

Washington can't deny it now

World says **NO** to Bush's war

Mumia
from
death
row



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CODE ORANGE

Didn't halt protests 3 & 7

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Weight of U.S.,
IMF regime 11

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Where are the AIDS funds
for Africa?

By John Catalinotto

A worldwide anti-war movement of a size and breadth never seen before has arisen to challenge the aggressive arrogance of U.S. imperialism and its closest allies.

On Feb. 15 and 16, millions of people demonstrated worldwide. Ten million had been predicted, but the turnout far exceeded that. They protested in 600 cities in 100 countries, from Antarctica to Iceland, in Africa, Asia and Latin America, in Europe, North America and Oceania.

Called last Nov. 10 when the European Social Forum met in Florence, the international day caught fire worldwide as Washington's intransigence showed the world that it, and not Baghdad, is the main threat to world peace. The demonstrators' political message was clear: no war on Iraq, with or without a UN resolution.

It is fitting that the largest demonstrations on Feb. 15 took place in the major NATO countries most closely aligned with the Bush administration's pro-war policy.

Bush's toadies targeted

Two million people, altogether, marched in London and in Glasgow, Scotland, against war and against Prime Minister Tony Blair, Bush's war salesman. In Rome, where the rightist Prime Minister Silvio Berlusconi has buttered up to Bush, nearly 3 million protested Bush's war policy.

And in Spain right-wing Prime Minister Juan Maria Aznar—who on Feb. 17 was to

meet with Florida Gov. Jeb Bush to repeat his support for U.S. policies—faced an uprising. There a total of something like 5-7 million, or over 10 percent of the people, demonstrated in 70 cities. Some 1.5 million marched in both Madrid and Barcelona, "collapsing" these cities, participants reported.

For Blair, Aznar and Berlusconi to continue to back Bush's war puts them on a collision course with the population of their countries.

In the smaller European imperialist countries whose regimes supported the U.S. within NATO—the Netherlands, Norway, Denmark—there were also strong demonstrations of between 40,000 and 80,000 people. Protests were about this size in non-NATO Sweden and Switzerland.

In Portugal, where the Portuguese Communist Party and the union confederation (CFGT) were the main forces behind the demonstrations, some 100,000 people clogged Lisbon in the largest peace march in Portugal's history. Only the week before the Portuguese workers had held a massive protest of new anti-worker laws the rightist government is trying to put into effect.

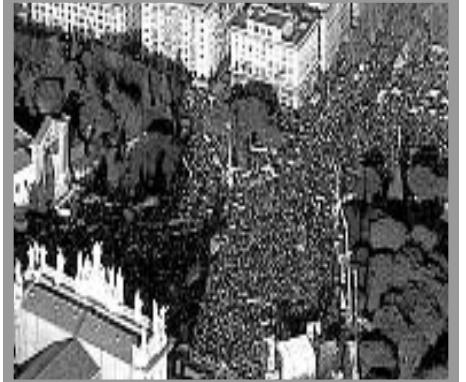
Protests in 'new Europe' and old

The Bush administration got no free ride in what it calls the "new Europe," that is, the formerly socialist countries that are now colonies of the West. Bush's war drive has sparked the birth of new anti-

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A body blow to plan for world conquest

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Rome, Feb 15

Standing up to Bush & his generals:

- Protests in 150 cities
across U.S. 6-7
- Youth call walk-outs,
teach-ins 5
- Poets wax eloquent
against war 5



Front of the anti-war march on Market Street in San Francisco.

WW PHOTO: BILL HACKWELL

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Emergency Convergence
on the **White House**

March 15
Saturday 12 noon

A.N.S.W.E.R.
Act Now to Stop War & End Racism
New York: 212 633 6646 Washington DC: 202 544 3389
www.InternationalANSWER.org

MARCH 15: Emergency Anti-War Convergence on the White House

MARCH 1: Locally coordinated actions

The ANSWER coalition—Act Now to Stop War & End Racism—and other organizations have called for an Emergency National Anti-War Convergence on March 15 to Take it to the White House.

Referring to this change of date, a statement from the coalition says, "We originally selected March 1 because we wanted to continue to mobilize pro-actively to prevent war before it started. Three weeks ago it looked as if the war would start well before March 15. And it may still. But now the Bush war timetable has been pushed back because of the political developments in recent days that took the administration by surprise."

Organizers note that two additional weeks of organizing time will help build a significantly larger mobilization. There will also be March 15 demonstrations in Spain, Greece, Japan and a growing number of countries.

"We can see from the demonstrations on Feb. 15-16

and those on Jan. 18 that global coordination is a key component of the strength of the anti-war movement," says the coalition.

"March 1 is still a significant date and we encourage coordinated local demonstrations on that date." That is when UN inspectors are scheduled to give a follow-up report to the United Nations.

Visit www.InternationalANSWER.org to find organizing and transportation information, downloadable flyers, posters and stickers, forms to submit details about local transportation to Washington, D.C., and additional logistical information.

Mark these important activities on your activist calendar:

- **MARCH 1: Locally coordinated actions**
- **MARCH 5: National Moratorium**
- **MARCH 8: International Women's Day anti-war events around the world**
- **MARCH 15: Emergency Anti-War Convergence on the White House**

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WW CALENDAR

NEW YORK

Sat., March 8

On International Women's Day—No War. March in solidarity with the women of Iraq and all women under attack. Rally at noon in Union Square, 14th St. and Broadway, Manhattan. 1 p.m. march to City Hall to demand a new contract for day care workers. Initiated by NY ANSWER. For info (212) 633-6646.

Jean Damu, NCOBRA; B.J. Jennings, It's About Time; and hip hop artist Mr. Lif. 7 p.m. Sponsored by the S.F. African-American Historical Society and International Action Center. At African-American Art & Culture Complex, 762 Fulton St. For info (415) 821-6545.

Every Saturday
Workers World Party weekly meetings. These educational meetings cover current events as well as struggles of peoples from all over the world. 5 p.m. At 2489 Mission St, room 28.

SAN FRANCISCO

Sat., Feb. 22

African-American History Month Celebration: Clayborne Carson, director of the King Papers Project, will be the featured speaker at event. Other speakers will include Dr. Ted Frazier, NAACP-SF Chapter, Leilani Dowell, ANSWER youth organizer;

Workers World

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Code Orange fails to keep protesters at home

By Heather Cottin

If the Bush administration thought it would slow down the anti-war movement by declaring a Code Orange alert the week of worldwide demonstrations, it didn't work.

The poet Henry Wadsworth Longfellow said, "Fear ... reigns with the tyrant." But fear only works when people are cowed and meek. They're not.

For one thing, there is a general distrust of anything the Bush administration says. In the South, where anti-war sentiment is growing daily, a reader wrote to the Atlanta Constitution on Feb. 14: "This is like living in a dictatorship. Our officials are telling us who to be afraid of. [It's] just a ploy to keep us as a nation of fear."

Another reader said, "It seems mighty suspicious that a high alert has been declared by the United States government just as it is trying to drum up support for a war in Iraq."

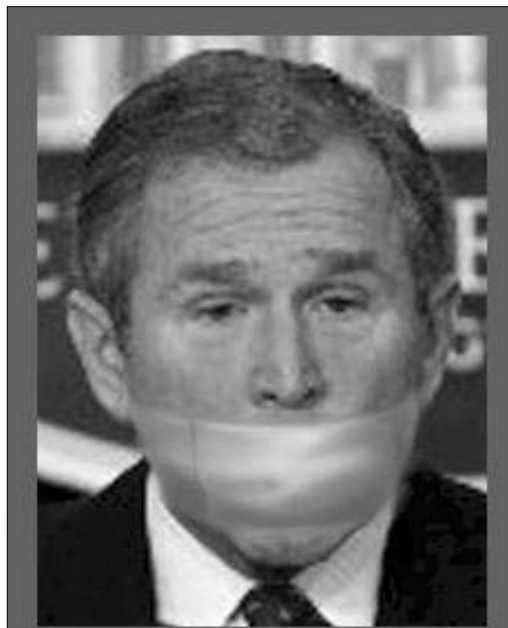
The St. Petersburg Times of Feb. 12 quoted a retiree: "It's ludicrous. I'm not going to be running around here paranoid with tape and all that kind of stuff."

He was right. Science writer Gregg Easterbrook said in the Feb. 16 New York Times, "A terrorist release of chemical weapons in an American city would probably have effects confined to a few blocks, making any one person's odds of harm far less than a million to one." Conventional explosives would do more harm than chemical or biological weapons, said Easterbrook, adding that "millions cowering behind plastic sheets as clouds of biological weapons envelop a city owes more to science fiction than reality."

The Code Orange trick raised anxiety levels to cold war highs. Administrators in schools, hospitals, railroad stations and other public buildings beefed up security and subjected ordinary folks to a circus of terror alerts.

According to ABC news on Feb. 13, the whole reason for the alert came down to the government's claim that one informant said there was going to be a "dirty bomb" attack somewhere in the country. The new Department of Homeland Security, which receives scads of false alarms every day, then encouraged public panic by broadcasting this alleged threat and calling for a Code Orange alert.

After portions of the population were driven



Suggested use of duct tape as a means for increasing the level of Homeland Security.

public domain-free use

into a state of apprehension by the news media, said ABC news, the FBI gave the informant a polygraph test. He failed, but Code Orange remained in force.

Everyone knows that a good detective looks for the motive. The government had several motives: to dissuade people from coming to the major cities where anti-war demonstrations were to take place, and to divert attention from the declining economy.

If the plan was to get people to stay away from the massive protests in New York, Los Angeles and San Francisco, it backfired. Opponents of Washington's war plans were infuriated by the manipulation of fear and cynical assertions that the U.S. was under attack, when in fact the Pentagon was planning a genocidal blitzkrieg of Iraq.

