

Bush does about-face

A 'multilateral' colonial occupation? 5

Clean Air Act suffocates

Welcome to the Environmental Pollution Agency 3

AFRICAN LEADERS SAY: 'End sanctions on Zimbabwe'

 4

AIDS in Africa

U.S. breaks promise, cuts funds 4



Coke kills in Colombia

Coca-Cola, that is 6

Remembering the 9/11 dead

Before WTC, there was the Chile coup 7

Subscribe to Workers World

Trial: \$2 for 8 weeks.

One year: \$25

NAME _____

PHONE NUMBER _____

ADDRESS _____

CITY/STATE/ZIP _____

WORKERS WORLD NEWSPAPER

55 W.17 St. NY, NY 10011 (212) 627-2994

www.workers.org

Jobs crisis grows

Labor's enemy is in Wall Street/White House, not Iraq

By Milt Neidenberg

As workers around the country celebrate Labor Day, anti-Bush sentiment is spreading. Polls taken over the last few weeks reflect dissatisfaction with the rising body count of U.S. soldiers in Iraq as well as the skyrocketing expenditures for an occupation that has turned into a quagmire. The bill for all this is predicted to run above \$100 billion.

Another ominous sign for the Bush administration is the economic suffering that is affecting diverse sectors of organized labor, the broader unorganized multinational workforce and the lower middle class as well as the poor.

A Time/CNN poll taken in January of this year showed that only a quarter of the people in the United States believed that the economy would improve over the next 12 months and that public support for President George W. Bush's economic policies was slipping. Now a Newsweek poll of Aug. 23 confirms that more people want Bush replaced in 2004 than want him to stay.

This is bad news for the corporate bankers, bosses and investors on Wall Street. President Bush has been the best CEO for the tycoons since the Reagan years. His board of directors—officially known as the cabinet—is personally the richest of any administration in U.S. history. They are all connected in one way or another with giant corporations and financial institutions. National Security Advisor Condoleezza Rice, the poorest of them all, is well connected to Chevron Oil and a multimillionaire.

It's indisputable. The administration has been real good to the Wall Street barons. Just recently, Bush dramatically reduced the dividend tax on wealthy stock investors—as if they needed it, after already getting billions of dollars in tax relief. Their stock dividend tax will be cut from 38 percent to 15 percent in 2003. In the years 2004, 2005 and 2006, the dividend tax will be zero. Zip. Zilch.

The top 1 percent will save \$674 billion.

Over 230 corporations, led by Microsoft, have announced dividends for themselves and their buddies. Warren Buffett, chairperson of Berkshire Hathaway and one of the richest individu-

als in the world, admitted that he "will receive over \$310 million in additional income ... and owe not another dime in federal taxes ... and see my tax rate plunge to 3 percent." (Washington Post, May 20) Billionaire Buffett opposes the tax cut, fearing it will bring down the whole capitalist house of cards.

Meanwhile, corporate criminals who milked companies dry, leaving thousands of workers and small investors broke and jobless, remain free. On the long list of corporate crooks living out their lives in luxury are former Enron chair/Bush friend Kenneth Lay and Bernard Ebbers of WorldCom.

Nexus between Wall Street and White House

Bush's fiscal policies are calculated to mesh with the stock exchange, the heart that draws blood from financial arteries around the globe. The market trades billions of shares daily and is an integral part of the entire financial services industry. It is intimately bound up with the heads of the biggest banks, particularly the Federal Reserve (FRB), the central bank that controls strategic monetary policies.

Alan Greenspan, chair of the FRB, is in sync with Bush and Wall Street. He supported the Bush budget giveaway to the rich. Since the 2001 stock market crash, the FRB has reduced the interest rate the government charges to lend money to commercial banks 13 times, to a 45-year low of 1 percent. At the time of the crash, Greenspan and others called it a bubble bursting, to ease investors' fears.

