

Dec. 12, 2002 Vol. 44, No. 49

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BUSH READIES ATTACK ON IRAQ

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By John Catalinotto

Washington is taking advantage of its position as the center of world imperialism to follow through with its war preparations against Iraq—with or without approval from its allies and client states.

Even as the Bush administration pays lip service to the United Nations inspections now taking place in Iraq, the Pentagon is proceeding with the military steps needed for an invasion. It has moved its Central Command to Qatar, with Gen. Tommy Franks expected to arrive about Dec. 8 with a staff of 750.

He will command his forces from the new Qatar headquarters while connecting with U.S. Marine commanders in Bahrain, the army commander in Kuwait and the air force commander at the Prince Sultan Air Base near Riyadh, Saudi Arabia.

They are set to run an unprecedented exercise called Internal Look. "The exercise, due to start in about a week, will be the first war game of its kind conducted outside the U.S.," reports the Dec. 3 Sydney Morning Herald. "The command and control procedures practiced would be the same used for a war with Iraq."

Tens of thousands of troops are in Gulf area bases or on ships in the region. As many as 250,000 reservists will be called up, according to reports from the Pentagon.

Washington warlord Paul Wolfowitz, the deputy secretary of defense—along with Vice President Dick Cheney, Secretary of Defense Donald Rumsfeld and chairperson of the Defense Policy Board Richard Perle—has agitated for an invasion of Iraq for years,

but especially since Sept. 11, 2001. Wolfowitz traveled to Britain and Turkey in the first days of December as part of a tour to round up further backing for U.S. war plans.

Speaking in London Dec. 2, Wolfowitz referred obliquely to France and Germany as "laggards" in the crusade to invade Iraq.

Meanwhile, U.S. warplanes flying over Iraqi territory bombed oil installations near Basra, killing four Iraqis and wounding 27. President George W. Bush threatened Iraq for defending itself against these now daily raids.

The empire based in Washington makes use of its single central command, which is ruthless and single-minded, to plan and launch a war of aggression. The worldwide anti-war movement, while it lacks a central command, still has made plans to respond to a massive U.S. bombing assault or invasion.

Anti-war groups plan response

In the United States, the International ANSWER coalition—Act Now to Stop War & End Racism—which initiated the Oct. 26 marches of 200,000 in Washington and 100,000 in San Francisco, has announced mass demonstrations for those two cities on Jan. 18, the weekend of the Martin Luther King Jr. holiday. Already over 100 buses are set to arrive in the two cities from 35 states.

Brian Becker of ANSWER told Workers World, "In response to the growing threat of war, the ANSWER coalition Steering Committee met Dec. 4 and called for

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South Korea boiling over U.S. occupation crimes

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Shin Hyo-Soon & Shim Mi-Sun



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**IT'S THE REAL THING
COCA-COLA ON TRIAL
Murder of workers in Colombia**



Teresa Gutierrez of the Committee to Stop U.S. Intervention in Colombia and former Attorney General Ramsey Clark at media conference outside Coca-Cola headquarters in New York on Dec. 2. U.S. solidarity delegation is on its way to Bogotá to help put Coke bosses in the docket. See page 8

PHOTOS: PEOPLES VIDEO NETWORK

WW Web site is a big hit

By Leslie Feinberg

Workers World newspaper on the Web is a big hit—1,180,983 hits over the last two weeks of November, to be precise, according to the workers.org Web site logs.

More than ever, people cruising the information highway are turning to our Web site.

If you're a frequent visitor, you know why. With the airwaves and daily newspapers filled with war propaganda, jingoism and poppycock explanations for the economic downturn, Workers World offers the relief that only struggle can bring.

You'll find news about workers in motion here and around the world struggling in their own class interests, anti-war organizing and front line battles against racism and other forms of bigotry.

But you'll also find revolutionary analysis, theory and a historical perspective to the growth of capitalism, the evolution of imperialism, and what it will take to usher in socialism.

We've been publishing Workers World, a Marxist newspaper, since 1959. We've been on the Web since 1995.

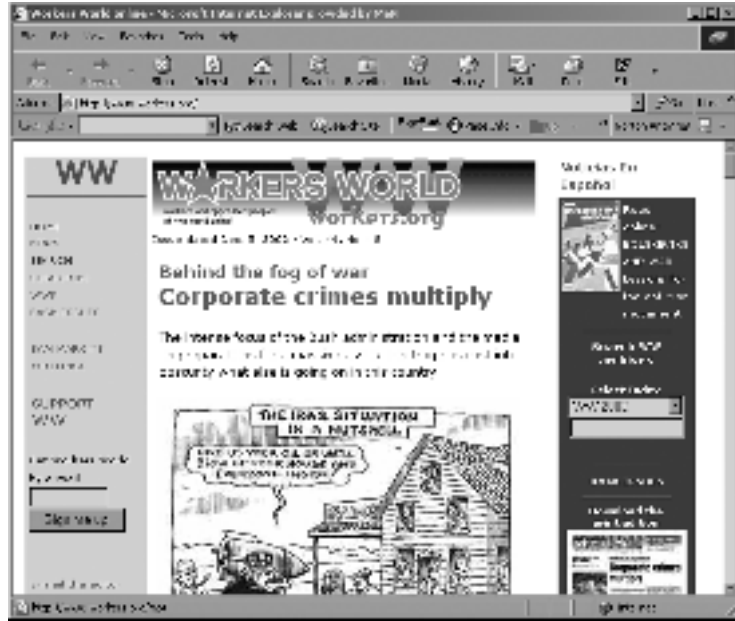
In these tumultuous times of social and economic crisis, we're seeing a great deal of activity on our Web site.

After Sept. 11, the number of online readers shot up. And in the following month the WW Web site had over a million hits.

Since then, workers.org has been averaging about 100,000 readers every month.

But in the last month that number has grown to about 80,000 visitors each day.

Thousands more are getting Workers World articles sent to them as e-mail every week. And now that the newspaper is available in the portable document format (PDF), it has en-



abled many thousands more to download the digital edition of Workers World. That means that those who have high-speed connections like DSL or cable modems can click on the PDF button on the home page of workers.org and the pages of Workers World emerge from your own printer looking the same way as the newsprint edition: headlines, captions, articles, photos—even the page numbers.

For those who are still using dial-up modems, well, as technology gallops forward at a dizzying pace it's comforting to know that Workers World is still available to read free online or receive as e-mail. You can order a print subscription for yourself, too. All this is available by visiting workers.org, which is a very "user-friendly" site, and clicking on the clearly marked instructions.

And while you're there, consider giving a gift subscription of Workers World to a family member, co-worker, neighbor or friend. Another click of your mouse can provide a much-needed subscription to a prisoner—a newspaper that will most likely be handed

around the tiers until it is tattered. All this action on our Web site and interest in our newspaper makes us want to work all the harder. All the research, writing, editing, copy-editing, graphic and text design, circulation work and weekly mailing are accomplished through our volunteer labor.

But no matter how much sweat we put into the labor, it takes bucks to produce the newspaper. Offering the newspaper online and as e-mail, and providing research into back issues for free isn't free.

Your help is very much needed. Voluntary contributions will not only keep WW newspaper online it will help expand this important coverage.

Now you can donate and/or subscribe by credit card online at www.workers.org/orders. No matter how intimidating you may have found online financial transactions, this is a simple and secure action.

There's a lot of traffic on the information super highway. But clearly Workers World newspaper on the Web is a well-traveled vehicle for change. □

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NEW YORK

Sat., Dec. 7
Bedford-Stuyvesant War is Not the Answer Walk for Peace. Speakers include Larry Holmes of the ANSWER coalition, and Rev. Herbert Daughtry, Houe of the Lord Church. 2 to 5 p.m. At First AME Zion Baptist Church, 54 McDonough St. (near Tompkins), Brooklyn. For info (718) 907-0578.

SAN FRANCISCO

Sat., Dec. 14
Anti-War Teach-In. Stop the war against Iraq. Featuring speakers and topics from a diverse group of presenters. Sponsored by International ANSWER Coalition. 7 p.m. At Horace Mann Middle School, 3351 23rd St., near Valencia. For info (415) 821-6545.

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National Day of Mourning:

'No giving thanks for colonialism'

By Mahtowin Munro
Plymouth, Mass.

More than 500 people, from all the four directions, braved bitter cold to participate in the 33rd National Day of Mourning in Plymouth, Mass., on Nov. 28. The event is organized annually by United American Indians of New England (UAINE).

Native people from many nations were in attendance, as well as many non-Native supporters, providing a powerful demonstration of unity. The co-leaders of UAINE particularly acknowledged the presence of Palestinian supporters, noting that "Their struggle is one with our struggle."

According to Moonanum James, a Wampanoag and co-leader of UAINE, "Our very presence frees this land from the lies of the history books, the profiteers and the mythmakers. We will honor all peoples' ancestors in struggle who went before us."

Several of the speakers honored those who had died during the past year. All spoke of the true history of the European settlement of the Americas and the importance of teaching children that truth.

After a speak-out during which many speakers called for freedom for Native political prisoner Leonard Peltier, Day of Mourning participants marched through the streets of Plymouth. During a street rally that blocked traffic on the waterfront by Plymouth Rock, Raul Ruiz (Mexico), part of the Danza Azteca group that led the march, called upon participants to "crush the rock and all that it represents."

This annual Native American protest of the mythology surrounding the Pilgrims and "Thanksgiving" first occurred in 1970 after an attempt to suppress the truth.

Wamsutta Frank James, an Aquinnah Wampanoag man, had been invited to address a gathering sponsored by the Commonwealth of Massachusetts commemorating the 350th anniversary of the landing of the Pilgrims.



WW PHOTO: CEMILE CAKIR

Moonanum James, co-leader of UAINE, speaking at Nov. 28 Day of Mourning with his son Womsikuk.

Because Wamsutta was going to talk about how the coming of the Pilgrims and other European colonialists brought about the devastation of the Wampanoag and other Native peoples in the northeastern U.S., officials of Massachusetts demanded that he follow a script that they would provide.

Wamsutta refused, and as a result Native and non-Native people gathered in Plymouth and declared U.S. "Thanksgiving Day" a National Day of Mourning. UAINE and their supporters have gathered, in good or bad weather, every year since.

Sadly, the conditions of racism and poverty in Indian Country that prevailed in 1970 continue today. For example, as Moonanum James pointed out, "Many Native people are forced to choose every winter between heating and eating. As the economy crumbles and social programs are eliminated altogether, these conditions will only worsen." □

By the FBI's own admission

Sharp rise in attacks on Muslims in U.S.