They turned out for the demonstrations in record numbers. □



THE BEST USE OF DUCT TAPE

By Mumia Abu-Jamal
from death row Pennsylvania



'Lottism—without Lott'

"Yes—I believe in affirmative action."
"You—you believe in affirmative action?"
"Yes, I do." —Sen. Trent Lott, speaking on BET cable network

With the recent remarks of U.S. President George Bush, announcing his personal (and political) opposition to affirmative action in American higher education, the question of the future of college-rank education takes center stage in the ever-troubling psychological pools of America and race.

The rapid dethronement of Sen. Lott from the prestigious post of Senate Majority Leader seems to suggest that the GOP has had a rethinking of its historical position on race.

It appears, from press reports at least, that the problem arose from Lott's injudicious praise of "the good ole" days of segregation [and] led to his demotion from the leadership post.

In fact, it appears that his later comments on BET cable network (agreeing to affirmative action! to the utter disbelief of his interviewer and much of Afro-America) was the final straw for those who led the party, and wished to have nothing to do with such remarks. To long for the "good ole days" of Dixie was one thing, they reasoned: to say, publicly, that he supported affirmative action, and would support it in the future! Well—that was another.

And now, if there was any real question about where the Party's interests really lay, President Bush's broadside about "opposing quotas," a racist buzz word sure to inflame and activate his real constituency (predominantly white males) makes the point that, while Lott may be gone from the highest levels of Senate, the ideas that nurtured him, sustained him, and carried his career (i.e., white supremacy, above all costs) are alive and well in the Grand Old Party.

Speaking with a script, and taking no questions from the press on this hot-button, contentious issue, the president spoke briefly and strolled out, seemingly oblivious to the cacophony his remarks unleashed:

"Our Constitution makes it clear that people of all races must be treated equally under the law. Yet we know that our society has not fully achieved that ideal. ... As we work to address the wrong of racial prejudice, we must not use another means to create another wrong."

Bush claimed the University of Michigan admissions policies, which take race into account among other factors when considering admissions, were "fundamentally flawed."

With those brief words, Bush sent a *sotto voce* message to millions of conservatives: "The 'Lott Mess' is over. We are back in the saddle. We're your home. Don't believe that 'bushwah' about us wanting to court Blacks."

The communication couldn't be clearer. It demonstrated, on the national stage, in the glare of the klieg lights, that while Mr. Lott may no longer call the shots in the Senate, Lottism, or the exclusionist, white supremacist, race-baiting politics a la Thurmond and Helms (but slightly better dressed) still run the show.

Bush ran for president on a stealth campaign of symbols and imagery, and a smirk of a smile, under the banner of a former U.S. president, and loaded to the gills with money from his corporate homies. It didn't hurt that he practiced the take-no-prisoners politics of death (as in a vigorous application of the death penalty to all without the shadow of the electric chair). With words like "compassionate conservative" and "affirmative access," Bush winked and smirked his way in (or to the Supreme Court, at least, which did the trick anyway).

Almost everything he said or promised during his campaign has been jettisoned in his feverish hunger for power, and the ability to further enrich his class.

Now, with affirmative action on the altar of judicial sacrifice, he has rushed into the breach to butter up the servings, to ensure it will not last for many days more.

It is beyond ironic that at the same time Bush Administration officials rush to scuttle the remnants of affirmative action, the Grand Old Party enters a congressional year when none of its representatives on the floor of the House is African-American, and their only one (outgoing House member J.C. Watts of Oklahoma) is gone.

Is this the face that they really want to project, and see reflected in higher academia in America? In their looking glass, the faces that stare back are pink ones, it seems.

While the Democrats will undoubtedly try to play this issue to their advantage, the Achilles heel for both parties is the shameful state of American education, especially in its inner cities.

Both parties are longing for their heydays of the distant past, while the multicultural and polychromed world around them moves to another beat. The politics of yesteryear will not play these days.

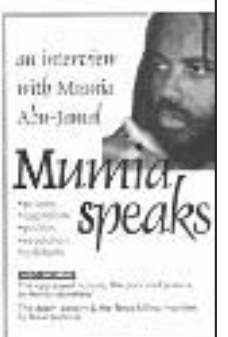
Using new code language to mean essentially the same thing will not suffice.

Lottism without Lott is the same old poison. □

MUMIA SPEAKS

An interview with Mumia from death row. Columns by the Black journalist on prisons, capitalism, politics, revolution and solidarity. Additional essays on the prison-industrial complex by Monica Moorehead, Larry Holmes and Teresa Gutierrez

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A body blow to Bush's plan for world conquest

By Fred Goldstein

The massive, worldwide wave of anti-war demonstrations over the weekend of Feb. 15-16 has dealt a major political setback to the Bush administration in its drive to war with Iraq and a body blow to its strategy for world domination.

Well more than 10 million people in thousands of cities around the globe, including at least a million in North America, participated in the latest of a steadily swelling wave of anti-war protests.

This anti-war earthquake exceeded the expectations of organizers everywhere. It caused escalated political anxiety and hesitation among the rulers in capitals across the globe. The weekend of coordinated demonstrations surpassed in number even the largest day of worldwide protests against the war in Vietnam and caused political ripples throughout the globe.

While the White House and the Pentagon are as determined as ever to move into battle, the political fallout is still settling. The nearly 2 million people who took to the streets of London, and the announcement by the anti-war movement and the labor movement there that they intend to open up a campaign of resistance, have caused Prime Minister Tony Blair and Foreign Secretary Jack Straw to reinforce their demand of Bush that he come up with a United Nations Security Council resolution blessing the war.

Blair, under fire, pushes Bush to UN

Fearing a weakening or even a defection of their servants in London has further enmeshed the Bush administration in Security Council politics, which it wanted to avoid altogether. It has forced Washington to deal politically with its chief European rivals, France and Germany, who are playing an obstructionist role right now in a campaign of maneuver against the U.S. overlord.

Both imperialist governments, with a long history of plunder of oppressed peoples, are giving signs that they will unite against Iraq when push comes to shove. But the so-called "anti-war" maneuvers of Berlin and Paris in the UN, NATO and the European Union are causing political problems for Washington. This split, which has been immeasurably deepened by the powerful turnouts around the globe, is giving time and momentum to the anti-war movement.

The demonstrations have caused the Turkish regime to hesitate, at least for the moment, over committing its territory and troops to a U.S. invasion of Iraq from the north—a vital part of the Pentagon's war plan.

In Cairo, the Arab League foreign ministers met to plan a summit meeting. But the ministers were split when Syria demanded that any summit meeting should warn the U.S. against war with Iraq. Egypt, Kuwait and Saudi Arabia had wanted to exert pressure on Iraq.

Saudi Foreign Minister Saud al-Faisal gave a special interview to the BBC warning the U.S. against going to war without UN support, saying it would be viewed as "a war of aggression" and calling it a "dangerous thing to do." (Reuters, Feb. 18) The reactionary feudal oil monarchy saw the demonstrations throughout the Middle East, including 100,000 in Syria, and felt the ground quaking under it.

The biggest demonstrations took place in the countries that have given the

strongest backing to Washington. In addition to London, from 4 to 7 million people demonstrated in Spain, 1.3 million people in Barcelona alone. In Italy at least 3 million people demonstrated, including over 2 million in Rome.

Collapse of the "preemptive war" doctrine

But while the political setback for the Bush administration may further isolate it, perhaps the more fundamental blow is to a vital pillar of its strategy for world domination—the doctrine of preemptive war.

The National Security Strategy document issued by the Bush administration on Sept. 20, 2002, spelled out Washington's plan for world domination. Its fundamental premise was that no power or combination of powers, friend or foe, would be allowed to equal the power of the Pentagon.

But the doctrine of preemption is the tenet that proclaims Washington's right to declare as an "enemy" any government that stands in its way, any oppressed country that tries to maintain its sovereignty and independence and its rights of self-determination and self-defense against imperialist aggression.

This was first set out in the National Security Strategy document as follows: "The greater the threat, the greater the risk of inaction and the more compelling the case for taking anticipatory action to defend ourselves, even if uncertainty remains as to the time and place of the enemy's attack. To forestall or prevent such hostile acts by our adversaries, the United States will, if necessary, act preemptively." (Reprinted in the New York Times of Sept. 21, 2002)

Bush had given a preview of this doctrine of preemption in a speech at West Point on June 1, 2002. In it he tried to capitalize on the post-Sept. 11 atmosphere and use the fear generated by the World Trade Center disaster to promote a new era of "endless war" and aggression.

"Our security," Bush told the future officers, "will require transforming the military you will lead—a military that must be ready to strike at a moment's notice in any dark corner of the world. And our security will require all Americans to be forward-looking and resolute, to be ready for preemptive action when necessary to defend our liberty and to defend our lives." (www.newsmax.com)

This doctrine was included in a general plan for world domination, which first surfaced in March 1992 in a document entitled "Defense Planning Guide." It was the work of present-day Vice President Dick Cheney, then secretary of defense, and present-day Assistant Secretary of Defense Paul Wolfowitz, among others. It was so shockingly aggressive that it was disavowed by the first Bush administration when it came to light.

The grouping that originated that strategy is now in control of the capitalist government. They brought this new strategy to Washington and made it a primary objective to overthrow the government of Saddam Hussein and reconquer Iraq in pursuit of U.S. imperialist strategic interests in the Middle East. One of the first foreign policy acts of the present Bush administration was to bomb Iraq.