The Fed interest rate cuts enable the banks to borrow money at almost no cost, profiting their bottom line. The cuts have set off an unprecedented, record-breaking borrowing spree in all sectors of the economy—the taxpaying public being the primary victims. According to the U.S. National Debt Clock, government debt has been rising at an average of \$1.2 billion a day since Sept. 30, 2002, and has reached nearly \$7 trillion—or \$7,000,000,000,000.

The current budget deficit, according to the Congressional Budget Office, exceeds \$450 billion. The accumulated deficit

Continued on page 3



Many labor groups helped swell the ranks of this year's anti-war rallies. Workers are seeing their jobs and benefits cut and services axed while Bush spends billions trying to secure oil-rich Iraq for his corporate friends.

WW PHOTOS: DEIRDRE GRISWOLD

Sept. 25 - 28, International Days of Protest to

End Occupation

No to Colonialism in Iraq, Palestine, and everywhere



The people of Iraq, Palestine, Afghanistan, Philippines and Colombia continue to resist empire and colonial rule.

Bush built his case for war against Iraq on a foundation of lies and racism. Now, Iraqi people and U.S. soldiers are dying daily. While millions are jobless, with education, healthcare, and children in crisis, the Pentagon is spending **\$150 million/day on the occupation of Iraq!** This year the U.S. plans to send more than \$10 billion to Israel - while an Israeli Apartheid Wall is institutionalizing colonial Bantustans and imprisoning an entire population with our money. The Pentagon is fighting in Afghanistan, the Philippines and Colombia, and threatening new wars against Korea, Syria, and Cuba. "Regime Change" is being proposed for Iran and Zimbabwe.

It seems there is never enough money to meet human needs, but no shortage of funds for war and the propagation of hate. With every military occupation, resistance mounts. As we are pitted against the people of the world, working people in the U.S. end up paying the price with our lives and taxes.

Not everyone is suffering of course: Bechtel, Halliburton, Big Oil and military contractors stand to make billions from colonizing Iraq. How many children of corporate executives or politicians are fighting in Iraq? While pretending to "support the troops," Bush and Congress are slashing veterans' benefits. Secure in the White House, Bush proclaimed "bring 'em on," inviting Iraqi resistance fighters to attack U.S. troops. We say, **"Bring the Troops Home Now!"**

But Bush and the Pentagon face a rising tide of global opposition to their endless war. **Sept. 25-28, people around the world will join in International Days of Protest Against War, Occupation and Empire** on the third anniversary of the Palestinian Intifada (uprising). Join us.

Endorsers: SF Labor Council (AFL-CIO), Bay Area Labor Ctte. for Peace & Justice, American Arab Anti-Discrimination Ctte. SF Chpt., Latinos Against the War (LA), Int'l Black Coal. for Peace & Justice, Korean Americans for Peace, Gabriella Network, Bay Area Iranians for Peace & Justice, Ctr. Ctte. for Conscientious Objectors, Vets for Peace (Orange Cty.), South Asian Network, Al-Awda (SF & LA Chpts.), Int'l Indian Treaty Council, Asian & Pacific Islander Coal. Against War, Afghan Women's Mission, Out Against the War Coalition, Howard Wallace ("Pride at Work"), Queers for Peace & Justice, SF Bay View, Office of the Americas, FOCUS (Filipino Community Support), St. Action Network, Food First, Not In Our Name, Int'l Solidarity Mov't (N. Cal. Support Group), Peninsula Peace & Justice Ctr., South Bay Mob. to Stop the War, Bay Area United Against War, CSUS Campus Peace Action, Project Censored, Comit 98, Gray Panthers (Greater Oakland), Global Exchange, Code Pink, Green Party (Orange Cty.), Socialist Action, Nat'l Ctte. to Free the 5 Cuban Political Prisoners, Global Women's Strike, North Cty. Progressive Coalition, Lake Merritt Neighbors Organized for Peace, Freedom Socialist Party, Radical Women, Marin Interfaith Task Force, Marin Peace & Justice Coal., Workers World Party, Voices of Hope (Sedona, AZ), US-Cuba InfoMed Project, Modesto Peace & Life Ctr., Frontline Newspapers, Mob. to Free Mumia Abu-Jamal, Left Party, South Alameda Cty. Peace & Justice Coal., WILPF (LA), Petaluma Progressives, Peace Fresno

Bring the Troops Home Now!

