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WW PHOTO: BILL HACKWELL

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Bush tells UN: Iraq is ours

This is what colonialism looks like

By Fred Goldstein

During his trip to Syria, Secretary of State Colin Powell made a telling remark—one he assumed everyone would take for granted, but which should be given a second look.

According to the May 18 Al Ahram Weekly, Powell “made clear during his recent visit to Damascus that Syria must take account of the ‘new strategic environment’ following the collapse of the Iraqi regime. Powell said he told the Syrians, ‘What you’re really going to be looking at is, you are in a new situation with your neighbor. It is going to be a very different kind of regime ... it is going to be a very close friend of the United States. Therefore it is in your interest to have a better relationship with the United States.’”

Anyone who follows the propaganda of the Bush administration about its so-called “liberation” of Iraq and its desire to allow the Iraqi people to “choose their government” is entitled to ask the following questions:

Would the Iraqi people freely choose to befriend a government that has waged two wars against them; destroyed their infrastructure twice; killed hundreds of thousands in the Gulf War of 1991; set up an 11-year regime of sanctions that killed over a million people—at least half a million under the age of five; recently again bombed schools, hospitals, fuel lines, power supplies and water systems; killed or wounded thousands of civilians during the war and carried out massacres of civilians after the war?

Would the Iraqi people freely choose a government friendly to the U.S. government—which represents the biggest, most powerful oil companies in the world and whose military immediately secured the oil fields and the oil ministry while allowing or carrying out the destruction of virtually every functioning government facility in the country, including the looting of their national museum and national library?

And finally, how does Colin Powell know—before any political process has even been set up, let alone implemented—that the

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Iraqi people will freely choose a government friendly to the U.S.? Is Powell able to sense a miraculous future turnaround in sentiment from the present situation of growing distrust, suspicion and outright hatred of the U.S. occupation which is reported daily in the media and manifested in massive demonstrations?

Does Powell have some foreknowledge that the Iraqi people are about to abandon their widespread, long-held, anti-colonial sentiment en masse and embrace a power that wants to steal their oil, privatize and dismantle their economy, force them into a rapprochement with the hated Zionist state of Israel, and use Iraqi military bases to further its conquest of the Middle East?

UN resolution for colonial mandate

What Powell knows is that the Bush administration is determined to establish itself, with assistance from London, as the colonial power in Iraq. And colonial powers get the puppet administrations that they want—unless the masses upset their plans.

Consider the resolution for a U.S. and British colonial man-
Continued on page 6

Japanese workers protest Pentagon warships



PHOTOS: ANTI-WAR JOINT ACTION COMMITTEE, JAPAN

Above, hundreds of workers protesting the return of aircraft carrier USS Kitty Hawk from Iraq to its home port, Yokosuka, Japan, on May 6.

Left, some 1,600 union workers marched into the main gate of the U.S. Navy base in Yokosuka, Japan, on May 10 to protest the arrival of the nuclear operated aircraft carrier USS Carl Vinson.

—Migiwa Kanazawa

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MEMORIAL FOR TED DOSTAL

Cleveland pays tribute to 'iron man'

By Martha Grevatt
Cleveland

A moving tribute was held here May 10 for Ted Dostal, a beloved founding member of Workers World Party who died on Feb. 13 at the age of 96. The life of this former steel worker, known by friend and foe as "the iron man," was revived through impressions, recollections, anecdotes and revolutionary praise. Laughter and tears filled a room with over 100 of his comrades and friends from Cleveland and other cities.

Ted, though deeply modest, was one of Cleveland's best known activists. Friends from the progressive movement described him as a man who never missed a protest and who never failed to call them at least once to get them out to one.

Iris Williams recalled the decades-long friendship between Ted and her late father, Wilbur "Fox" Grattan, himself a tireless fighter for Black liberation and a steadfast supporter of Cuba.

Others recalled the booming voice of Ted, the street agitator, and the life-changing political discussions they had with Ted, the teacher of class-conscious politics. His sense of humor when he was too old to shout or march came to life as one friend described Ted thumbing his nose at a rightwinger during the defense of an abortion clinic.

Ted was also an institution for all his Workers World Party comrades. Representatives came from Buffalo, Detroit and Baltimore as well as the party center in New York. Deirdre Griswold spoke on behalf of the Secretariat, the party's national standing leadership committee. Messages poured in from all the other branches as well as from numerous individual members. Recurring themes were his warm smile, bone-crushing handshake, unforgettable oratory at party conferences, his discipline, his relentlessness, his tenacity, and above all the revolutionary optimism that is the essence of Workers World Party.



1979, Youngstown, Ohio



1985

Ted fought racism his whole life, from his days as a union militant in Youngstown to the party's early years when he supported Mae Mallory and the right of the Black community to self-defense, to the very last demonstration he attended, which was in support of Mumia Abu-Jamal.

He also was always there for the rights of women and lesbian, gay, bi and trans people.

Ted was unwavering in his opposition to imperialist war. During the 1968 SDS protest at the Chicago Democratic Convention, he demonstrated to militant youth how to turn park benches into barricades. In his 90s, he went to the mass protests against the bombing of Yugoslavia. A demonstration of Cleveland's broad movement against a U.S. war on Iraq, held two days after Ted's death, was dedicated to his memory.

Many speakers also paid tribute to Frances Dostal, who had been in the hospital recovering from heart surgery when Ted died. They loved the struggle as much as they loved each other. She described him as her "favorite human being."

Susan Schnur of the Cleveland branch told of Ted's last day of life, when he could no longer speak. She and this writer sang the International and old labor songs to him. When she told him that the working class would win and all his life's work would pay off, a tear rolled down his face.

The tribute concluded with the singing of the International, accompanied by a video of Ted vigorously singing it at the 1991 WWP conference. There wasn't a dry eye in the room. Ted Dostal, a communist in the truest and best sense of the word, will never be forgotten. □



1970s



Vince Copeland, left, a fellow steelworker and Workers World Party founder, with Frances Dostal and Ted Dostal.

JOIN US. Workers World Party (WWP) fights on all issues that face the working class and oppressed peoples—Black and white, Latino, Asian, Arab and Native peoples, women and men, young and old, lesbian, gay, bi, straight, trans, disabled, working, unemployed and students.

If you would like to know more about WWP, or to join us in these struggles, contact the branch nearest you.

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WW CALENDAR

NEW YORK

Sat., May 24

Reparations, not occupation.
African Liberation Day 2003
march and rally in Brooklyn. No
recolonization of Africa, Hands off
Zimbabwe. Solidarity with Cuba,
Venezuela, Haiti, North Korea.
Gather at noon at Boys and Girls
High School (Fulton St. and
Schenectady Ave.) Rally 3 p.m. at
House of the Lord Church, 415
Atlantic Ave., Brooklyn, N.Y. For
info (718) 221-1569 or (718)
398-1766.

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Workers World Party weekly
meetings at 7 p.m. Phone (212)
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Workers World

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Muslim leader illegally detained by INS

By Monica Moorehead

As the United States intensifies its racist recolonization of Iraq, the government is carrying out its domestic repression against Muslim and immigrant communities with a business-as-usual attitude.

One target of this bigoted campaign is the Muslim American Society. This group has been in the forefront of organizing against the war on Iraq, as well as defending civil liberties and civil rights on the domestic front.

Agents of the Immigration and Naturalization Service arrested the MAS office administrator, Azzam Abu Huwil, a Jordanian Palestinian, on May 7. He was placed in a detention center in Arlington, Va.

According to a May 12 MAS news release, the INS initially visited Huwil at his home under the pretext of questioning him about his change of address.

But, according to the MAS release, the real reason Huwil was arrested is that he refused to become an informant against the Muslim community when pressured to do so by the Federal Bureau of Investigation.

Huwil is currently awaiting a hearing of his INS bond refusal. He is one of a number of Muslim leaders who have come under close governmental scrutiny and threats.

MAS Freedom is the public branch of MAS. Its executive director, Mahdi Bray, responded to the arrest of Huwil: "This is clearly a case of harassment and intimi-

dation by the government. Many of our members have been questioned and harassed by the government, especially those of Palestinian descent."

MAS Freedom has initiated the call for an important rally in Washington, D.C., on May 24 at the Ellipse across the street from the White House. This "Muslim Solidarity Day" is a call to protest attacks on Muslims and immigrant communities.

Besides Bray, other invited speakers include U.S. Rep. John Conyers of Michigan, the Rev. Al Sharpton, Mara Verheyden-Hilliard of the Partnership for Civil Justice, Dr. Jamal Badawi, Damu Smith of Black Voices for Peace, Shanda Driver of By Any Means Necessary—a coalition that defends affirmative action, Brian Becker of the International Action Center and many more.

MAS, along with other organizations like PCJ and IAC, is a member of the International ANSWER coalition steering committee.

The goals of MAS are to "to build an integrated empowerment process for the American Muslim community through civic education, participation, community outreach, and coalition building; to forge positive relationships with other institutions outside of our community that will ensure and facilitate the protection of civil rights and liberties for American Muslims and all Americans and fair treatment of all immigrants."

For more information about the Huwil case and the May 24 mobilization, go to masnet.org or call (202) 496-1288. □

83 arrested protesting INS roundups

By Imani Henry
New York City

On May 5-7, police arrested 83 anti-war activists for blocking the entrance to the Jacob Javits Federal Building here, home of the offices of the infamous Immigration and Naturalization Service.

Initiated by local people of color community and immigrant rights groups, the three days of actions were endorsed by more than 56 local and national social justice organizations.

These groups included Blacks Against War, Desis Rising Up and Moving, Jews for Racial and Economic Justice, AIDS Housing Network, Harlem Anti-War Coalition, CAAAV: Organizing Asian Communities, Malcolm X Grassroots Movement, Audre Lorde Project, Nodutdol-For Korean Community Development, United for Peace and Justice New York and New York ANSWER—Act Now to Stop War & End Racism.

Now under the auspices of the Office of Homeland Security, the INS has gained more money and muscle to carry out raids, detentions and deportations at an alarming rate. Unknown thousands of South Asian and Muslim immigrants have been kidnapped, held in detention indefinitely without legal representation or contact with family.

These round-ups have led to protests in various cities—because of the racist nature of the registration and the detentions and deportations that have followed.

Since January 2003, the INS has forced Muslim and Arab men from 25 countries—those 16 years old and up who do not have citizen status—to register or face deportation. April 25 was the deadline for Muslim registration.



PHOTO: RACHEL

Lesbian, gay, bi and trans people of color were first to be arrested in civil disobedience.

The May 5-7 protests here were a display of multinational unity and lesbian, gay, bisexual and trans solidarity.

Protesters chanted, "No more profiling, no more war," and, "Open the borders, close the INS," to make their solidarity clear. This drew many positive responses from the hundreds of people waiting to get into the INS offices.

With many people of color with responsibilities on tactical leadership, the vast majority of arrestees were white non-immigrants. Many lesbian, gay, bi and trans activists were part of the actions. And the overwhelming majority of arrestees over the course of the three days were women.

While organizers cheer this show of unity, the New York Police Department and the judicial system did everything in their power to exploit the oppression of the protesters.

According to a statement by the group, most people of color and LGBT people were detained overnight. Others were released after six hours.

Organizers also charged the NYPD with use of excessive force and anti-gay bias.

The next call to action is May 19, when a rally and march are planned for the Times Square military recruitment center. □

Save this date!
Thousands will march to protest George Bush
PHILADELPHIA • JULY 4

Philadelphia organizations involved in the local, regional and national protests include Philadelphia ANSWER, Philadelphia Regional Anti-War Network, Minority Experience Network, Avenging the Ancestors Coalition, Unite for Peace, International Concerned Family & Friends of Mumia Abu-Jamal, and others.

More evidence on frame-up of Mumia

By Betsey Piette
Philadelphia

In the ongoing battle to win due process in the courts for death-row journalist Mumia Abu-Jamal, his attorneys have submitted an unusual motion to the Pennsylvania Supreme Court to force the court to hear new evidence that cops concocted "evidence" of a "confession" by Abu-Jamal.

On April 24 lawyers Elliott Grossman and Marlene Kamish submitted a remand motion requesting that Abu-Jamal's case be ordered back to the lower court in order to take testimony from Kenneth Pate. In a sworn declaration, Pate states that in a telephone conversation with his half-sister Priscilla Durham in 1983 or 1984 she repudiated her testimony. Durham testified for the prosecution in 1981 when Mumia Abu-Jamal stood trial for the murder of police officer Daniel Faulkner.