Seizing upon Sept. 11 as a pretext, Bush, Rumsfeld, Cheney, Wolfowitz and company decided to implement the doctrine of preemptive war against Iraq. They began

The war against Iraq is the first test case of the empire-building strategy of the group now leading U.S. imperialism. The millions of demonstrators on Feb. 15-16 have profoundly rejected it.

to prepare for a war of unprovoked aggression, a war which would openly override Iraq's sovereignty, independence and right of self-determination in the name of "taking anticipatory action," as Bush put it at West Point.

Hence the relentless, ubiquitous campaign of demonization against Iraq and Saddam Hussein from every platform of government and in the entire capitalist media. All this was meant to lay the basis for a preemptive war to overthrow the Iraqi government. Washington declared Iraq to be the "enemy," part of the "axis of evil," and an imminent threat requiring "regime change."

The war against Iraq is the first test case, the first open implementation of this colonialist, empire-building strategy of the group now leading U.S. imperialism.

The millions of demonstrators on the weekend of Feb. 15-16 have profoundly rejected this war of conquest. They have seen through the arguments justifying it on the grounds of "eliminating a threat of weapons of mass destruction." Even though the all-out attack has not yet started, the people of the world, and most importantly, of the U.S., have seen through this fraudulent scheme to grab oil-rich territory.

The doctrine of "preemption" in any "dark corner of the world"—a racist allusion to the oppressed countries—is meant to lay the basis for a new era of open colonialism. It is an essential part of Washington's plan to restructure the world in the post-Soviet era. It envisions a vast range of operations for the U.S. military, which could be directed at Syria, Iran, Libya, the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, or any other regime that does not open up its doors to Wall Street and bow to the Pentagon.

It is a great step forward for the anti-war movement and a blow to the long-term strategy of the Bush administration that the masses of the people have seen through it and are resisting the war in ever greater numbers. It bodes ill for Washington's strategy of recolonization.

Ruling class versus the people

The ruling class in this country, however, has had its appetite so whetted by the hawks in Washington and is now so fixated on taking over Iraq, as well as overcoming its imperialist rivals in Europe, that it is turning a deaf ear to the rising resistance.

In a press conference on Feb. 18, Bush addressed the question of the huge numbers that demonstrated all over the world by saying, "Numbers, if you go by numbers then you are making policy by focus groups." More than 10 million people worldwide are reduced to the status of a focus group.



LONDON, Feb. 15

Every television network and major capitalist newspaper is promoting the war, only leaving open the question of whether or not to give inspections a bit more time before the war begins. Their correspondents and even their anchors—Dan Rather of CBS, Tom Brokaw of NBC, Bill Hemmer of CNN, among others—are over in Kuwait trying to create an imminent pre-war psychology. Reporters are being trained by the Pentagon for coverage under conditions of chemical and biological warfare.

The media has turned into a government-orchestrated war propaganda machine that would truly make the most authoritarian regimes envious.

At this moment in the history of the struggle, however, the imperialist government is moving in the direction of war while the masses of people are moving in the opposite direction. In spite of all the demonization of Saddam Hussein, in spite of all the attempts to terrorize people into submitting to war on the pretext of protecting them from weapons of mass destruction, in spite of the attempts to link Iraq to Osama bin Laden and the attacks on Sept. 11, the opposition to the war is spreading farther and wider.

The experiment in winning the masses over to the idea of "preemptive war" has totally collapsed in the case of Iraq. The war is seen for what it is—an unprovoked war of aggression that will endanger millions of Iraqis and force U.S. troops to kill or be killed for oil.

Pat Tyler wrote in the New York Times of Feb. 17 that "the fracturing of the Western alliance over Iraq and the huge anti-war demonstrations around the world this weekend are reminders that there may still be two superpowers on the planet: the United States and world public opinion." This was a journalistic appreciation of the growing crisis of the Bush administration, even if it has not reached the consciousness of the White House yet. It was a grudging tribute to the volcanic surfacing of the anti-war movement. But in one respect it needs correction.

World public opinion, meaning the mass turnout and the even broader popular sentiment that it represents, speaks only to the potential of creating a power that can match the might of the U.S. ruling class. The imperialist ruling class will never give way to mere "opinion" in matters of a predatory war for untold loot and to further its world-dominating ambitions. The only thing it understands is resistance.

The massive turnout this past weekend shows how much the people hate the war. When fervent protest grows so great, militant resistance is sure to follow. □

Multiracial and high-energy

Youth and Student ANSWER calls walkouts, teach-ins

By Julie Fry

Youth and students from around the country have played a major role in the U.S. anti-war movement.

On Feb. 14, youth organizers played a vital role in a teach-in at the Community Church in Manhattan called by the International ANSWER coalition—Act Now to Stop War & End Racism. The all-day event drew anti-war activists from up and down the East Coast.

The purpose of the teach-in was to discuss building an anti-war movement that connects the struggle against war on Iraq with the fight for social and economic justice and civil rights at home.

The workshops included discussions of GI organizing, put together by the Support Network for the Armed Forces Union (SNAFU), health-care workers, organized

labor and community organizing, and an exploration of U.S. imperialism. There was full participation by the youth members of ANSWER in the panels.

Workers World spoke with a group of organizers from Youth and Student ANSWER about the role of their organization in the anti-war struggle. These organizers were all part of a delegation that recently returned from a pan-Canadian student anti-war conference in Toronto.

Peta Lindsay, a student at Howard University in Washington, D.C., and a member of the ANSWER delegation, said the response from the Canadian students was “really wonderful.” They had been very happy to have representatives from the U.S. anti-war movement participate in the conference. Lindsay noted that, “Every time they mentioned that we were with ANSWER, everyone cheered.” She

thought this was recognition for ANSWER’s having organized major demonstrations on Jan. 18 and earlier.

“The U.S. has a reputation for being apolitical,” explained Ben Becker, a student at Columbia University. But all five ANSWER delegates sent to the conference were asked to speak at workshops. Becker, a student at Columbia University in New York, gave a talk on the history of U.S. imperialism in the Middle East.

Youth and Student ANSWER has been organizing a range of activities for youth who want to become involved in the anti-war movement. It organized a rally of youth and students on Jan. 19, the day after the massive demonstration in Washington, D.C. Hundreds of youth stayed for the action and marched from the Department of (In)Justice to the “Presidential Palace,” also called the White House.

The demonstration was “a good way to show the power of youth,” says an American University student who was one of the organizers. She described the action on the 19th as “militant and powerful.” She added that she thought it was important for youth to make their voices heard in their own way. “We’ll be the ones leading the movement in the future, so it’s important to show why we’re against the war.”

Peta Lindsay also thought the 19th a success. She said the demonstration was “very high energy and very militant.” She noted that it attracted a very multinational and diverse group of youth. “One of the great things about Youth and Student ANSWER is that it’s important to us to be multiracial,” Lindsay explained.

Youth and Student ANSWER is working on a number of upcoming actions for youth around the country. On Feb. 21, in commemoration of the assassination of Malcolm X, it is organizing a series of anti-war actions around the country. These include student walkouts in some cities, demonstrations and teach-ins in others. It is also organizing campaigns to help students get rid of military recruiters on their high school and college campuses.

Asked about these campaigns, Ben Becker explained, “Youth and students historically have played such an important role in social movements ... we have a lot of momentum going for us right now and I think that youth will play an important part in the growing anti-war movement.” □

Poets wax eloquent against Pentagon war

By Minnie Bruce Pratt

Poets are joining in the mounting, vociferous protests over the Bush administration and its drive toward war on Iraq.

Sam Hamill, founder of Copper Canyon Press, was invited to a White House symposium on “Poetry and the American Voice,” hosted by First Lady Laura Bush. He asked friends via the internet for anti-war poems to take with him.

In three days he had 1,500, and the Bushes had canceled the symposium.

Now Hamill has received almost 9,000 poems. And even U.S. Poet Laureate Billy Collins has declared he opposes the war. (poetsagainstthewar.org)

The original date of the symposium, Feb. 12, turned into a day of poetry against the war. Some 160 poetry readings all across the U.S. brought out thousands who also opposed the U.S. intent to wage war on Iraq.

Hamill’s efforts recall the earlier action of singer Eartha Kitt. Invited to a luncheon at Lyndon Johnson’s White House in 1968, she used the occasion to speak out forcefully against the U.S. war in Vietnam. Kitt was viciously attacked for her bravery.

The current poets’ protest was also recently criticized by powerbroker Leonard Garment. He described their action as “bad behavior”—as if they were unruly children. (New York Times, Feb. 8) But the very fact that Garment had to weigh in with his opinion betrays the significance of this cultural resistance to the war. And his comments contain an undertone of threat that artists who speak out will meet with reprisals.

That’s because Garment, once special counsel to Richard Nixon, headed up a congressional commission in the 1990s that set up legislation setting limits on federal arts grants to certain artists—those whose work challenged the reactionary religious, economic or gender/sex status quo.

Right-wing attacks on feminist, gay and lesbian artists by conservative Sen. Jesse Helms (R-N.C.) and the American Family Association gave the opening for this censorship. But the government suppression of alternative points of view in the arts

paralleled its intensive campaign against other kinds of information.

The FCC threatened to cancel the licenses of radio stations that aired programs with explicit safe-sex information for gay men. (Washington Post, July 13, 1990) Louis Sullivan, at that time Health and Human Services secretary, repudiated portions of a report on youth suicide, commissioned by his own department, because those recommendations were about preventing the deaths of lesbian and gay young people—and didn’t “strengthen family values.” (Washington Blade, Oct. 5, 1990)

This suppression of information was put in place at the same time that the U.S. launched its attack on Iraq in the first Gulf War. Students were denied the right to protest on university campuses. Arab Americans were questioned by the FBI about their political beliefs. Conscientious objectors in the military were shipped out before their appeals were processed. Government workers feared their anti-war sentiments could cost them their jobs. (Washington Post, Jan. 29, 1991)

Now, in the build-up toward a new war on Iraq, it’s déjà vu all over again. Unknown numbers of Muslim, Arab and South Asian individuals have been imprisoned in the U.S. since Sept. 11, 2001—without release of their names or the charges against them. Students at universities have been threatened with expulsion for protesting against the war. (democraticunderground.com, June 14, 2002)

Meanwhile, a massive tide of resistance is rising against the domestic and foreign tyrannies of the U.S. government. And out of this crisis of capitalism, some artists are infusing old cultural forms with the new content of struggle:

As Pippa Brush writes:

I will speak out, she says,
because I can no longer
stay silent,
because I can no longer
let this happen
in my name,

because I want
those I am told are
my enemies
to eat, not to die.

