians—many carrying placards from the SEIU labor union—and civil rights activists converged on the scene to observe and to demand an end to the racist immigration policy enforced against Haitians. They also wanted to be sure that the Haitians were being treated humanely.

Of all the immigrants who seek asylum in the United States, only Haitians are denied the right to parole, that is, release to the community before their immigration hearing. Cubans are subject to a "wet-foot, dry-foot policy," which means that if they are intercepted at sea, they are repatriated. If they reach shore, they are repatriated. If they reach shore, they invariably get well-financed political asylum.

What usually happens to Haitians is that they are held in jail for months before a hearing, at which time their asylum claim is denied. Then they are held for more

months until they are finally sent back. Veye Yo, a militant group in Miami's Haitian community, reports that on Oct. 25, 44 men and eight women had been returned to Haiti, some after being held in detention here for more than a year.

'People have no choice'

Lavarice Gaudin, a leader of Veye Yo, told the progressive newspaper *Haiti-Progress*: "Due to the Bush administration's blockage of all loans and aid to Haiti, the economic situation of the country is very, very bad. This is why people are fleeing. People have no choice. Tomorrow there might be another boat."

U.S. Rep. Carrie Meek, who represents Little Haiti—the area of Miami where the Haitian community is concentrated—interrupted a rally that Florida Gov. Jeb Bush was holding to demand he call his brother, the president, and get the Haitians released. Gov. Bush refused, trying to waffle his way through the disruption.

Later Meek and some local leaders announced a plan to make a direct appeal to President George W. Bush for their release and to call for a march on Washington.

Advocates for the Haitians have accused the U.S. government of trying to deflect national attention away from the treatment of these refugees fleeing poverty and political turmoil. The nationally televised images of the Oct. 29 event stoked another wave of protests and meetings to address



a government immigration policy implemented in December that officially mandates the indefinite detention of Haitian refugees.

U.S. federal authorities announced that they are charging six of the refugees taken into custody on Oct. 29 with human smuggling. In Chouchou Bay, a fishing village where the boat was launched, residents told U.S. reporters that the trip was a cooperative effort—some people supplied material, others their tools or their labor to build the boat.

In Acul du Nord, the nearby town that supplied most of the passengers, Phito Florestal told an Associated Press reporter, "Most people don't make enough to survive. ... Some days you eat, some days you don't."

There is 90 percent unemployment in Acul. When people do get work, they generally make less than one dollar a day. Per capita income in Haiti is \$250 a year and four-fifths of the rural population have incomes below Haiti's poverty level, which means that they must survive through sub-

sistence farming.

Some groups in Haiti are struggling to change this dire situation. The Nation Populaire Party (PPN), the union *Batay Ouvriye* (Workers' Struggle) and the Peasant Movement of Vodrey held a march of 3,000 people on Oct. 17 in Cap Haitien, Haiti's second-largest city. The date commemorates the assassination of Jean-Jacques Dessalines, the leader who declared Haiti independent in 1804.

Marchers denounced the government of President Jean-Bertrand Aristide for selling off a significant strip of land along the Dominican border to a U.S.-controlled company and for agreeing to let foreign diplomats supervise Haiti's political process. The protesters also denounced Haiti's official opposition for being willing to do more for the U.S. than Aristide's government.

Ben Dupuy, the secretary general of the PPN, concluded at the rally that "the National Popular Party is working to build a real alternative for real change." □

workers world editorial

Lesson of the elections

Not all the election results are in yet as we go to press, and some are still in dispute. However, it seems clear that in this midterm election, the Republican Party has gained clear control of both the Senate and the House of Representatives, while losing some key governorships in northern industrial states. Only about one third of the electorate voted.

While the Republicans surely outspent the Democrats—the figures are not in yet—there were millionaire candidates on both sides of the ballot.