The Pennsylvania Supreme Court clerk refused to file this motion on the basis of a rule, Appellate Rule 2501(a), which prohibits the filing of a "brief, memorandum or letter" after a case is taken under submission by the court.

In a motion filed May 7, Abu-Jamal's attorneys argue that their "remand motion" is obviously not a "brief, memorandum or letter," and the court clerk's refusal to file this new evidence deprives

Abu-Jamal of his right to "due process" and "equal protection" of the law under the 14th Amendment to the U.S. Constitution "by an unlawful act of bureaucratic usurpation of this Court's own authority ..."

Durham was a security guard at the hospital where Abu-Jamal and Faulkner were brought after both sustained gunshot wounds on Dec. 9, 1981. According to Pate's sworn declaration, Durham told him that in reality the only thing she heard Abu-Jamal say in the hospital was "Get off me, get off me, they're killing me" when police were interfering with his medical treatment.

However, at Abu-Jamal's trial Durham testified that she heard him shout out, "I shot the motherf---er and I hope he dies" while he laid on the floor of the emergency room surrounded by police officers.

None of these police officers reported Abu-Jamal's supposed statement for more than two months. The officer guarding Abu-Jamal filed a written report on Dec. 10, 1981, which said Abu-Jamal made no statements.

According to Pate, the police appealed to Durham to "stick with them" because as a security guard she was part of the "brotherhood" of law enforcement officers.

The prosecution used Durham's testimony to falsely claim that Abu-Jamal had confessed to the killing. □

Philly protest targets monopoly media

Marching behind a banner reading "NBC, FOX, ABC, Clear Channel—Weapons of Mass Deception," 200 protesters took to the streets of Philadelphia May 10 targeting the pro-war corporate media.

The march to local affiliates of NBC, ABC and Clear Channel Communications followed a brief rally. There, speakers addressed the big-business media's uncritical promotion of the Bush administration's war on Iraq. They also emphasized the connections between major media outlets and the military-industrial complex. For example, NBC is owned by weapons manufacturer General Electric.

Philadelphia Regional Anti-War Network, Philadelphia Act Now to Stop War & End Racism (ANSWER), and Prometheus Radio Project organized the event. The rally was co-chaired by Liz Arnold of Philadelphia ANSWER and Dr. Lucille Ijoy, a disk jockey at independent African-American radio station WURD.

Shafiq El-Amin of the Minority Experience Network stressed the need to prepare for the fight ahead to stop ongoing wars—and, he added, to oppose the further monopolization of media if the Federal Communications Commission eliminates the last regulations preventing one company from owning all media outlets.

Pete Tridish, technical director of Prometheus Radio Project, described how FCC deregulation has already allowed media giant Clear Channel Commu-

ications to gobble up hundreds of radio stations around the country. Clear Channel has organized pro-war rallies, censored anti-war songs and tried to organize a boycott of performers like the Dixie Chicks for making statements against the war.

Sasha Costanza-Chock, graduate student at the Annenberg School of Communications, warned that further FCC deregulation could go into effect as early as June 2. The current FCC chairperson is Michael Powell, Secretary of State Colin Powell's son.

Hitting billionaire Rupert Murdoch's pro-military FOX Network, Betsey Piette from Philadelphia ANSWER stressed the need for continuing protest against the Bush administration's "endless war" on the domestic front. She announced a national protest scheduled for Philadelphia on July 4, when Bush will be attending the opening of the National Constitution Center.

The July 4 protest is called by Philadelphia ANSWER and the Philadelphia Regional Anti-War Network.

Cheri Honkala from Kensington Welfare Rights denounced the media's failure to report on struggles of poor and working people for housing, education and social programs.

Ryme Katkhouda, a Lebanese independent journalist, talked about censorship of independent media and corporate media racism.

—WW Philadelphia bureau

Labor at the crossroads:

Class collaboration or class struggle?

By Milt Neidenberg
Retired Teamster

It began right after the Twin Tower tragedy of Sept. 11 in New York City: Anti-war labor forces joined the national and worldwide movement against the U.S. war drive.

In the period between the U.S. invasion of Afghanistan and the war against Iraq, the movement grew significantly. By March 2003, approximately 130 local unions, 45 central labor councils, 26 regional labor bodies and state federations, and 11 international and national unions had passed resolutions opposing the Iraq war.

Now the Bush administration is threatening preemptive strikes and sanctions against Cuba, North Korea, Syria or any other country seeking self-determination and independence from U.S. imperialism. The anti-war labor movement should consider building union caucuses to resist this dangerous and destructive development.

The Pentagon war machine is eating up billions of dollars desperately needed for social services. Millions of workers are receiving pink slips and are hurled onto growing lines at unemployment offices and under-funded food pantries, with no hope of finding decent jobs or even low-paying jobs. They are paying a high price for U.S. global ambitions. It's a disaster created by the capitalist system, causing immeasurable human suffering.

Since President George W. Bush took office, more than 2.5 million workers have been laid off; 2 million more are so discouraged that they are no longer considered in unemployment statistics, and 5 million others have been reduced to part time. This adds up to almost 10 million people.

Household income has dropped drastically. Services have been cut and cost more. The federal debt has soared to \$6.5 trillion. State and municipal deficits

mount around the country. Sales taxes and other financial burdens have been piled on the workers and middle class.

The crisis didn't begin with Bush. He exacerbated it, in concert with a ruling class determined to build a global empire and to force the workers and the oppressed here to pay for it.

According to the U.S. Department of Labor, in March 2003 almost 75 million workers were "outside the labor force," up more than 4 million since March 2001. This staggering statistic alone confirms that it is not just one single corporation or the corrupt and criminal practices of CEOs and boards of directors that is responsible for the disaster.

Capitalist cliques head up trusts, syndicates and interlocking banking and corporate consortiums. They view economic life from the very same heights as those who control the government and state power.

Speaking on their behalf, the Federal Reserve Board recently declared that deflation is the main danger to economic stability. In fact, deflation is the flip side of inflation—either one is a hardship on workers. They both involve the manipulation of currency—the dollar—through raising and lowering interest rates.

In essence deflation is the result of over-production, huge corporate debt, reckless expansion and the speculation plaguing the capitalist system. There are too many sellers and too few buyers. Profits dwindle, companies downsize or go bankrupt. Production declines and unemployment soars. The "bursting of the Wall Street bubble" was a stock market crash that began the downward cycle in late 2000.

Labor's natural ally: not the Democratic Party

The ruling class believes that an imperialist war will open up new markets and provide resources and cheap labor to bail

it out of the growing economic catastrophe. Bush is the CEO for the ruling class and his right-wing war hawks are the board of directors implementing this dangerous and bloody course.

Now the emperors of high finance are afraid to go it alone. They need other imperialist cliques to join them as junior partners. In the case of Iraq, U.S. imperialist diplomacy has shifted to the United Nations, NATO, the International Monetary Fund and the World Bank. The U.S. wants to get them to share the high cost of a lengthy occupation and installing a puppet regime, as well as replacing sections of the bombed infrastructure so that the exploitation of Iraqi resources—particularly oil—can be restored.

For now chaos, anarchy, hunger and death hang over this once prosperous country. But angry resistance among the masses of the population continues to worry Wall Street and Washington.

The Democratic Party, which claims to support labor's economic needs, continues to back the criminal imperialist occupation. This is a fundamental problem for the labor movement, which needs to sort out critical issues.

First and foremost, can the rank and file trade unionists break from their own leaders, who, once it started, supported the war against Iraq and are tied to the Democratic Party as the "lesser of two evils"? It is unlikely that the present AFL-CIO leadership will turn its members toward the anti-war movement.

This multi-issued movement, which is also fighting racism and immigrant bashing, is labor's natural ally. It is in the streets matching words with deeds, resisting U.S. military intervention and struggling for jobs, health care, education and social services, so critical to the labor movement.

As long as the Pentagon war machine dominates the economic turf, the 16 million organized workers—multi-national, women and men—will be in the crosshairs of Wall Street, no matter who sits in the White House.

The war economy and the attack on the labor movement are interwoven and the AFL-CIO faces difficult decisions in the coming days.

As the 2004 elections begin to take front and center, the multi-national rank and file, particularly the anti-war sector, need to organize their members to shift alliances

toward the anti-war movement and away from capitalist politicians and their seldom-fulfilled promises of support.

Will the AFL-CIO bureaucracy demand that the rank and file participate in electing Democrats, who continue to support the policy of imperialist wars of conquest and occupation?

In the May 2003 issue of the AFL-CIO publication *America@work*, John J. Sweeney, president of the AFL-CIO, gives some insights. He lists what he calls the Right Choices or goals for labor: "Good jobs, solid health and retirement benefits, top-quality public education ... not hand-outs to millionaires and CEOs being courted already as 2004 campaign contributors."

So far, so good. Now for the punch lines.

Sweeney's answer? "We'll engage as never before the politicians seeking our votes in the upcoming elections. ... The more we inform members about the choices elected leaders are making today, the better equipped members will be to make their own choice in the voting booth next year."

The strategy includes lobbying "U.S. representatives and senators, with visits and thousands of letters, faxes and e-mails ... and tens of thousands of postcard ballots." This is all code for electing "pro-labor" Democrats and "friendly" Republicans.

This road is strewn with wreckage and defeats that have plagued the AFL-CIO for decades. In general these politicians will continue to move to the right on the critical issue of imperialist war, as they did when the Iraq war began.

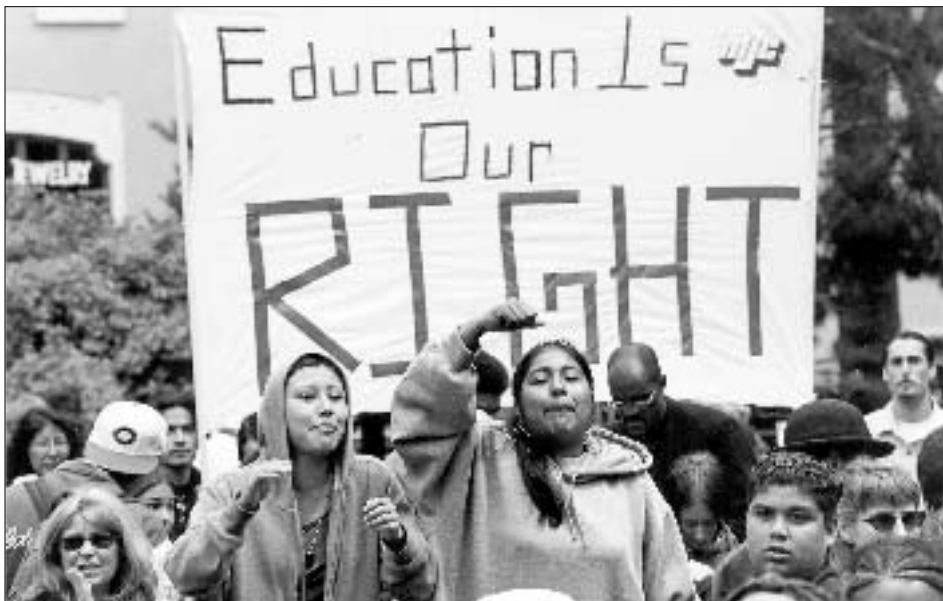
For the AFL-CIO to try to separate the threat of continued wars of imperialist conquest from the domestic crisis during this stage of imperialism/monopoly capitalism is a dangerous road. The resources of the labor movement will be squandered on chasing candidates who promise the workers what they desperately need but who can't deliver it in a war economy.

The global class struggle is heating up. The future of organized labor lies with the many millions of diverse workers, many desperately poor and oppressed, many unorganized, and the growing number of jobless. It lies with organizing in the workplace and mobilizing in the streets.

The time is now to take an independent road and to join the anti-war, anti-imperialist movement dedicated to profound economic, social and political change. □

SACRAMENTO, CALIF.

'Schools, not jails!'



Hundreds of students, teachers and parents from all over northern California rallied at the steps of the State Capitol in Sacramento May 8 to protest a wave of draconian cuts proposed for the state education budget. The demonstration was called by the Education Not Incarceration coalition.

The self-proclaimed education governor, Gray Davis, has called for cuts of \$5 billion to kindergarten through 12th-grade education. This plan could result in layoffs of 50,000 teachers statewide.

Tuition for community colleges would double. Bus routes and summer school would be eliminated.

California is 48th among the states in

the amount spent per student. At the same time, California has the dubious distinction of being the state with the biggest prison population.

Over the past 20 years California has built 23 new prisons and only one new university.

The only area of public spending that Davis didn't propose cutting is the prison system. Davis is actually calling for a \$40 million increase in the state prison budget.