Minnie Bruce Pratt, a writer and white anti-racist activist, was denounced by Sen. Jesse Helms and the right-wing American Family Association in 1990 for the lesbian content of her poetry. Her poem, “After the Anti-War March,” is online at www.poetsagainstthewar.org

ON INTERNATIONAL WOMEN’S DAY

NO WAR

March in solidarity
with the **WOMEN**
of **IRAQ**

and all
women
under
attack

Saturday
MARCH 8

12 noon—Rally at Union Sq.
14th St. & Broadway, Manhattan

1pm—March to City Hall
(to demand a new contract
for daycare workers)

Women and men are encouraged to bring
noisemakers including pots and pans.

**We demand money
for human needs,
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Across United States

More than 150 cities, towns, stand up against Bush's war drive

By Greg Butterfield

"We froze our butts off for peace!" That's how one of the 3,000 anti-war protesters in Madison, Wis., described the local action that was part of "The World Says No To War" weekend Feb. 15-16.

It was a sentiment echoed all over the United States as record numbers of people turned out in over 150 cities, towns and villages to fight back against the Bush administration's war plans.

Across the country, the weekend saw some of the worst winter weather in years. But flooding rains, blizzards and frigid temperatures couldn't stop the growing

anti-war sentiment from spilling into the streets.

Media attention focused on the impressive rallies of hundreds of thousands in New York, San Francisco, Los Angeles and many European capitals. But the multitude of protests held in all parts of the United States was also important.

Organizers from many cities and towns reported the biggest local demonstrations since the Vietnam War era.

In most big cities various anti-war coalitions, including International ANSWER (Act Now to Stop War and End Racism), Not In Our Name, and United for Peace and Justice, worked together to

San Diego: Latino youth with Raza Rights Coalition.

WW PHOTO: GLORIA VERDIEU

build demonstrations. The plethora of protest shows there is fertile ground for these coalitions to build a powerful anti-war movement in conjunction with local groups all over the country.

Organized on short notice

Probably no one will ever know exactly how many demonstrations were held Feb. 15-16. In many places grassroots protests took shape almost spontaneously, over the course of a week or even a few days, as word spread about the international days of protest.

Thousands made the trek to the big regional demonstrations on the East and West coasts. Activists in some areas sent contingents while also holding local rallies. Buffalo, N.Y., groups sent four buses to the New York City rally, but also held a local action of 300 people. Speakers there were nearly drowned out by the sound of supportive drivers honking car horns.

Others learned about the big marches too late to arrange transportation. But they felt compelled to take action.

They came out 1,500 strong, in downtown Wausau, a small city in Wisconsin, despite heavily publicized police preparations for "riot control."

In Butler County, Pa., 150 people rallied in Diamond Park. Local organizer Bill Neel said, "Maybe people are starting to

realize they can control their own destinies."

Forty people in Bowling Green, Ky., braved rain, cold and police harassment to make their statement.

At the State Capitol in Raleigh, N.C., 5,000 rallied and marched. "We have a government that is out of control," said Wendy Wexberg of Raleigh. "I don't know if I remember such a mixture of ethnicity in the early days of the Vietnam War protests, such a mixture of ages."

About 4,000 held a peaceful march in Colorado Springs, Colo. Police fired two rounds of tear gas at the crowd and arrested several demonstrators.

At the State House in Montpelier, Vt., 600 people braved 0-degree F weather to make their voices heard. Florida saw protests in some 20 cities—numbering from 200 in Key West to 1,500 in Sarasota.

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WW PHOTO

A contingent from the newly-formed Lesbians, Gays, Bisexuals and Transgendered People for Peace led off the Cleveland march, chanting, "Don't ask, don't tell, war and bigots go to hell." A moment of silence was held for a Workers World Party founding member, Ted Dostal, who had died days earlier at the age of 96.

SAN FRANCISCO

200,000 weigh in to stop Pentagon assault

By Brenda Sandburg
San Francisco

More than 200,000 people marched in San Francisco on Feb. 16, loudly chanting, "No blood for oil." It was the second massive outpouring here in less than a month.

Four coalitions sponsored the protest: International ANSWER (Act Now to Stop War and End Racism), Bay Area United Against War, United for Peace and Justice, and Not In Our Name.

The protest drew students, labor unions, civil-rights activists and others. Until recently, many had never participated in a demonstration.

At least 150,000 people had taken part in demonstrations throughout California the previous day—including 100,000 in Los Angeles, 10,000 in Sacramento, 10,000 in San Diego County, 4,000 in San Jose, and 4,000 in Fresno.

Colorful, vibrant march

In San Francisco it took three hours for protesters to march 1.7 miles down Market Street from Embarcadero to the



Civic Center.

There were many contingents, including a people of color contingent of African Americans, Filipinos, Palestinians and

others. There were veterans, labor unions, students and youths, religious groups, parents with toddlers in strollers, environmentalists and a lesbian, gay, bi and



PHOTO: PETER MAIDEN/SF INDIAMEDIA

Front of the anti-war march.

Trent Willis, of International Longshore and Warehouse Union Local 10, speaking at Civic Center rally

WW PHOTO: GLORIA LA RIVA

transgender group called Out Against the War.

A big contingent of Native peoples from the American Indian Movement and the International Indian Treaty Council participated. The Chinese Association marched with a festive dragon.

Speakers at the opening and closing rallies reflected the crowd's great diversity. Vernon Bellecourt, a longtime AIM leader, said: "Across this country Indian mothers are grieving, are sad for their children who went into the military to get an education and a better way of life, who were told 'Be all you can be.' But they didn't tell them you could be dead

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Despite scare campaign and police obstruction

Half a million in NYC demand peace

By Deirdre Griswold
New York

Half a million people demonstrated in this city on Feb. 15. There's never been anything like it.

The huge protest, coinciding with even more massive demonstrations around the world, came in spite of frigid weather and a weeklong government and media campaign to scare people away from the metropolis with a "Code Orange" terrorism alert.

The whole East Side in the area around the United Nations was awash with anti-war protesters. Because the city, reportedly on orders from Washington, had denied the organizers a permit to march, the protesters clogged the avenues and connecting streets.

They were trying to get to the area of a rally at 51st Street and First Avenue. But only a few tens of thousands of the immense crowd got to hear any of the speeches or even see the speakers' platform.

The vast majority were stopped by police as they tried to move east from subways and train stations and were then herded into sidewalk pens on each block. They soon overflowed into the avenues, however.

First Avenue was eventually packed from 51st all the way to 80th—one and a half miles. Second, Third and Lexington avenues in the 40s and 50s were soon full, too. Eventually, crowds of demonstrators could be found all the way down to 40th and Fifth, and west to Times Square.

The demonstration was peaceful. Everyone has seen that phrase dozens of times. It means the people on the demonstration tried to keep their cool, tried not to be provoked, tried to act in an orderly way.

But it doesn't mean the cops were peaceful.

The National Lawyers Guild reported 320 arrests of demonstrators that day, most for "disorderly conduct." They were handcuffed tightly behind their backs and made to wait in buses for hours without toilet facilities or water.

Workers World got first-hand accounts of what happened from many participants in different areas.

Thousands march in labor contingents

About 2,000 union members gathered at 59th Street and Fifth Avenue to march with the New York Labor Against the War contingent. Members of the state university system's Professional Staff Congress were there, along with librarians, teachers, railroad workers, members of Communication Workers District 1, legal aid attorneys, public workers from Albany and Troy, N.Y., and many members of Transport Workers Local 100.

Their lead banner read, "Labor's enemy is in the White House and boardrooms, not Iraq."

Another big union delegation from Service Employees Union 1199, including 300 health and hospital workers from Syracuse, N.Y., marched from 54th Street and Third Avenue.

After marching east on 59th Street, the NYCLAW contingent ran into police barricades but the unionists were able to take the streets. On Second Avenue, two marchers were shoved to the ground and arrested by cops because they couldn't get on the sidewalks, which were packed with people.

People distributing Workers World newspaper in the morning on Third

Avenue were told to stop by police, who then chased them from corner to corner as they tried to exercise their First Amendment rights. But the crowds got so big the cops couldn't handle them and the distributions resumed.

"Around 3:30, the police decided to drive out the protesters," reported Heather Cottin. She described how a phalanx of police on foot with clubs cleared the sidewalks and street from 50th to 51st, "and cops on horseback attacked people from 49th to 50th. People were yelling: 'Whose streets? Our streets!'"

A contingent from Al-Awda waved a large flag and chanted, "Free Palestine."

The police sealed off the block in front of the Mid-Manhattan Library on Fifth Avenue and 40th Street by mid-afternoon, penning hundreds of people behind metal barricades, but about 60 were still in the street. Mounted police moved in and arrested many just for being there. Police threw an artist's puppet into the street and cuffed him as the crowd chanted, "Get the animals off those horses."

One woman who had stepped up on the base of a lamppost to see better was dragged down and cuffed. Her young daughter was yelling, "Mommy!" as police took the woman away.

