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JOBS IN PERIL

War spending, tax cuts for rich pull down economy

By Milt Neidenberg

"Quagmire." It's a word that has been applied to Iraq and the guerrilla resistance the U.S. military faces there. Now it's being used to describe the ongoing capitalist economic crisis here.

New York Times columnist Paul Krugman, who is a Princeton economics professor and a liberal critic of the Bush administration, has used it in relation to economic policy. He has warned repeatedly that the economy is headed in the wrong direction: tax cuts for the wealthy 1 percent, huge deficits, corporate greed and other imminent dangers.

In a May 24 column entitled "Fear of a Quagmire," he linked it to the threat of deflation: "Deflation can be both a symptom of an economy sinking into the muck and a reason why it sinks even deeper. The crucial question is whether we'll stumble into the swamp in the first place—and the risks look uncomfortably high."

Krugman quoted from an International Monetary Fund report saying that "the most important reason to fear deflation is it can push the economy into a liquidity trap or deepen the distress of an economy already caught in the trap." Printing more money at a time of overproduction creates a liquidity trap.

Krugman explained this phenomenon: "Ordinarily, deflation—a general fall in the level of prices—is easy to fight. All the central bank (in our case the Federal Reserve) has to do is print more money and put it in the hands of banks.

"With more cash in hand, banks make more loans, interest rates fall, the economy perks up and the price level stops falling. ... but what if the economy is in such a deep malaise that pushing interest all the way to zero isn't enough to get the economy to full employment. ... Deflation leads to rising unemployment and falling capacity."

A deflation crisis, another term for depression, is exactly what has been inflicted on Japan over the last decade. Will the deflation threat replace the concern about inflation that preoccupied the Federal Reserve Board (FRB) in earlier years? This remains to be seen. Either case is a disaster for the workers.

"Surge in Rates May Hurt Pillar of the Economy," was a New York Times front-page headline on Aug. 5. "Analysts have ... new doubts about the Fed's ability to take drastic steps if the United States slips into the kind of price deflation that plagues Japan."

Alan Greenspan, the chairperson of the Fed, has pushed down the discount rate—that's the interest rate the government charges when making loans to commercial banks—13 times between Jan. 3, 2001, and June 25, 2003. In order to jump-start the economy, the Fed lowered this rate in stages from 6 percent to 1 percent—but to no avail. The world's most powerful economic engine is in the doldrums. It is operating at less than 75 percent of capacity, slowing down the growth of the gross domestic product (GDP)—the total value of all goods and services. The quagmire effect is clearly a concern for the FRB.

Flooding the global market with cheaper dollars—an effect of FRB policy—devalues the currency reserve in the world and destabilizes the global economy. It intensifies competition among trading countries, because the cheaper dollar favors U.S. exports for a short time.

Deficits trigger higher interest rates

With lower taxes on the rich, new war spending and rising unemployment, the U.S. government is now running an enormous budget deficit. So it needs to borrow money at home and abroad. As the dollar falls, foreign investors who have loaned huge amounts of capital to the U.S. lose money. They may bail out, which would be a disaster for the capitalist economy. Asian countries—China in particular—hold more than \$1 trillion in U.S. bonds in their central banks.

As the capitalist economy becomes more depressed, the huge deficits are triggering higher interest rates, which translate into higher borrowing costs for state and municipal governments buried in deficits, as well as for corporations and individuals.

According to the U.S. National Debt Clock, the government's debt has been rising on an average of \$1.2 billion a day since Sept. 30, 2002, and has reached \$7 trillion.

The current budget deficit, according to the Congressional Budget Office, exceeds \$450 billion a year, excluding the price tag for the tax cut for the wealthy 1 percent. This will add \$61 billion, creating the largest budget gap ever.

The Pentagon now says the occupation of Iraq is running \$4 billion a month, even though the war is supposed to be over. Besides all this, the U.S. is running a trade deficit with the rest

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A view from inside North Korea **5**



PHOTO: STEPHEN WUNROW

International delegation participating in July 26 march in Pyongyang supporting reunification of north and south Korea. Yoomi Jeong, from the Korea Truth Commission, is third from left; Maggie Vascassenno, from the International Action Center, has her fist in the air; and Monica Moorehead, from Workers World Party, is waving to the crowd.

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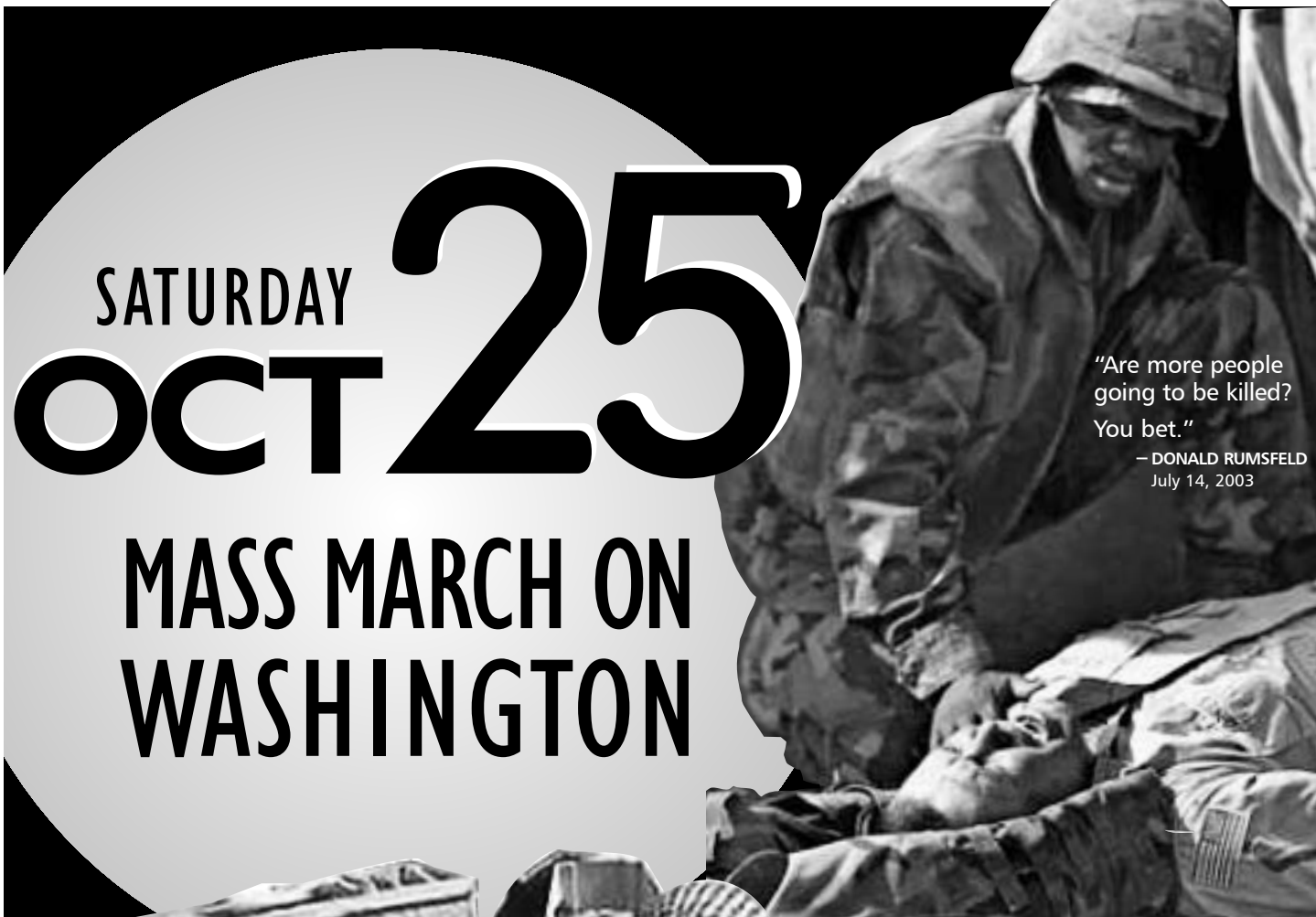
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July 14, 2003