By Leslie Feinberg

The FBI is a big cog in the repressive state machinery that manufactures the policy of racist profiling. And the political police play a big role in demonizing Arab, South Asian and Muslim people as "potential terrorists" in order to shroud the U.S. military drive to conquer the oil-rich Middle East and Central Asia part-and-parcel.

So when FBI bigwigs admit that hate crimes against Muslims in this country have shot up steeply, there's no ground for disbelief.

The agency issues an annual report of hate crimes in the United States. If anything, FBI statistics have been berated for under-reporting. And victims of hate crimes—an amorphously named legal category for victims of myriad forms of oppression—are often loathe to voluntarily walk into police precincts, fearing additional abuse.

This is especially true for Muslims at this time. Although they are being "disappeared" in silence, it's no secret that many Muslims have been rounded up and imprisoned without charges. They fear that the next step is deportation. So oftentimes Arab, South Asian and Muslim people in this country endure attacks on their persons and their property without reporting it to the authorities.

Yet even if the FBI downsizes the actual numbers, the reality of the statistical trend cannot be suppressed: reported racist attacks on Muslims in the U.S. last year increased by more than 1,600 percent. The number of filed incident reports leaped from 28 in the year 2000 to 481 last year.

It's important to note that while attacks on Muslims have mounted precipitously during the Bush administration's war at home and abroad, racism in general is rife in

this capitalist citadel. And other forms of oppression illustrate that this is what "democracy" looks like—democracy as a form of rule by and for the wealthy elite, that is.

Most of last year's hate crimes were fueled by racism. These attacks stepped up 45 percent. And the majority were carried out against African Americans.

Assaults motivated by prejudice against ethnicity or national origin jumped 22 percent. Religious bias attacks rose 22 percent. Hate crimes based on perceived sexual orientation were up 14 percent. Anti-disabled offenses grew by three tenths of a percent.

Virtually every anti-war march, rally and vigil in the United States since 9/11 has highlighted the demand to stop the domestic war against Muslim, Arab and South Asian people in this country. And at a time of deepening capitalist economic and military crisis, combating this sharp climb in bigoted attacks must be a high priority of the fight-back movement in order to cement solidarity in the struggles of workers and oppressed peoples. □

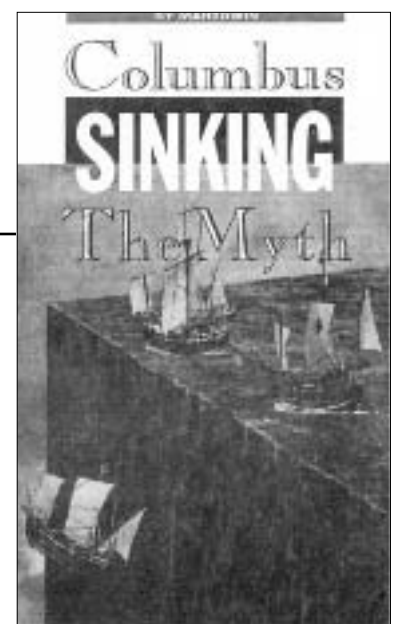
Columbus: SINKING The Myth

BY MAHTOWIN

This slender pamphlet, in English and Spanish, exposes the class truth about the impact on Native nations when colonialism washed up on the shores of North America.

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Statement from behind the prison walls

Peltier's strong voice heard at Day of Mourning

The following statement was sent by political prisoner Leonard Peltier to the 2002 National Day of Mourning.

Greetings Brothers and Sisters:

The first thing I want to do is to say "thank you" to the organizers of this important and historical national event. I know of the struggles and sacrifices you have had to make to keep this event alive. Your sacrifice and persistence makes the world a little more aware of us,



and our struggles, which continue to this day. I also want to thank those who traveled here to stand alongside us in solidarity. And lastly I want to "thank you" ALL for being the kind of human beings that care enough to take action and who are willing to make a sacrifice to ensure that justice applies to all people.

It is a great honor for me to once again be a part of a gathering such as yours. As an Indigenous person I know first hand what it means to be unwelcome on my own soil. I know first hand of the oppressors' mighty vengeance against those who would take a stand and question their laws. I fought for and protected my people from a government that wanted us dead or assimilated. My only crime is that I did dare to take a stand against what was and still is unjust.

So as you gather here today, I remind you once again to encourage each other in this continuing struggle for justice as you encourage me with your letters and your love. For without your encouragement I would not be able to go on. Your love and encouragement has kept me going through the times when I didn't want to care.

Now it's my turn to encourage you to stay strong when you feel that there is no hope or that you're too tired to continue. You must always remember those who came before us and how they struggled. Remember the teachings handed down to us from generation to generation. Remember all those who are imprisoned because they dared to stand up and challenge oppressive government policies and the continuing injustices we see today.

Despite the distance between us I am here with you today as I have been in the past. And I once again thank you for allowing me to participate in this important and historic event.

**In the Spirit of Crazy Horse,
Leonard Peltier
"Gwarth-ee-las"**

Billionaire NYC mayor's proposed budget:

The poor will pay, the rich will gain

By G. Dunkel
New York

New York City's economy has been contracting for seven quarters, starting well before the catastrophe of Sept. 11, 2001. The surpluses of the last two years have now turned into huge deficits: about \$1 billion this year and a projected \$6 billion deficit next year. Layoffs, service cuts, higher taxes and fee hikes are finally, after the elections, coming home to roost and to depress the living standards of the working and poor people of this city.

Only 11 states have more people than New York City. With 8 million people, it is more than twice as populous as Los Angeles, the next-biggest city in the country.

New York is not alone in its budget woes—almost every state and local government is suffering from budget shortfalls. Even the federal government has proclaimed that it will not be giving federal workers their normal raises. President George W. Bush says that “our national situation [the ‘war on terror’] precludes granting larger pay increases ... at this time.”

Taxes lowered for rich, raised for workers

The New York City Council passed a whopping 18.49-percent increase in the real-estate tax with a scant 11-day notice and almost no public comment. They jus-

Even before the full impact of the rise in housing cost has been felt, homelessness has been growing in Manhattan and throughout the United States

tified it as an essential step in stanching the deficit this year.

The average homeowner's tax bill will go up by about \$340 a year. The average co-op owner will pay an extra \$496 per year, and the average condominium owner \$836 more annually. It won't immediately affect the majority of New Yorkers who rent—but their landlords will pass the increases onto them through their leases, with a little bit extra for profit thrown in.

Since the city and the state intend to maintain the income-tax decreases passed in the recent flush times, which mainly helped the rich, the poor and workers of New York are left to pay off the deficit. According to an analysis prepared by the Working Families Party, “For most New Yorkers, the combination of property tax hike and income tax cut will result in higher taxes overall, even while they are being asked to accept major service cuts.”

According to figures supplied by the City Council, an average renter making \$24,000 a year will wind up paying \$174 more per year after a rent hike and the income tax decrease are applied. However, co-op or condo owners, making an aver-

age of \$180,000 a year, will pay \$1,127 less in city taxes overall.

At the top of the heap, the owner of a \$4-million townhouse with an average income of \$3.5 million will pay \$3,700 more in property taxes—but their income taxes will drop by \$31,500, saving them a net of \$27,800.

This is how billionaire New York Mayor Michael Bloomberg, who owns a townhouse, is going to ensure the poor pay while the rich gain.

Even with this huge increase in property taxes, the deficit for next year will still be \$3 billion, down from \$6 billion. The city is pretending that the state and the federal government will help it cover this hole, but that is unlikely.

This means that the city officials will try to resort to layoffs, since personnel costs are a big part of the budget. Bond payments to the banks are another big budget item, but these are sacrosanct in a capitalist economy. Some 500 layoff notices have reportedly already gone out to administrators and clerical workers in the Department of Education. A few other smaller agencies have also been immediately af-

ected.

Some politicians are predicting bigger layoffs than in the 1970s. Then, one out of every five city employees lost their jobs.

Lillian Roberts, executive director of AF-SCME District Council 37 that represents 125,000 city workers, said the city should eliminate contractors rather than low-wage workers.

Even before the full impact of the rise in housing costs has been felt, homelessness has been growing here, as throughout the United States. The National Alliance to End Homelessness estimates that 1 million people in this country lack a place to sleep at night.

New York City is legally obligated to offer every homeless person shelter. Each night now, an average of more than 37,000 people stay in city shelters. That is the highest on record. About 6,000 to 8,000 of them are in family units; the rest are individuals.

Since Sept. 11 in New York, authorities have sealed off tunnels, undersides of bridges and alleys where homeless people once sought shelter. Police sweep homeless people off the streets by arresting them if they don't go to a city-run shelter.

The police department denies that it uses this tactic against the homeless. But a local advocacy group is suing to stop this policy. And one police officer here was recently suspended for refusing a direct order to arrest a homeless man on trespassing charges. □

How Marx anticipated Boeing layoffs

By Jim McMahan
Seattle

The Boeing Co. announced 5,000 layoffs at its commercial airplane division in Seattle on Nov. 20. This attack on the workers here comes on top of 26,000 Boeing layoffs since Sept. 11, 2001.

The bloodletting didn't begin then, either. Boeing laid off nearly 30,000 workers in 1999-2000 due to worker speedup

and outsourcing jobs.

Once the next round of layoffs happens, Boeing's commercial airplane employment will have dropped from 117,000 in 1998 to 60,000 in 2003. That's nearly 60,000 workers axed with nowhere to go in a recession economy.

Most of these layoffs are in the Seattle area, where official unemployment has been 7 percent all year long. The job cuts are due to a 50-percent reduction of com-

mercial airplane orders and production. But they are also due to Boeing's mid-1990s merger with McDonnell Douglas and Rockwell.

The layoffs have greatly angered members of the Machinists union. In September they voted by just short of a two-thirds majority to strike to protest the layoffs.

“We don't have enough people working now,” said Mark Blondin, president of District 751. “I've got a lot of people working overtime and weekends. If they'd just use a 40-hour week, you could save jobs even at smaller production rates.”

Money for war but not for jobs?

The recession crisis people are facing across the country and the world is the cyclical crisis of capitalist overproduction. Too many airplanes, too much of all commodities from clothes to computers to office buildings, are produced. The capitalists can no longer sell them. At this point millions are laid off.