Bruce Bureson, who came to the protest from Massachusetts with Dorchester People for Peace, said: "The police had locked down virtually all of midtown Manhattan, using helmeted police and mounted troops to cordon off marchers. It was the closest thing to martial law that I've ever seen. Police checkpoints were everywhere.

"Despite the huge crowds trying to get to First Avenue, the police kept trying to force everyone back onto the sidewalks. They used cops mounted on horses to intimidate the marchers. I was nearly trampled by a horse myself.

"I witnessed at least 10 people arrested, ostensibly for 'disorderly conduct.'"

Meanwhile, over at the rally organized by United for Peace and Justice near the UN, speakers like South African Bishop

and Nobel Peace Prize winner Desmond Tutu were urging the U.S. government to heed world public opinion and refrain from launching a war against Iraq.

Derrill Bodley of September 11th Families for Peaceful Tomorrows spoke for a delegation of people who had lost loved ones in the attack on the World Trade Center. Their message: no war in their name.

The Rev. Al Sharpton spoke, as did Richie Perez of the National Congress for Puerto Rican Rights. Many religious figures as well as celebrities participated.

The ANSWER coalition supported the protest, and its signs and banners were to be seen everywhere. ANSWER steering

committee member Larry Holmes spoke at the rally, calling for a demonstration in Washington to "bring the troops home" and also raising the case of the Cuban 5 prisoners held in U.S. jails.

Meanwhile, back in the streets, the police were trying to break up the crowds with pepper spray and mass arrests. A reporter for the Daily News was beaten when cops waded into a large group of protesters at 39th Street and Seventh Avenue.

"Does killing Iraqi children make you feel safer?" people in the crowd yelled at the police. "Yes, it definitely does," replied one, whose badge identified him as Officer Plunkett. □



Protesters at 1st Ave. and 52nd St. on Feb. 15.

WW PHOTO: DEIRDRE GRISWOLD



WW PHOTO: JULIA LA RIVA

Alfre Woodard marched on Feb. 15, as did fellow actors Daniel Benzali, Kelly Lynch, Angelica Houston, Tyne Daly, Mike Farrell, James Cromwell, Christine Lahti, Winona Ryder and Martin Sheen.

LOS ANGELES

Multinational city unites against war

By Adrian Garcia
Los Angeles

If Los Angeles has been viewed as a city of lukewarm and sometimes dormant activism, the massive protest in Hollywood Feb. 15 should dispel that notion.

Some 100,000 protesters answered the call for global anti-war solidarity. They rallied and marched down world-famous Hollywood Boulevard, calling for the Bush administration to halt its war campaign against the people of Iraq.

Angelica Houston, Rob Reiner and Martin Sheen were among the numerous Hollywood celebrities and artists who lent their support to the burgeoning anti-war movement.

"I'm here to support peace against this war with Iraq," said Tom Morello, guitarist for the rock group Audioslave. "I think it's entirely about oil and about Bush trying to get his horrible domestic record off the front pages."

The demonstration included a diverse assembly of religious groups, labor organizations, students, environmentalists and families.

"I don't believe that a war on Iraq is good for children anywhere in the world," said 10-year-old activist Marcus

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CANARY ISLANDS

10 percent of population turns out



WWW.PHOTOS.G.DUNKEL

In the Canary Islands off the coast of Africa, as in 71 other cities in the Spanish state, 10 percent or more of the population came out into the streets to say "No war on Iraq" and to challenge the pro-Washington policy of Spanish Prime Minister Juan Maria Aznar.

Among those addressing the crowd of 60,000 in Tenerife on Feb. 15 was Berta Joubert-Ceci of the Philadelphia International Action Center. The IAC had been invited to speak at a conference on the "USA's new police state and the anti-war resistance" by the Citizen's Action Against Neoliberal Globalization in Grand Canary and by the Platform for Peace of Tenerife.

—John Catalinotto



PVN PHOTO

Above, Berta Joubert-Ceci speaking.

Canary Island marchers, left.

PHOTO BY BERTA JOUBERT-CECI



Above, Johannesburg, South Africa. Right, Barcelona, Spain.



Massive turnouts exceed expectations

Anti-war actions around the globe

Continued from page 1

war movements in these countries to counter the puppet regimes' policies of providing military aid for the U.S.

Tens of thousands demonstrated in Budapest, Hungary, while other thousands protested in Warsaw and other Polish cities and in Prague, Czech Republic. Thousands marched in Sofia, Bulgaria, in Kiev, Ukraine, in Minsk, Belarus. Hundreds more came out in Moscow and in the Baltic states. In Zagreb, Croatia, a surprising 10,000 came out, with marches also taking place in other Croatian cities.

Back in what War Secretary Donald Rumsfeld called "old Europe," 500,000 people met at the Brandenburg Gate in Berlin, Germany. Other hundreds of thousands marched in Paris, joined by large protests in other French cities. In Brussels, Belgium, where the government also had



Istanbul, Turkey

delayed compliance with U.S. orders to NATO, another 80,000 demonstrated.

In Ireland, over 100,000 demonstrated in Dublin against the war, and in Belfast, both Irish Republicans and Unionists joined the anti-war protest in what was the largest such demonstration in history.

In Greece, where the movement was strongest worldwide during the 1999 U.S.-NATO aggression on Yugoslavia, 200,000 people demonstrated in Athens, and young people clashed with the police. The working class-led Greek movement plans direct actions and job actions to stop the U.S. war machine.

Defying the authorities

In some countries where an anti-imperialist demonstration implicitly confronts the regime, demonstrators faced repression.

In Istanbul, Turkey,

10,000 people demonstrated against the U.S. war plans and the Turkish regime's plans to allow the U.S. to use bases in southeastern Turkey to launch air and ground attacks on Iraq. According to a participant, "police were brutal with the demonstrators, especially with the Kurds, and 1,000 were arrested." Other thousands demonstrated in Ankara.

In Egypt the Mubarak regime made a preemptive strike on the demonstration, arresting 13 of the organizers in the days before Feb. 15. A letter from former Algerian President Ahmed Ben Bella and British anti-war leaders George Galloway and John Rees reports that 11 of the 13 were tortured while in custody; it asked for messages of protest to the Egyptian government.

Despite the repression, more than a thousand people openly protested in Cairo on Feb. 15, representing the vast majority of Egyptians.

In Arab countries where the governments have spoken openly against a U.S. attack on Iraq, the popular protests were massive. Some 200,000 people demon-

strated in Damascus, Syria. Over 100,000 Iraqis in Baghdad demonstrated their determination, rifles in hand, to defend their country against a U.S. invasion.

There were also protests in Bahrain, in Beirut, Lebanon, in Amman, Jordan, and in Ramallah and other cities of occupied Palestine. In Tel Aviv, some 2,000 Israelis and Palestinians marched together to demand no war on Iraq.

Though these protests were not as massive as those in Europe, North America and Australia, they represented strong anti-imperialist feelings in the masses and forced the regimes to act. On Feb. 16, a meeting of Arab League foreign ministers in Cairo began making proposals to avoid a war in the region.

The international day of protest also sparked actions in Lahore, Islamabad and other Pakistani cities as well as in Bombay, Delhi and Calcutta in India and in Dhaka, Bangladesh.

Africa, Latin America speak

Before this round of demonstrations, Nelson Mandela and others from the

2 million in London

Leaders say next step is resistance

By Jack A. Smith
London

An estimated 2 million people took part in London's Stop the War march and rally Feb. 15—the largest demonstration of any kind in British history.

Prime Minister Tony Blair sought to diminish the significance of the extraordinary outpouring. But the governing Labor Party which he leads is sharply split on the issue of following the United States into a preemptive war of aggression against Iraq.

The historic protest was organized by the Stop the War Coalition, composed of some 450 left, liberal, labor and peace organizations. It was co-sponsored by the Campaign for Nuclear Disarmament and the Muslim Association of Britain.

Organizers had expected, at most, a million. But as some 1,500 out-of-town charter buses began to arrive at the two main assembly points, joined by many hundreds of thousands of Londoners, it was clear this figure was low.

The multitudes, crammed shoulder-to-shoulder across the broad avenues and sidewalks of Bloomsbury in the north and the Victoria Embankment in the south, began marching shortly after noon. The two prongs of the march joined at Piccadilly Circus to form ranks some 150 abreast. It took more than six hours for the last of the throng to make

their way three-and-a-half miles to Hyde Park for a huge rally.

Signs included: "Stop the war," "Don't attack Iraq" and "Freedom for Palestine." Dozens of left organizations marched with red flags.

The crowd was multinational, young to old, working class to middle class. Many families with young children were evident.

Rally speakers included Lindsey German, a leader of the Stop the War Coalition; Alan Simpson, Labor Member of Parliament; Ken Livingstone, London's mayor; the Rev. Jesse Jackson from the U.S.; Ms. Dynamite, a popular young rap singer; playwright Harold Pinter and a variety of labor and political figures.

Speaking for the coalition, German said that if Blair supports a U.S. invasion, "We want people to walk out of their offices, strike, sit down, occupy buildings, demonstrate, take direct action and do whatever they think fit the moment war starts. We want to completely close down Whitehall and prevent the Ministry of Defense going to work."

Pinter began his short talk dramatically: "The U.S. is a monster out of control!" to which it seemed more than a million voices cheered in unison.

Mayor Livingstone drew a multitude of cheers when he declared, "The British people will not tolerate being used to prop up the most corrupt and racist American administration in over 80 years."

Millions pack Piccadilly, London, Feb. 15, as they march to Hyde Park.