San Francisco Sun. Sept. 28

Gather 12 noon Dolores Park
19th & Dolores Streets, 16th St. BART

1 pm March, 2 pm Rally Civic Center
Grove & Larkin, Civic Center BART

Initiated by: **International A.N.S.W.E.R. Coalition** Act Now to Stop War & End Racism
For info call (415) 821-6545 or email answer@actionsf.org
www.InternationalANSWER.org
a project of Progress Unity Fund

NYC

SEPT

28

1 p.m.

Gather at
Columbus Circle
59 St. & Broadway

This week ...

WORKERS WORLD

★ **National**

Jobs crisis grows 1
Environmental Pollution Agency? 3
Baltimore police broke down door 3

★ **International**

End sanctions on Zimbabwe 4
Washington cuts AIDS funds 4
Japanese solidarity with North Korea 4
Bush seeks UN bailout of occupation 5
Israeli resister to U.S. Marine 5
Unions in Colombia resist terror 6
Lessons of the Chile coup 7

★ **Editorials**

Fall offensive 6

★ **Noticias En Español**

Octubre 4, acción pro inmigrante 8

WW CALENDAR

LOS ANGELES

Sun., Sept. 28
No to colonialism in Iraq, Palestine, and everywhere. Gather at noon Hollywood & Vine. March to Hollywood and Highland for 2 p.m. rally.

Every Friday
Workers World Party weekly meetings at 7:30 p.m. (Dinner at 7.)
At 422 S. Western. Phone (213) 500-0529 for info.

NEW YORK

Fri., Sept. 26
Harlem welcomes Venezuela's Hugo Chavez. An evening of solidarity with the Bolivarian Revolution. 5 p.m. At Mt. Olivet Baptist Church, 120th & Malcolm X Blvd. For info (718) 510-5523 or (718) 205-7699.

Every Friday
Workers World Party weekly meetings at 7 p.m. Phone (212) 627-2994 for topics and location.

LOS ANGELES

Steering Committee of L.A. ANSWER:

National Lawyers Guild
Mindulalae
Free Palestine Alliance
Bayan Int'l-USA
Int'l Action Center
Palestinian American Women's Association
ADC LA-OC

Sept. 28 Co-Sponsors:

Coalition for World Peace
South Asian Network
Korean Americans for Peace
Gabriella Network
Latinos Against War
Global Women's Strike
Int'l Black Coalition for Peace and Justice
Latino Movement USA
Global Women's Strike

Endorsers of Sept 28: (Partial List)

WILPF - LA
Asians for Jericho and Mumia
Birzeit Society
Al-Bireh Palestine Society
Palestine Solidarity Committee
L.A. Radical Women
Corpus Delicti
Office of the Americas
CISPES - LA
Sol Foundation
Out Against War
Afghan Women's Mission
Code Pink
National Committee to Free the Cuban Five
Citizens For World Peace, OC
Vets for Peace, OC
Peace and Freedom Party, OC
Brea Peace Committee
Green Party, OC
Santa Ana College Peace Committee
Coastal Convergence Soc.

Money for Jobs, Schools, & Healthcare!

Bring the Troops Home Now!

Los Angeles Sun. Sept. 28

Gather 12 pm at Hollywood & Vine

Rally 2pm at Hollywood & Highland

Initiated by: **International A.N.S.W.E.R. Coalition** Act Now to Stop War & End Racism
Organizer's Meetings Every Tuesday, 7 pm at 422 S Western, #114 in L.A. (north of Wilshire)

Volunteers and donations needed!

web: www.answerla.org email: answer-la@action-mail.org Phone: 213 487-2368

SAN FRANCISCO

Sun., Sept. 28
No to colonialism in Iraq, Palestine, and everywhere. At Dolores Park at noon, march to Civic Center for 2 p.m.