Karl Marx said that modern capitalist society “has conjured up such gigantic means of production and exchange, like the sorcerer who is no longer able to control the power of the nether world whom he has called up by his spells.”

He further said that these commercial crises “by their periodic return put the existence of the entire bourgeois society on trial, and each time more threateningly.”

This is what is happening now.

The same day the new Boeing layoffs were announced, Congress adjourned without enacting extended unemployment benefits. Eight hundred thousand unemployed workers, including 50,000 in Washington state, face losing their extended unemployment benefits on Dec. 28 because Congress wouldn't act.

Jobs cut here mount as Bush guts billions from the national treasury for a gigantic new war against impoverished workers of Iraq

One week earlier, Congress did complete legislation giving themselves a 3.1 percent pay raise.

There is no money for jobs or social services for the unemployed and impoverished. Why?

Because President George W. Bush is working to take \$200 billion out of the national treasury for a gigantic new war against the impoverished workers of Iraq. He's taken billions out already.

Bush, working for the capitalists, is trying to recover the profits that corporations are losing by grabbing up the heart of the Arab world to exploit oil profits. And Bush and the capitalists are trying to divert the anger of U.S. workers onto the Iraqi people.

This is a war that many workers and students and others are organizing to stop. But Boeing, while laying off wholesale, stands to make death-merchant profits from a new war selling Cruise missiles, F-18 fighter-bombers and other weapons.

Millions of layoffs, cuts in social services and the persecution of immigrants in this country bring the war back home to the United States. The capitalists who rule society are sure to face massive worker anger, which is rising already from these attacks. And as Marx said, the crisis is putting the existence of the entire capitalist economy on trial. □

DULUTH Central Labor says:

'Organize to stop trigger-happy Texan'

The Duluth, Minn., Central Labor Body, which represents all 15,000 AFL-CIO union members in the region, voted unanimously on Nov. 14 to pass the following anti-war resolution:

Whereas, the United States and Britain have been bombing Iraq on a virtually continuous basis since the end of the Gulf War, and

Whereas, the Bush administration has presented no credible evidence that Iraq has intentions of harming the citizens of this country or that Iraq presents a threat to the United States, and

Whereas, the Bush administration is seeking any pretext to overthrow the government of a sovereign nation, in violation of international law, and

Whereas, a war with Iraq would re-

quire the re-direction of vital resources and funds to a destructive, senseless, and illegal goal while further strengthening an administration that has restricted the civil liberties of its citizens, and

Whereas, this administration is using the so-called “War on Terrorism” to distract the American people from the vital issues they confront,

Therefore, be it resolved that the Duluth Central Labor Body goes on record as strenuously opposing the Bush administration's march toward war with Iraq without the direction of the United Nations,

And be it further resolved that the Duluth Central Labor Body urge its members and affiliates to get involved with organizations working toward stopping the trigger-happy Texan's march toward war with Iraq.

Cuba, U.S. Black farmers reach historic agreement

By Monica Moorehead

Cuban President Fidel Castro met with representatives of the National Black Farmers Association and the biggest, oldest U.S. civil rights organization—the NAACP—in early November in Havana to help implement a historic trade agreement between Cuba and struggling African American growers.

This historic agreement received hardly a mention in the big-business press inside the United States or worldwide.

Pedro Alvarez, director of ALIMPORT—Cuba's food import company—also met with the farmers. The trade agreement outlines Cuba's commitment to purchase \$10 million worth of soy, corn, rice and chicken directly from U.S. Black farmers.

Once the agreement is signed, Cuba will become the NBFA's first foreign export market. The plan is to divide the payment among several hundred Black farmers. This will help bolster their credit rating to secure loans for the next year's crop.

This development, along with other U.S. farmers' efforts to trade with Cuba, is a slap in the face to the Bush administration's plans to strengthen the 40-plus-year U.S. blockade against Cuba. Under a new U.S. law, Cuba is prohibited from making cash purchases of food items from U.S. farmers.

Since the triumph of its revolution in 1959, Cuba has always promoted socialist international solidarity, not only among the oppressed in the developing countries but in the imperialist countries, especially the United States.

John Boyd, president of the NBFA, which has 24,000 members based mainly in the southeast, remarked on his meeting with Castro: "He gave me his word that he would do business with African American farmers. We've had a lot of difficulty competing with the big boys [U.S. agribusiness] because when we bid on a contract they say they can do it cheaper."

Boyd added that this contract "won't make anyone rich, but it can help the bottom line." (usnewswire.com, Nov. 14)

African American farmers face institutionalized racism on the part of the U.S. government and banks when they seek low-interest federal loans to purchase necessary grain and equipment to grow crops in order to reach some parity with privileged white farmers.

Black farmers recently won a class-action lawsuit against the U.S. Department of Agriculture for \$600 million to settle claims for enduring years of discrimination. But the farmers are seeing very little of this payment.

The news you don't get in your morning newspaper or the 10:00 news

During this past summer Black farmers held takeovers of local USDA offices in Tennessee and elsewhere to protest the difficulties they still face in obtaining federal loans.

Sixty Black farmers from 12 states took over an agricultural office in Lake Providence, La., on Nov. 26. After closing that office, half those farmers moved to another USDA service center in Oak Grove. They succeeded in closing that office as well.

"We're just trying to get justice," said farmer Eddie Kennedy.

The Black Farmers and Agriculturists Association initiated these two actions.

NAACP sees achievements of Cuban revolution

The NAACP organized a high-level delegation, which included the farmers, to travel to Cuba to gain a better understanding of Cuba's revolutionary program in the area of fighting racism.

Hilary Shelton, director of the NAACP's Washington bureau, said: "We're talking about a country that's 70 percent of African descent that's 90 miles from our shores. Cuba is a country whose leadership has shown a great interest for concerns that have confronted the African American community. If you compare the Cuban government to other governments in Latin America, they're...head and shoulders above the rest in terms of integration." (Yahoo News, Nov. 25)

The NAACP delegation visited the Hermanos Ameijeiras Clinical-Surgical Hospital, the Latin American School of Medical Services, and the University of Information and Computer Science.

Due to socialist planning, Cubans enjoy free health care and education. Cuba has the lowest infant mortality rate compared to the rest of Latin America and parts of the United States. Cuba also has one of the highest literacy rates in the world.

The itinerary also included a visit to an agricultural cooperative and a scheduled meeting between the Women In the NAACP and the Federation of Cuban Women to discuss issues that affect the lives of women. □

Mumia from death row:

An imprudent democracy

"The people, sir, are a great beast."

—Alexander Hamilton,
organizer of Constitutional
Convention, 1787

The American propaganda machine alone allows people like George W. Bush and his minions in government and the punditocracy of the corporate media to crow to the world about "American democracy."

To hear them tell it, the U.S. intends to wage an illegal and unpopular war against the Iraqis, to bring them "American democracy."

There's only one problem with that seemingly noble sentiment—there ain't enough here to spread around.

America, at its very inception and in the uncertain, fearful present, doesn't care about nor practice democracy. It practices the illusion of democracy, and has a powerful media and the educational system with which to project this illusion. But in its earliest days up to this present hour, the leaders of the U.S. government have striven mightily to avoid any real democracy, by the process of exclusion of, in truth, the majority of the people.

Since at least the 1940s, the majority of the American population has been women. If this truly were a representative democracy, there would be 51 female senators in the U.S. Senate, not the nine or so that are there now. Indeed, according to UN reports, the U.S. ranks 50th in the world when it comes to women's representation in national legislatures. Sweden, which comes first in the world, with 43 percent, is followed by Germany, New Zealand, Mozambique and South Africa. The U.S. comes in some 45 states later.

African Americans, roughly 13 percent of the population, should have 13 senators and 56 members of the House of Representatives. As of this writing, there are 0 senators (there have only been two in the last half century!) and 38 members of the House.

The same could be said of Americans in poverty, who constitute some 12.8 percent of the populace. Who represents them?

Nobody.

The House and the Senate represent the rich, who disproportionately contribute to their campaigns and their war chests for the perpetual election cycle. The average congressperson spends well over 50 percent of his or her time in the tedious business of fundraising. Why? To buy time on the corporate media.

So, who do they represent? Those that can afford them: Enron, GE, Viacom, the oil companies, the drug companies and Wall Street.

Recently, when over a quarter of a million people—over 250,000 men, women, students and children—gathered in Washington and San Francisco [on Oct. 26] to denounce the Bush adventure in Iraq, how many representatives of Congress did you see? Unless I missed something, only the noble Cynthia McKinney, the outgoing representative from Georgia, showed up. One—out of 435 representatives and 100 senators.

What's that tell you about democracy?

The aristocratic, monarchy-admiring James Madison (one of the other guys considered a "Founding Father" of the "American democracy") had these ideas about democracy:

"All communities divide themselves into the few and the many. The first are the rich and well born, the other the mass of the people. The voice of the people has been said to be the voice of God; and however generally this maxim has been quoted and believed, it is not true in fact. The people are turbulent and changing; they seldom judge or determine right. Give therefore to the first class a distinct, permanent share in the government. They will check the unsteadiness of the Second. . . . Can a democratic assembly who annually revolve in the mass of the people, be supposed steadily to pursue the public good? Nothing but a permanent body can check the imprudence of democracy. . . . It is admitted that you cannot have a good executive upon a democratic plan." [Fresia, J., "Toward an American Revolution," Boston: South End Press, 1988, pp. 16-17]

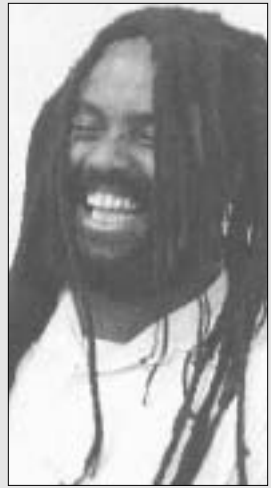
You think this guy cared about "democracy"? He and his cohorts at the Convention feared and dreaded "the people," who they considered "the Mob" or "the great Rabble." As Gouverneur Morris, a co-author of the Constitution, put it: "The mob begins to think and to reason. . . I see and see with fear and trembling, that if the disputes with Britain continue, we shall be under the domination of a riotous mob. It is to the interest of all men therefore, to seek reunion with the parent state." [p. 28]

Morris was talking about making up with Britain!

And we wonder where Florida came from? The instinct of politicians is to limit, not broaden voting. The only reason as many vote as now do (and that's the minority) is because social movements (of women, of Blacks, of "Mobs") fought for it. They got votes, but little representation.