Many stated that without Blair's support it would be much more difficult for President George W. Bush to attack Iraq. The coalition and its co-sponsors repeatedly made it clear that they must continue to oppose the war even if the United Nations eventually is "bribed or bullied" into line, that the withdrawal of Israel from the occupied territories and "Freedom for Palestine" was essential for genuine peace in the region and that the unity of all anti-war forces, from mainstream and liberal to left and socialist, was essential. □



Mexico City



In Tel Aviv. Israelis and Palestinians marched together against Bush's war.

prestigious leadership of the anti-apartheid struggle weighed in against U.S. aggression and sparked demonstrations in South Africa. Led by the African National Congress, the Congress of South African Trade Unions, the South African Communist Party and other anti-imperialist organizations, thousands of people demonstrated in Johannesburg, Cape Town, Bloemfontein and Durban. They carried South African, Palestinian and Iraqi flags.

Cape Town's placards carried the slogans: "By George, Bush is Just an Empty Warhead," "Blix Start Searching Israel," "Let's Make War Against Poverty" and "Behind Every Bush is a Terrorist."

Africa's people stand to suffer from a war on Iraq even if they are not drawn into it, as a rise in the price of oil will further impoverish a population devastated by the collapse of the price of Africa's raw materials in the imperialist-controlled world market.

There were also demonstrations in Nigeria, Kenya and Rwanda.

Throughout Latin America, where the workers and farmers have many reasons to protest against U.S. imperialist intervention—like the Free Trade Area of the Americas scheme and Plan Colombia—tens of thousands joined the anti-war day. The largest actions were in Mexico City, Mexico, and Montevideo, Uruguay, with a reported 50,000 in each. In Brazil more than 100,000 protested altogether in San Paolo, Rio de Janeiro, Salvador da Bahia and other cities.

There were also major actions in Argentina, Venezuela, Peru, Bolivia, Honduras, Guatemala, Jamaica, Haiti and the Dominican Republic. In Cuba some 10,000 took part in a "tribunal" discussing U.S. crimes, and in Puerto Rico 1,000 people protested both the Iraq war and the U.S. Navy's continued use of Vieques to train its bomber pilots.

East Asia, Oceania, North America

In Southeast Asia, thousands in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, defied police to protest at the U.S. Embassy. Three thousand protested in Bangkok, Thailand, and another 10,000 in Pattani in the south. In Hong Kong, China, and in Taipei in Taiwan, hundreds of Chinese joined with expatriates to say "no war."

In still-occupied South Korea, the anti-war movement brought out 10,000 to Seoul, where they also called for no U.S. war moves against North Korea. In still-occupied Japan, 25,000 people protested the threats against Iraq on Jan. 14, with thousands taking to the streets of Tokyo the next day. Two thousand in Manila protested U.S. imperialism's attempt to return its military bases to the Philippines, burning a U.S. flag at the demonstration.

Feb. 15 began in New Zealand and Australia, where Prime Minister John

Howard is a Bush supporter and has promised Australian ships and troops for the war on Iraq. In Melbourne, 200,000 demonstrated, only to be one-upped by Sydney the following day when 250,000 took to the streets. Other actions took place in Perth, Adelaide, Canberra and other Australian cities, and in Wellington and Auckland in New Zealand.

In North America, 150,000 people made it a record-setting protest in Montreal, with other tens of thousands protesting in dozens of Canadian cities from the Maritime Provinces to Toronto and Edmonton, Calgary and on to Vancouver in the West.

Here, in the belly of the beast, over a million people demonstrated altogether in New York, Los Angeles, Seattle, Minneapolis, Chicago and a hundred other cities from Hawaii and Alaska to Texas and Florida on Feb. 15 and on the next day in San Francisco. □

Korea's passion

At a recent anti-war teach-in in New York organized by ANSWER, a South Korean woman told, with intense pride, how the people in her country are finally able to stand up to the U.S. by the millions and demand an end to military occupation. But her pride was mixed with unbearable pain. Tears ran down her face and her voice broke as she recalled the tens of thousands of her compatriots who were jailed and tortured, especially during the long years of military dictatorship, because they spoke out for Korea's sovereignty and self-determination.

It was a moment that should have been shown by every television network in North America. If ordinary people here could see her honest passion, they would begin to get a sense of what is really happening right now in Korea.

Instead, they hear the same old lies over and over again. The same tired phrases are repeated from network to network, newspaper to newspaper, by people who know nothing about Korea. But they do know what their job is: to sell the public on the righteousness of a bloody war that killed millions of Koreans, and to justify the 50 years of U.S. military occupation of the south that have followed.

Nothing seems to outrage the right wing in this country more than the idea that the U.S. should get out of Korea. When there was talk for a brief period during the Carter administration about reducing the number of U.S. troops there, the Army brass almost mutinied. Gen. John Singlaub, who led this right-

wing revolt and was relieved of his command, went on to become a darling of the "World Anti-Communist League," set up by the notorious Rev. Sun Myong Moon, himself a creation of the CIA.

Even though Singlaub was forcibly retired, however, the militarists won. The U.S. force in Korea was not reduced, not even by one soldier, and it is this that is provoking yet another crisis in the world today.

If the Vietnam War had ended in the division of that country, there would undoubtedly be the same lobby in the U.S. to keep that occupation going indefinitely. U.S. military occupation anywhere provides lucrative business for all kinds of profiteers. Fortunately, that didn't happen. The U.S. "lost" all of Vietnam. But it was no loss for the people here. It was the beginning of a new phase in the struggle that will only grow as the billionaire class tries to push the people into new military adventures.

The anti-war movement of the 1960s and 1970s was no mere "syndrome." It took a while before the people became conscious of Vietnam's history, its long struggle against colonial occupation, and the deep desire of the people there for self-determination. But eventually the masses of people here saw through the "domino theory" and all the other justifications being given for the war. By the millions, they passionately rejected the role of being killers and cannon fodder for billionaire corporations and banks. Now the movement is back bigger than ever, and if the next target of aggression is Korea, it will educate itself on this subject, too. □

Where's the AIDS money?

Last month when Bush was trying to sell his war on Iraq together with a budget of giveaways to the rich in his State of Union speech, he surprised everyone by including a humanitarian gesture. He pledged \$10 billion in new funds to fight AIDS in Africa. That was a first for the Bush administration and was supposed to make everything else okay.

You'll pardon us if we weren't convinced at the time. The guy who says that bombing Iraq will save it—military experts now say that at least a million Iraqi children are sure to be killed by any U.S. bombing campaign—is going to help fight AIDS in Africa.

Of course, \$10 billion and much more

should be pledged to fight AIDS in Africa.

But, as they say, show us the money. When Bush's real budget was presented to Congress, it had only \$550 million in new funds to fight AIDS, and that is offset by his proposed cuts in international health-care programs for children. Add to that the move this week by the Bush administration to block inexpensive drugs for people in developing countries. At World Trade Organization talks in Geneva the U.S. blocked efforts to reduce the costs for drugs, including AIDS medications.

If asked about this, Bush's answer would probably be something along the line of "let them eat cake." □

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PHILADELPHIA

Across the U.S.

Cities, towns, stand up against Bush's war drive

Continued from page 6

That's just a sampling of the impressive actions held in smaller cities and towns.

Record numbers turn out

In Seattle, birthplace of the U.S. anti-globalization movement, some 55,000 protesters converged on the Seattle Center to demand: "Stop the war on Iraq! Stop the war on immigrants!"

Local activists called it a record turnout for an anti-war protest. It drew many families with children, union members, religious groups, seniors, youths and immigrants. After the rally they marched nearly three miles to the Immigration and Naturalization Services Detention Center to show solidarity with the many immigrants imprisoned there.

Texans, too, turned out in historic numbers. An anti-war protest was held in every major city in George W. Bush's home state.

Austin, the Texas state capital, saw its biggest rally and march ever—more than 10,000 people. Five thousand demonstrated in Dallas, while another 5,000 marched from Houston's Federal Building to a local park. The Houston action was dedicated to Native activist Standing Deer, who was killed there in January.

On the U.S./Mexico border, marchers from El Paso, Texas, and Juarez, Mexico, met on the International Bridge.

Up to 15,000 people took to the streets of Philadelphia for that city's biggest anti-war event in over 30 years.

In Minneapolis 10,000 marched.

In Detroit 5,000 marched downtown to the Cobo Center, and 1,200 attended an indoor rally to hear Auto Workers union officials, Yemeni community leaders, Rep. John Conyers and other anti-war voices.

In Chicago over 7,000 people demonstrated in bitter cold. On the initiative of a mass meeting of the Pakistani community, the rally and march were held in a

predominately South Asian neighborhood, in solidarity with the embattled Muslim and immigrant communities.

Pakistani groups staged the action in cooperation with the Chicago Coalition Against War and Racism and 100 other endorsing organizations. There were signs in Urdu, Arabic, Turkish, Korean, Spanish and English.

In Cleveland, where temperatures also bottomed out near zero, over 1,000 people turned out to hear the head of the Cleveland Federation of Labor, prominent clergy members, Arab and African American community leaders speak out against the war. A moment of silence was held for legendary local activist and Workers World Party founding member Ted Dostal, who had died days before at age 96. After the rally a contingent from the newly formed Lesbians, Gays, Bisexuals and Transgendered People for Peace led off the march, chanting, "Don't ask, don't tell, war and bigots go to hell."

In San Diego, 7,000 people attended a morning protest at the Federal Building called by the local Peace & Justice Coalition. Over 1,000 turned out later that afternoon for a march, organized by ANSWER, to a Navy installation. San Diego County hosted no fewer than five anti-war protests Feb. 15.

Atlanta activists found a creative way to spread their anti-war message. They formed a Peace Caravan, with chants ringing out from a sound system affixed to a flatbed truck, a bus draped in anti-war banners, and dozens of other vehicles. They traveled to six of the city's busiest shopping districts, including Decatur Square, where 250 people met the caravan to declare a "No War Zone."