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Impact of the Donovan Jackson verdict

By John Parker
Inglewood, Calif.

Most in the Black community here were not surprised when court officials announced July 30 that justice would once again be denied in the prosecution of Jeremy Morse and Bijan Darvish. The two were both Inglewood cops when they beat 16-year-old Donovan Jackson last year.

Some of the incident was caught on videotape. Before he knew that the tape existed, Darvish submitted a police report that neglected to mention the beating of the handcuffed prisoner.

Los Angeles Superior Court Judge William R. Hollingsworth Jr. announced a hung jury in the case. Until the day after that announcement, people did not know if that meant Morse would also escape prosecution as did Bijan Darvish, who was pronounced not guilty.

In an attempt to avert the same anger seen after the Rodney King verdict in the city of Los Angeles, Los Angeles County District Attorney Steve Cooley said his office would retry the case. "We will retry this case to bring this matter to some sort of just resolution for the community," said Cooley. "Given seven voted guilty here, it was an easy decision to make."

Cooley was referring to the fact that seven jurors voted former cop Morse guilty of assault while five thought he was innocent.

Many felt that the district attorney's office, which seldom convicts racist cops, could not be trusted to seriously try a case against police officers. And in fact, the office's trial performance in this case has come under criticism from both the Inglewood community and legal experts.

The Los Angeles Times wrote July 31, "Although brutality cases are hard to prove in many circumstances, legal experts said that prosecutors' own misdeeds and questionable strategies made it even more difficult for the jury to convict Morse."

At trial, Donovan Jackson said he was dazed and frightened but not resisting

when assaulted by the cops. "They came fast, all of them started rushing me and started hitting me."

This intimidation didn't stop when, according to Jackson, Morse told him he'd break his nose and that it was "his world."

The lack of interest by the district attorney's office in prosecuting this trial seems to bear Morse's statement out.

The meat of the issue

To begin with, the prosecution allowed a jury with only one Black juror, although the African American population of Inglewood is 50 percent.

The prosecution also used very little evidence to back its case against the two officers. Regarding Darvish, who admitted beating Jackson and was charged with filing a false police report, the prosecution called no witnesses, relying solely on Darvish's filed report. As a result, Darvish was found not guilty. He will probably soon resume beating heads and covering it up when he returns from leave.

District Attorneys Max Huntsman and Michael Pettersen based their case against the officers on three seconds of videotape—not on Morse's consistent history of racist police abuse, including an assault on a Black community leader working to halt youth violence. Neilson Williams spent three days in intensive care in a nearly fatal beating in which Morse directly participated two weeks before the Jackson incident, according to police records obtained by the Los Angeles Times. As in the Jackson case, Morse tried to justify the beating and choking by claiming that Williams was resisting arrest. However, no charges were filed against Williams and a witness reported that Williams was attacked for no reason.

Many in the legal community wondered why the prosecution used Charles Heal as an expert for the prosecution since in his testimony he said he would not have recommended filing criminal charges against Morse. Heal is a Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department commander. His statements were key. During deliberations



The first police report neglected to mention that police had brutally beaten a young, handcuffed prisoner, Donovan Jackson, against the hood of a car—until cops learned that a video existed.



jurors requested that transcripts of Heal's testimony, about two hours long, be read back. In addition, the defense attorneys used Heal's arguments repeatedly to help convince the jury that Morse was innocent.

Although one cop who witnessed the incident admitted that Donovan stopped resisting after the handcuffs were on him and before Morse punched him, the defense held on to its claim that Jackson was resisting arrest. This is even though the videotape shows him limp before being slammed on a police car and then punched once again. The defense attorneys excused this by saying he was "passively resisting."

Last year, in July, when people were angry after the beating, Justice Department officials came into town to manage and extinguish the quickly building movement for justice for Donovan Jackson. Those community folks concentrating on "keeping the peace" were propelled into the foreground by the media. It was then promised that justice would be served: "Just be patient."

It seems that instead, some very dangerous precedents have been established during this trial.

Before the attack by the police, Donovan Jackson had no record. He said he had never even come into contact with police. These statements were never refuted by the defense. Yet defense attorney John Barnett referred to Donovan Jackson this

way to the jury: "This isn't Little Orphan Annie. He presented as a dangerous person. Dangerous or not, that's what he looked like."

Ain't that the meat of the issue. All of us Black folk, this reporter included, look dangerous and threatening to the cops whose job it is to maintain an unjust and racist, anti-worker capitalist system. This case once again rubber-stamps the idea that it is okay to racially profile the Black community and that any violence used is justified.

But that's not all. If Morse's actions are blessed by the courts, what does that mean to the next person who is perceived as "passively resisting"—say during a non-violent civil-disobedience action?

For now, people in Inglewood are still waiting for justice, but not holding their breath. It would be wise for all progressive people, especially those here in Los Angeles, to stand in solidarity with Donovan Jackson and his family, and reject the racist brutality and arguments of the police and excuses of the state.

Everyone's real security lies in helping to build an anti-racist movement in the streets that will begin to scare the racist justice system into setting the right precedent against would-be killer cops. Building the connections between the anti-war movement and the struggles for justice and against racism could catapult that effort. □

Who's milking California dry

Anatomy of a state budget crisis

By John Beacham
Los Angeles

More bad news for the working class and oppressed communities came tumbling down the steps of the California State Capitol on Aug. 2. California ended its 2004 budget "crisis" by signing into law a state budget that slashes social spending and gives money away to the banks.

The 2004 California budget cuts public-school funding by \$2 billion. Teachers will be laid off. Those not laid off will be expected to endure takebacks and cuts in pay.

Overall, the budget calls for reducing state employees' wages by some \$1.1 billion. Over 1,000 doctors and nurses are likely to be laid off all over the state.

The budget slashes Medi-Cal payments by 5 percent. This will leave the 6.4 million people covered under the state plan without many essential services. This comes in a state where medical care for the poor is already a cruel joke.

City and county funds will be cut by

\$825 million. Here in Los Angeles, the county has closed 16 medical clinics in response to the budget cuts. The city has hiked public-transportation fees by almost 10 percent.