Tom Daschle, the leader of the Democrats in the Senate, showed how far to the right his party has moved when he commented on NBC, “I think it means that the president has an opportunity here to enact and proceed with the plan [on Iraq] as he has articulated it. I think the American people appear now to give him the benefit of the doubt.”

His humble-pie statement was an echo of the exultant message from the White House, which now intends to move ahead with its war plans with renewed vigor, shaking the election results like a big stick at everyone in the world who might express reservations.

U.S. imperialism—and, indeed, world capitalism as a whole—is in a growing crisis that started in the economy and has now moved into the dangerous area of attempting to revive the flagging fortunes of the Fortune 500 through military aggression and the total capture of the oil-rich Middle East. So far, despite a growing grassroots anti-war movement, this stamper by the ruling class to seek salvation for its profit system in organized mass murder—as it has done so many times before over the last century—has had the approval of both capitalist parties.

Daschle's comments reflect what this lackluster election was all about—the craven capitulation of the liberal wing of the capitalist class to the war hawks in a time of crisis.

There was little in the campaign for the tens of millions of workers, students, seniors, disabled and unemployed to get excited about. Real incomes are down, layoffs are up, workers have been losing their pension money while the billionaire crooks thumb their noses, medical costs have skyrocketed, housing costs are sky-high, and 2 million people are in jail. Did the “opposition” have a program to address any of this?

A national health plan? That died with Bill Clinton. Put money into social services? The Democrats voted with the Republicans to kill welfare and cut taxes on

the rich. A jobs plan? Both parties agree: let the market do its “magic.” And so it has—the Incredible Vanishing Jobs Trick.

Build affordable housing? The landlords wouldn't like that. Raise Social Security? Both parties have been telling the people that they must be weaned away from “government handouts.” Only the agribusiness corporations and the military-industrial complex have the right to suckle at the public treasury, it seems.

The capitalist electoral system has won again, and the people have lost. But that is nothing new. What is new is that there's a grassroots movement coming up that cannot be discouraged by something in which it had little faith to begin with. True, there were the many who desperately bombarded congressional offices with pleas to vote against the war. But they got a rude awakening when their “representatives” admitted that they voted for war in total disregard of what their constituents were telling them.

Capitalist elections seldom bring about any significant gains for the masses of people, but they can be a barometer of public sentiment. This is limited in the United States, however, by the slick and sophisticated manipulation of public opinion every day by the mass media—controlled lock, stock and barrel by big capital. And by the fact that the majority of people in any election don't vote at all.