He is moving ahead with plans to construct a new \$595 million prison in Delano. He has approved building 965 new death-row cells at San Quentin—at a cost of \$220 million.

—Photo and story by Bill Hackwell

Struggle over N.Y. budget cuts is microcosm of national crisis

By G. Dunkel

Julia Martinez and Margaret Espinosa got pink slips this month. Their job, which pays \$20,000 a year, is to help disabled children go to school. During the Sept. 11, 2001, attacks on the World Trade Center, as debris rained down, they pushed the children in their wheelchairs as far as possible, then carried them on their backs and ran. They and the children survived.

Martinez and Espinosa are two of 1,800 workers who New York City Schools Chancellor Joel Klein fired this month. They join tens of thousands who have been laid off from education, health care, sanitation and other public services all over the country in the past two years.

According to the National Governors' Association, every single state is suffering from a major budget crisis. The shortfall for fiscal year 2003, which in most states

ends in July, is expected to be about \$30 billion. The shortfall for 2004 is projected to be \$82 billion.

The drop in states' revenue has been major. While the Bush administration justifies its huge tax cuts for the wealthiest by promoting the illusion that jobs will "trickle down" to the poor and unemployed, it is pushing major increases in the cost of Medicaid, education testing and security on the states. The states in turn push the cuts and costs down to the cities and towns.

In the 1990s, states tried lowering their tax rates to encourage investment and economic development during boom times. From 1995 to 2001, states cut taxes by \$33.1 billion, which is slightly more than their current deficit.

New York Gov. George Pataki proposed cuts in education and aid to New York City

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An up-close look at ANSWER coalition

By John Catalinotto

Since September 2001, the International ANSWER coalition has played a leading role in the anti-war movement in the United States and has aroused the interest of anti-imperialist activists worldwide in its actions and the groups that formed it.

ANSWER's story begins just after Sept. 11, 2001, as the Bush administration began exploiting the attacks on the World Trade Center and the Pentagon to mobilize for endless war. Brian Becker, who is on ANSWER's steering committee from the International Action Center, told Workers World, "Before 9/11, a large number of organizations had planned to demonstrate on Sept. 29 in Washington against the World Bank and International Monetary Fund."

But Sept. 11 and the Bush administration's chauvinist offensive stunned many of these organizations and several withdrew from the Sept. 29 protests. The groups that decided that it was crucial to proceed but to re-orient and transform the demonstrations by focusing on an anti-war platform joined together to establish the steering committee of the ANSWER Coalition. The acronym reflected the new focus: Act Now to Stop War & End Racism, Becker explained.

They were the Free Palestine Alliance, International Action Center, IFCO Pastors for Peace, Kensington Welfare Rights Union, Korea Truth Commission, Nicaragua Network, Partnership for Civil Justice, Middle East Children's Alliance and the Mexico Solidarity Network of U.S./Canada. Some months later the Bayan USA/International and the Muslim Student Association of U.S./Canada also joined the ANSWER steering committee.

Some 25,000 demonstrated on Sept. 29 in Washington, another 15,000 in San Francisco. ANSWER was born in this political confrontation with pro-war jin-

goism and racist attacks on Muslims inside the U.S.

Mara Verheyden-Hilliard of the for Civil Justice says that although ANSWER is known for its opposition to war, "from the beginning it has also been a social justice movement and will continue to mobilize on social justice issues."

The PCJ carries out public-interest litigation "on behalf of persons and groups that have been discriminated against because of race, gender and political action. It defends the First Amendment rights of political activists and also struggles for economic justice," Verheyden-Hilliard said.

"We see ANSWER as a coalition of groups and people who have a fundamental commitment to confront and change the criminal conduct of the U.S. government," she continued. "They come from different backgrounds but they support each other's struggles and join together in common opposition to U.S. crimes."

Palestine liberation

Seven months after the Sept. 29 protests, ANSWER held the largest demonstration in U.S. history in support of the Palestinian people. More than 100,000 demonstrated in Washington, D.C., on April 20, 2002. The demonstration also resulted in a united front between ANSWER and various peace groups. The demonstration was first called to protest the ongoing occupation of Afghanistan and plans to attack Iraq. But world events intervened and changed the focus.

When, on March 29 of last year, the Israeli army reinvaded the West Bank and moved with murderous force against the town of Jenin, solidarity with Palestine became the major issue of the ANSWER protest. Mosques organized hundreds of buses to go to Washington for that protest. Some 30,000 to 40,000 people from the Arab and Muslim communities came out in the face of repression to join together

with others in what was a truly historic breakthrough event in solidarity with Palestine.

Elias Rashmawi says his Free Palestine Alliance-U.S. is "a national organization that holds paramount the indivisibility of Palestine as land, people, history and future. The FPA-U.S. regards Palestine as an inseparable part of the Arab world, and considers the struggle against imperialism and colonialism in all of their political and ideological manifestations as a primary task for the Palestinian people and all those struggling for, or supporting, liberation.

"The FPA-U.S. regards the struggle against Zionism as fundamental, and rejects the notion that Palestinians should accept partial 'rights' or semi-servitude to appease 'international' political expediency or liberal constructs," he adds.

"The FPA-U.S. regards ANSWER as home," Rashmawi stressed. "It is on the basis of international solidarity and the clarity that ANSWER has on issues of self-determination and support for liberation that our participation in ANSWER is not only natural, but is also a must."

Over the summer, as the Bush administration's plans to invade Iraq became apparent, ANSWER focused on mobilizing to "stop the war before it starts."

On Oct. 26, 2002, some 200,000 people surrounded the White House, and another 150,000 marched in San Francisco, called out by ANSWER with the endorsement of other anti-war forces. The New York Times, whose first article tried to underplay and undercut the protests, was forced to recant a few days later. It was a first admission in the ruling-class controlled media that mass opposition to the war existed.

When the number of demonstrators soared to nearly 500,000 at the next ANSWER protest on Jan. 18 in Washington—with hundreds of thousands more demonstrating that day in San Francisco—the corporate media finally

gave wide publicity to the fact that an awesome anti-war movement had suddenly arisen to confront Bush's planned war against Iraq.

Solidarity and immigrant organizations

Each of ANSWER's core organizations helped its outreach. Some are organizations in solidarity with struggles abroad, often with strong support from immigrants inside the U.S.

Chuck Kaufman of the Nicaragua Network notes that his group "will celebrate its 25th year of solidarity with the people of Nicaragua next February." Earlier, the Nicaragua Network had worked to defend the gains of the Sandinista revolution through information and education in the U.S., people-to-people exchanges, and material support for projects in Nicaragua.

"Local committees in the U.S., numbering about 200, rely on the Nicaragua Network for information and organizing tools," says Kaufman. "We work in many broad coalitions on issues that affect Nicaragua, such as anti-war, anti-corporate globalization, anti-militarization. The ANSWER coalition has proven to be one of the most effective coalitions for mobilizing and educating people about the issues of most concern to us."

Tom Hansen of the Mexico Solidarity Network says it "is a national coalition of grassroots organizations struggling for workers' rights, indigenous rights, economic justice and human rights on both sides of the U.S.-Mexico border. Currently the neoliberal economic model the U.S. rulers promote threatens peoples of both countries. These programs include the Free Trade Area of the Americas, NAFTA and militarization."

IFCO Pastors for Peace has taken a leading role in promoting solidarity with Cuba. The Korea Truth Commission has

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West Coast ANSWER conference:

Optimism, militancy, preparation for battles ahead

By John Beacham
Los Angeles

It's clear that West Coast anti-war activists are anything but demoralized. More than 400 took part in a May 10 anti-war conference organized by the ANSWER coalition of Los Angeles—and they enthusiastically endorsed the anti-imperialist stances of speakers from a wide range of political organizations.

Larry Holmes, a national leader of the ANSWER coalition from New York, analyzed the development of the anti-war movement and its relationship to working-class struggles here in the United States and around the world. He called for the worldwide movement to resist Washington's upcoming attempt to use the United Nations to legitimize its colonization of Iraq.

Michel Shehadeh from the Free Palestine Alliance stressed that the anti-imperialist left will never retain its moral high ground if it fails to support the current Intifada: "The Palestinians will never give up their tenacious struggle until they are free from U.S. and Israeli imperialism. Their fight is our fight."

Joe Navidad, the National Coordinator of BAYAN International U.S.A., slammed the U.S. attempts to re-establish a heavy military presence in the Philippines. He said the Pentagon is using the cover of ter-



rorism to wage war against those struggling for national liberation and an end to U.S. hegemony in the Philippines.

John Parker, co-chair of the conference and co-coordinator of the International Action Center in Los Angeles, connected the domestic war to the anti-imperialist struggle: "There is a war on welfare mothers in this country—Asian, Black, Latina or white. We must continue to support the women's movement and lesbian/gay/bi/transgender movement for social justice. Black and Latino youth are over-represented in the prison system and on the front lines of Pentagon wars. As the economy worsens as a result of the war drive, it is the oppressed whose opportunities are shrinking more than anyone else's."

Yong Bin Yuk, a Korean-American activist and president of Mindullae, asked a simple question: Why shouldn't North Korea—the DPRK—arm itself when the United States just destroyed Iraq in an egregious act of unprovoked violence?



WW PHOTO: JULIA LA RIVA

Gloria La Riva, left, coordinator of the National Committee to Free the Cuban Five, stresses at ANSWER conference in Los Angeles the need to win the release of these political prisoners whose only "crime" was trying to monitor and halt terrorist activities directed against Cuba from the U.S. For more information about their case, visit: www.freethefive.org.

Why shouldn't North Korea take U.S. imperialist threats seriously and do whatever is necessary to defend itself, especially when the United States is the most heavily armed and aggressive country on the planet?

Gloria La Riva from the National Committee to Free the Cuban Five underscored the importance of the Cuban people's right to defend their revolution and to continue to assert their right to self-determination in the face of 40 years of unremitting U.S. economic strangulation and terrorist siege of the tiny island. Cuba, although it is only 90 miles from a large imperialist power hell-bent on its destruction, has not only maintained its sovereignty but made huge strides.

Richard Becker, West Coast regional coordinator of the International Action

Center, received thunderous applause when he denounced the counter-revolution in Iraq and hailed the resistance of the Iraqi people.

The spirit of the conference was optimistic and militant—the audience rising to its feet time after time when speakers called for the defense of oppressed peoples or an end to imperialism.

Preston Wood, co-coordinator of the International Action Center in Los Angeles, summed up the event's success: "This conference demonstrates that the anti-war activists are preparing to meet the challenges posed by the U.S. colonization of Iraq, occupation of Palestine and aggressions against the people of Cuba, the Philippines, Colombia, Korea and everywhere else that is menaced by Wall Street globalization and its Pentagon." □

The Palestine 'road map' and the Iraq war

By Richard Becker

In the aftermath of militarily defeating Iraq, the Bush administration is moving on several fronts to reshape the Middle East. The aim is to impose U.S. domination over the entire strategic region and eliminate all opposition to the new "Pax Americana."

Nothing is more important for carrying out this imperial strategy than liquidating the Palestinian resistance movement, which lies at the very center of the struggle in the Middle East. Washington policy makers have been pursuing this objective for decades.

The Palestinian cause is near and dear to the hearts of people across the region. Against seemingly insuperable odds, the Palestinians have held out against the combined might of the United States, Israel and the pro-imperialist regimes in the Arab world for more than half a century. Destroying the Palestinian resistance therefore has an importance for Washington that goes far beyond the borders of historic Palestine.

The U.S. leaders' latest tactic is the much-ballyhooed "road map for peace," unveiled only days after the conquest of Baghdad. The "road map" calls for resuming negotiations between Israel and the Palestinian Authority.

The first question that must be asked is why the Bush team would now want to start negotiations, something they have been emphatically uninterested in previously.

In his first 26 months in office, Bush himself met with the murderous Israeli Prime Minister Ariel Sharon no less than seven times—more than with any other foreign leader—while refusing any direct talks with the Palestinians.

The pattern is remarkably similar to what happened in 1991. The first Palestinian Intifada (uprising) had been going on for more than three years. Despite massive repression, Israel, backed as always by the United States, had been

unable to defeat the Palestinians.

Two major global developments that year weakened the Palestinian position: the defeat of Iraq in the first Gulf War and the collapse of the Soviet Union, which Palestinians saw as a key strategic ally.

Unable to crush the Palestinians but noting their diminished support, the first Bush administration decided that the time was ripe to open negotiations—first in Madrid and later in secret talks in Oslo, Norway.