Community colleges are raising fees by nearly 70 percent. The community college system in California is a traditional haven for students from the working class oppressed communities who get a lower quality of secondary education and cannot afford tuition at a four-year institution.

The State University system and the University of California system are raising student fees by 30 percent. For the first time in its history the State University system will default on its promise to accept all California high school students who graduate in the top 12 percent of their class. UC Merced, which was supposed to open in 2004, will now open in 2005 instead.

The budget for the UC extension system, which provides job skills and English language courses, is being slashed by 25

percent. In San Francisco the UC extension is being closed down, forcing students to travel across the bay to Berkeley.

Banks and bosses make money

In one of the wealthiest states in the richest, most powerful country in the history of the world, the California government and the bosses continue to heartlessly attack social programs and public services that poor workers desperately need. At the same time, the state is forced to borrow money at interest rates that line the pockets of the ruling class. Why?

The California budget crisis is nothing but an affront to working people of California. The state of California is wealthy beyond imagination.

The ruling class could very easily get California out of its budget crisis and at the same time dramatically increase the funding for services that working people have fought for over the years. But the ruling class is always looking to turn a profit. And turning a profit off the California budget

crisis is exactly what the banks are doing.

The 2004 California budget calls for \$14 billion in loans. The banks profit directly from these loans through interest off bonds the banks buy from the state.

Recently, because the budget crisis lasted a month longer than the deadline for a completed budget, Wall Street lowered the state's financial standing to BBB. This is a couple of levels above a "junk" rating. It is the worst rating for any state in the country.

This means that California is going to have to pay higher interest rates on its loans than every other state. Higher interest rates mean more profit for the banks.

It gets even worse: The discount rate is the rate at which banks borrow money from the federal government. The Federal Reserve has recently lowered this rate to 1 percent. This allows the banks to make even more profit off California workers—because they can loan money to the state at a high interest rate while borrowing

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LOS ANGELES



War spending, tax cuts for rich pull down economy

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of the world of over \$42 billion a month.

The U.S. economic colossus is stuck in a quagmire of debt. The quagmire deepens as the government takes in less revenue. For the first eight months of this fiscal year, the government collected \$1.6 trillion, much less than last year. Deficits create a risk factor, driving up interest rates.

Wall Street should be concerned. The FRB's monetary policy is not stimulating the economy. It is ineffective, indecisive and unable to control interest rates. Wall Street wants the FRB to fine-tune the economy. It's not happening and the private sector is fearful of adding more debt to their bottom line. They're inhibited from investing in new products and technology that would out-produce their competitors.

Bankruptcies are piling up. Higher interest rates threaten the housing market, a main prop in staving off a recession. "Mortgage lenders are responsible for more than \$5 trillion in home loans," reported the Aug. 5 New York Times.

A housing collapse would be a grim rerun of the savings and loan bank debacle of 1980, which cost taxpayers \$175 billion when Washington bailed the banks out. Consumers are also reluctant to borrow, already overwhelmed by debt and a jobless reality. Consumer spending constitutes two-thirds of the GDP.

Job growth a thing of the past

A most significant pitfall is the shrinkage of payrolls over the last six months. According to a U.S. Labor Department report of Aug. 1, the workforce shrunk in July by 560,000, even though unemployment officially dropped. The department estimates that 470,000 of these people were too discouraged by slim job prospects to look for work. Those who are not recorded as actively looking are not counted as unemployed. This explains why the unemployment rate dropped from 6.4 to 6.2 percent.

Also, the department admitted its June report had to be revised from 30,000 to 72,000 lost jobs.

Many laid-off workers, large numbers of whom are Black and Latino, have exhausted not only their unemployment benefits but whatever savings they had. Manufacturing jobs were hit the hardest—over 71,000 higher-paying jobs lost. The dreams of these workers and their families of a middle-class life style went down the tubes. Now they are without retiree benefits or health care coverage and facing rising mortgage payments. Home foreclosures are on the rise.

With the slowdown now two and a half years old, those recently laid-off, seniors, the working poor and the longtime jobless are inundating food pantries and welfare offices.

Among teens aged 16-19, the unemployment rate has more than tripled, to 20 percent, and is even higher in the Black, Latino and Native communities.

Incredibly, the Labor Department

reports hopeful news. On what basis? It is encouraged by employers' reports that they added 42,000 temporary—yes, only temporary—workers to payrolls in July, the third consecutive increase in this category. There have been slight gains in corporate profit margins and in dividend payments to the wealthy, thanks to Bush's tax giveaways, and with some small growth in productivity and slimmer inventories.

However, Wall Street reflected a more somber mood. The Dow Jones index of stocks dropped almost 80 points on the day the Labor Department reported on job losses—reflecting a stagnating economy. The Standard and Poor's 500 and Nasdaq technology indexes reacted similarly. The markets are on a rocky road—one day up, the next day down.

There is another troubling aspect to the morass plaguing the capitalist economy. Jeffrey Garten, dean of the Yale School of Management and a well-respected academic, has raised a critical question: the role of the military and the budget crisis. "There's no precedent for a country being the world's largest military force and the world's largest debtor," he notes. (Wall Street Journal, June 16)

The Pentagon budget borders on \$450 billion and the price tag is rising as the war on Iraq bogs down. It hovers around 15 percent of the total annual U.S. budget. The occupation costs will be an additional \$75 billion and rebuilding what they destroyed around \$30 billion.

While it's true that military spending has recently given a boost to the GDP, it is a short fix. It is the accumulated Pentagon debt that aggravates the capitalist economy. Once the bombs and missiles are exploded, the obscene debt remains. Preparations for invasions/preemptive strikes have now absorbed 75 percent of the military budget. Another 8 percent goes toward "homeland security" and "counter-intelligence." This is apart from the anti-missile defense expenditures, which violate international treaties on capping the spread of nuclear weapons. (Pentagon New Budget: New Strategy & New War. Project on Defense Alternatives Briefing Papers, #12)

Pentagon spending is an addiction with no cure. It can only get worse as U.S. imperialist ambitions grow. It is clear that the Pentagon strategy for building a global empire is inextricably tied to the economic quagmire at home. It will sink the capitalist economy further and destroy the fabric of stability that is so crucial to the ruling class—the few who control the wealth and property. Meanwhile, billions of people around the globe are being subjected to poverty, hunger, unemployment and disease.

The anti-war movement is preparing the next stage of resistance. It remains for the U.S. working class, multinational and diverse, to join its ranks. The capitalist economic quagmire will awaken the broader resistance that can challenge the ruling class. □



Assi workers still struggling

Five hundred workers and activists picketed, marched and rallied Aug. 1 to mark the one-year point in the boycott of Assi Market in Los Angeles.

The Assi workers, mostly immigrants, are demanding that their boss negotiate with their union to improve working conditions and pay. The Immigrant Workers Union is also calling on Daniel Rhee, the owner of Assi Market, to reinstate the 60 employees he fired in an attempt to scare off the workers who had been organizing on their own behalf.