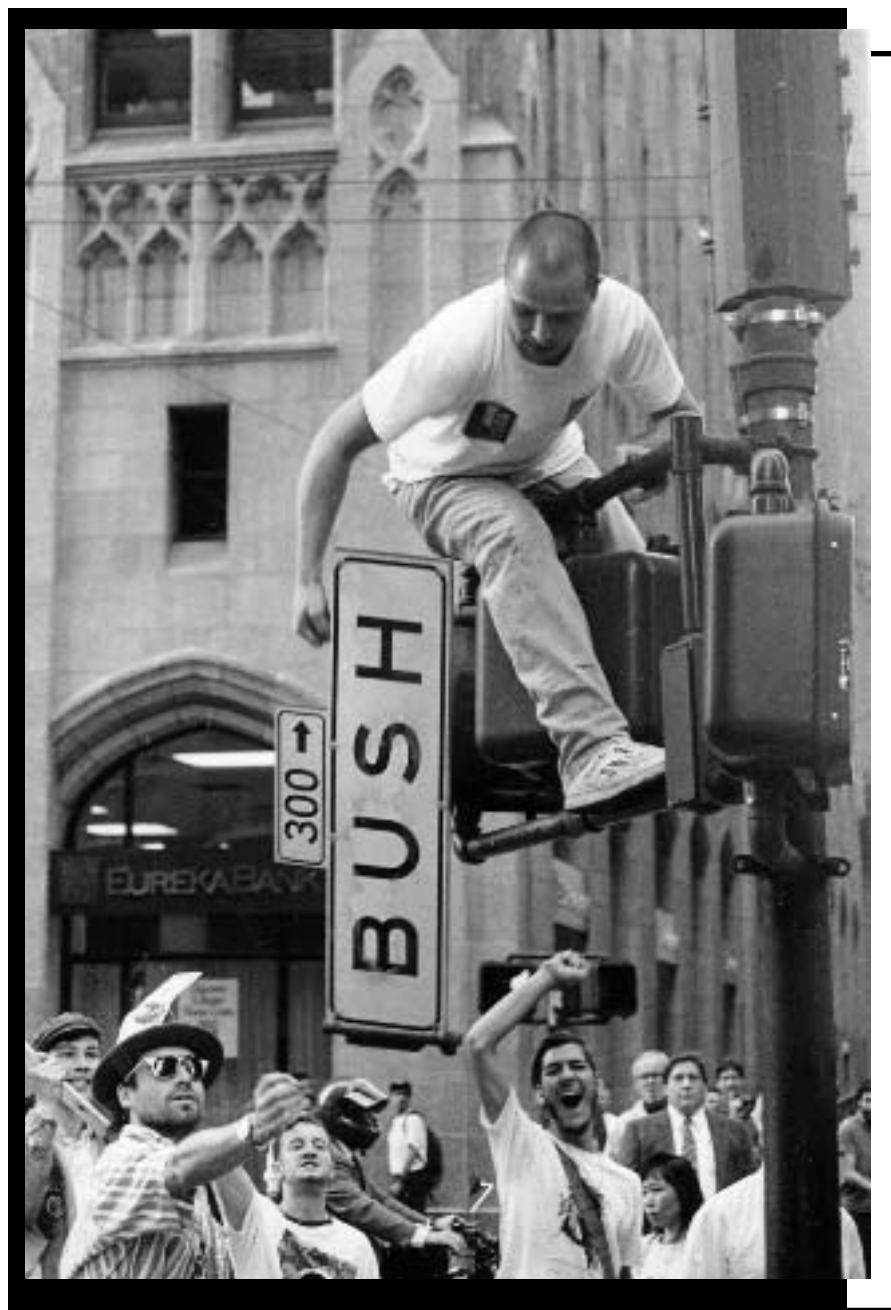
It shocked some to find out two years ago that, on top of all this, there was actual fraud in the Florida election, where African American voters in particular were excluded from being counted by various tricks. Then it turned out that similar procedures had been used in other states as well. Now it seems that the same biased Florida voter rolls were in use this time around, too.

The movement can take comfort in this historical observation, however: When a mildly anti-war Democrat, George McGovern, actually did make it onto the presidential ballot in 1972 during the Vietnam War, he was roundly defeated. But the movement against the war was not defeated. It went on to become so powerful at home and in the military ranks in Vietnam that the Pentagon brass began to lose control of its rank and file. At the end of it all, the imperialists had to admit they would never subdue the Vietnamese people or crush the movement at home. They finally withdrew.

The election results contain an important lesson for all who fight for justice and against the war machine: our strength lies in organizing the people, not in becoming captive to the capitalist political parties. □

Photos from 'belly of the beast'

Hackwell exhibit to open in Havana



By Deirdre Griswold

An exhibit of the social photography of Bill Hackwell will open in Havana, Cuba, on Nov. 18 at the Julio Antonio Mella Theater.

Readers of Workers World are familiar with Hackwell's work. Hundreds of his photos have appeared in this newspaper over the years. He has captured on film the major protests of the last few decades in memorable images that convey both the messages and the raw emotions of the protesters.

Hackwell is a Vietnam veteran whose passion for changing U.S. society matured in the struggle against that war. Since then his camera has

chronicled movements for social justice, both large and small, often focusing in on that one person whose face and actions speak for the crowd.