Every Sunday
Workers World Party weekly meetings. These educational meetings cover current events as well as struggles of peoples from all over the world. 5 p.m. At 2489 Mission St, room 28. For info (415) 826-4828.

SAN DIEGO

Sat., Sept. 27
No to colonialism in Iraq, Palestine, and everywhere. Gather at noon on the University Avenue bridge over I-15 in City Heights. March at 1 p.m.

SEATTLE Sun., Sept. 28

Gather 12 noon Occidental Sq.

Occidental Ave. S. and S. Main

1 pm march • 2 pm rally

Victor Steinbrueck Park

2001 Western Ave., north of Pike Place Market

For Information call 206-325-0085
seattle@internationalANSWER.org

BOSTON Sun., Sept. 28

Rally and March.

Gather 12:30 pm Copley Square

Volunteers needed 617-522-6626

ANSWERboston@acboston.org

Organizer meetings every Friday 6:30

284 Armory St. (The Brewery) Jamaica Plain

Workers World

55 West 17 Street
New York, N.Y. 10011
Phone: (212) 627-2994 •
Fax: (212) 675-7869
E-mail: editor@workers.org
Web: www.workers.org
Vol. 45, No. 36 • Sept. 11, 2003
Closing date: Sept. 3, 2003

Editor: Deirdre Griswold;
Technical Editor: Lal Roohk;

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.

National Office
55 W. 17 St.,
New York, N.Y. 10011
(212) 627-2994;
Fax (212) 675-7869
wwp@workers.org

Atlanta P.O. Box 424,
Atlanta, Ga. 30301
(404) 235-5704

Baltimore 426 E. 31 St.,
Baltimore, Md. 21218
(410) 235-7040
baltimore@workers.org

Boston 31 Germania St.,
Boston, Mass. 02130
(Enter at 284 Amory St.)
(617) 983-3835;
Fax (617) 983-3836
boston@workers.org

Buffalo, N.Y.
P.O. Box 1204
Buffalo NY 14213
(716) 857-2112
buffalo@workers.org

Chicago P.O. Box 06178,
Wacker Drive Station,
Chicago, Ill. 60606
(773) 381-5839;
Fax (773) 761-9330;
chicago@workers.org

Cleveland
P.O. Box 5963
Cleveland, OH 44101
phone (216) 531-4004
cleveland@workers.org

Detroit
5920 Second Ave.,
Detroit, Mich. 48202
(313) 831-0750;
detroit@workers.org

Houston
P.O. Box 130322,
Houston, Texas
77219 (713) 861-5965
houston@workers.org

Los Angeles
269 S. Western Ave.,
Room 110,
Los Angeles, Calif. 90004
(213) 500-0529
la@workers.org

Philadelphia
P.O. Box 9202,
Philadelphia, Pa. 19139
(610) 352-3625;
phila@workers.org

Richmond, Va.
P.O. Box 14602,
Richmond, Va. 23221
richmond@workers.org

Rochester, N.Y.
2117 Buffalo Rd., PMB.
303, Rochester, N.Y. 14624
(716) 436-6458;

San Diego, Calif.
3930 Oregon St., Suite 230
San Diego, Calif. 92104
(619) 692-4496

San Francisco
2489 Mission St.
Rm. 28,
San Francisco,
Calif. 94110
(415) 826-4828;
fax (415) 821-5782;
sf@workers.org

Seattle
1218 E. Cherry #201,
Seattle, Wash. 98122
(206) 325-0085;
seattle@workers.org

State College, Pa.
100 Grandview Rd.,
State College,
Pa. 16801
(814) 237-8695

Washington, D.C.
P.O. Box 57300,
Washington, DC 20037,
(202) 347-9300
dc@workers.org