With reports from Jane Cutter, Martha Grevatt, Kris Hamel, Bev Heistand, Bob McCubbin, Dianne Mathiowetz, Lou Paulsen, Betsey Piette and Gloria Rubac. □

Bolivia rebels against U.S., IMF regime

By Andy McInerney

The tide of protest that has swept Latin America, threatening U.S. client regimes from Argentina to Colombia, has reached the Andean nation of Bolivia. In recent weeks thousands of workers, students and peasants have staged strikes, roadblocks and street battles against the U.S.-backed government of President Gonzalo Sánchez de Lozada.

The protests have already had two important effects. First, the Bolivian state apparatus—the armed forces that protect the tiny ruling class and U.S. interests there—has split. The police are siding with the popular demonstrations while the army has remained loyal to the government.

Second, the working-class opposition, including peasants and students, has coalesced into a “General Staff of the Bolivian People,” united around the goal of unseating Sánchez de Lozada.

The current round of protests has its roots in coordinated actions that began in mid-January. Farmers growing coca clashed with army troops at roadblocks set up to demand that the government allow coca growing for limited non-narcotic use and that it end a U.S.-sponsored defoliation campaign against coca crops.

Farmers have grown coca in the Andean highlands for centuries. The plant is part

of the traditional Indigenous culture. The international drug market has turned the leaf into a commodity, but the billions of dollars in drug profits do not reach the coca growers.

At the same time that the coca-growing peasants blocked the main highway from Cochabamba to Santa Cruz, some 10,000 pensioners gathered in Calamarca to block the highway between the capital La Paz and Oruro, a link to Chilean trading ports on the Pacific Ocean. The retirees were protesting the falling value of their pensions due to a peg linking pensions to the U.S. dollar.

The demonstrators also protested Bolivian government plans to join the Free Trade Area of the Americas. The FTAA is the proposed U.S.-dominated market that would eliminate the ability of countries in the region to protect their economies from U.S. domination.

Bolivia is among the poorest countries in Latin America. Seventy percent of the people live below the poverty line. Many survive on less than \$1 per day.

The pensioners managed to win some concessions from the government. But the coca growers’ protest continued, drawing wider support from leaders of Aymara Indigenous communities.

On Feb. 9, Sánchez de Lozada poured more gasoline on the fire. He decreed a

new economic austerity program, cutting government spending by 10 percent and raising taxes. The economic program was designed to reduce the government deficit from 8.5 percent to 5 percent, a requirement imposed by the International Monetary Fund.

The austerity plan provoked angry responses. “The government prefers that the poor bear the burden of the crisis,” Evo Morales told the Associated Press on Feb. 10. Morales, a Congressional deputy from the Movement Toward Socialism (MAS) party and winner of the popular vote for Bolivia’s presidency last June, is a leader of the coca growers’ protest.

Broader forces joined the opposition movement. Union leaders called for a one-day strike. Even business leaders opposed the proposed tax increase.

On Feb. 12, police in La Paz split from the government and sided with the protests. Police took over the building housing the foreign ministry and joined a demonstration laying siege to the presidential palace.

The mutinying officers fired rounds of tear gas into the detachments of government military troops deployed against the protests. At least 17 people were killed in clashes with the army.

Within days, Sánchez de Lozada withdrew the unpopular tax plan. But the MAS, the Bolivian Workers Federation (COB), and other groups continued to pressure for the president’s resignation.

The center of the opposition is now the General Staff of the Bolivian People, formed in late January. The General

Staff was formed by “MAS, the COB, and unions of teachers, peasant farmers and students,” according to a Jan. 20 Inter Press dispatch.

A Feb. 15 statement by the General Staff analyzed the current struggle. “The social crisis that the country is going through originates in authoritarianism, the incapacity of the government, and its submission to policies dictated by foreign powers (the U.S. embassy, the World Bank, and the IMF),” the manifesto begins.

It goes on to call for the resignation of the Sánchez de Lozada government and the formation of a transitional government to change the neoliberal economic model, regain control of the country’s national resources and redistribute land.

The Bush administration reacted to the developments in Bolivia with alarm. Bush himself was “deeply concerned,” White House spokesperson Ari Fleischer said Feb. 13. A Feb. 14 State Department release called for “all Bolivians to respect the constitutionally elected government and refrain from violence.” A State Department official was sent to Bolivia for meetings with the government on Feb. 17.

The stakes in Bolivia are heightened by the fact that the country is one link in a chain of Latin American countries where the traditional political elites have proved unable to impose the dictates of Wall Street and the IMF on the backs of the working class. Millions of workers across the continent—from Colombia to Argentina, from Venezuela to Ecuador and Brazil—feel the struggle of the Bolivians as their own. □

SAN FRANCISCO

200,000 weigh in to stop Pentagon assault

Continued from page 6

for a barrel of oil.”

Hari Dillon, from the Vanguard Foundation and a march organizer, was cheered when he said: “We say to you, President Bush: The murder of people of color around the world is a crime against humanity.”

Maudelle Shirek, the 91-year-old vice-mayor of Berkeley and a veteran of peace and civil rights struggles, was greeted with loud applause. “We want to end the system that makes war necessary, to end the system that sends our children to war, and to end the system that says that profit is more important than life.”

Organized labor participation included more than 80 unions. San Francisco Labor Council Secretary-Treasurer Walter Johnson, Trent Willis of International Longshore and Warehouse Union Local 10, and ILWU Local 250 President Sal Roselli were among the speakers.

Sebastiana Pastor of the Free the Five Committee and attorney Leonard Weinglass talked about the case of the five Cubans imprisoned in the United States for trying to stop terrorist attacks on Cuba. Mario Santos of BAYAN and ANSWER spoke of the people’s uprising in the Philippines.

Palestine and Iraq

Several speakers linked the struggles of the Palestinian and Iraqi peoples for self-determination. They included Elias Rashmawi of the Free Palestine Alliance, Barbara Lubin of Middle East Children’s Alliance, and Kate Raphael of Women in Black and Queers Undermining Israeli

Terror.

Hatem Bazian, a Palestinian-American professor at the University of California at Berkeley, said, “This is not a democracy by the people or for the people; it’s by corporations and for the corporations.”

Richard Becker, an ANSWER steering committee member, said: “It is the power of the people that has done something truly historic. The mobilization of tens of millions of people yesterday has held back the hand of those in Washington who are dying for a new war, or more properly said, who want the people of Iraq and the young people of this country to die for big oil, for colonialism, for empire.”

Musicians Joan Baez and Bonnie Raitt performed, along with MC Rai Nar, the Bay Area Gay Peace Chorus and the Dance Brigade. Writer Alice Walker spoke. Actor Danny Glover emceed, along with ANSWER’s Gloria La Riva and Jeff Mackler of Bay Area United Against War.

Other speakers included Rep. Barbara Lee, Jeremy Corbyn of the British Parliament and Stop the War Coalition, California State Sen. John Burton, the Rev. Cecil Williams, the Rev. Amos Brown of the NAACP, KPFA-Pacific Radio representatives Miguel Molina, Joy Moore, Davey D and Dennis Bernstein, Leilani Dowell of ANSWER’s student and youth committee, Riva Enteen of the National Lawyers Guild, Howard Wallace of the Senior Action Network, Rabbi Pam Frydman, Rabbi David Cooper, Tania Mayo of Not In Our Name, Andrea Buffa of United for Peace and Justice, and Lamis Andoni of the Blue Triangle Network. □



PHOTO: KELLY WINE

LOS ANGELES

Multinational city unites against war

Continued from page 7

Rogers, who was accompanied by his mother at the demonstration.

An electrifying rally preceded the march. Many speakers took note of the enormous protests being held around the globe.

Writer Gore Vidal commended the crowd for its struggle against the Bush administration’s tyranny. “I never once believed that I would ever see a day like this, where the great part of the nation of we the people should be obliged to march against an arbitrary and secret government preparing wars for us to fight in,” he said.

A broad array of issues and causes were

brought to the forefront. Civil-rights lawyer Leonard Weinglass urged the crowd to become involved in the campaign to free the five Cuban political prisoners being held in U.S. prisons. Weinglass represents the five in their appeals process. He equated the struggle for freeing the Cuban Five, who worked to end U.S.-based terrorism against their homeland, with the struggle to end U.S. imperialist aggression against Iraq.

The march made its way toward an Army recruiting station on the corner of Sunset and La Brea boulevards. Protesters found that their strength had forced the military recruiters to close their doors for the day. □

La posición de organizaciones laborales atrae furia de la derecha

Por Milt Neidenberg

Mientras que la administración de Bush continúa agrupando armas de destrucción masiva contra el pueblo iraquí, el movimiento de las organizaciones de labor está agrupando una oposición masiva anti guerra que está creciendo como un fuego alimentado por la catastrófica crisis capitalista de guerra y recesión. Esta crisis ha puesto en peligro muchos contratos sindicales que provee beneficios de jubilación y salud para sus miembros y jubilados.

Más de 2 millones de empleos han sido perdidos desde marzo del 2002, según el Departamento de Labor. Casi 1.9 millones de personas quienes activamente buscan empleos han estado sin trabajo por lo menos seis meses. Esta cifra es el triple de hace dos años.

La administración de Bush sabe muy bien de que el movimiento laboral ha comenzado a confrontar sus planes de un ataque de "anticipo" contra el trabajo organizado y en contra del pueblo iraquí. La lucha de clases se está calentando y el movimiento laboral anti guerra está creciendo.

Bush y sus colaboradores en Wall Street han comenzado una campaña para detenerlo. Ellos quieren convencer al público que el movimiento laboral anti guerra es "anti patriótico." Y esperan que las leyes represivas como el "Acta Patriota" les dará libertad para conseguir sus objetivos imperialistas bajo el pretexto de la seguridad nacional.