The invitation for the Cuban exhibit features a Hackwell picture from 1992: a young man is pulling down the sign of a street ironically called “Bush” as others cheer him on. They were protesting a visit to San Francisco of the first President George Bush.

The powerful exhibit contains 45 photos taken over the last 20 years, including one from the anti-war demonstration in San Francisco this Oct. 26. The show is called “Struggles in the Belly of the Beast” and will run until Nov. 30. □



WW PHOTO: GREG DUNKLE

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200,000 march in San Salvador

Largest-ever protest hits privatization

By Leslie Feinberg

It was the largest march in the history of the country. At least 200,000 Salvadorans shut down the capital city of San Salvador tight as a drum on Oct. 23, filling the streets in their second march to support a health care strike in its 34th day.

In virtually one voice, the massive demonstration demanded the scrapping of the voucher privatization plan that the country's president, Francisco Flores, has vowed to set in motion. Marchers also demanded that Flores sign progressive legislation outlawing the privatization of health care.

The health care workers' unions, together with the Farabundo Marti National Liberation Movement (FMLN), drafted the proposed law that would establish the state's responsibility to make quality health treatment accessible to all Salvadorans near their homes, regardless of ability to pay. Under the weight of popular pressure, the Legislative Assembly buckled and approved the bill. But Flores has balked, threatening to veto the progressive legislation.

The huge Oct. 23 protest against privatization of the industries that labor built and that working people and peasants need in order to live—including health care and electricity—drew 4 percent of the population. The equivalent in the United States would be about 11 million people.

Privatization's broad impact on many layers of the population was evidenced by who took to the streets on Oct. 23. The turnout included doctors, nurses and other health care workers, patients, students and teachers, public-sector workers and women vendors, retirees and bus drivers, sugarcane and coffee workers, peasants and church groups, FMLN legislators and the communities they represent, and groups from the wide-ranging Salvadoran progressive movement, according to an Oct. 24 account by the New York Committee in Solidarity with the People of El Salvador (CISPES).

A unified contingent of students and professors marching together was so immense that it shut down an estimated 80 percent of classes at the University of El Salvador. Reports came in from satellite campuses in the country's interior that it wasn't possible to rent enough vehicles to

bus all the students who wanted to protest in to the capital.

Health care workers march with patients

So many health care workers poured out of their jobs, and so many of their patients joined them to take part in the manifestation of anger, that whole hospitals were shut down.

But when marchers tried to converge on the affluent neighborhood where the president lives, they were met by riot police armed with automatic weapons. Police had barricaded the route forward into the wealthy residential area with razor wire, two armored cars and a water cannon. An army helicopter hovered above and the smell of tear gas preparation wafted in the air.

Not everyone who set out to march in the capital that day made it that far. Three police roadblocks in other parts of El Salvador reportedly detained many bus caravans. When cops turned back 12 busloads of potential marchers at the Puente de Oro, the people took over the bridge in protest.

At the same time, thousands of peasants blocked three of the major transportation arteries into the capital and shut down the highway to the airport. They were protesting privatization as well as the U.S./Central American Free Trade Agreement (CAFTA) and the Free Trade Area of the Americas (FTAA)—imperialist-brokered agreements that benefit Yankee capitalist globalizers at the expense of workers and peasants throughout the hemisphere.

Even some scabs join strike

Flores plans to allow transnational corporations, much like the dreaded HMO's in the U.S., to drain profits from the public hospitals while leaving them without funding.

According to the CISPES report, "Union leaders refer to the plan as 'Pay or Die,' as it would make health care a luxury for the privileged few with the capacity to pay for it."

In response, labor unions of doctors and other workers at the Salvadoran Institute of Social Security (ISSS) hospital network have shut down the entire health network across the country.

The government withheld paychecks



San Salvador, El Salvador

from workers after winning a court decision that ruled the strike illegal. But because many striking employees clocked in but refused to work, the administration stopped paying everyone—including scabs who had crossed the picket lines.