The history of the U.S. is the elites fighting against democracy and the people ("the many") fighting for it.

Shall we export that to Iraq?



■ Racism, national oppression & the right to self-determination
Larry Holmes

■ Black labor from chattel slavery to wage slavery Sam Marcy

■ Reparations & Black Liberation Monica Moorehead

■ Harriet Tubman: woman warrior Mumia Abu-Jamal
(Guest Commentary)

■ Black Reconstruction: the unfinished revolution
Minnie Bruce Pratt

■ Black labor and the fight for reparations Bill Cecil

■ Alabama's Black Belt: Legacy of slavery, sharecropping
and segregation By Consuela Lee (Guest commentary)

■ Black farmers demand justice Monica Moorehead

■ Greetings from Mumia Abu-Jamal to the 3rd UN World
Conference Against Racism, Racial Discrimination,
Xenophobia and Related Intolerance

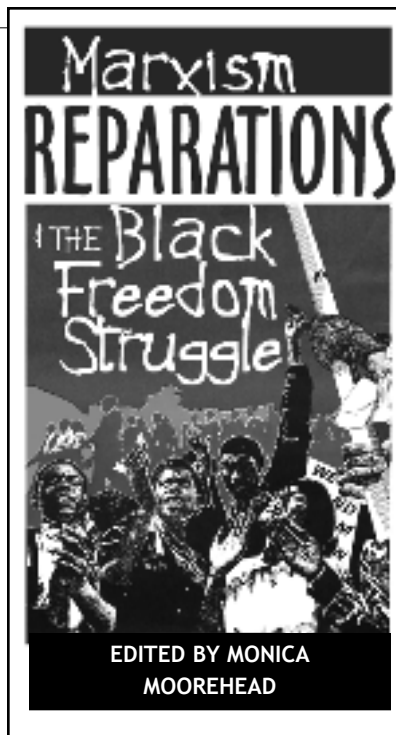
■ Nigerian women take over Chevron Texaco Monica Moorehead

■ Nigerian women's takeover ends in victory Monica Moorehead

■ Causes of turmoil in Jamaica Pat Chin

PART I PART II PART III

■ The driving force behind the land seizures Monica Moorehead



\$6

A response to anti-communist caricatures:

By Deirdre Griswold

What are the issues that define the various political tendencies on the left today?

Probably the most crucial for the current struggle of the workers in the developed capitalist countries is an understanding of imperialism and how to fight it. This issue subsumes not only the question of the attitude to take on imperialist wars, like the war on Iraq, but also how to combat racism in all its forms—a task that is absolutely essential if the working class is to win unity in its struggle against the huge predatory corporations and banks.

This question has long antecedents.

The first document of the communist movement—the Communist Manifesto by Karl Marx and Frederick Engels—called for a new social order, but it differed from earlier utopian socialist visions of an ideal society. Instead of trying to win over the enlightened elements of the more privileged classes to construct a new, more humane society, Marx and Engels argued that it was the struggle of the working class to protect its own class interests that would be the dynamo of social revolution.

This social, because of its high degree of concentration, organization and skill, and the fact that it is not a propertied class, was the only one positioned to take over the reins of political power in order to reorganize economic life. But not just to become a new ruling class, like the bourgeoisie after it won its struggle against the feudal lords. The aim of a workers' revolution would be to abolish exploitation and class oppression. In other words, here was a class whose

historic task was to take the power and build a new socialist economic order that would eventually abolish class distinctions.

That document was written more than a century and a half ago. Capitalism had only recently emerged in Europe as the dominant social system after centuries of feudal stagnation. A revolutionary fervor gripped not only the workers but other social classes as well, as they battled the autocratic political structures of the old order.

After an age in which church dogma had governed every area of thought, down to the smallest question—like how many teeth were in a horse's mouth—the new atmosphere of free thought led to amazing advances in science and technology. It all promised a brilliant future for humankind, if only the newly created wealth could be shared equitably.

The Communist Manifesto ended with the stirring dictum: "Working men of all countries unite!" And indeed, by the end of the 19th century, tremendous workers' organizations had been built on the European continent that won significant improvements in the lives of the workers and exerted great pressure on the bourgeois parties and governments. In other words, much unity was achieved in the working class, as it was then defined. The phrase "working men" shows, however, that few women were considered a socially active part of the class, although their arduous work in the home was absolutely essential to its existence and replication.

The limitations of the 19th-century view of the working class and the struggle for

world socialism were made even more obvious in 1914. The working class organizations of Europe, including most of the Social Democratic parties, which claimed to uphold the mantle of Marxism, fell in line behind their capitalist governments and ratified what was to become the First World War. In that war of nationalistic fervor, millions of workers were ordered into battle by their class enemies. The result was a slaughter of unprecedented proportions. And it set the stage for nearly a century of imperialist wars in which the only real winner has been the class of millionaires and billionaires.

This colossal setback for the working class movement was not just a subjective failure of leadership. It didn't just fall out of the blue. It was the gory proof that capitalism had reached a new stage.

That war was the ultimate expression of capitalism's transformation from its competitive to its monopoly stage. The concentration of capital in fewer and fewer hands had accelerated with industrialization, but it reached a qualitatively new level with the rise of the huge commercial banks and other financial institutions. This great collection of wealth couldn't just sit idle. It had to be used in the exploitation of labor so new wealth would be created for its owners. But the home markets were saturated; economic contractions known as "panics" were demonstrating that at regular intervals.

Capital was increasingly drawn to invest in the oppressed colonies, where labor and resources were cheap and super-profits were virtually guaranteed. That pitted

each colonial power in Europe against the others in cutthroat competition that laid the basis for the war. Soon the United States joined in the war for spoils.

Of all the Marxists of that period, the one who best understood the new relationship of class forces in the world was V.I. Lenin, a leader of the Russian Social Democratic Party. His work on "Imperialism—the Highest Stage of Capitalism" showed in detail how the quantitative growth of monopoly finance capital had led directly to the big powers' carving up the world for super-exploitation. A few gigantic banks in Europe and the United States had a tight grip on the social surplus created by hundreds of millions of workers.

Lenin published his book on imperialism in 1916, during the world war. He had already acted on it, however. He was one of a handful of European socialist leaders who had opposed the war from the beginning, calling it an imperialist slaughter to re-carve the world for super-exploitation. He called on the workers' organizations to counter the reactionary nationalism of the capitalist governments with revolutionary international class solidarity and refuse to kill their fellow workers in other countries.

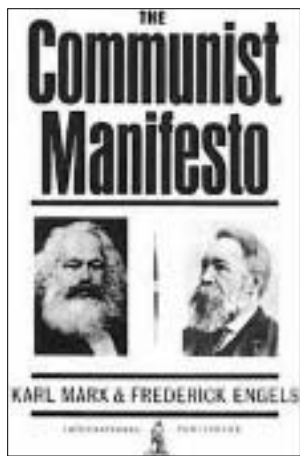
In Russia, his wing of the Social Democratic movement, known as the Bolsheviks, organized resistance to the war and called for the revolutionary defeat of their own ruling class—which they were able to accomplish in 1917.

It was Lenin who amended the communist slogan to "Workers and oppressed peoples of the world unite." This was not mere words but was based upon a worldview of



For most of the socialist movement, World War I was an unmitigated disaster. The powerful workers' parties of Western Europe buckled under the war fever. But in Russia, Lenin and the Bolsheviks redoubled their efforts and used the war crisis to organize the revolutionary overthrow of the old order. What distinguished the Bolsheviks from the other parties in the Socialist International? Was Lenin's focus on building the party a distraction from the anti-war struggle—or a necessary part of it?

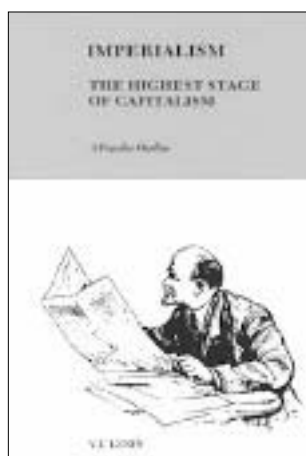
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by V. I. Lenin, 1916, reprinted 1997 128 p.p.

Bush wants my

By Bev Hiestand

As a political activist and health-care worker, I am aware of the rapid decline in health-care delivery in this country. But it became much more personal in recent days as I was forced by circumstances to place my 84-year-old mom—a health-care worker her whole life, too—in an Adult Assisted Living facility.

It certainly felt like cruelty to another human being as I ripped my mother away from all those things that were her life and placed her in an institution in another city, 45 minutes from the countryside she loves so much, her friends and her family.

And why? Because we were told by that she could not stay in the hospital another day and the administrators could not find a place for her closer to home.

My mom is an elder who has only a Social Security check and small pension to live on. Based on rules established by Medicaid and followed by the commercial insurance companies, she could not be covered for her three-day hospitalization without personally shelling out as much as \$2,000 a day.

The doctor had determined that her unbearable pain might be due to a spinal compression fracture resulting from a fall. This injury and pain is even more of a care crisis because she is unable to walk well or care for herself. She is nearly blind, has difficulty hearing and has many physical problems requiring medications and medical care.

Yet she did not meet the criteria to keep

her in the hospital long enough for an appropriate place near her home and loved ones to be found.

After 12 hours of worry, anger and frustration dealing with this inhumane system at the hospital, my mother was forced to leave. It wasn't the fault of the health-care workers; they were all wonderful and caring. Their facial expressions were pained as they said to us: "Isn't this awful? What's happened to our health-care system in this county is a crime!"

They noted that this happens every day. In fact, the elderly woman sharing the hospital room with my mom was going through the same thing. She ended up in a town 45 minutes away from her home. Her daughter hopes she will be able to find a place for her closer to home in the not-too-distant future.

Cold, frightened and isolated

So at 7 p.m. my mom and I arrived at the new facility. We found ourselves sitting in a big, almost-empty room with one insufficient ceiling light, a lone bed and a dresser. The walls were totally bare and no one had had time to turn up the heat before she arrived. So it was cold.

She was devastated. I was too.

There was no phone in her room because we had no time to prepare. She was cut off from her family and all the people who were part of her life.

She was very frightened, afraid she would not have the assistance she needed for the most basic activities of daily life.

Just before I left for the evening, an

Where Workers World stands on imperialism

the class struggle that saw the fate of the workers in the imperialist countries as inextricably linked to that of the oppressed nations under the heel of colonial—and today neo-colonial—oppression.