Managing Editors: Greg Butterfield, John Catalinotto, Leslie Feinberg, Monica Moorehead, Gary Wilson;
West Coast Editors: Richard Becker, Gloria La Riva;
Contributing Editors: Joyce Chediak, Pat Chin, Naomi Cohen, Shelley Ettinger, Teresa Gutierrez;
Technical Staff: John Beacham, Joe Delaplaine, Rebecca Finkel, Hank Sambach;
Mundo Obrero: Carl Glenn, Carlos Vargas;
Internet: Janet Mayes

Workers World-WW (ISSN-1070-4205) is published weekly except the first week of January by WW Publishers, 55 W. 17 St., N.Y., N.Y. 10011. Phone: (212) 627-2994. Subscriptions: One year: \$25; foreign and institutions: \$35. Letters to the editor may be condensed and edited. Articles can be freely reprinted, with credit to Workers World, 55 W. 17 St., New York, NY 10011. Back issues and individual articles are available on microfilm and/or photocopy from University Microfilms International, 300 Zeeb Road, Ann Arbor, Mich. 48106. A searchable archive is available on the Web at www.workers.org.

Selected articles are available via e-mail subscription. Send an e-mail message to wnews-on@wwpublish.com.

Periodicals postage paid at New York, N.Y. POSTMASTER: Send address changes to Workers World-WW, 55 W. 17 St., 5th Floor, New York, N.Y. 10011.

Environmental Pollution Agency?

'Rule change' throws money at dirty utilities

By John Catalinotto

The Bush administration is using the Aug. 14 power outage in the Northeast as an excuse to eviscerate the Clean Air Act and allow major utility monopolies to grow even richer as they add to air pollution.

It is a gross understatement to describe the Bush gang as simply pro-business. The Bush government takes undemocratic steps to raise the immediate profits of a narrow grouping of giant companies while despoiling the environment, eliminating jobs and causing long-term damage to the population. Then Bush spokespeople use the flimsiest lies to cover up this grand larceny.

The latest example of this was a change made on Aug. 27 to the rules enforcing the Clean Air Act. Before that date, utility companies making major changes to upgrade old power plants had to also install modern air-pollution controls, such as new scrubbers in their smokestacks. Now, under the new rule, air-pollution controls are not required as long as the changes affect less than 20 percent of the plant's value.

This is a significant change in the entire intention of the Clean Air Act, but it was not even presented to Congress as an amendment. This giveaway to the owners of major utilities was made possible by executive edict, through a rule change in the Environmental Protection Agency, which has been taken over by the environmental plunderers.

The change immediately provoked a protest from environmental groups, political opponents, and even many state governments. Already Pennsylvania, Massachusetts, New York, New Jersey, Maine and California have either joined a suit against the EPA over this rule change or made plans to join it.

California Attorney General Bill Lockyer, feeling the heat in a state with a strong environmental movement, said, "This is the latest evidence of what has become standard operating procedure for the Bush administration. Roll back safe-

guards for the environment, sabotage states' authority to enforce air- and water-quality laws and undermine California's efforts to protect the health of its citizens. We cannot afford to let them succeed."

The Bush administration tried to blame the anti-pollution rules for the Aug. 14 power outage, saying they discouraged production. But the outage was caused by problems with transmission of electricity, not its production. Just like the justification given for the war on Iraq, this justification for polluting the air was nothing but a big lie.

If the government were to seriously intervene to encourage the development of industry friendly to the environment, it would create many new jobs. Just consider how the \$4 billion spent monthly in the effort to subjugate Iraq could instead be used to subsidize industries researching and manufacturing devices to protect the environment. Hundreds of thousands of young people who today face a choice of unemployment or the military could find constructive work here at home defending this country from the ravages of capitalist greed. □

Police broke down door, won't even apologize

By Sharon Black
Baltimore

Michael Hinton wants a simple apology from the mayor of Baltimore and the Police Department. So far, Mayor Martin O'Malley and Police Commissioner Kevin Clarke have refused to do the right thing.