From the U.S. point of view, the objective was clear: terminate the Palestinian struggle by creating a Palestinian "entity," something that would resemble a state but not have real independence or sovereignty.

The Oslo "peace process" dragged on for seven years. Israel regularly refused to follow the timetable or meet the deadlines prescribed in the agreements. The mainstream U.S. media just as regularly blamed the Palestinians for the breakdowns in the process.

In the early autumn of 2000, the failure to achieve anything resembling statehood led to the eruption of a new Palestinian Intifada. It continues to this day.

Since September 2000, more than 2,300 Palestinians and close to 800 Israelis have been killed. Tens of thousands of Palestinians have been seriously wounded and thousands more arrested, tortured and imprisoned. Palestinian cities, towns and villages have been attacked, cordoned off and placed under constant curfew.

The Palestinian economy has virtually collapsed. Living standards have plummeted because of the curfews and blockades imposed by the Israeli occupation army in the West Bank and Gaza. Poverty and hunger are now widespread among the population.

Billions of dollars in U.S. military and economic aid has poured in to support the Israeli war against the vastly outgunned Palestinian population. Without the mas-

sive assistance it receives, Israel would not be able to carry out its relentless repression.

The Iraq War and the 'road map'

Despite all U.S./Israeli efforts the Palestinians remain undefeated, as in 1991. But the conquest of Iraq was a very serious setback for the entire Arab world. Iraq was the biggest and most powerful of the Arab countries not in the U.S. orbit.

What Washington is now offering is even less than the woefully inadequate Oslo process. It proposes to give the Palestinians a "state" unlike any other state in the world.

The borders of the Palestinian entity would be controlled by Israel, as would its airspace and water. The Palestinian "state" would not have contiguous territory. Many Israeli settlements would remain inside the Palestinian territory, along with their bypass roads, and, of course, the Israeli army to provide security.

The Palestinian "state," existing alongside Israel—the world's fifth-ranking military power—would be required to be disarmed.

Negotiations on critical issues like Jerusalem, the right of return for Palestinian refugees and final borders would be postponed until the end of the process.

But Sharon has demanded that before the negotiations can even start, the Palestinian Authority must agree to renounce the right of return for all Palestinians expelled since 1948. Today they, with their descendants, number more than 4.5 million people.

According to Israeli law, all Jewish people have the "right to return" to citizenship in Israel, no matter where they live in the world. None of the Palestinians driven out of Palestine by Israel has been allowed to return, in violation of United Nations resolutions. None has ever received compensation for confiscated property.

One aim of this demand of Sharon's is to split the Palestinian people.

As a condition for even unveiling the

"road map," Washington insisted that a new Palestinian position of prime minister be created and that Mahmoud Abbas, also known as Abu Mazen, be approved in that position.

It remains to be seen, given the many Israeli pre-conditions, whether the negotiations will even commence.

The "road map" announcement has been accompanied by an intense pressure campaign on Syria to end its support for the Palestinian cause. Secretary of State Colin Powell traveled to Damascus, the Syrian capital, carrying ultimatums to the government of President Bashar Assad.

As soon as the heavy fighting ended in Iraq, Undersecretary of State John Bolton warned Syria, along with North Korea and Iran, to "learn the lessons of Iraq."

Several Palestinian organizations opposed to the Oslo and "road map" agreements have offices in Damascus.

Pressure has also been brought to bear on Syria to cut its ties to Hizbollah, the Lebanese organization that waged a long and successful campaign to drive the Israeli army out of southern Lebanon.

The goal of destroying all opposition to U.S. plans in the region is abundantly clear.

So too, is the objective of Bush's May 9 proclamation that his administration is now seeking the creation of a "U.S.-Middle East Free Trade Zone." Given the vast disparity in economic strength between the United States and the oppressed countries of the region, the outcome of such a "free trade zone" would be the complete economic subjugation of the entire region. Israel would be the U.S. junior partner in such an economic reshaping of the area, along the lines of its military relationship with Washington.

The main obstacle to Washington's extremely dangerous and ambitious plans for the Middle East remains the resistance of the people, particularly the Palestinian people. Solidarity with the Palestinian cause has never been more timely or critical than today. □

Bush tells UN: Iraq is ours

Continued from page 1

date submitted to the UN Security Council on May 8.

The resolution has a long list of provisions, including the right of the U.S. to spend the oil revenues of Iraq, the protection of the funds from any claim for debt owed to the other imperialist powers, mainly Russia and France, and a definition of the U.S. government and the British government under the unified command of the U.S. as "the Authority."

Point 6 "Calls upon the Authority to promote the welfare of the Iraqi people through the effective administration of the territory, including in particular working towards the restoration of conditions of security and stability and the creation of conditions in which the Iraqi people may freely determine their own political future."

Iraq's oil money, including from the Oil for Food program set up by UN sanctions as well as other Iraqi revenues, is in the euphemistically named Iraqi Assistance Fund. Point 12 "Decides further that the funds in the Iraqi Assistance Fund shall be disbursed at the direction of the Authority, in consul-

tation with the Iraqi interim authority."

Almost at the end of the 25-point document comes the punch line, in Point 22: "[The Security Council] endorses the exercise of the responsibilities stated in this resolution by the Authority for an initial period of 12 months from the date of the adoption of this resolution, to continue thereafter as necessary unless the Security Council decides otherwise."

While everyone was expecting this resolution to deal with the lifting of the sanctions, so that the U.S. government, and ultimately U.S. corporations, could get their hands on the \$13 billion in the sanctions fund, Washington went way beyond simply asking for the removal of sanctions. It asked the Security Council to ratify its openly declared colonial authority in Iraq.

British Mandate of 1920 warmed over

This resolution is merely a modern version of the British Mandate of 1919-20, which legalized Britain's colonial rule of Iraq and Palestine after British troops occupied the region and, together with the French, divided up the defeated Ottoman Empire.

At the time the mandate system was an innovation in colonial rule adopted by the imperialist powers after the 1917 Bolshevik Revolution in Russia, which called for the self-determination of all oppressed peoples suffering under colonial slavery. The Bolsheviks also published all the secret treaties of the overthrown tsarist regime, including the infamous 1916 Sykes-Picot Treaty by which the British, the French and tsarist Russia divided up the Middle East among themselves. The mandate system was also a concession to the rising nationalist movement among the Arab peoples.

Prior to the mandate system, the European colonial powers had simply annexed territories and established permanent direct rule. It took the U.S. ruling class and President Woodrow Wilson to understand that the policy of annexation would be impossible to sustain in the post-war political atmosphere of anti-colonial rebellion. He inaugurated the idea of the League of Nations and its Covenant, which paid lip service to self-determination and paved the way for the modification of colonial rule.

The infamous Article 22 of the League Covenant stated, "To those colonies and

territories which ... are inhabited by peoples not yet able to stand by themselves under the strenuous conditions of the modern world, there should be applied the principle that the well-being and development of such peoples form a sacred trust of civilisation

"The best method of giving practical effect to this principle is that the tutelage of such peoples should be entrusted to advanced nations who by reason of their resources, their experience or their geographical position can best undertake this responsibility, and who are willing to accept it, and that this tutelage should be exercised by them as Mandatories on behalf of the League. ...

"Certain communities formerly belonging to the Turkish Empire [Iraq, Syria and Palestine—F.G.] have reached a stage of development where their existence as independent nations can be provisionally recognized subject to the rendering of administrative advice and assistance by a Mandatory until such time as they are able to stand alone."

The British rulers voted themselves the mandate for Iraq and Palestine and the French voted themselves the mandate for Syria and Lebanon at the San Remo con-

U.S. seeks to codify its colonial rule of Iraq

By Sara Flounders

On May 9 the United States introduced a resolution to the United Nations Security Council entitled "To Assist the People of Iraq." It is actually an attempt to legalize total colonial control of Iraq.

"The president wants the Security Council to act quickly and there is no need for a lengthy debate," White House spokesperson Ari Fleischer told reporters on May 9. Secretary of State Colin Powell said he expected the unanimous approval of the Security Council.

But this resolution is so dangerous in its far-reaching implications that world debate and opposition must immediately begin.

The resolution was formally introduced by the United States, Britain and Spain. But the United States, as the overwhelmingly dominant military and imperial power, would get the lion's share of wealth and control.

The resolution is supposedly about lifting sanctions in order to approve funding for emergency relief to war-devastated Iraq. But it has nothing to do with helping the Iraqi people deal with the disaster they face.

It is the U.S. government that has, for 13 years, led the bombing and starving of Iraq, resulting in the deaths of more than 1 million people.

Now, having waged a criminal war of conquest in the face of international opposition and in violation of the UN Charter and Security Council authorization, Washington is demanding that the UN codify U.S. piracy and plunder and turn over Iraq's future administration to it.

As a condition of providing emergency relief, the resolution would give Washington absolute power and control over all future development of Iraq's enormous oil and gas resources. It would also turn over direct control of the billions of dollars that are accumulated in UN accounts but withheld from Iraq during the 13 years of sanctions.

The Bush administration wants to legitimize its complete exploitation of Iraq's enormous wealth.

Not since King Leopold of Belgium

ruled the Congo as his private preserve has the world seen a more outrageous demand to assert colonial ownership and control. This resolution confirms that from the beginning the U.S. intention was to return Iraq to its old colonial position.

Legalizing colonial occupation

Reviewing the resolution's provisions reveals the devil in the details.

Most illuminating is the reference to the United States and Britain as the "occupying power" and their unified command as "the Authority."

This is not a short-term emergency proposal. Provision 23 states, "The Authority is for an initial period of 12 months. ... to continue thereafter as necessary unless the Security Council decides otherwise."

In other words it would take a Security Council vote to lift the onerous conditions. But the United States and Britain would have veto power over such a vote. So this resolution would give them continued "Authority" far into the future.

Provision 12 outlines the financial levers for absolute economic power that the United States and Britain will wield. The provision "notes the establishment of an Iraqi Assistance Fund, with an international advisory board including duly qualified representatives of the Secretary General, the IMF, appropriate regional institutions and the World Bank to be held by the Central Bank of Iraq."

Of course U.S. domination and control of the International Monetary Fund and the World Bank is already well known. Shell Oil Co. CEO Philip J. Carroll heads up the advisory committee to the oil industry.

Who now heads the Central Bank of Iraq, which is to hold the funds? Former Deputy Secretary of the Treasury Peter McPherson.

The Iraq banking and oil industries are now firmly in U.S. hands, headed by U.S. appointees.

Provision 13 states, "Funds in the Iraqi Assistance Fund shall be disbursed at the direction of the Authority."

Provision 18 "decides that all funds remaining in the escrow account ... shall

be transferred promptly to the Iraqi Assistance Fund." This means that the billions of dollars remaining in the Oil For Food Program would be handed over to U.S. control.

In provision 19: "All funds remaining from export sales of petroleum products and natural gas ... shall be deposited into the Iraqi Assistance Fund."

Provision 21 states that these funds will not be used to pay any past debts or claims.

Some of the provisions in the resolution could be negotiated away as part of the bribery and secret deals that would help ensure passage of the essential resolution. For example, Provision 21 might be modified or dropped as a bargaining chip to secure the votes of France or Russia. Both countries have billions of dollars in past loans and contracts with Iraq.

Provision 22 would place the billions of dollars of Iraqi funds that have been frozen in accounts around the world since August 1990 into the Iraqi Assistance Fund.

In short, billions of dollars that have been frozen or withheld and billions more in future revenues would pour into an account that would be dispersed at the discretion of the United States and Britain.

Why is the U.S. going back to the UN?

The May 9 British Guardian predicted, "The U.S.-backed UN resolution on post-war Iraq has the potential to cause an even bigger row than that which preceded the war."

After ignoring the UN in order to wage a war that was criminal and illegal by every standard of international law, why is Washington bothering with this resolution now?

Over the past centuries those who have carried out horrendous acts of slavery, conquest and colonialism have sought to legitimize their conduct via laws, religious edicts and international treaties. But there may also be a more pressing, immediate reason.

According to a May 9 broadcast on Radio Netherlands: "Virtually no one wants to buy Iraqi oil as long as a series of

Not since King Leopold of Belgium ruled the Congo has the world seen a more outrageous demand to assert colonial control. This resolution confirms that the U.S. intention from the beginning was to return Iraq to its old colonial position.

questions pertaining to the ownership of the so-called 'black gold' remain unanswered. ... The storage tanks for Iraqi oil in the Turkish Mediterranean port of Ceyhan are full to the brim, but there are no buyers. Likewise no oil tankers have been spotted at Mina al-Bakr terminal, Iraq's sole outlet in the Persian Gulf."