The starvation measure reportedly resulted in dozens of scabs walking off the job and joining the protest marchers.

The first march to support striking workers, on Oct. 16, brought more than 50,000 health care providers, their patients and supporters into the streets against privatization. But police blockades stopped marchers from reaching the Presidential Manor.

On Oct. 12, an estimated 28,000 Salvadorans had barricaded highways, bridges and border crossings at 11 strategic points across the country to protest privatization of the ISSS as well as CAFTA and the Plan Puebla Panama.

At the heart of the PPP is privatizing the

infrastructure—particularly the generation and distribution of electricity—in a mega-deal whose profits will be funneled to U.S. vaults.

On Oct. 22, the government illegally fired Alirio Romero—the secretary-general of the electricity workers' union, STSEL—and four other labor union activists. The STSEL has been on the frontlines of battles against privatization and the PPP. Since March, 29 STSEL union members have been fired.

Union leaders are demanding that the government halt the firings, rehire all the illegally terminated workers, end plans to privatize electricity and sign the law banning privatization of health care.

If the government refuses to meet these demands, union leaders vow to join striking health care workers by calling a national electricity workers' strike. In the words of Romero, the workers will "shut off the lights in all of El Salvador." □

Continues to resist kangaroo court

Concern grows for Milosevic's health

By John Catalinotto

Is former Yugoslav President Slobodan Milosevic's life in danger? On Oct. 31, Milosevic had a sudden increase of high blood pressure that often comes with his illness—malignant hypertension plus angina pectoris.

Since then, the proceeding in the International Criminal Tribunal for the Former Yugoslavia (ICTY) at The Hague, Netherlands, have been postponed.

Milosevic's supporters pointed out in a statement soon after that "such an event can cause his death." The Serb official who led Yugoslavia during the aggression on that country by the

U.S./NATO war machine has been defending himself against spurious war-crimes charges in the court set up by NATO since last February.

Since the trial began in mid-February, Milosevic has managed to turn the case around on NATO, exposing the criminal actions of the U.S. and its European allies, first for plotting to bring about the war and destruction of Yugoslavia, and then for bombing the civilian infrastructure and killing thousands of Yugoslav civilians. He has been so successful that the imperialist media has chosen to ignore what at first was designed to be a show trial of the Yugoslav leader.

The Hague authorities are holding

him under onerous conditions. His cell is small, without access to natural air. He attends the trial every weekday between 9 a.m. and 4:30 p.m., and is confined to the ICTY basement during the lunch break, where he can eat only a sandwich. He goes through humiliating searches when in transit. Back in detention by 6 p.m., he must choose between dinner and a short walk in fresh air, then must prepare until late at night for the next day of trial.

The former president faces mountains of papers to review without facilities to prepare his extraordinary courtroom battle. He also has absolutely no medical care. By the end of the prosecution's case, which is

scheduled to conclude in May 2003, he has to review over 100,000 pages of text and over 600 videotapes submitted by the prosecution.

Milosevic's supporters in Serbia and worldwide are using a seven-day hiatus proclaimed by the court to campaign to get him specialized medical treatment in Belgrade, Yugoslavia. They want him seen by doctors who have taken care of his health for years, until his full recovery.

They ask that people send faxes to the ICTY at 31-70-512-8637 and demand this treatment. Lawyers are invited to fax ICTY President Claude Jorda and President of Trial Chamber III Richard May at the same number. □

COLOMBIA:

El Pentágono envía tropas de combate

Por Andy McInerney

Antes de que la administración del ex Presidente Clinton lanzara el “Plan Colombia”, un paquete de ayuda militar de \$1.3 mil millones de dólares para Colombia, el gobierno de los Estados Unidos admitió tener cerca de 200 soldados—“asesores” de Fuerzas Especiales—en ese país suramericano. Hoy, según la edición del periódico británico, The Daily Telegraph, del 12 de octubre, esa cifra de soldados se ha multiplicado por dos.