Today's anti-worker offensive in the U.S. demonstrates the continuing truth of this thesis. The super-oppression of workers in the Third World, just like the systematic racist down-pressing of African Americans, Latinos and Native people at home, becomes a club used by the bosses against the standard of living won through labor's struggles.

Leninism came to be synonymous with international solidarity—not only among the organized workers in the developed imperialist countries, but with the national liberation movements for independence and sovereignty.

These movements reached a high point after World War II, when anti-colonial revolutions rocked Asia, the Middle East, Africa and Latin America. In China, Korea and Vietnam, the leaders of the anti-colonial struggle were communists who led the masses to victory with a program that combined the goal of national liberation with the overthrow of the old class order and the building of socialism.

These revolutions, however, took place when there was relative prosperity and conservatism in the imperialist countries; capitalism was rebuilding after the Great Depression and then the massive destruction of the war. The communist movement was on the defensive in the United States particu-

larly. The needed solidarity between the national liberation struggles and the working class in the imperialist countries was minimal, at best.

All this set the stage for an unremitting effort by the CIA, the Pentagon and other imperialist agencies to undermine the workers' movement internationally along with the states building socialism and the newly liberated nations of the Third World.

But today we are in a new era, when U.S. imperialism, now the sole super-power, has become hated everywhere because of its ruthless efforts to rule the planet. At the same time, the workers in all the imperialist countries are struggling to survive against a vicious anti-worker offensive. The imperialist metropolises have become more multi-national, with large-scale immigration from the oppressed countries, and it becomes clearer every day that super-exploitation in any part of the world drags down the workers everywhere. Under these circumstances, the prospects for international class solidarity are once again on the rise.

Here in the United States, Workers World Party, an independent Marxist party that has been consistent in its active opposition to imperialist war and aggression, has been roundly criticized in the recent period by elements of the capitalist media and some liberal publications. They seem astounded that the party refuses to put an equal sign between the violence of oppressor and oppressed, whether in Iraq, Yugoslavia, North Korea, Palestine, Puerto Rico or anywhere else that resists U.S. domination.

WWP is mindful of the constant propaganda from the ruling class here aimed at undermining international solidarity. Whether it's films or television or the slant of the news, a chauvinist arrogance, hatred and fear of countries that resist imperialist dictates is inculcated daily. Workers World refuses to participate in or condone the demeaning and insulting attacks on Third World leaders that fill the pages of imperialist newspapers and journals.

As happens so often in bourgeois journalism, they have created a caricature of WWP, which they then go on to attack. In a style seemingly inspired by George W. Bush's lumping together of such diverse countries as Iraq, Iran and the Democratic People's Republic of Korea as an "axis of evil," these writers accuse WWP of everything from being "Stalinists" to "simplistic apologists" for Saddam Hussein and Slobodan Milosevic.

Fortunately, these attacks have spurred interest in WWP and its political analyses over the years, which can readily be found on the Web site www.workers.org.

In such a counter-revolutionary country as the U.S., where the government has spent literally trillions of dollars taken from workers' taxes over the last half century to shore up monopoly capitalism, such attacks are no surprise.

WWP is mindful of the constant propaganda from the ruling class here aimed at undermining international solidarity. Whether it's films or television or the slant of the news, a chauvinist arrogance, ha-

tred and fear of countries that resist imperialist dictates is inculcated daily.

This not only facilitates the global spread of low-wage sweatshops and the subsequent high rate of profit for investors in so-called "emerging markets," but it also dehumanizes the people and their leaders in countries that dare defy the rules set by the imperialists. How much easier for the Pentagon to impose an order satisfactory to Exxon-Mobil, Citibank or The Gap when the people and leaders of a country have been reduced to demons in the minds of the population here.

Workers World refuses to participate in or condone the demeaning and insulting attacks on Third World leaders that fill the pages of imperialist newspapers and journals. It will continue to spotlight the source of today's bloody conflicts around the world: the system of imperialism and the billionaire capitalist ruling class that has nothing to offer the world but a widening gap between rich and poor and an uncontrollable boom-bust cycle. □

mom to pay for his war

African American patient-care aide stuck her head in the door and told Mom: "Don't be scared. I will be here all night and I am going to look in on you every two hours to make sure you are okay. I will wake you in the morning in time for breakfast and we will see that you get down there in your wheelchair."

She was very sweet to be so comforting to my mother—I know how overworked she is. I thought about how in spite of the endless oppression from racism and exploitation that people must face daily in this system they manage to resist the coldness that characterizes their oppressors.

I've lost a lot of work hours at the hospital where I am employed because I've been dealing with my mom's health crisis. As I now face the need to travel long distances several times a week after work to be with my mother and help her to deal with the many aspects of life that are a challenge for her, I wonder about all those who do not have cars or the means to travel these distances.

It reminds me of all the prisoners who have been incarcerated far away from their families. I can't help feeling angry that my mother and so many other elderly people are being housed in institutions in isolation, unable to make the contributions to this society that their experience, wisdom and spirit could offer.

Capitalism: war abroad, war at home

Why is there such a shortage of hospital beds for the elderly? During the last

decade tens of thousands of hospital beds have been closed down as corporate health-care organizations and their political allies have determined that these beds are not profitable.

This has moved what used to be hospital care into people's homes, mainly performed by already overworked family members, some of them elders themselves.

While it is true that some of the care that used to be provided in hospitals could be provided in other settings, the fact is that there is a shortage of appropriate facilities. Too many people are being forced out of the hospital into situations that compromise not only the patients' safety and well-being but their families'.

Through our unions and progressive political movements we need to demand that there be no more closings of hospitals and layoffs of health-care workers. Open up more beds as a transition for those who are waiting to go into facilities near their homes. Allow all those who find home care too demanding to return to the hospital and get the care they deserve.

We have been told this is too expensive, that society cannot afford it. However, the Bush administration, answering to Big Oil and other capitalist conglomerates, is rushing into a war against the Iraqi people that, according to Wall Street Journal estimates, may cost at least \$200 billion. This does not include the cost of a prolonged military occupation that one economist estimates could run as high as \$1.9 trillion.

Who will pay for this war? Bush wants my mother, our families, co-workers and

neighbors to pay. Most state budgets are already running on a deficit leading to cutbacks in not only health care but funding for schools, housing, drug rehabilitation and many other critical programs. Meanwhile, this surplus wealth we all created is funneled to the Pentagon and Wall Street.

Bush wants Iraqi families, workers and neighbors to pay, too. What must it be like for a daughter in Iraq to try to find care for an elderly mother when the entire infrastructure of the country has already been badly damaged by the previous war, the economy strangled by U.S.-led economic sanctions and the country facing a deadly rain of bombs in a full-scale Pentagon war? The U.S. capitalist class wants the Iraqi people to pay with their oil and the profits from conquest of the Middle East.

And what will happen when many of the hundreds of thousands of soldiers who do return from war come back disabled or sick? One in every four soldiers in the first Gulf War reportedly has long-term and sometimes life-threatening illnesses. This will be even more strain on a health-care system that is already buckling under the weight of the burden of ever more profits.

That's why, even though I'm stretched for time traveling to help care for my mother and scrambling at my own hospital to hold on to my job, I'm working overtime trying to organize a regional upstate New York anti-war network.

But despite my political awareness about this "profit before human need society," I find myself at times feeling

What must it be like for a daughter in Iraq to try to find care for an elderly mother when the entire infrastructure of the country has been badly damaged by the previous war, the economy strangled by U.S.-led economic sanctions and the country facing a deadly rain of bombs in a full-scale Pentagon war?

responsible for leaving my mom in these awful circumstances.

One of the hardest things about living under capitalism is that it isn't the ruling class members themselves who carry out the terrible crimes against people that this economic system mandates.

Capitalism is an economic machine that conducts its exploitation and oppression silently and often impersonally. This makes its victims feel powerless to stop it, and therefore responsible for the toll that it takes on them and their loved ones.

Because I cannot protect each person I love from the cruelty of life under capitalism, I continue to organize to sweep this unjust and unequal system into the dustbin of history and replace it with a rational economy based on planned production to meet human needs.

It's a future that I can actually picture and help fashion based on the brutal experience of living under capitalism. □

After U.S. military court acquits soldiers

South Korea is 'boiling' over crimes of occupation

By Deirdre Griswold
New York

"Boiling" was the word that kept coming up as a delegation from South Korea described the mood in their country to an overflow meeting at the International Action Center here on Dec. 3.

The group had come halfway around the world to let the U.S. government know that the Korean people will not tolerate the extreme insult and injustice dealt to them on Nov. 22, when a U.S. military court acquitted two U.S. soldiers of all charges in the deaths of two Korean schoolgirls crushed by a tank on June 13.

Shin Hyo-Soon and Shim Mi-Sun had been walking on the side of a road on their way to a birthday party when the 50-ton tank came barreling through. Witnesses in a videotape brought by the delegation said the tank was far exceeding the speed limit. But the U.S. court wouldn't find the driver or the soldier accompanying him guilty even of negligent homicide.

This incident seems to have been the last straw for millions of South Koreans, whose country has been occupied by the U.S.

military for over 50 years. Thousands have been joining increasingly militant demonstrations at U.S. military bases, and 1.3 million have signed petitions demanding that the U.S. 1) turn over jurisdiction in the case to a Korean court for the retrial of the two soldiers; 2) revise the unfair Status of Forces Agreement that governs U.S. military forces in south Korea; 3) close down Camp Howze, the base where the incident took place, and 4) withdraw all 37,000 U.S. troops from South Korea.

The group plans to deliver the 1.3 mil-



Yoomi Jeong and the Rev. Han Sang-Ryul (left) tell of explosion of resistance in South Korea to U.S. military abuses. Above, New Yorkers join with delegation from Seoul in front of banner explaining their demands.

WW PHOTOS:
DEIRDRE GRISWOLD

lion petitions directly to the White House, as the U.S. Embassy in Seoul arrogantly refused to accept them. It will also picket the White House, carrying Korean flags on which hundreds of people have written the above demands in their own blood.

Struggle for 'sovereignty and self-determination'

"At first most Koreans were silent, expecting the U.S. to take the appropriate measures," the Rev. Hong Kun-Soo told the IAC meeting. "But then came the acquit-

tals." Another delegation member, the Rev. Han Sang-Ryul, said that South Korea is now "boiling over the struggle for sovereignty and self-determination."