According to the terms of the sanctions Washington had established after the first Gulf War, meant to isolate and impoverish Iraq, this oil can only be sold through the Oil For Food Program. That is why the Bush administration is suddenly so anxious to lift the sanctions.

If the Iraqi people's needs were the real concern, the U.S. and British rulers could take a first step toward meeting the enormous humanitarian crisis by relinquishing control of the country and its resources to the population of Iraq. The cargo planes and aircraft carriers that brought thousands of tanks, helicopters, tons of equipment and tens of thousands of troops could easily transport desperately needed supplies.

The U.S. and British rulers owe reparations to Iraq for their criminal war. Along with demanding that U.S. and British troops leave immediately, there must be an international demand for reparations.

And international opposition must be mounted to oppose any attempt to legitimize the criminal war or the continuing colonial occupation.

Sara Flounders is coordinator of the Iraq Sanctions Challenge and a co-director of the International Action Center.

ference of the Supreme Council of the Allies of April 1920. In the same way the U.S. and Britain are now telling the Security Council to vote them a mandate to determine the political, economic and military fate of Iraq.

The mandate system was profoundly rejected by the peoples of the countries that were supposed to be unable to "stand alone under the strenuous conditions of the modern world." The granting of the mandates was immediately followed by popular uprisings in Damascus and in the entire country of Iraq. It took the British five months to crush the 1920 rebellion in Iraq. They used aerial bombardment and mustard gas, producing thousands of casualties.

Neocolonialism wasn't enough

The current plan to reestablish the international legality of mandate colonialism is a further stage in the struggle of the U.S. ruling class, headed by the Bush administration, to establish a world empire.

The resort to colonial rule is dictated by the failure of neocolonialist economic penetration and political manipulation to subjugate Iraq to imperialism. The Gulf War of 1991, no-fly-zone bombing, sanc-

tions, economic strangulation, subversion, CIA-financed uprisings—all failed to bring down the regime, not because Saddam Hussein was such a popular leader but because the Iraqi people would not willingly submit to imperialism.

With the collapse of the USSR, the U.S. financiers and transnational corporations went on a spree of economic takeovers in the Third World. The IMF and the World Bank demanded "restructuring" agreements based on privatization, debt repayment and trade relations favoring the imperialists. The purpose was to subjugate whole countries to the profiteers on Wall Street.

Even after the collapse of the USSR, however, certain regimes held out against the globalization and neocolonialist schemes of Washington—notably Iraq, Iran, Libya, North Korea, Cuba and Syria. Also, the Palestinians refused to submit to the campaign to exterminate their national movement. The Colombian and the Filipino national liberation movements, both on Washington's "terrorist" list, also have refused to stop their struggles.

Iran, Iraq and Libya held out because their regimes were brought to power by popular national revolutions for political

independence from imperialism and had sufficient oil revenue to withstand economic strangulation.

Cuba and the Democratic People's Republic of Korea had undergone profound social revolutions in which not only was imperialism ousted, but the domestic exploiting classes were expropriated and socialist construction was begun.

The list of states not subdued by neocolonialist methods coincides precisely with Washington's list of "terrorist states." Iraq was the opening shot in the struggle to destroy all those independent regimes that have not succumbed to neocolonialism.

The Bush administration has high hopes of establishing a puppet colonial regime in Iraq. It hopes this will pave the way for the expansion of the U.S. empire. But, although the state power that kept imperialism at bay for 45 years—ever since the revolution of 1958—has been destroyed in a terrible defeat for Iraq, U.S. big business and the Pentagon must still carry out their program in order to permanently erase all the gains of that revolution.

They still have to take over the oil, whose nationalization enabled Iraq to raise the standard of living of the people

above the level of a colonized people. They still have to dismantle the widespread institutions of state capitalism which, while they maintained capitalist exploitation, also served to provide social services and employment to millions of Iraqi people. They still have to secure permanent access to Iraqi military bases and use the U.S. victory for the benefit of Israel.

U.S. imperialism still has the difficult task of constructing a stable puppet state to execute its counter-revolutionary policies.

The question is, can this be done over the long run without igniting a renewed struggle for national liberation, not just in Iraq, but throughout the Middle East? Can colonialism be consolidated anew in the 21st century?

Can the Pentagon's air power and limited ground forces subdue the 60 million people of Iran, the 300 million people in the Arab world, and the billions in Asia and Latin America who are the targets of empire builders in Washington? Can all the military power of the U.S. hold back the power of the people?

The entire history of the anti-colonial struggle of the 20th century speaks against this. □

Little to gain and much to lose

Latin@s and the military

By Teresa Gutierrez

Jorge Mariscal, a professor at the University of California-San Diego, wrote recently: "Latino blood now flows in the ancient waters of the Tigris and Euphrates. An historical irony of stunning proportions—that the spirits of the descendants of the great indigenous civilizations of Mesoamerica now mingle with those of the heirs of ancient Mesopotamia." (Counterpunch, April 18)

Mariscal eloquently made the case that Latinos and Latinas—now often written as Latin@s—have little to gain and much to lose in the U.S. aggression against Iraq. This is an important message.

As the Bush administration begins to consolidate its brutal occupation of Iraq, and the Iraqi people resist the empire, the role of people of color in this country in fighting this empire is not only important but crucial.

Washington aims to sabotage the Cuban Revolution. It has plans to intervene in North Korea, Colombia, the Philippines and other sovereign nations.

It will take a major mass movement to push imperialism back. Understanding the role of oppressed people and making every effort to bring them into the anti-imperialist movement is vital.

Latin@s, like African Americans, Asians, Native peoples and other oppressed people, fill the ranks of the military in disproportionate numbers to the population.

Even though they are only 12 percent of the population, Latin@s make up about 20 percent of the armed forces, including reservists. (La Prensa, San Diego, September 2002)

According to a March 28 dispatch from Agence France-Presse, there were approximately 15,000 Latin@s among the U.S. troops in Iraq.

The first round of killed and missing soldiers included names such as Jose Gutierrez, Jorge Gonzales, Francisco Cervantes, Jose Garibay, and Johnny

Villarreal Mata.

Some of the Latin@s killed were born in Latin America, including a Colombian, Diego Rincón. The government will award him posthumous citizenship. Some Latin@s commented on the bitter irony that Rincón had to die to get citizenship.

People of color join the military mainly for economic reasons. With few resources to pursue an education and unable to find decent-paying jobs, many join the military to get job training or for educational benefits.

These conditions amount to an economic draft. But that doesn't mean that compulsory military service would be better. No worker should be ordered to fight the bosses' wars.

Rep. Charles Rangel from New York, who represents an African American constituency, has called for reinstating the draft because people of color are already forced into the military. He points out that only a handful of members of Congress have children in the military. (Newsmax Wires, Jan. 14) This is true, but the draft would just supply the military with more cannon fodder. Progressive activists instead call for money for schools, hospitals and jobs, not war.

Stepped-up recruiting campaign

Over the last two years, an all-out recruiting campaign by the armed forces has led to a significant rise in the number of Latin@s joining the military. Officials argue that Latin@ youth are less hostile to the military and therefore make a prime target. New strategies were developed to get them to sign up.

In 1997, the U.S. Army initiated the "Hispanic Influencer Alliance" to establish relations between Latin@ organizations and local recruiting stations.

A formal partnership, for example, was developed with the League of United Latin American Citizens that calls for Army recruiters and LULAC staffers to make joint presentations to young people about

the Army and other issues.

LULAC is the same organization that ousted Mexican anti-war activists from the Cinco de Mayo parade in Houston, Texas, this year.

The Army also developed a whole new set of advertising materials. It placed recruiting ads in Latin@ publications and now admits a larger proportion of recruits with alternative education credentials, such as a high school diploma obtained by taking the GED test.

Once in the armed forces, where can soldiers from oppressed communities be found? According to 2001 Department of Defense statistics, Latin@s make up 17.7 percent of the infantry, gun crews and seaman occupations in all the service branches.

Latin@s are over-represented in combat positions. But the U.S. war of aggression against Iraq this year showed that GIs in so-called non-combat military occupations are equally at risk.

Professor Mariscal points out that "When 15 soldiers from the 507th Maintenance Company were killed or captured by Iraqi forces ... we were reminded of the lessons of Vietnam ... 'frontlines' are never fixed and no one is ever far from harm's way. The killed and captured ... were truck drivers, welders, cooks and mechanics."

The U.S. government put these soldiers in harm's way, just as its treatment of Arab and Muslim peoples over many decades put people at the World Trade Center in harm's way.

However, the efforts to funnel Latin@s into the military have been met with resistance.

In March of this year, students and faculty at California State University at Northridge organized a campaign to oust the Army ROTC from their campus. Organizers charged that the ROTC recruitment drive amounted to the militarization of the campus.

One professor stated, "Only 12 percent of Latin@s in the U.S. ever qualify to

attend a university. Now we finally have [Latin@] students on campus, and we have the military wanting to drain off those students."

According to Youth & Militarism magazine of February 1999, military recruiters stepped up recruitment attempts "partly in response to what has been a difficult recruitment climate ... and in recognition that Latin@s are a fast-growing segment of the youth population."

The magazine points out that young people as a whole showed less interest in joining the military after the 1991 Gulf War.

No soldier, no matter his or her nationality, has a stake in the occupation of Iraq. Latin@s and all progressive people must join the multinational movement to end the occupation of Iraq and stop the imperialist drive to own the world.

Latin@s must join their sisters and brothers south of the Rio Grande who were in pitched battles this past year at many U.S. consulates throughout the hemisphere opposing the U.S. war in Iraq.

If the polls were correct that showed that Latin@s living in the U.S. but born in Latin America opposed the war more than Latin@s born in the U.S., then anti-war activists, especially Latin@ activists, should vigorously do all they can to bring U.S.-born Latin@s into the anti-war movement.

Latin@s should oppose U.S. intervention in Iraq, Palestine, the Middle East and around the world. And now Latin@s must make it personal: the Cuban Revolution, long a beacon for the world, is at stake, especially for Latin Americans. Puerto Rico is still not free. The Bolivarian Revolution in Venezuela must be allowed to take its natural course, free of U.S. intervention.

Mariscal wrote that Latin@s died in Iraq without knowing who their real enemy was. That enemy is U.S. imperialism and it must be defeated. May the deaths of these soldiers not be in vain. □

Argentine presidential election

No lesser, just two evils

By Alicia Jrapko

On May 18, a member of the Peronist party is sure to win Argentina's presidential election. That is because the two candidates facing each other in this runoff are from the same party.

Saul Menem and Nestor Kirchner represent different currents in the Peronist party. Menem is for strengthening the Free Trade Area of the Americas—the U.S.-engineered "free market" agreement for this hemisphere—and is supported by those who favor further privatization. Menem also supported the U.S. attack on Iraq and is openly hostile to Cuba.

Kirchner, on the other hand, has distanced himself from George W. Bush and seems more focused on social and economic issues.

This runoff comes after an election on April 27 in which 20 percent of those registered did not vote, even though participation is mandatory. In the large field of candidates in the first round, three Peronists took a total of 60 percent, but no single candidate received more than 25 percent, leading to the runoff.

This election also comes after almost

two years of the worst economic crisis in Argentina's history. The country owes \$160 billion to the International Monetary Fund and World Bank.

In December 2001 thousands of people took to the streets to protest the government's economic policies, which were affecting not only the workers and unemployed but also the middle class. This popular uprising forced five presidents to resign in a period of one month. Since then, workers have seized more than 100 factories to provide jobs.

The intervention of the masses brought hope to many Latin American countries that Argentina would be in the forefront of the struggle against neoliberalism.

However, Eduardo Duhalde, a Peronist himself, was able to retain power in a caretaker role despite his unpopularity. He called for the recent election and is now supporting the candidacy of Kirchner.

Peronism's roots

Peronism dates back to 1945, when a new strategic alliance was formed in Argentina between the industrial bourgeoisie and the proletariat. Juan Domingo Perón, the president from 1945 to 1955,

legalized unions, implemented the first mandatory collective bargaining agreements, increased workers' wages and assured the participation of workers at all levels of government. Perón nationalized various sectors of the economy.

The Peronist party gave great concessions to the workers but failed to challenge or change the unjust structures of capitalism. This political party was at one time banned and its leader forced into exile. It has many internal currents, from the far right to the far left. Now, almost 60 years later, it is about to take power again, but without its early populism and under conditions very different than those of 1945.