—Story & photos by Preston Wood

Who's milking California dry

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from the federal government at a low interest rate.

Adding insult to injury, Wall Street only agreed to a new round of bond issues on the condition that California continue to cut \$2.3 billion from the budget every year for the next five years. This is extortion. Wall Street exacted the promise of continued cuts from California to ensure that the banks get their money back from the state.

But there's no guarantee that California will be able to pay back the loans or get itself out of debt, especially when profits are more important to banks than the welfare of the people. The banks and Wall Street can hold the people of California hostage whenever they want. Wall Street, the state of California, the federal government, the banks and the big corporations are gambling with the people of California's money in order to increase their profits.

Workers and the oppressed communities are hit hardest by these gangsters—the banks, bosses and their politicians—because the cuts affect them more. They can less afford to pay for the budget swindle and the banks' extortion.

Corporations are bleeding California

Not everyone is sharing the pain equally in California. Mega-corporations are doing quite well.

Chevron-Texaco, a massive oil company headquartered in Northern California, reported profits of \$1.6 billion in the second quarter of this year. Other huge California-based corporations like Monsanto, Disney, ExxonMobil, Comcast and Halliburton also raked in huge profits as the ranks of the jobless and underemployed continued to swell.

According to the Multistate Tax Commission, corporations in California regularly abuse tax shelter laws, swindling \$1.3 billion a year from the state.

In 1996, California deregulated the energy industry. It was a disaster. In the energy "crisis" of 2000-2001, California fell prey to the open market. Energy companies like Enron, Duke and Dynegy conspired against California, overcharging the state by an estimated \$50 billion. The state was forced to borrow and pay enor-

mously inflated prices for energy.

Every day, Californians have to pay on this \$50-billion tab. Californians would never have found out about the price gouging of these corporations if Enron hadn't collapsed, bringing its shady business dealings to light.

It is highly unlikely that Californians are going to see any of the \$50 billion stolen from them. On Aug. 1, the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission cleared Duke Energy from any obligation to reimburse California.

To date, the FERC has ruled that roughly \$3.5 billion must be returned to California. True to form, though, the FERC ruled that \$3.3 billion of this must go directly to energy companies to which California owes money.

The real roots of the budget crisis are found in the capitalist system itself.

Capitalism creates huge profits, or surplus value. This surplus value rightfully belongs to the workers whose collective efforts have produced it. The bosses are nothing but parasites who scoop up, hoard and invest this surplus in order to increase their wealth. The controllers of wealth under capitalism—the banks—hold federal, state and local governments in the palms of their hands.

State budget crises arise because the vast majority of wealth flows into the hands of a few bosses and banks instead of to the people. When the economy isn't doing so great, the bosses often do everything they can to hold onto and increase their profits.

The bosses and banks need forms of state like the California government to protect their huge profits under the capitalist system. But in their minds, the best way to protect their individual fortunes is to make state governments "fiscally responsible." This translates into less social spending, less taxing of the rich and corporations, fewer regulations, higher fees for everything, and individual states' borrowing from banks when they can't browbeat the people into lower spending in hard times.

The people need the exact opposite: huge increases in social spending across the board, lower fees on everything they need, and the use of the surplus value stored up from their collective labor to satisfy human needs. □

50 years of no peace, no war

A view from inside North Korea

By Maggie Vascassenno
and Monica Moorehead
Pyongyang, DPRK

A multinational delegation from 26 different countries visited the Democratic People's Republic of Korea at the end of July for a commemoration of the 50th anniversary of the signing of the armistice that ended the 1950-53 U.S.-led war on Korea. The leaders of North Korea have renewed their efforts to replace that armistice with a peace treaty, and to move towards reunification of the 70 million Korean people.

The north and south had been temporarily divided into occupation zones in the closing days of World War II. U.S. troops moved into the south and Korean guerrilla forces accompanied Soviet troops in liberating the north from Japanese colonial rule. The Soviet troops soon left northern Korea, but U.S. troops have remained in the south ever since. For nearly 60 years, millions of Korean families have been separated.

Close to 40,000 U.S. troops and weapons are stationed along the southern side of the Demilitarized Zone to enforce the division.

The north has built many stirring monuments to its years of struggle. This, plus a pristine landscape and flowers everywhere, are testimony to the national pride of the Korean people. In Pyongyang alone, the U.S. and its allies dropped hundreds of thousands of bombs during the war. Not one building was left standing. Yet today, Pyongyang presents a broad vista of apartment buildings, parks and billboards that pay tribute to the heroic struggle of the Korean people against U.S. imperialism.

The city's reconstruction, with its many magnificent public buildings, testifies to the power of socialist planning.

Visit site of U.S. war crimes

During the commemoration, a tribunal was organized here by the Korean Democratic Lawyers Association to expose war crimes committed by the U.S. military against the people of North Korea during the 1950-53 war. In June of 2001, an earlier tribunal had been organized by the Korea Truth Commission in New York City. However, North Korean witnesses and scholars had been denied visas by the U.S. government, and could participate only by videotape. Now, in the DPRK, these witnesses were able to present their testimony in person.

As part of the evidence gathering, the international delegates traveled to Sin-

chon County in South Hwanghae Province. Near the beginning of the war, over a period of 52 days, the U.S. military, working with right-wing Koreans, had killed 35,000 people there—more than a quarter of the population. The delegates saw photos and other evidence of U.S. atrocities. On Oct. 17, 1950, a Lt. Harrison had given his soldiers the order to arrest and kill all members of the Workers Party of Korea, their families and their sympathizers.

The visitors went inside an air-raid shelter where 900 people had been burned to death. Scraped along the wall, in Korean, was, "Long live the Workers Party of Korea." They saw photos of the Sokdang Bridge, where thousands of Koreans had been tied together in pairs, weighted down and dropped off the bridge to be drowned.

The visitors were most deeply affected by the testimony of a woman who told her story while standing between two memorial mounds. As a child, she and her brothers had been torn from their mother's arms and forced into a small building with 104 other children. She said that she and two boys escaped while U.S. troops poured gasoline under the door, lobbed torches in through the roof and burned alive the rest of the children. Next door, 400 mothers suffered the same horrible death. A huge mosaic mural of the scene marks the site.

Back at the tribunal, Li Ok He, who was only a child of seven in 1950 when troops cut off her arms, gave wrenching testimony in a strong voice, ending by listing the names of her four children. In Korean they mean Shall, Get, Revenge and Forever.

These witnesses spoke with deep pain, but with equal determination to never, ever let the imperialists do again to their country what they had done 50 years ago.

Koreans want peace but are prepared for war

As the U.S. continues its drive for world domination, the North Korean people are in the Pentagon's cross-hairs. After the U.S. colonial-style takeover of Iraq, will Korea be the next target? Korean speakers made the point that while they want peace, they have a strong military and will defend their right to self-determination.

The group saw a video entitled "Korea's Answer," which chronicles all the attempts by the DPRK to use dialog to prevent another war with the U.S. It shows how the Bush administration has worked against the process of peaceful reunification and has attempted to starve the North Korean

that have been in place for five decades; and it must withdraw U.S. troops from South Korea.