On July 17, Hinton was sitting in front of his computer when approximately seven Baltimore city police broke down his door, yelling at him to get on the floor. Hinton was terrified. Before he could move, police threw him down and pinned him to the floor. He was later admitted to

Union Memorial Hospital with heart and breathing problems.

It turned out he was not the person police were searching for. According to Hinton, they were looking for a 26-year-old man. He is 54. "How could police not have seen the difference in age immediately?" asks Hinton.

Hinton points out that he lives in a duplex house with two apartments and two different buzzers. He is angry because the police didn't take precautions to assure that they were at the correct apartment.

Renee Washington is a community organizer with the All Peoples Congress

whose fiancé was killed by the Baltimore police. She is now working to win justice for Michael Hinton. She showed him articles from Workers World newspaper on the case of Alberta Spruill, a 57-year-old woman from Harlem who died a year ago when police used a no-knock warrant and concussion grenade to invade her apartment.

Hinton and the All Peoples Congress are seeking justice to make sure this does not happen to anyone else. On Sept. 8 at 6 p.m. they will hold a neighborhood rally and press conference at 4558 Shamrock Rd. For more information, call (410) 235-7040. □

As jobs crisis grows

Labor's enemy is here, not in Iraq

Continued from page 1

for the decade is conservatively projected to reach almost \$2 trillion. But this sum does not include further spending in the military, so-called Homeland Security, or restoring the money the government owes to the Social Security Trust Fund.

Big lie: the trickle-down theory

The Wall Street/Bush propaganda machine has saturated the workers and the poor with the idea that pumping tons of money into the pipelines will solve the unemployment crisis and create jobs.

This is a key issue, since their policies have had a devastating impact on the army of labor that is taking hits and suffering casualties daily. Workers are in a life-and-death economic struggle to save their jobs, health coverage, pensions and other benefits. States and municipalities are up to their eyeballs in debt and laying off in a frenzy. Social services and education are going down the drain.

Household income has dropped precipitously. Among teen-agers 16 to 19, the unemployment rate has more than tripled, to 20 percent. It is even higher in the Black, Latino/a, and Native communities. These are harsh realities rapidly spreading among the workers and poor.

The impact of these trends on U.S. workers has been earthshaking. Over 2 million jobs disappeared between 2001-2003, 87 percent of them permanently lost. Millions of these higher-paying U.S.

jobs have been lost to low-wage sweatshop labor in poor countries. Part-time and temporary jobs without benefits are in vogue, along with speed-up and longer hours of work without overtime pay. The Labor Department has now initiated rules relaxing overtime provisions of the Fair Labor Standards Act, won in 1938 through union struggle.

Another endangered law is the Clean Air Act. The Bush administration has issued new rules that will relax emission controls on greenhouse gases, such as carbon dioxide and other pollutants. Thousands of power plants, giant auto manufacturers, mining companies and public utilities will be able to legally skirt provisions of the Clean Air Act that had required these companies to upgrade emission controls when they expanded or renovated their plants. That's hundreds of millions saved for big business.

Bush is desperate to keep these plants running. The world's most powerful economic engine is operating at less than 75 percent of capacity, slowing down the growth of the Gross Domestic Product (GDP). Since the 1980s, the GDP growth rate has declined by half, accompanied by a sharp decline in the U.S. share of the global market.

Destruction of the Clean Air Act was undertaken with ruthless disregard of the health of the workers and their families—and all of us who breathe. Global warming is fast becoming a threat to the billions of workers worldwide as

the environment deteriorates at an alarming rate.

Democrats don't struggle, they co-opt

Will the Democratic candidates now vying to take over the White House solve the growing capitalist crisis?

No way!

They are desperately trying to co-opt the anti-Bush mass movement and strengthen their base among the workers and the oppressed. The Democratic Party is inextricably connected to a section of the ruling class that seeks to take back the White House and Congress for their own self-serving interests. Remember, it was during the Clinton war years—when the Pentagon was attacking Iraq and Yugoslavia and footing the bill for Israel's endless war against the Palestinians—that the reckless expansion of Wall Street took place that led to the March 2001 recession.