In the months that followed the December uprising, the most conscious working-class sectors of Argentine society organized themselves for the most part on a clearly anti-imperialist basis. This sector had lost faith in the system and for months was promoting the slogan, "Everybody should go," meaning all the corrupt capitalist politicians.

But a year and a half is a short time in history, and these popular sectors have been unable to organize themselves adequately to present a viable alternative to

the capitalist ruling class.

The candidates of the left in this election were Patricia Walsh of the Communist Party, Jorge Altamira of the Workers Party, Guillermo Sullings of the Humanist Party and Jorge Mazitelli of the Authentic Socialist Party. The Workers Party and the United Left (Communist Party and Socialist Workers Party) together received 2.5 percent of the vote, with two thirds of that going to the United Left.

In the past, the political scene in Argentina had been dominated by two major capitalist parties, the Peronists and the Radical Party. Usually the vote was close. This time, however, the Radical Party candidate, Leopoldo Moreau, got less than 3 percent of the vote.

Menem had been president of Argentina from 1989 to 1999. He won the 1989 presidential elections with promises to the poor and the working class that he never fulfilled. Instead, he reduced subsidies to the poor and accelerated the process of privatization of all state-owned companies while moving closer to Britain and the United States.

By the end of his reign, his administra-

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After Iraq, it should be clear

Korea trying to deter U.S. attack

By Deirdre Griswold

The United States is the world's first and largest nuclear power. Both Republican and Democratic administrations have stationed thousands of nuclear warheads in the area around the Korean peninsula. Washington sent 1.3 million troops to Korea in the early 1950s to fight a war that left 4 to 5 million Koreans and some 50,000 U.S. soldiers dead and the peninsula devastated. The Pentagon has occupied and divided Korea ever since, stationing almost 40,000 troops in the south. It has recently moved more high-tech planes and weaponry into the area.

The Korean War of 1950-53 was never formally ended. The U.S. has refused to negotiate or sign a peace agreement. Here at home, a state of emergency is still on the books that allows the U.S. government to take aggressive action against North Korea (DPRK) at any time.

These basic and undisputed facts must be kept in mind when evaluating the Bush administration's demands that the Democratic People's Republic of Korea scrap its nuclear program. At recent talks in Beijing, Washington refused to give the DPRK any guarantees that, in return, it would refrain from military aggression against that country.

North Korea's nuclear program was

designed to supply much-needed electric power to this far-northern country. South Korea has more than a dozen nuclear reactors. But the DPRK's attempts to develop two graphite reactors brought furious resistance from the U.S.

Graphite reactors produce a small amount of plutonium, while the light-water reactors (LWRs) used in South Korea and elsewhere do not. Plutonium can be used to trigger nuclear weapons.

In 1994, the DPRK and the U.S. signed the Framework Agreement. North Korea agreed to abandon construction already begun on its graphite reactors in exchange for a promise that the U.S., South Korea and Japan would help it build two LWRs and that the U.S. would supply fuel oil to cover its power needs in the meantime.

It's been nine years now, and Washington never kept its promises. The LWRs were not built, and fuel deliveries came late, if at all. Last November, at the beginning of another frigid winter, the U.S. and Japan announced they were stopping all oil shipments to the DPRK. That's when the North Koreans announced they were going back to their original plan and resuming work on the graphite reactors.

Since then, the reckless and criminal character of the Bush administration has been revealed to the world through its unprovoked, massive assault on Iraq.

Every country not willing to be completely subservient to Washington is worried about defending its territory and its people.

In January the DPRK made it clear that it has the right to defend itself and withdrew from the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty. It has now announced that a 1992 treaty with South Korea to keep the Korean peninsula free of nuclear weapons is basically "dead." The U.S. claimed to have withdrawn its nuclear weapons back in 1992, but has refused to allow independent inspection of its many bases in South Korea. It also has nuclear-armed submarines and planes within striking distance of Korea.

"We have realized that as long as the United States does not abandon its hostile policy against the North, efforts to keep the Korean Peninsula nuclear free [are] nothing more than an illusion," said the Korean Central News Agency. "We will further boost our already mighty military power."

The president of South Korea, Roh Moo-hyun, is presently in Washington for talks with Bush. In the past, South Korean politicians were nothing more than puppets of U.S. imperialism. But in recent years the sentiment in the south has been so anti-U.S., and the desire of the people for normalization of relations with the

north so strong, that elected politicians have had to strike a somewhat independent posture.

People all over the world—except for the millions in the United States captive to a completely controlled media—know that the excuses given by Washington for its invasion and occupation of Iraq were lies. Now they are hearing the same lies about Korea: The DPRK is a "threat" to the world because it may be building "weapons of mass destruction." The U.S. wants to "liberate" the Korean people from a "brutal dictatorship." It wants to bring "free trade" and "development" to the DPRK for the benefit of "the people."

The reality of imperialist war is far different. Even Iraqis who opposed the Saddam Hussein regime are now demonstrating against the U.S.-British occupation of their country—and are being shot down in the streets on orders of the Pentagon. Chaos and devastation are everywhere. U.S. troops protect the oil wells and the oil ministry in Baghdad while millions of civilians are without water and electricity. And they do it for ExxonMobil and Gulf Oil, not for the Iraqi people.

Koreans north and south see all this and vow they will do everything they can to prevent the U.S. imperialist government from starting a new war against the DPRK. □

Fidel Castro: 'What is Cuba's sin?'

The following are excerpts from the Cuban translation of President Fidel Castro's May Day 2003 speech to the outpouring of Cubans in Havana. In it, he explains why U.S. imperialism is so fiercely hostile to the Cuban Revolution. The day before May Day, Secretary of State Colin Powell had unleashed a series of accusations against Cuba, coinciding with the annual publication of the State Department's list of "terrorist" states. Cuba has denounced that bellicose threat.

On May 13, the Bush administration ordered the expulsion of 14 Cuban diplomats—seven from Washington and seven from the United Nations, charging they engaged in "inappropriate and unacceptable activities." The Cuban Foreign Ministry responded in a statement published in *Granma* the following day: "With these actions, the American government shows, once again, that it has openly launched a course of provocations and foreign meddling against Cuba." The expulsions came on the eve of a planned announcement by lawmakers who were introducing legislation to end the restrictions on travel from the U.S. to Cuba."

President George W. Bush is expected to make a May 20 announcement about the adoption of more hostile measures against Cuba. Actions to protest Washington's actions against Cuba are planned in various cities across the United States on May 19-21.

—Gloria La Riva

Our heroic people have struggled for 44 years from this small Caribbean island just a few miles away from the most formidable imperial power ever known.

Never has the world witnessed such an unequal fight.

What is Cuba's sin? What honest person



WW PHOTO: GLORIA LA RIVA

has any reason to attack her?

With their own blood and the weapons seized from the enemy, the Cuban people overthrew a cruel tyranny with 80,000 men under arms, imposed by the U.S. government.

Cuba was the first territory free from imperialist domination in Latin America and the Caribbean, and the only country in the hemisphere, throughout post-colonial history, where the torturers, murderers and war criminals that took the lives of tens of thousands of people were exemplarily punished.

All of the country's land was recovered and turned over to the peasants and agricultural workers. The natural resources, industries and basic services were placed in the hands of their only true owner: the Cuban nation.

In less than 72 hours, fighting ceaselessly, day and night, Cuba crushed the Bay of Pigs mercenary invasion organized by a U.S. administration, thereby preventing a direct military intervention by this country and a war of incalculable consequences.

In 1962, Cuba confronted with honor, and without a single concession, the risk of being attacked with dozens of nuclear weapons.

It stoically endured thousands of acts of sabotage and terrorist attacks organized

by the U.S. government. It thwarted hundreds of assassination plots against the leaders of the Revolution.

While under a rigorous blockade and economic warfare that have lasted for almost half a century, Cuba was able to eradicate in just one year the illiteracy that has still not been overcome in the course of more than four decades by the rest of the countries of Latin America, or the United States itself.

It has brought free education to 100 percent of the country's children.

It has the highest school retention rate—over 99 percent between kindergarten and ninth grade—of all of the nations in the hemisphere.

Its elementary school students rank first worldwide in the knowledge of their mother language and mathematics.

The country also ranks first worldwide with the highest number of teachers per capita and the lowest number of students

per classroom.

All children with physical or mental challenges are enrolled in special schools.

Computer education and the use of audiovisual methods now extend to all of the country's children, adolescents and youth, in both the cities and the countryside.

All citizens have the possibility of undertaking studies that will take them from kindergarten to a doctoral degree without spending a penny.

Today, the country has 30 university graduates, intellectuals and professional artists for every one there was before the Revolution.

The average Cuban citizen today has at the very least a ninth-grade level of education. Not even functional illiteracy exists in Cuba.

There are schools for the training of artists and art instructors throughout all of the country's provinces, where over 20,000 young people are currently studying and developing their talent and vocation.

Infant mortality has been reduced from 60 per 1,000 live births to a rate that fluctuates between six and 6.5, which is the lowest in the hemisphere, from the United States to Patagonia.

Life expectancy has increased by 15 years.

Cuba is today the country with the highest number of doctors per capita in the world, with almost twice as many as those that follow closer.

Our scientific centers are working relentlessly to find preventive or therapeutic solutions for the most serious diseases.

Cubans will have the best health-care system in the world, and will continue to receive all services absolutely free of charge.

Social security covers 100 percent of the country's citizens.

In Cuba, 85 percent of the people own

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Say NO to U.S. aggression against CUBA! Protest Bush's speech attacking Cuba

MAY 19-20: Days of nationally-coordinated local actions protesting Bush's new attacks on Cuba

On May 20, President Bush is scheduled to speak in Miami, announcing a new round of hostile and aggressive measures against Cuba.

For more information:
<http://www.internationalanswer.org/campaigns/cuba/m20.html#event>



Hunger & imperialist appetite

A World Food Program report in early May made a point that was repeated in many subsequent news items. While many wealthy countries have contributed food aid to combat the emergency in Iraq, little has been done for some 40 million people in Africa—mostly in the Horn of Africa and in the south—who face famine, and 200 million more who face endemic hunger and malnutrition.

A large number of children are dying of hunger right now in Ethiopia—a land with rich, deep topsoil that could feed the continent if it had irrigation. But imperialist aid is generally given too little and too late, mostly in the form of surplus grain rather than to help improve the infrastructure.

Africa has always gotten a raw deal from the imperialists, who have plundered the continent and its peoples for centuries. But it would be an error to contrast it with Iraq. In reality, the suffering in Iraq and in Africa are two sides of the same imperialist coin.

Iraq, with abundant oil, should even in a capitalist-dominated world be able to feed its population most of the time. It took deliberate actions by U.S. imperialism over more than a decade, including draconian sanctions and two horribly destructive wars, to reduce Iraq to its current poverty and chaos. This was a conscious, criminal war policy aimed at the Iraqi people. Washington has temporarily conquered Iraq, is the occupying power, and thus has the responsibility for feeding the Iraqis.

In Africa Washington did not have to resort to putting in its own combat troops—at least not yet, with the exception of a failed adventure in Somalia—to impose poverty on the continent. The poverty began with four centuries of European colonial plunder, including the horrific slave trade, for which Africa is owed reparations. It was exacerbated in recent decades by U.S. subversion in Angola, Mozambique and Congo. U.S.-backed “civil” wars, in which European and U.S. mercenaries are often employed by sinister private contractors, have killed millions and maimed

millions more. Ethiopia itself, a country where a major famine in 1974-75 led to a revolution that carried out extensive land reform, then became the target of a covert program of “regime change.”

Poverty and hunger in Africa have grown along with the industrialization of Europe, North America, Japan and now other large areas of the world. The waste products of this industrialization—so-called greenhouse gases—have changed Africa’s climate, bringing more extreme floods and droughts. Also contributing to the poverty is the failure of the imperialist powers to assist Africa with the AIDS pandemic that has decimated the population—including the work force—especially in the south.

“Peaceful” globalization—which so many young people throughout the world have been protesting, beginning in Seattle in December 1999 and continuing to the upcoming G-8 protests in Evian, France, on June 1—and IMF-dictated “restructuring” have drawn African agriculture into the world market. Millions of subsistence farmers have been moved off land now given over to cash crops, which are sold at ever-lower prices to pay off an ever-greater debt.

Zimbabwe has been resisting this trend, trying to turn land owned by white settlers back to African farmers. The U.S.-British imperialist coalition tries to blame President Robert Mugabe for hunger there, in preparation for another “regime change.” Not so, say all the facts. The famine is widespread in Africa, and the causes can be found in imperialist globalization, not in his government’s land seizures for the poor.