Free from U.S. threats, military and political interference, the Korean people would certainly find a road toward the peaceful reunification of their country.

The Bush administration has attempted to divert world public opinion by asserting that the DPRK would never be allowed to possess nuclear weapons. It is attempting to portray the DPRK as "warlike" and

Continued on page 7



WW PHOTO: MAGGIE VASCASSENNO

This dramatic mural at the Sinchon Museum depicts U.S. war atrocities during the Korean War.

people into submission.

The U.S. cites the north's withdrawal from the 1994 Agreed Framework as grounds for threatening a preemptive nuclear attack on Korea. "Korea's Answer" shows that the U.S. government from the start violated that agreement, hoping to force the collapse of the DPRK. The U.S. had agreed to help the DPRK build light-water reactors, but then undermined their construction. And, when Korea needed them most, the U.S. unilaterally cut off oil shipments to the DPRK.

Most of the 63 delegates to the conference offered statements of solidarity. Yoomi Jeong, organizer of the U.S. delegation, spoke for the Korea Truth Commission. Gary Campbell and Roy Wolff, Korean War veterans from the U.S., were among those present in solidarity with the Korean people's right to sovereignty.

On July 26 all the delegates marched to the Monument to the Three Charters for National Reunification. The Three Charters were outlined by President Kim Il Sung, leader of the wars of liberation from

Japanese and U.S. imperialism, and have been further elucidated by Gen. Kim Jong Il. They are the foundation of the DPRK's stand on national reunification: it should be achieved without outside interference, there should be national unity irrespective of differences, and reunification should be peaceful.

The U.S. contingent led the march with a banner that read, "We support the June 15, 2000, North-South Joint Declaration!" Thousands of Koreans lined the boulevard, clapping, smiling and waving. Interspersed along the march, young musicians performed under the direction of children with batons.

On July 27, the 50th anniversary of the end of the Korean War, the group witnessed a spectacular celebration at Kim Il Sung Square, where tens of thousands of Koreans in traditional dress danced in tandem to Korean songs of struggle and victory.

Vascassenno and Moorehead were members of the U.S. delegation that participated in these events. □

WWP delegate:

'U.S. war in Korea was racist'

Following are excerpts from remarks by Workers World Party representative Monica Moorehead to the International Conference for Reunification on the Korean Peninsula held in Pyongyang, DPRK, last month:

Over 150 years ago, the U.S. Supreme Court, made up of slave owners and sympathizers of slavery, upheld the infamous Dred Scott decision. This decision declared that Black people were "three fifths of a human being." It was meant to justify the barbaric slave trade and the racist demonization of African peoples.

Weren't the Korean people looked upon as less than human by the Japanese and U.S. imperialists? Wasn't this racist view drummed into the heads of many within the U.S. population, especially the military, to justify the Korean War? How else can one begin to comprehend the senseless slaughter and maiming of close to 5 million Korean women, children and men?

In response to the barbaric, anti-com-

munist and racist U.S. war, the Korean people had no other choice but to carry out a heroic anti-colonial, anti-imperialist war for national liberation. Today, George W. Bush's attempt to paint a negative image of the DPRK's leaders is part of his master plan to not only recolonize the DPRK but to recolonize the majority of this planet to build a U.S. empire.

The U.S. is finding out the hard way in Iraq, just as they did 50 years ago in Korea, that no amount of military might can defeat the deep desire of the masses to defend their sovereignty and their right to self-determination.

The revolutionary, progressive movement inside the U.S. cannot rely solely upon the people of the DPRK, Iraq, Palestine, Cuba, the Philippines, Zimbabwe, and so on to challenge imperialist adventurism and aggression. We have to take on the lion's share of responsibility of defeating imperialism at home, where the rich are getting richer and the poor getting poorer. □

IAC to Korean conference:

'Movement must mobilize to stop U.S. war'

Following are excerpts from remarks by International Action Center representative Maggie Vascassenno at the International Conference on Reunification on the Korean Peninsula held in July in Pyongyang, the capital of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea:

The U.S. government should sign a peace treaty; it should renounce any plans for a military attack on the DPRK; it must renounce the use of food and medicine as weapons and end the economic sanctions



Wake-up call from Verizon

Some 78,000 telephone workers, employees of Verizon, are ready to go on strike if necessary to get job security and keep their full medical benefits. From Maine to Virginia, phone workers in 13 states and the District of Columbia know this is crunch time. Verizon officials say they expect to cut 5,000 jobs by the end of the year. The unions want guarantees that no jobs will be lost. That's why they've been holding rallies, pickets and strike rehearsals even as union negotiators are meeting with the company trying to hammer out a new contract.

Big corporations have been trying to loosen up the language in union contracts that protects workers' jobs. And for a while, they were succeeding. In the last UAW contract with the Big Three automakers, the companies got the language they wanted on layoffs. But that was several years ago, back in the days of strong economic growth. Layoffs weren't such a big issue then because, if it came to that, most skilled workers could find other relatively high-paying jobs.

It's now 2003 and the boom years are over. Too many workers have someone close to them who's been looking and looking and can't find anything. Good jobs are as scarce as hen's teeth and the telephone workers know they have to fight for their security. Finding a job with good medical benefits, a pension and a decent salary is highly unlikely these days.

It's not as if the company has fallen on hard times and has to lay workers off. Verizon has grown into the largest regional phone provider in the country. It reported a profit of \$10 billion last year. Its CEO, Ivan Seidenberg, pulled down a cool \$20 million in salary, bonuses and stock options. The workers know all this, so attempts by the company to plead poverty or tell them their medical benefits are too good just don't cut it.

The company has already brought in many temporary workers in New Jersey and is paying them \$8 an hour. Members of the Communications Workers of America, who make an average of \$25 per hour, and the electrical workers' union IBEW set up picket lines in protest.

The outcome of this struggle will be watched closely by workers and bosses. There are lots of other big capitalists out there hoping the threat of unemployment will help them discipline the workers into accepting less. A lot is riding on the Verizon workers' resistance to corporate extortion. □

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'Roadmap' nears collapse

Israeli parliament passes racist marriage act

By Richard Becker

Events of late July and early August brought the U.S.-sponsored "Road Map for Peace" in the Middle East close to collapse. The Israeli government headed by Ariel Sharon, with the backing of key forces in the United States, reneged on its extremely modest commitments under the plan while stepping up repression against the Palestinian people.

And for all those who have doubted the Israeli regime's apartheid character, the Knesset (parliament) wrapped up the week by overwhelmingly passing an anti-Palestinian marriage law. In another sign of the government's openly racist trajectory, the Knesset passed by a margin of 53-25 the new "Nationality and Entry into Israel" law.

The law forbids Palestinians who marry Israeli citizens from obtaining Israeli citizenship or residence permits to live with their spouses and children.

This law only applies to Palestinians. Persons from any other country who marry Israelis are entitled to become Israeli citizens.

The overwhelming majority of Palestinian-Israeli marriages are between Palestinians living in the West Bank and Gaza, and Palestinians who hold Israeli citizenship.