He and other Korean speakers linked the arrogance of the U.S. military in their country to the Pentagon's war plans in the Middle East. "U.S. military dominance and neo-liberalism are used to subjugate and dominate around the world," said Rev. Han.

A solidarity statement from the New York Committee for Shin Hyo-Soon and

Shim Mi-Sun referred to the present struggle—in which for the first time demonstrators have broken through chain-link fences and got onto U.S. bases, where they have fought with sticks, stones and Molotov cocktails—as a "new phase of the movement against U.S. occupation."

Kim Jong Il of the Pan-Korean Committee on the Two Girls Killed by a U.S. Armored Vehicle brought a display of photographs documenting other U.S. crimes. U.S. soldiers have beaten many Korean women to death in the most sadistic and brutal circumstances. A Korean legislator who came to the defense of a number of young women students being harassed by GIs because they were carrying signs protesting the killing of Shin and Shim was himself beaten around the head and face.

This tremendous upsurge in the movement against the U.S. military occupation comes South Korea comes when the U.S. imperialists are intensifying their propaganda against North Korea.

The latest James Bond movie, for example, is an unabashed propaganda piece depicting Koreans as brutal torturers. It will only further infuriate the aroused people in South Korea, who know only too well who the real torturers are. □

Solidarity delegation travels from U.S.

Bogotá tribunal to expose Coca-Cola's crimes in Colombia

By John Catalinotto
New York

Former Attorney General Ramsey Clark and other supporters of the Colombian union movement held a news conference in front of Coca-Cola Corporation's New York headquarters on Dec. 3 to announce that a solidarity delegation would be traveling to Bogotá to attend an International Tribunal on Dec. 5-7.

The U.S. delegation joins others from Latin America and Europe in the capital city for the event, which will put the Coca-Cola bosses on trial for criminal acts against unionists in that country.

Teresa Gutierrez of the Committee to Stop U.S. Intervention in Colombia, a subcommittee of the International

Action Center (IAC), said her group and the Committee for a New Colombia are sending 22 people. Another six are going from the Committee for Social Justice.

Gutierrez said the U.S. delegation is composed of human rights activists, students, labor lawyers, solidarity activists and unionists. "The delegates," Gutierrez explained, "aim to learn about how Coca-Cola officials not only carry out appalling anti-union practices but also take part in the ongoing violations carried out by paramilitary death squads."

Sinaltrainal—Colombia's National Union of Food Industry Workers—along with the United Steel Workers and the International Labor Fund have filed a case in U.S. courts accusing Coca-Cola of using paramilitaries to intimidate and assassinate union organizers.

The lawsuit focuses on the murder of Isidro Segundo Gil and the intimidation of five of his co-workers at a bottling plant in Carepa.

Gutierrez added, "The IAC is also establishing a response network with tens of thousands of activists in the United States and around the world through its web site and e-mail and is asking them to help broaden coverage of the tribunal. The IAC plans to publish daily reports from Colombia on the tribunal hearings and demonstrations against Coca-Cola."

The tribunal is sponsored by Sinaltrainal plus the labor umbrella group United Central of Colombian Workers (CUT) and the Campaign Against Impunity. The events will begin with a na-

tional protest at the Coca-Cola bottling plant in Bogotá on the morning of Dec. 5.

In the event of any harassment, repression or obstruction by the Colombian authorities against the Colombian unionists or against the international delegates, Gutierrez said, the IAC's network "will respond with a massive protest campaign."

Clark, a founder of the IAC, told media that the U.S. has more troops in Colombia at this time than it had in Central America during the 1980s, when Washington was intervening in El Salvador and Nicaragua.

Other speakers included Rev. Luis Barrios, a professor at John Jay College, and a group of Colombian-American high school students who gathered toys to send with the U.S. delegation for Colombian children. □

Tens of thousands march

Portugal poised for general strike

By John Catalinotto

Tens of thousands of workers marched in seven major cities in Portugal on Nov. 30 in preparation for a major general strike on Dec. 10.

The General Workers Confederation of Portugal (CGTP) has called the strike to beat back what it calls "a broad and violent offensive" against workers' fundamental rights that have been won through years of struggle and great sacrifice.

The right-wing government, made up of the Social Democratic and Popular parties, is trying to carry out a policy of increased privatization of health care

and education, cuts in social security and an end to policies protecting workers' jobs.

The CGTP sees the government policies as leading to a general increase in prices, decrease of purchasing power for wage earners, destruction of the system of public and universal social security, and weakening health care and education.

As in most industrialized countries, the technological changes over the past few decades have brought about significant changes in the working class. There is no longer the same concentration of industrial workers and farm workers as

there was a generation ago, but there are more office workers

While these changes have reduced in number what were the strongest labor unions, there is still strong unionization in Portugal and strong working-class support for the Communist Party (PCP), which is supporting the general strike.

Still, a general strike is a serious challenge of worker consciousness and combativeness. To assess the mood, there have now been two "test" struggles.

The unions carried out a one-day stoppage by public service workers on Nov. 14.

Then on Nov. 30, demonstrations of all organized workers took place in Lisbon,

Porto, Coimbra, Faro, Evora, Aveiro and Setubal, numbering in the thousands in each city.

The boss-owned media did their best to minimize the importance of these demonstrations. One late-night, 60-minute television news show gave just three minutes of coverage 45 minutes into its programming.

The next big test will be on Dec. 10, the date the union set for the general strike. This is the fourth general strike since the April 1974 revolution that finally overthrew the fascist government installed during capitalism's great depression of the 1930s. □

Bush readies attack on Iraq

Anti-war leaders call emergency actions

Continued from page 1

immediate protests in cities throughout the United States should Washington unleash the war. If it starts before 5 p.m.," Becker stressed, "the demonstrations will take place that same day. If after 5 p.m., it will be held on the following day.

For more information see www.internationalanswer.org or call (212) 633-6646, (202) 332-5757 or (415) 821-6545.

ANSWER in San Francisco plans to protest an appearance of Paul Wolfowitz on Dec. 6. He will be packaging his blueprint for imperial expansion as "Building the Bridge to a More Peaceful Future."

United for Peace is planning a day of local demonstrations on Dec. 10—International Human Rights Day. (www.unitedforpeace.org) And in New York, Uptown Youth for Peace and Justice is organizing a march through Harlem on Dec. 14. For more information call Karim at (347) 203-6157 or Claudia at (212) 237-8748.

In Europe, most national movements have called actions for Feb. 15, following a call at the European Social Forum meeting in Florence on Nov. 10. The day before, nearly a million people took to the streets of Florence to protest the U.S. plans.

With Feb. 15 more than two months away, many groups are discussing holding an immediate response to a U.S. attack. On the web site of the British Stop the War Coalition (StWC)—which held a demonstration of 400,000 on Sept. 28 against war with Iraq and in solidarity with Palestine—the group says it will call an immediate national action in response to a massive assault.

The StWC had planned a national conference for Dec. 7. This was moved to Jan. 11 after British firefighters, locked in a bitter strike and battle with the national government, called a day of support demonstrations on Dec. 7. The anti-war movement is supporting the British firefighters, who themselves have taken a position against the war.

Thousands march in Australia

Two countries whose governments have pledged support for Washington—Australia and Turkey—saw militant anti-war demonstrations as Bush's deadline neared.

Thousands of anti-war demonstrators marched through Australian cities Nov. 30 to protest against that country's involvement in a U.S.-led war against Iraq. Many were of Middle Eastern origin.

According to news agency reports, an alliance of left parties, peace activists, students and trade unions was trying to convince a majority of the public to oppose the government's policy of sending Australian troops to fight against Iraq. Rallies took place in Sydney, Adelaide and Canberra as part of a nationwide campaign.

Similar protests took place in Melbourne, Brisbane, Darwin and Perth on Dec. 1.

Among those participating were prominent members of Australia's Arabic and Muslim communities, including the Grand Mufti of Australia, Sheikh Taj Aldin Alhilali. Show-business personalities, political activists, elected representatives, church figures and other celebrities participated in the Sydney protest, which was at least 10,000 strong.

The head of Australia's union movement, Australian Council of Trade Unions President Sharan Burrow, told demonstrators that a clear message had to be sent to Premier John Howard that it was unacceptable for Australia to be dragged into a U.S.-led attack on Iraq.

Turkish groups say 'No to war against Iraq'

On Dec. 1 in Istanbul, a coalition of more than a hundred organizations held a "No to War Against Iraq" demonstration that attracted thousands. Among the organizations arranging and participating in the protest were the Confederation of Workers Unions of Turkey (Turk-Is), Confederation of Revolutionary Workers Unions (DISK), Confederation of Public Employees Union (KESK), and socialist and communist political parties.

The political parties that entered the Nov. 3 elections under the name of the Labor, Peace and Democracy Bloc also took part.

The Turkish government provides major regional air bases to the Pentagon and has announced plans to invade the north of Iraq. This would put it in control of the Kurdish region there and prevent any moves toward self-determination among Kurds living under the bru-



Istanbul, Turkey, Dec. 1. Banner read 'No to war.'

tal control of the Turkish state.

Following a meeting with Wolfowitz, Turkish Foreign Minister Yasar Yakis, representing the Islamist party recently elected to power, said Dec. 3 that his country would allow the United States to use military bases in Turkey for the

war, but only if the United Nations approves military action against neighboring Iraq. Washington is quietly offering the Turkish rulers International Monetary Fund and direct U.S. aid in exchange for using this Moslem country as a launching pad for aggression. □



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Teed off against sexism & racism

As the annual spring Masters golf tournament looms, its host—the Augusta National Golf Club—is still refusing to admit women as members of its elite fraternity.

This policy is discriminatory, anachronistic and infuriating. And, adding insult to injury, on Nov. 18 the New York Times editorial board suggested that the already legendary and brilliant Black golfer Tiger Woods—who has his own battles against racism on the manicured courses of Augusta—should get the policy changed by refusing to play in the Masters, a tournament he fought hard to be eligible for as a player.

This is an arrogant and conscious deflection of responsibility from the wealthy white men who run the club to Woods. Tiger Woods doesn't even have voting rights at the club. He is an "honorary" member. Black golfers were excluded from the links at the Masters until Lee Elder became the first in the 1975 competition.

The Rev. Jesse Jackson rightly assailed the Times editorial: "I don't remember them saying to Ben Hogan and Jack Nicklaus to boycott the Masters because Blacks are not playing." Jackson vows that the Rainbow/PUSH Coalition will protest the Masters tournament in April if a woman is not a member by then.