Esta táctica se pudo ver en la edición del 8 de febrero del New York Times bajo el título de "El Patriotismo de Organizaciones Laborales en Duda". El Times

reportó que el mes pasado Tom DeLay, el líder de la Cámara de Representantes, firmó una carta diciendo que los "patrones" sindicales usan las "emergencias nacionales" para "tomar más poder".

La carta fue escrita por la Fundación de la Defensa y Educación Legal del Derecho Nacional al Trabajo, una organización anti sindical con conexiones a la administración Bush. Esta dice que las huelgas son un peligro para el gobierno. Esta mencionó a la huelga de los trabajadores de Lockheed-Martin el año pasado. Estos trabajadores construyen jets F-22 y C-130-J. Su huelga fue caracterizada como un ejemplo de "bochornosamente explotar las necesidades críticas de guerra de la nación."

La carta falsamente acusó a acusó al sindicato de los trabajadores de puerto, International Longshore Workers Union, de cerrar los puertos de la costa occidental recientemente. Esto en realidad fue un cierre patronal. El récord progresista de este sindicato orgulloso, uno de los primeros en encabezar y forjar un movimiento laboral anti guerra, es la razón de este ataque.

DeLay es un ultra derechista, halcón de guerras imperialistas a quien le han nombrado el "martillo" en el Congreso. El ha estado al frente de legislaciones reaccionarias, racistas anti sindicales y anti lesbianas y gays. Él apoyó al Apartheid en Sur África. A El se le conoce muy bien en los círculos de corrupción y de actividades criminales de los magnates del petróleo y gas. Y su carrera estuvo inextricablemente entrelazada con Enron y su ex Oficial Ejecutivo, Kenneth Lay.

Junto con el Presidente George W.

Bush, el Vice Presidente Dick Cheney y Condoleezza Rice Asesora de la Seguridad Nacional, el General Colin Powell y el Secretario de la Defensa Donald Rumsfeld, DeLay han adoptado los intereses de la ExxonMobil, Halliburton, Chevron/Texaco y la British Petroleum—todos planeando con el ejército la toma del petróleo de Irak inmediatamente después del ataque.

Pero DeLay tuvo que dar paso atrás diciendo que él nunca firmó la carta. El supuestamente hizo eso después que recibiera una respuesta indigna del del sindicato de Teamster, James Hoffa, quien regañó a DeLay por dudar de "mi patriotismo y en particular afrontar a nuestros Hermanos y Hermanas Teamster que son llamados al servicio activo.

DeLay solo retrocedería bajo ordenes de la administración Bush. Hoffa, un favorito en la Casa Blanca, recientemente volvió en un miembro fundador de un grupo llamado, "El Comité por la Liberación de Irak." Él ha desarrollado conexiones estrechas con Rumsfeld y Cheney, quienes pertenecen a la junta del comité así como ejecutivos de Lockheed-Martin, Lehman Brothers, Bechtel y Charles Schwab. No querían antagonizar a este importante contacto sindical.

Mientras tanto, Hoffa está mirando por encima del hombro a la Local 705 de los Tronquistas en Chicago, el sindicato de chóferes de camiones y almaceneros segundo en tamaño en el país. Recientemente la local aprobó una resolución opuesta a la guerra por un voto de 399 a uno que declaró, "Valoramos las vidas de nuestros hermanos y hermanas más que el control de Bush de las ganancias petroleras en el Medio Oriente".

Es posible que Hoffa no quiere aislarse de los trabajadores miembros del sindicato y la tendencia progresista emergente que está en desarrollo en el movimiento sindical. Es posible que tendrá que alejarse de su alianza con los criminales de la Casa Blanca y sus conspiradores de la industria petrolera.

Nacimiento de un movimiento

El nuevo movimiento sindical opuesto a la guerra entre las filas del movimiento laboral comenzó cuando Bush inició la guerra contra el pueblo de Afganistán. Sindicalistas participaron con las decenas de miles de manifestantes que respondieron rápidamente a esa guerra. Ellos llevaron sus experiencias consigo a sus hermanos y hermanas sindicales y, como resultado, comenzaron a emerger resoluciones sindicales en contra de la guerra.

Mientras que aceleraron las amenazas bélicas contra Irak, protestas en contra de la guerra incrementaron.

Organizados por el grupo International ANSWER ("respuesta internacional" siglas que significa actúa ahora para poner un alto a la guerra y acabar con el racismo) que es una coalición que coordinó las protestas del 26 de octubre y el 18 de enero que concentraron millones de activistas anti guerra y anti racista en Washington, DC, San Francisco y muchas otras ciudades en los Estados Unidos y alrededor del mundo.

Sindicalistas, muchos de ellos inspirados por líderes negros, ayudaron en aumentar las filas de estas protestas. Presidente del sindicato AFSCME District Council 1707, Brenda Stokely y Clarence Thomas, un oficial del local 10 del ILWU habló del podio en las manifestaciones masivas anti guerra. Los sindicalistas, incluso un equipo que vino desde San Francisco encabezaron a la marcha, que atrajo una cifra sustancial de trabajadores sindicalistas.

Mientras que resoluciones sindicales fueron aprobadas a través del país por sindicatos locales, consejos de trabajo central y federaciones estatales, demasiado que nombrar, y se quedó claro que un movimiento anti guerra en el sector progresista del movimiento sindical estaba en proceso de nacer. Y se fue volviendo más efectivo e influyente, alcanzando las capas más altas del AFL-CIO.

Más importante, los textos de las resoluciones anti guerra tuvieron un tema común. Hicieron una conexión entre la guerra, la crisis económica, ataques contra trabajadores, despidos, recortes presupuestarios, y amenazas a los derechos civiles. Las resoluciones recordaron al público que son los hijos e hijas de familias de la clase trabajadora que tienen que soportar la carga de la guerra y la recesión.

La mayoría de las resoluciones criticaron los cientos de de mil millones entregados al Pentágono, la Oficina de Seguridad de la Patria y los imperios militares industriales como Lockheed-Martin, Boeing y otros, por ejemplo, que conducen a estafar a los programas de seguro social y cuidados médicos y los fondos discrecionales que se necesitan urgentemente los pobres y comunidades oprimidas. □

Un llamado de acción por líderes africano-americanos

Un llamado para "Maximizar la Participación de Africanos-Americanos en el Movimiento de Paz" fue iniciado en Nueva York a comienzos de febrero por el Reverendo Herbert Daughtry y otros.

Un llamado de acción

La gente de descendencia Africana tiene un papel único en el movimiento para detener la guerra de Bush contra Irak. Si la guerra llega serán los soldados de descendencia africanos-americanos los que estarán al frente de la lucha y los primeros que morirán. Esta comunidad también verá privación como resultado de los fondos masivos invertidos en la guerra, dinero que es robado de los programas de salud, educación, nutrición y empleos.

En el mes de la Herencia Africana-americana urgimos a todos los que planean un programa de celebración a nuestra herencia en Febrero, ya sea en la escuela, instituciones religiosas o centros de la comunidad, la sala de los sindicatos o en las calles a que dediquen sus programas a la protesta a la guerra.

Muchos de nosotros tenemos miembros de familia en el ejército. Muchos de nue-

stros jóvenes ingresan al ejército en busca de oportunidad de trabajos y educación que no tienen en la sociedad civil. Nuestra protesta no es en contra de estos soldados, sí contra una guerra injusta. Protestamos con esperanza de salvar las vidas de soldados estadounidenses e iraquíes. Abramos nuestros brazos con apoyo moral y asistencia práctica para aquellos soldados, hombres y mujeres, que deciden en buena conciencia no pueden participar en esta guerra injusta.

Apoyemos a los estudiantes el 21 de febrero en su protesta.

El 21 de febrero, estudiantes contra la guerra en todo el país conmemorarán el 28 aniversario del asesinato de Malcolm X (Al Hajj Malik El-Shabazz) dejando las clases para protestar contra la guerra. Urgimos a estudiantes y la facultad al igual que a la comunidad en general a que participen en este importante día de protesta y ayuda hacerlo masiva y poderosa. □

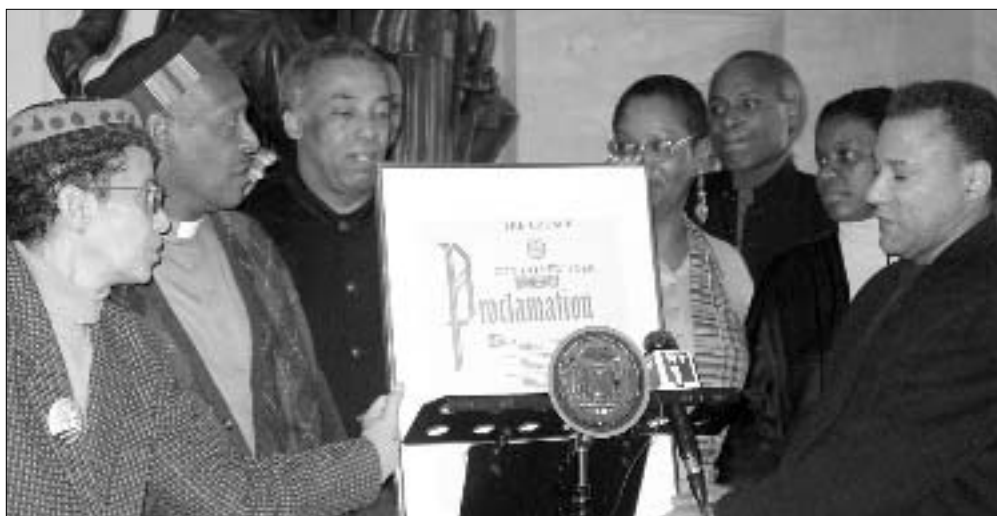


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