Ahora, con la administración de Bush, botando todas las pretensiones de la “guerra contra las drogas,” estas tropas ya están en el campo de batalla. The Telegraph reportó que las Fuerzas Especiales comenzaron sus operaciones en Arauca, un estado rico en petróleo cerca de la frontera con Venezuela, a comienzos de octubre. Su misión es la de “entrenar a los soldados locales en operaciones con uso de

helicópteros, lucha de noche y operaciones de inteligencia.”

El Congreso aprobó esta intervención militar abierta en julio como parte del paquete “anti terrorismo” de \$29 mil millones de dólares. La apropiación incluía \$35 mil millones de dólares en nueva ayuda militar para Colombia. De estos, \$6 millones está específicamente dirigido a la protección de los oleoductos petroleros para los conglomerados petroleros estadounidenses como la Occidental Petroleum.

Según un reporte en el periódico The New York Times con el titular “El Ejército Secreto pro ganancias de América,” un número desconocido de mercenarios estadounidenses empleados por el Pentágono y por las compañías petroleras también están operando en Colombia.

Los oleoductos son objetivos frecuentes para los ataques de las dos insurgencias más grande del Frente Armadas Revolucionarias de Colombia—Ejército Popular

(FARC-EP) y el Ejército de Liberación Nacional (ELN). Arauca, donde las Fuerzas Especiales están comenzando su entrenamiento, es un punto de apoyo tradicional del ELN.

El presidente derechista de Colombia, Alvaro Uribe, declaró a Arauca como “Zona de Rehabilitación y Consolidación.” Este título elaborado quiere decir que el ejército colombiano ha declarado la ley marcial. Líderes campesinos y sindicalistas pueden ser arrestados sin ordenes judiciales o cargos formales, toque de queda se pueden declarar a su voluntad.

El cabecilla militar de la zona es el Brigadier General Carlos Lemus Pedraza. Grupos pro derechos humanos dicen que él tiene lazos con los escuadrones de la muerte que trabajan con el ejército en la región.

Desde la elección de Uribe, los encuentros entre el ejército colombiano y los es-

cuadrones paramilitares contra los insurgentes marxistas se han intensificado. En Medellín, la tercera ciudad de más terreno en Colombia, en sus barrios pobres y obreros se están viendo batallas más a menudo.

En septiembre, solo seis semanas después de la inauguración de Uribe, millones de trabajadores, campesinos y estudiantes, marcharon en una movilización nacional contra las políticas económicas del gobierno.

La intervención militar de Estados Unidos está tomando lugar al mismo tiempo que la lucha de clase se intensifica en Colombia. Esto hace muy probable que la confrontación cruce los límites que el Pentágono está tratando de delinear.

¿Podrá el gobierno de Estados Unidos batallar una insurgencia popular en Colombia a la misma vez que tiene una aventura masiva militar en el Medio Oriente? □

Sionistas no hablan de parte de todos los judíos:

Ser partidario de Palestina no es ‘anti semitismo’

Por Leslie Feinberg

Mientras que el activismo en pro de los palestinos recorre los Estados Unidos, partidarios de Israel pro sionistas están haciendo el intento de bloquear este movimiento ascendente caracterizando cualquier expresión de solidaridad con la autodeterminación palestina—hasta cualquier crítica de Israel mismo—como antisemitismo”. Esta acusación es vil y repugnante considerándolo históricamente en la luz del número de víctimas mortales que el antisemitismo verdadero ha reclamado.

Por mucho tiempo el sionismo ha escondido sus crímenes contra la nación palestina asediada detrás de la aseveración de que esa tierra representa una “patria judía” y que como una ideología expresa las aspiraciones de los judíos del mundo entero.

Pero el sionismo nunca ha sido la expresión de la voluntad de todos los judíos.