So there is no reason to contrast Iraq and Africa. They are both victims of imperialism: Iraq of a brutal imperialist war, Africa of imperialist globalization. Peoples in both areas need emergency food and much more intensive reparations from the colonial powers that ravaged their land, lives and resources. There should be no strings attached. Above all, the oppressed nations of the world need to get the imperialists off their land and their backs. □

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Fidel Castro: 'What is Cuba's sin?'

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their homes and they pay no property taxes on them whatsoever. The remaining 15 percent pay a wholly symbolic rent, which is only 10 percent of their salary.

There is no commercial advertising on Cuban television and radio or in our printed publications. Instead, these feature public service announcements concerning health, education, culture, physical education, sports, recreation, environmental protection, and the fight against drugs, accidents and other social problems. Our media educate, they do not poison or alienate. They do not worship or exalt the values of decadent consumer societies.

Discrimination against women was eradicated, and today women make up 64 percent of the country’s technical and scientific work force.

From the earliest months of the Revolution, not a single one of the forms of racial discrimination copied from the south of the United States was left intact. In recent years, the Revolution has been particularly striving to eliminate any lingering traces of the poverty and lack of access to education that afflicted the descendants of those who were enslaved for centuries, creating objective differences that tended to be perpetuated. Soon, not even a shadow of the consequences of that terrible injustice will remain.

Scientific research, at the service of our people and all humanity, has increased several-hundredfold. As a result of these efforts, important medications are saving lives in Cuba and other countries.

Cuba has never undertaken research or development of a single biological weapon, because this would be in total contradiction with the principles and philosophy underlying the education of our scientific personnel, past and present.

In no other people has the spirit of international solidarity become so deeply rooted.

Our country supported the Algerian patriots in their struggle against French colonialism, at the cost of damaging political and economic relations with such an important European country as France.

At the request of the Arab nation of Syria, a full tank brigade stood guard between 1973 and 1975 alongside the Golan Heights, when this territory was unjustly seized from that country.

The leader of the Republic of Congo when it first achieved independence, Patrice Lumumba, who was harassed from abroad, received our political support. When he was assassinated by the colonial powers in January of 1961, we lent assistance to his followers.

Four years later, in 1965, Cuban blood

was shed in the western region of Lake Tanganyika, where Che Guevara and more than 100 Cuban instructors supported the Congolese rebels who were fighting against white mercenaries in the service of the man supported by the West, that is, Mobutu—whose \$40 billion, the same that he stole, nobody knows what European banks they are kept in, or in whose power.

The same was true during the 10 years that Cuba supported Agostinho Neto’s MPLA in the struggle for the independence of Angola. After independence was achieved, and over the course of 15 years, hundreds of thousands of Cuban volunteers participated in defending Angola from the attacks of racist South African troops that, in complicity with the United States and using dirty war tactics, planted millions of mines, wiped out entire villages, and murdered more than half a million Angolan men, women and children.

In Cuito Cuanavale and on the Namibian border, to the southwest of Angola, Angolan and Namibian forces together with 40,000 Cuban troops dealt the final blow to the South African troops. This resulted in the immediate liberation of Namibia and speeded up the end of apartheid by perhaps 20 to 25 years.

Throughout the course of almost 15 years, Cuba had a place of honor in its solidarity with the heroic people of Viet Nam, caught up in a barbaric and brutal war with the United States. That war killed 4 million Vietnamese in addition to all those left wounded and mutilated, not to mention the fact that the country was inundated with chemical compounds that continue to cause incalculable damage.

Cuban blood was shed together with that of citizens of numerous Latin American countries, and together with the Cuban and Latin American blood of Che Guevara, murdered on instructions from U.S. agents in Bolivia, when he was wounded and being held prisoner after his weapon had been rendered useless by a shot received in battle.

And there are even more examples.

Over 2,000 heroic Cuban internationalist combatants gave their lives fulfilling the sacred duty of supporting the liberation struggles for the independence of other sister nations. However, there is not one single Cuban property in any of those countries. No other country in our era has exhibited such sincere and selfless solidarity.

Cuba has always preached by example. It has never given in. It has never sold out the cause of another people. It has never made concessions. It has never betrayed its principles. □

Struggle over N.Y. budget cuts

Continued from page 4

to close a \$11.5 billion hole in his budget. Michael Bloomberg, the billionaire mayor, raised real-estate taxes 18.5 percent. This wasn’t enough to close the gap, so he threatened to lay off 30,000 workers for starters and also impose major cuts in other expenses, including education.

Pataki’s cuts to education, while harsh for the city, would have been devastating to poor rural areas of the state.

So the New York State United Teachers, a joint council that includes all the local affiliates of both teachers’ unions, the American Federation of Teachers and the National Education Assoc., held a rally May 3 in Albany. It was the biggest demonstration in the state capital’s history.

Fifty thousand union members and their supporters protested. Joining them were a number of other education-related organizations, like Parent-Teacher Associations, student governments and community organizations.

A few days after the protest, the state legislature decided to override Pataki’s budget and restore most of the education cuts and aid to New York City.

About two-thirds of the tax increases they passed will come from a surcharge on incomes over \$150,000, with the rest coming from an increase in sales taxes.

This was the second, and biggest, union-led demonstration against financial austerity in New York this century. Given the nationwide climate of budget cutbacks, there should be many more. □

Bush 'AIDS funds' have reactionary strings attached

By Preston Wood

Throughout the course of the worldwide AIDS epidemic, the U.S. establishment's handling of the crisis has been a tragic example of complete capitalist anarchy. This has been exacerbated by policies driven by bigotry and racism instead of scientific analysis, and hypocritical morality instead of compassionate medical practice.

In the early years of the epidemic, the capitalist establishment used homophobia and racism as a battering ram against those who fell ill and those who demanded that the government meet the crisis head-on with all the resources necessary to deal with this public-health emergency.

This policy, which began with the Reagan administration, helped create a worldwide disaster. Since then, U.S. rulers continue to impede the development of a global plan to curtail and eliminate AIDS.

Now the Bush administration is being widely touted as suddenly caring about the AIDS epidemic for endorsing a \$15 billion emergency bill that is supposed to help deal with AIDS in Africa and the Caribbean.

It sounds good. But remember, this is the same administration that has decimated the infrastructure and health of the Iraqi population without blinking an eye.

President George W. Bush has publicly endorsed a \$15 billion, five-year emergency bill to tackle AIDS in Africa and the Caribbean.

An estimated 25 million lives worldwide have been lost as a result of the AIDS epidemic. Another 42 million people are believed to be infected; 29 million of them live in sub-Saharan Africa, according to the Joint United Nations Program on HIV/AIDS.

But according to the May 13 Oakland, Calif., Tribune, "AIDS activists cautioned that what Bush is pushing isn't actually money—it's more like the promise of money."

David Bryden, spokesperson for Global AIDS Alliance, said, "It's a recommendation." Bryden called the April 28 Bush announcement in a Rose Garden ceremony a "freebie" for the White House. He said it allowed Bush to garner the public-relations benefits of hyping a \$3 billion annual package while his own budget proposal actually only funds \$1.6 billion for

the coming year.

The Tribune reported that a measure allotting up to \$1 billion to the Global Fund to Fight HIV/AIDS, Malaria and Tuberculosis was successfully passed by the House International Relations Committee on April 3 after the administration fought it. The administration tried to tack on amendments that would have supported "sexual abstinence education" over condom distribution.

Bush wants AIDS prevention education "rooted in the proven abstinence-based approach," says the White House. The president has endorsed an "ABC" plan: "A" for abstinence, "B" for being faithful and "C" for condom use when appropriate.

Fully one-third of the \$15 billion proposed for a five-year international AIDS program is based on promoting celibacy.

At the world AIDS conference in 2002, a statement signed by more than 60 major AIDS organizations affirmed that "abstinence-only" programs are widely rejected by the organizations most dedicated to fighting the illness in this country and around the world.

According to AllAfrica Global Media, the Bush team is already withholding funding for the United Nations Population Fund, which distributes millions of condoms in sub-Saharan Africa and other regions.

The number of condoms distributed in the developing world by U.S. aid agencies has decreased sharply since 1990: 360 million were given away in 2000, compared with 800 million a decade earlier.

This AIDS funding has an anti-reproductive-rights component too. Gloria Feldt of Planned Parenthood calls this another "war is peace" Bush spin. (Joan Ryan, sfgate.com)

Under the bill, organizations that deal with AIDS prevention and abortion services must now keep their abortion and family-planning programs financially and physically separate from their AIDS work. So poor and rural communities that rely on one health clinic would have to build a

new one—or shut down their family-planning work altogether—to be eligible for AIDS funding.

Feldt stressed, "What we need is a comprehensive AIDS bill that does not tie the hands of health-care providers."

Bush's global AIDS "recommendation" also comes at a time when his administration has proposed an 8-percent drop in the main domestic AIDS funding program. However, a 25-percent increase in AIDS drug assistance is part of that same proposal. This is a giveaway to the giant U.S. pharmaceuticals that reap billions of dollars in profits from AIDS drugs while poor people continue to be infected and suffer from the devastating effects of HIV infection.

The decrease in funding would especially affect the South, which has seven of the 10 states with the highest AIDS rates. There's also a growing rate of the epidemic among African Americans, women and rural residents in the South, according to the Southern AIDS Coalition report.

"Faith-based" organizations preaching abstinence are receiving taxpayer funds to undercut years of AIDS prevention programs by grassroots organizations and major public-health programs all over the world.

The Bush administration allows religious bigots to withhold education on any subject they deem objectionable, such as, of course, same-sex love between consenting adults.

Rather than supporting programs that encourage condom use, reactionary zealots are pushing to shift the focus to teach abstinence, and that same-sex relations are unnatural and downright evil.

But AIDS activists were an important part of the movement of millions worldwide who rose up to try to stop U.S. imperialism from waging war on Iraq. Their message needs to be amplified even louder by a burgeoning movement that clearly demands with one voice: Money for AIDS, not for war! □

Up-close look at ANSWER

Continued from page 5

organized tribunals exposing U.S. war crimes during the 1950-1953 war against the Democratic People's Republic of Korea.

A leader in the anti-war movement

ANSWER continued its strong role in the anti-war movement, participating in the worldwide mass actions in February and again pulling out 100,000 people in Washington on March 15 in a last attempt to stop the war. Even after the U.S. military conquered Baghdad on April 9, ANSWER responded with another demonstration in D.C. of tens of thousands of people who marched under the banner: "Occupation is not liberation." Despite the proclamations in the media that the war was over, more than 2 million people in 60 countries answered the call and came into the streets on April 12. It was a remarkable reflection that the anti-war movement was transforming itself again, this time into an authentic anti-imperialist force.

Perhaps ANSWER's biggest constituency was people who came directly from high schools and campuses to the protest marches. ANSWER's National Youth and

Student Coordinator Peta Lindsay says that also the "organizers in the Washington office were all under 25. And from around the country they organized buses from their colleges and even their high schools to bring people to the protests."

Student activism may have dropped off as summer approaches, she said, "but we expect them back in the fall. These youths are in the struggle against the war for the long run."

ANSWER protests were still strong on April 12 in Washington, San Francisco and also Los Angeles, which had become another center of anti-war activity.

Joe Navidad of Los Angeles represents Bayan/U.S. in ANSWER. His group is a chapter of the Bayan organization in the Philippines. "In the U.S.," Navidad says, "it is the campaign center of different Filipino organizations fighting for freedom and democracy in the Philippines. One of its major tasks is to end U.S. intervention in the Philippines, which has stepped up as Washington uses the so-called war on terror to expand its military."

Navidad emphasized that "Bayan also opposed the U.S. war on Iraq and opposes the occupation of Iraq and supports Palestinian self-determination."

Brian Becker concludes, "ANSWER represents the most vibrant anti-imperialist wing of the peace movement in the U.S. Building such a movement inside the U.S. is key. The Bush administration intends to wage endless war targeting North Korea, Syria, Lebanon, Palestine, Zimbabwe, Cuba and any government that seeks to maintain independence from U.S. domination." He pointed out that in the last two weeks ANSWER has swung into action against Bush's new attacks on Cuba.

"ANSWER has already collected 5,500 signatures on a statement in solidarity with Cuba. At the May 17-18 national conference in New York, hundreds of ANSWER organizers will develop our action plan for the coming months. We are intent on forging a new world movement to stop the war makers." □

Strike rocks France

Two million French workers hit the streets May 13, to protect what they had won over decades of struggle—a stable, state-guaranteed pension. There were more than 115 separate worker demonstrations, some rivaling the turnouts in the tumultuous political protests of 1995 or May 1968.