B'Tselem, the Israeli Information Center for Human Rights in the Occupied Territories, said of the new law: "The bill makes a cynical use of flimsy security arguments to disguise blatant discrimination. The bill is racist."

Jafar Savah, from Mossawa, an advocacy center for Palestinians living in Israel, said, "We see this law as the implementation of the 'transfer' policy by the state of Israel."

A disintegrating 'road map'

The "road map" is a U.S. plan to create what one historian, Dr. Ghada Hashem Talhami, recently called a "Palestinian mini-mini-mini state"—in other words, a Bantustan, independent in name, but a colony in reality—while putting an end to the Palestinian national liberation struggle.

The Palestinian movement is seen in Washington as a major obstacle to U.S. ruling-class plans to restructure the Middle East in the aftermath of the conquest of Iraq.

On July 30, when Sharon visited Washington for the ninth time in the Bush presidency—far more visits than any other foreign leader has made—the issue of Israel's "separation wall" was on the agenda.

Israel is building a 370-mile-long barrier, made up of electric fences, trenches, tank tracks, coils of razor wire and concrete walls more than 25 feet high, inside the West Bank. When the wall is completed, scheduled for the end of 2003, it will cut out more than 50 percent of the territory of the West Bank. Already, it has separated thousands of Palestinian farmers from their land.

While meeting with Palestinian Prime Minister Mahmoud Abbas a few days before the Sharon visit, President George W. Bush and Secretary of State Colin Powell had mildly criticized the wall. Powell said, "The fence is producing a fait accompli with regard to what a Palestinian state might look like."

But after their White House meeting, Sharon, with Bush standing next to him, told reporters that Israel has every intention of continuing to build the wall.

How could an Israeli leader, whose country is so dependent on U.S. aid and support, so blatantly defy the will of the U.S. president? Only if he was confident that Bush wasn't really serious, Israel had strong support from elsewhere in the U.S. power structure, or a combination of the two.

The day before the latest Bush-Sharon meeting, House Majority Leader Tom DeLay, an ardent "Christian Zionist," addressed the Knesset. DeLay called himself "an Israeli at heart." He condemned

the Palestinians and the idea of a Palestinian state.

"Christian Zionists" see the "restoration of Israel" as a necessary precondition for the "second coming" of Jesus Christ. Upon his return, they believe, Jesus will pack off to "hell" all "unbelievers"—including the Jewish people. Nonetheless, the Israeli ruling class actively seeks the support of Christian fundamentalists in the United States.

No sooner did Sharon arrive back in Israel than his cabinet announced plans to expand a major Israeli settlement in Gaza, in direct violation of the conditions of the "road map." In Gaza, 1.2 million Palestinians live on 60 percent of a tiny piece of land, while 5,000 Israeli settlers control 30 percent of the territory.

In additional violations of the agreement, the Israeli government refused to withdraw from any Palestinian cities in the West Bank. Further, Israel failed to release any of the more than 7,000 Palestinians held in Israeli prisons. On the contrary, the Israeli military carried out new roundups of Palestinian activists and imposed harsh new conditions inside the already hellish prisons.

At one prison, the jailers built a plastic wall so that there could be no physical contact between prisoners and their families.

On July 31, in response, hundreds of prisoners rebelled. Thousands rallied to their support the next day by launching a hunger strike demanding the release of all political prisoners.

Palestinian resistance preparing for next phase

August 1 also saw major protests in the West Bank and Gaza by the main nationalist and Islamic organizations. They have been observing a hudna, or ceasefire, for nearly two months.

In Nablus, more than 10,000 people participated in a rally sponsored by Hamas, the Islamic Resistance Movement. In Gaza, the Islamic Jihad held an armed demonstration.

On the same day, the Popular Resistance Committees—in which Fateh, the Palestine National Liberation Movement, plays a leading role—organized a major activity in Gaza's Bureij refugee camp.

In the West Bank city of Tulkarem, Palestinians and international supporters protested the completion of the first 90-mile section of the "apartheid wall." They painted slogans demanding it be dismantled. Israeli soldiers wounded several demonstrators and arrested a leader of the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine.

And in the Galilee, inside the Green Line that marks the 1948 borders of Israel, a Palestinian youth camp was shut down and all the youths and organizers taken into custody. The Israeli authorities call the 1.2 million Palestinians who live inside the Green Line "Israeli Arabs" as part of a concerted effort to separate them from the Palestinian nationalist movement. Palestinians living inside these borders have suffered heavy discrimination since the Israeli state was established 53 years ago.

Israeli TV reportedly showed the young people in the camp marching and chanting, "We don't want flour, we don't want sardines, we want weapons," and, "We don't want Washington mediators, we don't want Israeli [identification] papers." The demonstration highlighted the growing radicalization among Palestinians, especially young people, who make up 20 percent of Israel's population.

Four of the camp's adult organizers, two Palestinians and two Jewish Israelis, from the Abna al-Balad (People of the Homeland) organization, were jailed after the youths were released.

All these recent developments point toward a further intensification of the struggle. □

**MONTREAL**

Protesters built blockade to keep police vehicles at bay. WW PHOTOS: SARAH FRIEDMAN

Protests confront WTO

By Sarah Friedman
Montreal

Activists converged in Montreal in late July for demonstrations coinciding with the World Trade Organization's Mini-Ministerial Conference. Both the conference and the demonstrations were seen by their respective constituents as preparation for the annual Ministerial Conference of the WTO, set for Cancun, Mexico, on Sept. 10-14.

People traveled to Montreal in buses, vans and car caravans from cities across Canada including Quebec City, Ottawa and Toronto, as well as from several U.S. states, including Vermont, Connecticut, Pennsylvania, Massachusetts, New York and Washington, D.C. The ANSWER coalition—Act Now to Stop War & End Racism—sent a delegation from Youth and Student ANSWER D.C. to participate.

The Popular Mobilization Against the WTO—described as “a coalition of Montreal anti-capitalist, anti-war and anti-racist groups and activists”—organized five days of actions and events against the Mini-

Ministerial Conference. The protesters' slogan was “WTO in town: Shut it down!”

Actions took place around the Sheraton Hotel, where the WTO meeting was held in the center of downtown Montreal. The activities began with a July 26 all-day teach-in. The biggest demonstration took place on July 27. Under the banner “No One is Illegal,” 2,000 people marched through Montreal to “focus on the front-line struggles of indigenous peoples, immigrants and refugees.”

The next three days of demonstrations—July 28-30—coincided with the Mini-Ministerial Conference. The actions were designed to disrupt both the WTO meeting and the daily workings of capitalism in Montreal.

On July 28, activists gathered at 6:30 a.m. to form two “snake marches” that converged and then proceeded to the police blockade at the Sheraton Hotel. Once at the hotel where the WTO meeting was being held, protesters held off police cars and vans by creating street blockades using wooden boards and bike racks from construction sites.

One organizer, about a block away from the hotel, used a bullhorn to rally the crowd: “We are here to confront the WTO. The WTO should be abolished. ... We are part of a global movement. We need to fight for our own destinies. The police are a symbol of the WTO and their policies.”