El sionismo moderno político y su meta de un estado judío al estilo de colonia de pobladores, sembró sus raíces con el desarrollo y la expansión de la competencia ínter imperialista. El ímpetu de emigrar de Rusia zarista y el este y centro de Europa fue impulsado por la extensión amplia antisemitismo que fue promovido por las clases dominantes del continente y la condición dispersa y oprimida de esta población minoritaria.

Por muchas décadas durante los fines

del siglo XIX y los principios del siglo XX, el sionismo no fue la opción de la mayoría de la gente judía. Todo lo contrario, trabajadores e intelectuales judíos jugaron un papel mayor en el movimiento comunista, socialista y otros movimientos sociales progresistas. Participaron en luchas de la clase obrera para derrocar a las clases dominantes. Lucharon por la igualdad, no la separación. Antes de la Segunda Guerra Mundial, los progresistas en gran parte consideraron que la ideología sionista era una corriente política reaccionaria.

El Sionismo enganchó su carreta a la etapa emergente de capitalismo monopolístico e imperialista en el momento cuando el capital se reventó más allá de las fronteras de los países industrializados y buscó la manera de expandirse colonizando al planeta. Disfrazados en ropas religiosas, líderes sionistas se ofrecieron como tropas de choque coloniales.

La clase dominante en Inglaterra y los Estados Unidos, ellos mismos saturados con antisemitismo, más tarde hicieron poco mientras que seis millones de judíos fueron sistemáticamente exterminados, siempre que Hitler siguió avanzando su destrucción contra la Unión Soviética con su

máquina militar aplastante. No bombardearon las líneas de ferrocarril transportando el cargo humano precioso a los campos de concentración. No abrieron sus fronteras al diluvio de refugiados intentando huir del holocausto.

Después de la Segunda Guerra Mundial, las potencias imperialistas vieron una oportunidad de penetrar más profundamente en el Medio Oriente y sus riquezas petroleras permitiendo a los sionistas crear el estado colonizador de Israel en la Palestina histórica. La fundación de esta “patria judía segura” fue en si mismo un acto de antisemitismo terrible, así como un crimen violento y racista en contra del pueblo palestino.

El terror utilizado para forzar a los palestinos en una diáspora, el mantenimiento de un estado brutal al estilo de apartheid en Israel, el aplastamiento militar de la resistencia palestina, e impidiendo la marea de aspiraciones revolucionarias árabes, todos han creado una rabia mundial en contra de Israel. Porque el sionismo habla en el nombre de todos los judíos del mundo, mucho de esa ira puede ser dirigido contra la gente judía en general.

Sionismo y sus benefactores ricos en Wall Street y en la Casa Blanca llevan la misma responsabilidad. El sionismo es en si una ideología antisemítica por dos razones: por provocar la ira a consecuencia de los crímenes del “estado judío” y por alimentar el odio antiárabe, porque la población árabe—incluso los palestinos—también es un pueblo semítico.

Hoy los activistas en el movimiento creciente de solidaridad internacional que apoya la lucha palestina por su liberación han sido juntados por más y más gente judía de todas edades y de todas ramas de la vida y todas clases sociales.

Estos activistas están viajando a los territorios ocupados arriesgando todo demostrando su apoyo por la lucha palestina. Están hablando públicamente en las universidades a favor de despojarse de todas inversiones en Israel. Están marchando para apoyar la autodeterminación palestina.

Están resucitando e incrementando al número de activistas e izquierdistas judíos que por generaciones han sido componentes grandes y dinámicos de las luchas de la clase trabajadora, defendiéndose hombro a hombro con ellos que llevan las cargas más pesadas de desigualdad e injusticia. Y en hacerlo están dando un golpe duro al antisemitismo.

En este momento en la historia, las batallas para derrotar al antisemitismo y liberar a Palestina están entrelazadas inextricablemente. □

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