The National Council of Women's Organizations is also gearing up to protest the exclusion of women as members of this good-ole-boys club.

CBS, which has broadcast this prestigious golf event for 46 years, isn't leading the charge to demand this sexist policy be upended. In fact, it has been silent on this issue, apparently hoping that "complaints of the National Council of Women's Organizations will be smothered by public indifference or backlash against what even some women shrug off as archaic feminist principle." (New York Times, Nov. 25)

The demand for equal rights is an archaic feminist principle? This reminds us of the popular bumper sticker that assures, "I'll be post feminist in the post patriarchy!"

There's nothing trivial about this confrontation. It's not a game. This battle for women's rights is an integral part of the class struggle, even if the issue appears to be the right of affluent women to join an all male country club. If these male bosses win the right to discriminate on their days off, the result of this struggle will have an impact on the fight for women's rights across the board.

This is a battle against the bosses. Even the Times, in its later article, noted that the tournament is "one of the world's great attractions for business executives who bring along their most valued customers and clients. During the tournament the city airports are awash with corporate jets, and limos line the streets."

Of course this class clarity by the Times appears to have been rendered more lucid after seven days of outrage against its editorial singling out Tiger Woods, in which it had written: "A tournament without Mr. Woods would send a powerful message that discrimination isn't good for the golfing business."

Golfing business is big business. And Augusta is the clubhouse for the scions of financial and corporate kingdoms. That's who profit from the unequal status of women, African Americans and other huge segments of the population who are burdened by the weight of discrimination and inequality.

And that's where the slings and arrows of outraged protest should be aimed.

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Global AIDS is a Code Red emergency

Activists tell Bush:

By Imani Henry
Washington, D.C.

It's Nov. 26, 6 a.m. It's dark and cold as we wait for the bus to arrive to take us to the AIDS demonstration in D.C. In total eight buses will bring people from New York City, seven from Philadelphia and one from Baltimore to join with activists from the D.C. area.

The buses from New York and Philadelphia are free, sponsored by various AIDS service organizations. Riders are provided with breakfast, lunch and subway tokens. The vast majority of these AIDS activists are people of color—African American and Latino—reflecting the new face of the epidemic in the United States and around the world.

Worldwide, AIDS killed more than 3 million people last year—2.2 million of whom were from Africa. And according to Centers for Disease Control estimates, 900,000 people in the United States are HIV-positive, of whom more than 40 percent are African American and about 20 percent Latino.

There is a high level of political consciousness in the AIDS movement here. Most of these activists were formerly homeless, or incarcerated, or depended on drugs. They fight daily against racist government institutions for access to treatment and public assistance money. Over the last 12 years, hundreds of them have boarded buses and planes to protest slashing of AIDS funding nationally and also in solidarity with Africa.

The call for Nov. 26 listed ACT UP New York, ACT UP Philadelphia, Africa Action, African Services Committee, Health Global Access Project, Housing Works, NYCAIDS Housing Network, Project Inform and the Student Global AIDS Campaign as the sponsoring coalition. Another impressive list of over 300 organizations worldwide signed on as endorsers.

The uniting slogan and main demand of the demonstration was: "Money for AIDS, not for war."

This in itself is significant. To link the struggle for funding to fight the AIDS pandemic with the anti-war movement is exactly what is needed. The timing of the protest could not have been better: an anti-war AIDS demonstration five days before Dec. 1, World AIDS Day, and weeks before the Dec. 8 United Nations Security Council deadline on inspections in Iraq.

But the fact that President George W. Bush will travel to Africa Jan. 13-17 is what organizers really seized hold of.

According to a joint update issued on by UNAIDS—the United Nations AIDS organization—and the World Health Organization on the global HIV/AIDS epidemic, the number of the world's people living with HIV today has risen to 42 million.

The report states: "By far the worst-affected region, sub-Saharan Africa, is now home to 29.4 million people living with HIV/AIDS," where 10 million young people, aged 15-24, and almost 3 million children under 15 are living with HIV.

"Bush cannot go empty handed when he goes to Africa at the end of January," said

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'Money for AIDS, not for war'

Sharonann Lynch, an organizer with Health Global Access Project.

"This demonstration is scheduled to occur at the same time that President Bush will be completing his congressional budget request for 2004. The 300-plus organizations from across the United States and from every continent have signed a letter to President Bush asking for a presidential AIDS initiative."

The main demands proposed for this initiative are that the Bush administration:

- provide at least 2.5 billion for global AIDS spending yearly with a minimum of \$1.2 billion directed toward the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, TB, and Malaria;
- provide the funding and personnel needed to implement the World Health Organization's call to treat 3 million people by 2005; and
- ensure policy changes to make generic essential medicines more widely available in developing countries and a comprehensive effort to halt transmission of HIV from mother to child.

Activists also call for canceling developing countries' debts to the World Bank.

Federal funding earmarked to fight AIDS internationally has been diverted to fund Bush's "war on terrorism." For example, in 2001 the Bush administration launched the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria. It was to receive \$7 billion to \$10 billion yearly, but since its

launching the fund has been starved of the resources necessary to carry out its work. Leaders coordinating the fund reported in October that they now face bankruptcy and may have to shut down the fund as soon as the end of this year.

Then, on Nov. 20, Congress shelved the Kerry-Frist bill that would have authorized \$4 billion over the next two years to fight AIDS internationally.

However, when it comes to the war on Iraq, money is no issue. According to an Oct. 21 report on CNBC, the Congressional Budget Office estimates the cost for occupying Iraq might run as high as \$4 billion per month. The Kerry-Frist International AIDS Bill asked Congress for the same amount, but over the next two years.

The CBO goes on to state, "The estimated cost for a 'heavy air war' with one month of combat, but no occupation force, was \$21 billion. Meanwhile, a 'heavy ground war' with three months of combat, heavy ground troops and a five-year occupation force could total more than \$272 billion."

It is 12 noon when we arrive in D.C. on Nov. 26. Close to 1,000 activists are gathered in McPherson Square.

There are hundreds of people here from Housing Works, Inc. Based in New York, it is the country's largest community-based AIDS organization and the largest one controlled by people of color. Some 50 people came with Stop & Surrender, a substance recovery program out of North Philadelphia. The American Medical Student Association has a contingent, along with Physicians for Human Rights. Many trans-

sexual women and other trans activists are present, representing another community highly affected by HIV.

Two white high school students from Clarion, Pa., are on their way to tour the White House as part of their senior class trip. These two women tell me that when they saw the demonstration, they decided that marching to the White House would be a better use of their time in D.C. They join the march.

The first rally speaker is Shelia Kibuka, a Kenyan woman representing the HOPE Africa International. She tells us how her brother is living with HIV and her nephew is one of millions who died from the virus.

"We don't want the drumbeat of war in Africa. We already have a bigger war to fight," she says. She holds up a straw basket filled with fruit, and says: "George Bush, don't go to Africa if you don't have an envelope with \$5 billion. Don't come to us with your basket empty."

Salih Booker, executive director of Africa Action, reports to the rally crowd about the impact of AIDS in D.C. He said one out of 20 people in the city are living with the virus, making it fifth among cities in the United States with the highest percentage of AIDS cases.

"Clean needles save lives! What people need are options," shouts Louie Jones, staff member of the NYC AIDS Housing Network and a person living with AIDS. He calls for more money for harm reduction programming in the United States, and ends his talk demanding that Bush stop

the war against Iraq and really fight the war against AIDS.

He estimates that 1.1 million people currently use intravenous drugs in the United States. Because it is against the law in 47 states to be caught in possession of drug paraphernalia, IV drug users are forced to share needles out of fear of arrest. This puts them at high risk for contracting HIV.

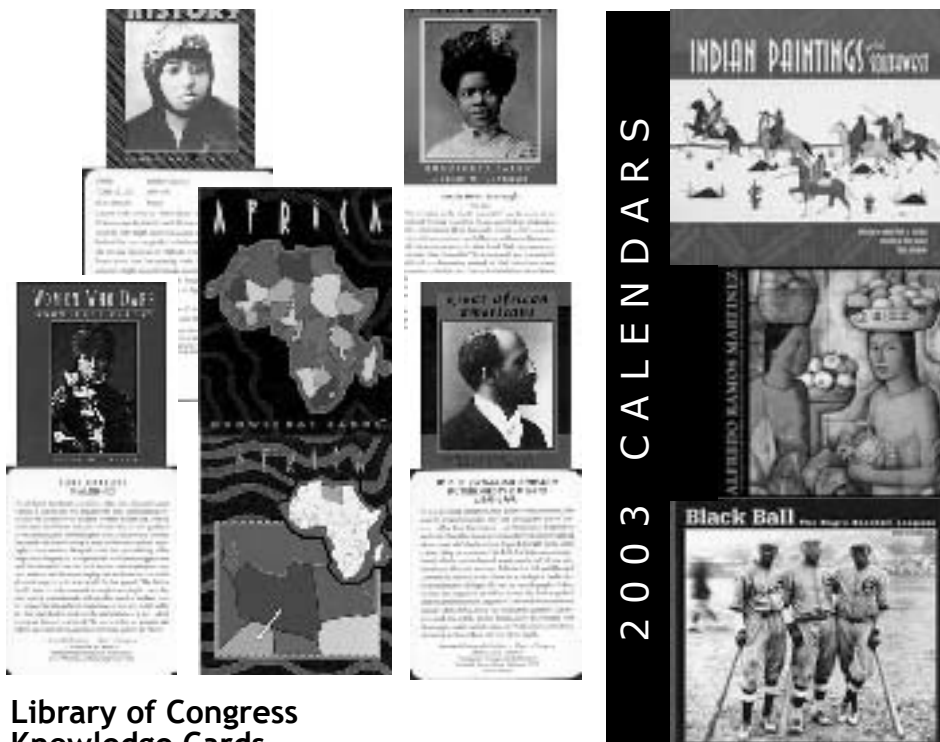
Even though much has been done to document how needle exchanges and other forms of harm reduction decrease the spread of AIDS, funding and licensing of needle exchange programming in the United States is still an uphill battle. For example, in New York state, which leads the country in people living with AIDS, as of 1998 there were only 13 agencies licensed to exchange needles for the entire state.

"We didn't come here to talk," Housing Works Executive Director Keith Cylar declares. "We're tired of talking. It's time for action"—and 35 activists, some chained together, take the lead banner and charge toward the White House.