Two hundred thousand workers in Vienna, Austria, joined their sisters and brothers in France and marched to protest attempts to cut their pensions.

Fifty thousand state workers in Sweden also started a one-week strike on May 13.

—G. Dunkel

Argentine election

Continued from page 8

tion was totally discredited as responsible for the economic crisis and wracked with scandals.

After he was forced out, a number of lesser bourgeois candidates rushed to fill the vacuum of capitalist credibility, with little result.

Many politicians and leaders of grassroots organizations say that in the April 27 election people were voting for what they saw as the lesser of evils. These different organizations have a few things in common: they hate Carlos Menem and they believe that an IMF delegation is waiting in the shadows to meet with the future government as soon as it is elected to negotiate the repayment of the foreign debt.

Mass organizations differ on elections

The mass organizations that have been in the streets fighting for their rights and have been heavily repressed by the state apparatus took different approaches in this election. Leaders of the Piquetero movement "Teresa Vive" called on people to vote for the United Left. Luis D'Elia, leader of the Land and Housing Federation, recommended a vote for Kirchner.

Calling on the people not to vote or to cast blank ballots were Teresa Carrio of the Alternative for a Republic of Equals coalition, Alfredo Bravo of the Socialist Party, and Juan Cruz D'Affuncio from the Piquetero movement "Aníbal Verón," which has been in the forefront of the struggle and working closely with the Association of Mothers of the Plaza de Mayo.

In a recent interview with *Página 12*, an Argentinean newspaper, Cruz said, "We believe that this moment will be like others in the past, the promises [by the candidates] are going to be empty again. Some talk about two models in dispute. Our opinion is that neither of the candidates will solve the problems of the country."

The U.S. does not seem to really care who the next president of Argentina will be. They believe either wing of the Peronists will accommodate them and resume payments on the crushing debt. The poor and more vulnerable sectors of Argentine society will be asked again to sacrifice in the name of democracy, United States-style.

It remains to be seen how the popular movements in Argentina, which in the last few years have gained a wealth of experience, will respond to this new challenge. □

IPROLETARIOS Y OPRIMIDOS DE TODOS LOS PAÍSES, UNÍOS!

MUNDO OBRERO

¿Están los Estados Unidos planeando una agresión contra Cuba?

Por Gloria La Riva

Las recientes amenazas y acciones por la Casa Blanca indican que los Estados Unidos pueden estar planeando una nueva confrontación con la Cuba socialista.

Después de la invasión por los Estados Unidos de Irak y la promesa de la administración de Bush de una "guerra interminable", hay razones suficientes para preocuparse.

A la vez que Washington aumenta su apoyo a la subversión y al terrorismo en contra de la isla, está también amenazando a Cuba por defenderse de esos mismos actos de terrorismo.

El 18 y 19 de marzo el gobierno cubano desbarató una operación de la CIA arrestando a 75 individuos cuyas actividades habían sido financiadas y dirigidas por muchos años por medio de la Sección de Intereses de los Estados Unidos, la misión diplomática en la Habana, la cual ha estado promoviendo a estos individuos como disidentes "políticos."

Su juicio los expuso como mercenarios que han estado recibiendo pago y dirección para llevar a cabo acciones en contra del estado cubano. Cerca de \$20 millones de dólares han sido recibidos por grupos contrarrevolucionarios cubanos por medio de la Agencia Estadounidense para el Desarrollo Internacional, AID, a la cual se le conoce muy bien su papel de ser conducto de la CIA. Los apresados fueron sentenciados desde 6 a 28 años de prisión el 7 de abril.

Este fue un golpe decisivo para los pequeños grupos contrarrevolucionarios que han estado operando en Cuba y al encargado de la diplomacia estadounidense en la Habana, James Cason, quien anunció sus intenciones de "llevar la democracia y la libertad" a Cuba cuando tomó su puesto el otoño pasado.

La ofensiva por los Estados Unidos tiene un lado aún más ominoso. Una cantidad de recientes actos terroristas, incluyendo siete secuestros armados, están directamente conectados a la política de agresión de los Estados Unidos hacia Cuba.

El 19 de marzo, al mismo tiempo del arresto de los 75, un avión fue secuestrado en Cuba. Los secuestradores forzaron a un avión DC-3 a aterrizar en Cayo Oeste de la Florida en Estados Unidos después de amenazar a los pilotos con cuchillo al cuello. Más de 30 pasajeros estaban a bordo.

En pocos días, las autoridades estadounidenses en Miami dieron señales de que ellos pondrían fianzas para los asaltantes, de esta manera violando los acuerdos internacionales y de Cuba-Estados Unidos que requieren el regreso inmediato de los secuestradores y de los aviones.

Con este mensaje de aprobación, un hombre armado con una granada secuestró otro avión el 31 de marzo, un AN-24 con 46 pasajeros. Para evitar cualquier agresión contra los pasajeros, Cuba permitió que el avión saliera hacia Miami después de llenar el tanque.

Después de estos actos terroristas, las autoridades estadounidenses han rehusado regresar los dos aviones, y por el con-

trario, los ha puesto en subasta a nombre de los individuos que tienen pleitos judiciales contra Cuba.

Las acusaciones se derivan del Acta de Seguro por Riesgo de Terrorismo del año 2002, que pasó a ser ley el pasado noviembre. Esta es parte de una estrategia establecida en Washington para dirigirse a países como Irán, Siria, Irak, Corea del Norte y Cuba, permitiendo a ciudadanos estadounidenses demandar a estos países.

En el caso de Cuba, es una forma para que el gobierno de los Estados Unidos y los derechistas de Miami hostiguen a la isla socialista.

La estrategia de EE.UU. invita a secuestros

El rechazo del gobierno de los EE.UU. de enjuiciar a los secuestradores es una invitación a más actos terroristas.

El mensaje es claro: Si pueden secuestrar un avión—lleno de pasajeros—y llegar hasta Miami, sus acciones no serán castigadas sino recompensadas.

La existencia del Acta de Ajuste Cubano de 1966 dando privilegios de residencia a los cubanos que llegan a los Estados Unidos de la forma que puedan, es también un gran incentivo para la inmigración ilegal. Los cubanos han exigido su clausura para poder evitar el contrabando ilegal y peligroso de humanos.

El 12 de abril un barco cubano, "el Baraguá", construido solo para el uso en la bahía, fue secuestrado por siete individuos armados con una pistola Makarov y dos de calibre .38. El barco llevaba más de 50 pasajeros y los asaltantes exigieron llegar hasta Miami. Después de dos días de negociaciones con las autoridades, los asaltantes amenazaron con matar a dos pasajeros. Estos dos se tiraron al agua y fueron rescatados por las autoridades. Los otros pasajeros también escaparon tirándose al agua.

Muchos pasajeros pudieron haber perdido sus vidas en cualquiera de estos siete secuestros.

Ninguno de los secuestradores que llegaron recientemente a los Estados Unidos ha sido enjuiciado.

Marcado en la memoria del pueblo cubano esta la explosión del vuelo de Cubana 455 en octubre de 1976, por dos mercenarios anti-Cuba de la CIA: Orlando Bosch y Luis Posada Carriles. Todos los 73 pasajeros murieron.

En medio de esta ola de terrorismo, el Presidente Fidel Castro, advirtió que Cuba no puede tolerar más amenazas terroris-

tas en contra del pueblo.

El juicio de los secuestradores del barco comenzó el 5 de abril a nivel judicial de la corte provincial. Los tres secuestradores principales fueron declarados culpables de haber violado la Ley 93 contra actos terroristas y fueron condenados a la pena de muerte. Las condenas fueron automáticamente apeladas a la Corte Suprema de Justicia de Cuba y al Consejo de Estado. Las tres sentencias fueron sostenidas y fueron ejecutadas el 11 de abril. Otros cuatro recibieron sentencias de cadena perpetua y cuatro más sentencias menores.

El canciller cubano Felipe Pérez Roque explicó en rueda de prensa el 19 de abril que Cuba ha aplicado la pena de muerte solamente en casos de circunstancias extremas, diciendo, "No es compatible con nuestra filosofía de vida.

"Es verdad que hemos tenido que hacerlo ahora por razones excepcionales para evitar la creación de una situación muy peligrosa en Cuba, una crisis, un incidente migratorio al que aspiran los sectores que en los Estados Unidos quieren una guerra con Cuba.

"Para evitar una guerra, para salvar vidas, y hemos tenido que adoptar una dolorosa decisión, que no disfrutamos; todo lo contrario, pero tenemos sobre nuestros hombros la vida de millones de cubanos y de decenas de miles de norteamericanos que perderían sus vidas en una confrontación entre los dos países".

Bajo el pretexto de protestar por los juicios, la administración de Bush está sugiriendo la posibilidad de prohibir todos los vuelos directos entre los EE.UU. y Cuba y poner un alto a los envíos de dinero de cubano-americanos a sus familiares en la isla. Los envíos financieros son enviados por inmigrantes si son para familiares en México, El Salvador o Cuba.

Muchos que observan las relaciones entre Cuba y los EE.UU. creen que la amenaza de una prohibición financiera tiene la intención de crear presiones dentro de Cuba por medio de apuros económicos mientras que empuja a cubanos a entrar los EE.UU. por medios ilegales.

EE.UU. reduce cifra de visas de entrada para cubanos

No es accidental que los EE.UU. haya reducido drásticamente la cifra de visas de entrada que permite a los cubanos entrar a los EE.UU. Según el acuerdo de 1995 entre Cuba y los EE.UU., este último debe crear 20.000 visas de entrada al año para

cubanos que tengan permiso para salir.

En una conferencia de prensa el 9 de abril, Pérez Roque denunció que los EE.UU. ha rehusado cumplir con el acuerdo durante los años recientes: "En los primeros cinco meses de este año, durante lo cual debe proporcionar 20.000 visas, ha otorgado nada más que 505".

"Entre el 1ro de octubre y el 28 de febrero, en esos primeros cinco meses del acuerdo del año en que estamos, en el que los Estados Unidos debe dar no menos de 20 000 visas, transcurridos cinco meses, han dado 505 visas; el año anterior habían sido 7 237; en el 2001 habían sido más de 8 300. ¿Qué significa esta reducción abrupta de las visas en franca violación del Acuerdo Migratorio?, preguntó Pérez.

Expresó las sospechas de Cuba. "¿Por qué la Sección de Intereses, con todo el aparato extensivo consular que tienen funcionando aquí en la Habana, con todas sus facilidades, ha entregado escasamente 505 visas?

"Se está constatando la ejecución de un plan premeditado para estimular la emigración ilegal, para no dejarles otra opción a los que quieren emigrar de Cuba -y que nosotros queremos que sea de manera legal y ordenada que el secuestro de barcos, el secuestro de aviones.

"Hay gente interesada en dar al traste con los acuerdos migratorios. Hay una lista de gente que nosotros conocemos bien, que quisiera que no hubiera acuerdos migratorios, que quieren crear un incidente entre Cuba y Estados Unidos, que reclaman al gobierno de Estados Unidos la agresión contra Cuba."

En la Florida sureña, terroristas contrarrevolucionarios cubanos están alentados por la guerra de la administración de Bush contra Irak y sus declaraciones contra Cuba. El periódico de Orlando el 'Sun-Sentinel' reportó que el grupo paramilitar Comandos F-4 está entrenando abiertamente para lo que dice serán ataques armados contra Cuba. El grupo recientemente compró siete armas de asalto AK-47 en una tienda de pertrechos policiales.

Estos grupos conspirando violencia constante contra la isla operan con una impunidad completa. Oficiales a nivel federal, estatal y municipal no toman absolutamente ninguna acción para pararlos.

El 29 de marzo, un mitin en Miami de varios miles de personas, organizado por terroristas fascistas como el notorio Orlando Bosch y la Fundación Nacional Cubano Americana se dio bajo el lema de "Ahora Irak, el próximo, Cuba".

A pesar de eso, arriba en el aire, sobre esta turba ultraderechista, valientes palabras de verdad pasaron como un rayo a través del cielo en una larga manta llevada por un avión: "Libertad para los Cinco Cubanos, los terroristas están actualmente en la Calle Ocho". Esta acción fue auspiciada por la Brigada Antonio Maceo, la Alianza Martí, y la Coalición de Miami en Contra del Embargo de Cuba.

Claramente, Cuba está enfrentando nuevas agresiones graves del imperialismo de los EE.UU. Este es un momento crítico para todos los progresistas de unirse hombro a hombro con el pueblo de Cuba y con su liderato en defensa de su soberanía. □

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