Though a permit was not required for the march and assembly, at about 8:50 a.m. the police declared the demonstration an “illegal assembly.” When people attempted to leave the rally site, police in full riot gear came out of their vans and blocked all possible exits. Hundreds of people ran through alleyways to escape, and some continued the march through busy downtown streets. Police repression continued, and soon the march was forced to disperse.

People came back together a few blocks away in the “Green Zone,” a “safe zone” where workshops and music were planned for the day. Defying the protesters' right to assemble in this area, the police entered the Green Zone and arrested

everyone there—reported at about 100 people. Throughout the day, the police made a total of 347 arrests.

On July 29, activists again converged in downtown Montreal. This time the march was designed to “snake” around the financial district and pass several corporate and banking targets of protest. After protesters marched for an hour, the police presence heavily increased. So organizers called for the march to disperse and for people to meet again two hours later. Later in the afternoon, a second snake march took place around the downtown area.

The same day, activists gathered across the street from the Municipal Court building as those arrested the day before were being processed. According to the legal team, those arrested had been held for at least 10 hours on buses without access to food, water or a bathroom; most would be released that day and would face bail and future court appearances.

Demonstrations concluded July 30 with a “Carnival Against Capitalism.” □

¿Por qué Japón está enviando tropas a Irak?

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8, 2002.)

Durante ese tiempo, los aliados de la OTAN como Alemania y Francia estaban refutando cualquier acción militar. El Japón había dado apoyo logístico para la guerra del Pentágono contra Afganistán, pero se cuidó de no ser absorbido en la guerra contra Irak.

¿La OTAN no es para Asia?

Después de la Segunda Guerra Mundial, los Estados Unidos elevaron al Japón como un baluarte económico capitalista, pero no como un bastión militar durante la Guerra Fría como parte de la estrategia de Washington hacia Asia. El Pentágono mantuvo la hegemonía militar estacionando sus tropas en bases por todo el Japón—especialmente en Okinawa.

Ahora, más de una década después del colapso de la Unión Soviética, los guerreros de la Guerra Fría en la administración de Bush están tratando de forjar una alianza asiática como parte de su presión militar contra la República Democrática Popular de Corea y la República Popular de China.

El imperialismo japonés y la clase gobernante de India son vitales para esta estrategia.

Hace más de tres años, un reporte privado confirmado por Richard Armitage “pidió al Japón que cambiase su Constitu-

ción para poder desplegar su ejército y aceptara más responsabilidad del peso para la defensa de la alianza.” (New York Times, mayo, 9 2001.)

Pero algunas veces los políticos japoneses dan voz a elementos de su clase dominante que no siempre quieren estar en segundo lugar después Wall Street y el Pentágono. En 1999, el entonces Ministro de Justicia, Shozaburo Nakamuro atacó a Washington por su política de utilizar sus amenazas militares para proteger sus intereses económicos.

Nakamura fue uno de los políticos que argumentó en ese entonces por el cambio de la Constitución pacifista del Japón para permitir intervenciones militares en el exterior.

Así como la OTAN, la idea de una alianza está forjada en una base débil de competencia inter imperialista agresiva en un período de crisis económica doméstica profunda en los principales centros del imperialismo.

La opinión contra la guerra, la cual llenó las calles de ciudades y pueblos en todo el mundo durante la primavera al comienzo de la agresión militar inevitablemente se reafirmará cuando los soldados en el ejército conquistador—sin importar de qué país provengan—regresen a sus hogares en ataúdes de pino mientras la resistencia del pueblo iraquí a la ocupación colonizante continúa. □

Pyongyang had to be totally rebuilt after the Pentagon leveled it during the war.



IAC to Korean conference

‘Movement must mobilize to stop U.S. war’

Continued from page 5
a nuclear menace.

The U.S. government possesses 13,000 nuclear weapons and has spent more than \$7 trillion over the last 55 years on the development of nuclear weapons. It is the only country to have used nuclear weapons—in Hiroshima and Nagasaki—and they were directed against civilian populations. Thousands of Korean people living in those Japanese cities also perished in August 1945.

The nuclear threat against Korea, narrowly avoided 50 years ago, did not end with the signing of the armistice. The U.S. National Security Strategy adopted as the Pentagon's operational strategy in September 2002 includes the threat of first-strike nuclear attacks against countries, including non-nuclear countries like the DPRK.

In 1994, the U.S. and the DPRK signed a General Framework Agreement. The terms were that the DPRK would suspend its current nuclear program, designed to provide energy resources for the country, in exchange for the construction of light-water nuclear reactors and the shipment of petroleum products in the interim period. The hope of the U.S. government has been to destabilize, subvert and overthrow the legitimate DPRK government by violating and refusing to live up to its side of the General Framework Agreement.

It is an imperative duty of peace-loving people of the world to organize a mass anti-war movement to stay the hand of the Bush administration and the Pentagon. We must mobilize now to prevent a new U.S.-Korean war. □

¿Por qué Japón está enviando tropas a Irak?

Por Leslie Feinberg

Un parlamento muy dividido votó 126 a 102 el pasado 25 de julio para enviar tropas armadas japonesas a Irak para respaldar la ocupación dominada por el Pentágono. Este voto, contado después de una lucha en la sala del parlamento, trajo consigo una nueva era de militarismo en Japón. Ni un sólo soldado japonés ha estado en combate desde el 1945.

Tokio no es la única potencia imperial que está considerando esta movida. Los rivales imperialistas están vigilando muy de cerca la riqueza robada a Irak, y están ansiosos por coger y compartir el tesoro ahora monopolizado por el capital financiero de los Estados Unidos. Por otra parte la administración de Bush preocupada por la continua guerra de guerrilla, cautelosamente se dispone a ofrecer una parte del botín a quienes quieran compartirlo enviando sus tropas a la región. Francia y Alemania—aliados de la OTAN que se opusieron a la invasión de Irak por la “Coalición de Dos” (Estados Unidos y Bretaña)—no quieren perder su porción de los robos de la guerra.

Sin embargo, mientras Francia y Alemania están indecisos si envían tropas, un oficial alemán fue citado por el New York Times el 29 de julio de esta manera, “Nosotros no queremos que la ocupación americana falle.” A pesar de su competencia con los Estados Unidos, una victoria de la resistencia política iraquí contra la re colonización sería una derrota para todas las potencias imperialistas.

El gobierno de la India anunció el 14 de julio que refutaba la petición de la administración de Bush para que enviaran tropas a Irak. Una encuesta en India reporta que un 87 por ciento de la población rechaza la idea.

El gobierno japonés fue la primera potencia imperialista en ofrecer el envío de sus tropas. Y Washington rápidamente aplaudió la decisión.

La recompensa para el capital japonés comenzó inmediatamente. El 28 de julio, se firmó un acuerdo por Mitsubishi para comprar petróleo iraquí. El periódico financiero Financial Times llamó esto “una señal de que las compañías japonesas pueden ganar recompensas comerciales por el apoyo de su país a la guerra”.