The banner reads: "AIDS is Code Red Emergency, We Demand Billions to Save Lives."

Among the longtime AIDS activists participating in the civil disobedience are Eric Sawyer, a founding member of ACTUPNY; Africa Action Executive Director Salih Booker; and both Keith Cylar and Charles King of Housing Works. They chant, "Money for AIDS not for war," as they are dragged off into police wagons. □

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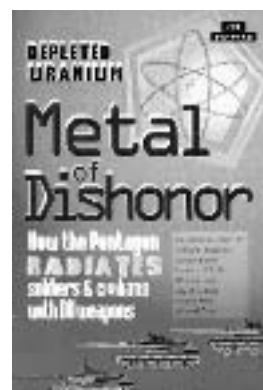


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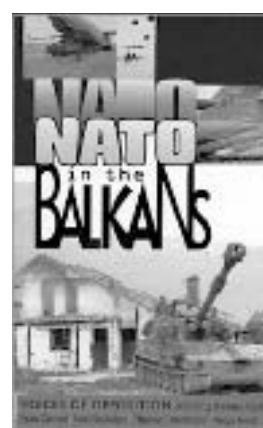
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EDITORIAL

Sorpresa presupuestaria

La Asociación Nacional de Gobernadores ha dejado caer una bomba sorpresa con la magnitud de Hiroshima. Ellos dicen que los estados ahora se enfrentan a su peor crisis fiscal desde la Segunda Guerra Mundial. Ellos culpan esta a descendiente ingresos de impuestos y el incremento de los costos. Lo que esto significa para los obreros es recortes severos en los presupuestos y despidos masivos de los empleos estatales.

El dolor social será enorme. Entre las cosas que serán recortadas están, las escuelas, los maestros, las librerías, los asilos de ancianos, los parques, el cuidado de la salud y muchas otras agencias estatales y programas que proveen servicios al público que son necesarios para su diario vivir. A mismo tiempo, los precios de estos servicios aumentarán agudamente—como las matrículas para los colegios y universidades estatales.

No hablamos solo de inconveniencias. Hablamos de la vida de las personas, dijo Raymod C. Scheppack, director ejecutivo de la asociación de gobernadores., “Ustedes verán grandes recortes en el programa de Medicaid” el próximo año, además de la ya implementados.

Lo que está pasando no es algún desastre natural. Es el resultado no natural de la baja económica capitalista, la cual comenzó hace dos años y medio y la dominación de las grandes empresas sobre el sistema político. ¿A caso, los gobernadores no sabían que esto iba a pasar? Es seguro que si sabían, tanto Demócratas como Republicanos, pero decidieron esperar hasta después de las elecciones.

Esto confirma una vez más que la única arena política que los trabajadores pueden utilizar son las calles. Las elecciones se han convertido en una farsa donde las grandes corporaciones manejan las cuerdas mientras que los candidatos discuten todo menos los puntos más importantes del pueblo.

Si todos aquellos que están por perder un servicio importante o un empleo conectado al estado registraran su oposición visiblemente y militante, ellos estremecerían el estado existente y crearían un nuevo clima político en este país.

Al mismo tiempo que esto está pasando a nivel estatal, recordemos que la administración Bush ha anunciado que privatizará 850.000 empleos federales entregándoselos a las grandes corporaciones. Esto solo puede complicar la crisis.

Un tiempo de recortes sin precedente pide una organización sin precedente de lucha. Los sindicatos de los empleados públicos en particular ha sido desafiados en salir a defender estos empleos. Lo que se necesita es una coalición amplia de todas las fuerzas progresistas—todos los grupos que se ven amenazados por la pérdida de sus servicios junto con los trabajadores y sus sindicatos—para enfrentarse a los títeres políticos de las grandes corporaciones y exigir que los trillones de dólares robados por la América Empresarial en la última década de alza económica se haga accesible para el pueblo para que así ningún empleo o programa estatal sea sacrificado. □

Presupuesto estatal en crisis mientras que la guerra aguarda

Por Sharon Black
Baltimore

Si la recientes elecciones no hubieran sido un absoluto engaño, entonces hubiera habido un debate honesto y abierto sobre la guerra devastadora que está por lanzarse sobre Irak y el creciente número de despidos de trabajadores norteamericanos a la vez que la recesión capitalista continúa.

La crisis de los presupuestos estatales y lo que significa por las comunidades y obreros hubieran también sido puesto al comienzo de la lista de puntos a considerar.

Cuarenta y cinco estados ya han comenzado a sentir el impacto de déficits en los presupuestos. Muchos analistas dicen que el año pasado y entrante son los peores en la historia. Los \$40 billones en escasez de los presupuestos este año se espera a que aumente a \$50 billones para el próximo año, según dice el Centro de Presupuestos y Políticas de Prioridades.

Pero están son estadística secas. Lo que esto quiere decir en términos humanos es que decenas de miles de trabajadores que ya reciben bajos salarios y trabajan duro, perderán sus empleos. Otros perderán sus pensiones de jubilación y beneficios de salud.

Las comunidades sentirán el filo de los recorte a los ya míseros programas. La salud, educación, vivienda, programas de rehabilitación y de alimentos todos irán a la guillotina.

La guerra del Pentágono contra Irak podría pagar por la crisis de los presupuestos estatales. Estimados conservativos del Wall Street Journal ha puesto el costo de la guerra en \$2 billones.

Esto no incluye el costo de cualquier ocupación militar prolongada. William Nordhaus, economista de Yale estima que el costo total de la guerra contra Irak podría ascender hasta \$1.9 trillones de dólares si todos los factores son incluidos en los cálculos. Y ni un centavo saldrá de los bolsillos de las compañías petroleras.

¿Dónde están los titulares sobre esto, o sobre las consecuencias que los trabajadores sufrirán con los recortes de programas estatales como el Seguro Social y el Medicare que seguramente serán saqueados?

Existe un lazo directo entre los recortes en el presupuesto estatal, la miseria aquí y la guerra imperialista. Líderes sindicales, comunitarios y políticos se unirán a otros activistas anti guerra en Washington el 18 de enero para un congreso popular pro paz para exigir dinero para empleos, cuidados de la salud, viviendas y educación y no para la agresión militar contra Irak.

¡Lucha!

El 21 de noviembre cientos de trabajadores estatales miembros del sindicato AFSCME del Consejo 92 se unieron a otros miembros de la Coalición para Abatir los Recortes Presupuestarios y la

Alianza para Invertir en Maryland para llenar las audiencias legislativa y testificar en contra de los recortes en los servicios, empleos y beneficios.

El déficit presupuestario de Maryland es de \$1.8 mil millones. La parte que este estado debe costear para la guerra contra Irak sería el doble de su déficit.

El Gobernador Parris Glendonning ha anunciado un plan para balancear una escasez inmediata de \$6 millones de dólares. El propone un 4.9 por ciento en recortes a la mayoría de servicios públicos, salarios, programas de salud para los obreros estatales. Programas como los de la salud mental, y de rehabilitación verán sus presupuestos profundamente recortados junto con muchos otros.

Estos recortes son solo parte de la primera ola de recortes. Lo que seguirá será una ola alta cuando el déficit entero tenga que ser revisado en el 2003.

Activistas y trabajadores se están preparando. En 1991, la Coalición para Abatir los Recortes Presupuestarios y el sindicato de los trabajadores estatales, AFSCME comenzaron una lucha prolongada, primero ocupando las oficinas del gobernador donde líderes del grupo fueron arrestado y luego culminando con una marcha de 10.000 trabajadores en Annapolis.

Los activistas se preparan para hacer planes para esta año—no solo para atacar los recortes presupuestales sino contra la guerra. □

NUEVA YORK

Obreros del subterráneo mueren por falta de equipos de seguridad

Por G. Dunkel
Nueva York

Joy Antony murió el 22 de Noviembre aplastado por un tren en la vía subterránea de la ciudad de Nueva York mientras daba servicios a los equipos de señal del sistema. Menos de 24 horas después de este incidente, Kurien Baby perdió su vida arrollado por otro tren cuando Baby instalaba luces de emergencia.

Ambos trabajadores eran parte de pequeños equipos de mantenimiento e inspección de las señales del sistema subterráneo de la ciudad. Estos equipos de trabajadores no tienen un “flagger” o persona que les advierta cuando un tren se aproxima y que a la vez avisa a los operadores del tren de que hay trabajadores en la vía.

El Presidente Roger Toussaint del Sindicato de Obreros de Transportación, Local 100, dijo a reporteros durante una conferencia de prensa: “Nuestros miembros son enviados esencialmente a eludir

trenes y rieles y tener la esperanza de regresar a sus hogares a final de día. Lo que nosotros queremos que salga de esto es que no queremos mas muertes.”

Los oficiales de la Autoridad Metropolitana de Transito (AMT) anunciaron el 23 de noviembre que por las siguientes 24 horas solo trabajo de emergencia se haría. La AMT dijo que revisaría sus procesos de seguridad durante ese período.

El sindicato y la AMT están en negociaciones de contrato. Los principales puntos en las negociaciones son; la seguridad, salarios y el respeto por la gerencia a los trabajadores.

Pero la seguridad cuesta dinero. En su esfuerzos por ahorrar dinero, aunque se comprometa la seguridad de los trabajadores, la AMT quiere proponer un recorte severo en el servicio de autobuses y de subterráneo.

Una segunda propuesta es de un recorte menos severo, principalmente en los fines de semana y aumentar el precio del pasaje de \$1.50 a \$1.75 por un viaje

de ida.

Una tercera propuesta es la de dejar el servicio como está y aumentar el pasaje a \$2.00.

En los pasajes semanales y mensuales, la AMT aumentaría el costo de estos aproximadamente el mismo porcentaje. Estos pasajes ofrecen mejores tasas para los viajeros.

Los más pobres de Nueva York, quienes no tiene alternativa más que la transportación pública, no pueden costear el precio de los pasajes actuales. Por ende, ellos no podrán pagar los precios más altos la AMT está proponiendo.

Los ejecutivos de la AMT dicen estar preocupados por la seguridad de los obreros. En anuncios del internet y carteles, ellos exhortan a los pasajeros a que no corran en las escaleras o que se apoyen en las puerta o que no detengan las puertas. Pero si la AMT falla en asegurar la seguridad de sus trabajadores, ¿cómo puede esta asegurar la seguridad de sus pasajeros? □