Mitsubishi hizo un acuerdo para importar 40.000 barriles al día de petróleo de Basrah Light. La entrega podría comenzar tan pronto como agosto, y se planea terminar en diciembre. Pero la gerencia de Mitsubishi admitió que la guerra de guerrilla en Irak, o como dicen los voceros de la compañía de manera sofisticada, “la seguridad inestable”—

podría retrasar el comienzo.

Este contrato puede no parecer gran cosa. Pero abre las puertas para la exportación del capital japonés—por lo menos eso es lo que su clase gobernante espera. “Los analistas de la industria dicen que el significado del acuerdo para la Mitsubishi y otras empresas japonesas sobrepasa el tamaño del contrato,” publicó el Financial Times. “El acuerdo podría dar comienzo a más contratos entre Irak y Japón y ayudar a este en su búsqueda de alternativas para la compra del petróleo, para el cual depende fuertemente de Arabia Saudita, Irán y los Emiratos Árabes Unidos.”

Hajime Furuya, un analista de compañías comerciantes en el banco de inversiones USB, concurre. “Esta transacción en sí tiene un pequeño impacto en términos de negocios pero podría tener un impacto mucho más fuerte políticamente y estratégicamente. Podría ser la señal para Mitsubishi de tener otros negocios en Irak, como la construcción de oleoductos o plantas de gas natural. También podría abrir el camino para que otras compañías japonesas entren a Irak.”

Las empresas japonesas temían quedar aisladas del capital financiero de Irak por las empresas estadounidenses y británicas.

Antes de la Guerra del Golfo en 1990, firmas comerciales como Mitsubishi, Sumitomo y Marubeni tenían grandes negocios con Irak en la infraestructura, maquinaria de construcción, energía y conductos. Después de más de una década de sanciones encabezadas por Estados Unidos dirigidas a la estrangulación de Irak, el acuerdo del 28 de julio por Mitsubishi se reporta como un acuerdo con la “Organización de Mercadeo del Petróleo Estatal de Irak,” pero en realidad es una transacción con Washington y Londres.

El petróleo de Irak y sus ganancias no podían comenzar a fluir por los oleoductos de los imperialistas del mundo hasta que el Consejo de Seguridad de las Naciones Unidas aprobara una resolución el 22 de mayo que diera a los Estados Unidos y a su socio británico, la cobertura legal de “Autoridad” en Irak, la potencia ocupante en control de las industrias lucrativas petroleras y bancarias del país.

Leyes capitalistas: hechas para romperse

Los japoneses tuvieron que maniobrar la prohibición guerrerrista en su Constitución para poder enviar tropas a Irak. Según el Artículo IX, Japón está obligado a rechazar la guerra, la amenaza o el empleo de la fuerza militar. El ejército cambió de nombre a Fuerzas de Autodefensa después de la Segunda Guerra Mundial.



Los EE.UU. como el vencedor en esa sangrienta agresión imperialista impuso esa constitución pacifista. Pero ese documento legal fundamental fue apoyado en forma contundente por la población japonesa, devastada por las heridas de la guerra.

Como resultado, Tokio nunca antes había desplegado sus tropas al extranjero sin la justificación expresa de un mandato de la ONU. Japón ha podido solo desplegar unos pocos efectivos en “Operaciones para Mantener la Paz” (OMP) en Mozambique, Cambodia, Zaire, los Altos de Golán y Timor del Este.

Sin embargo, la ley de OMP autoriza que los soldados japoneses sólo puedan ser desplegados bajo la cobertura de la ONU a países después que haya terminado una guerra y siempre que el país huésped “pida” tropas internacionales. Como el Pentágono ha desarticulado al gobierno de Irak entonces, Japón tuvo que depender en parte del mandato colonial del 22 de mayo, autorizado mecánicamente y sin protesta, lo que otorgó a Washington el derecho de “invitar” a otras fuerzas armadas imperialistas a que fueran a Irak. Pero la Constitución japonesa permaneció como un obstáculo doméstico.

Durante la primavera, la oposición feroz de la clase trabajadora de Japón confrontó los intentos de abandonar la promesa de pacifismo de la constitución nacional. Varias encuestas reportan que más de la mitad de la población japonesa está opuesta al envío de tropas a Irak.

A pesar de eso, la legislación autorizando el envío de tropas fue aprobada por la cámara alta del parlamento después de la medianoche, el 25 de julio.

El acto legislativo, apoyado por la coalición de tres partidos del Primer Ministro Junichiro Koizumi, fue aprobado a pesar de una riña que ocurrió antes del voto en una reunión de un comité de la alta cámara, cuando legisladores de la oposición airados intercambiaron golpes con legisladores del partido del mandatario después de que los últimos acortaran el debate.

La nueva ley también permite al gobierno a desplegar sus fuerzas en todo el mundo sin el apoyo de la ONU.

Koizumi mantiene que los soldados solo se verán envueltos en actividades no combatientes en “áreas seguras”. Pero la creciente resistencia iraquí a la ocupación colonial hace claro que no hay área segura para los ejércitos invasores y ocupantes.

Los oficiales estadounidenses “también han dejado ver claro que ellos quieren que sus aliados carguen consigo armas y municiones.”

Koizumi afirmó que esta victoria legislativa distanciaría a su administración de la “diplomacia de cheques.”

Durante sus décadas de prosperidad económica, el Japón, el segundo país más rico del planeta, ha exportado su capital en forma de “ayuda para el exterior” que ha regresado domésticamente en forma de ganancias.

Durante la Guerra del Golfo de 1991, Washington se quejó de la “diplomacia del cheque” de Tokio porque la potencia asiática solo ofrecía \$13 mil millones para respaldar la operación militar.

Pero desde entonces la burbuja capitalista del Japón se ha roto y los mercados estadounidenses se han ido secando.

En la primavera de este año, el apoyo político de Tokio para la guerra desatada por Estados Unidos y Bretaña lo alienó de los países del Medio Oriente de los cuales depende para el 90% de las importaciones del petróleo vitales para la economía de Japón.

En respuesta a esto, a finales de abril la Primer Ministro del Exterior Yikiro Kawaguchi, desvió al Medio Oriente el viaje diplomático que había programado para Francia y Asia Sur Oriental.

La declaración de apoyo diplomático del Japón para la posición de los Estados Unidos en el Consejo de Seguridad de la ONU el 18 de febrero despertó una oleada de oposición doméstica contra la guerra.

Aún así durante la reunión en mayo, Tokio públicamente aseguró a Washington que este jugaría un papel vital en la “reconstrucción” de Irak.

No es ningún secreto que los gobernantes del Japón aspiran a una posición permanente en el Consejo de Seguridad de la ONU. En septiembre del año pasado, según el principal periódico de habla inglesa en el Japón, el “Diputado del Secretario de Estado, Richard Armitage prendió el fuego bajo los asientos de los gobernantes antes de la invasión contra Irak.”

Este se refirió al Japón como una súper potencia económica con el ojo en una posición permanente en el Consejo de Seguridad, y dijo que debería dar a los Estados Unidos un apoyo activo cuando este atacara a Irak. (Mainichi Shimbun, sept.

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