The critical issue for the organized labor movement as well as the unorganized work force, both of which include millions of workers from oppressed nations both inside and outside U.S. borders, is not to fall prey to the lesser-of-the-two-evils strategy. The struggle is not just to replace the Bush administration with a Democrat but to recognize that the capitalist system is behind the crisis.

Recently, Harry Targ, a professor of political science at Purdue University, in an article titled "Political econ 101," described the capitalist crisis in one suc-

cinct paragraph: "In sum, the global economy, and the United States as its wealthiest participant, is based on overproduction, underconsumption, growing unemployment and underemployment, declining real wages, debt-driven consumerism and 'casino' capitalism."

In an earlier section he describes casino capitalism: "... financial speculation has begun to play a central role in the global economy. The wealthy invest in stocks, bonds, currencies and other financial instruments." (Journal & Courier, Lafayette, Ind., Aug. 7)

Speculation on what are called "derivatives" has reached astronomical levels. It amounted to a record \$128 TRILLION in the first half of 2002, the latest period for which figures are available. That comes to more than 10 times the value of the U.S. annual gross national product. (New York Times, March 8)

What is needed is resistance, independent action and unity of organized labor with the oppressed communities, from the homes to the factories and offices. As conditions continue to worsen, the multinational rank-and-file workers, along with the unemployed, the poor and the oppressed, will draw the dots between U.S. imperial wars and economic crisis at home.

A strong and active anti-war movement is already in place. History has confirmed over and over again that all profound social, economic and political change comes from below. □

African leaders tell U.S. & Britain:

'End sanctions on Zimbabwe!'

By Heather Cottin

The leaders of the 14 countries of the Southern African Development Community, meeting in Dar es Salaam, Tanzania, have condemned sanctions against Zimbabwe. President Benjamin Mkapa of Tanzania, current chair of the SADC, said, "Those sanctions should now be lifted."

In 2000, just when southern Africa was suffering from a serious drought, the U.S. and the European Union instituted economic sanctions on Zimbabwe. It was already reeling from the AIDS crisis, which affects 25 percent of its population.

Sanctions are war without guns and bloodshed that targets "children, the elderly and the chronically ill," wrote former U.S. Attorney General Ramsey Clark. He was commenting on sanctions on Iraq, but the same is true in Africa.

In the mid-1990s, former members of the revolutionary armies that had won Zimbabwe's independence in 1979 spearheaded a resistance movement to win back the land, which remained largely in the hands of the white ruling class and multinational corporations.

The British-brokered Lancaster House Accords ending the guerrilla war had prevented the African people from expropriating white-owned land for 10 years after independence, keeping the white farmers rich and the Black Zimbabweans poor.

Some 4,500 whites owned 95 percent of Zimbabwe's most fertile soil while millions of African farmers were landless. When President Robert Mugabe supported the redistribution of land, the imperialist countries launched a destabilization campaign as vicious as those which have targeted Yugoslavia, Iraq and Cuba.

One British conservative characterized the Mugabe government as a "racist and fascist regime." Britain is the former colonial power in Zimbabwe, which used to be called Rhodesia after the British magnate Cecil Rhodes.

President Mugabe's support of the

landless veterans' demand for land provoked the imperialist countries, especially the U.S. and Britain, to launch a propaganda campaign against him at the same time that they instituted the killer sanctions.

Britain and the U.S. then began pressuring the leaders of Mozambique, Namibia and South Africa "to prevail on Mr. Mugabe to ... end the wave of farm invasions and violence."

(The Times of London, April 22, 2000) After a recent meeting with George W. Bush, South African President Thabo Mbeki said he and the U.S. president were "of one mind about the urgent need to address the political and economic challenges of Zimbabwe." In a July 10 article in the British newspaper The Guardian, this was slanted as "Bush backs Mbeki on Zimbabwe."

But Mbeki did not come out against the land redistribution program in Zimbabwe. The Black people in southern Africa strongly oppose the still-existing and iniquitous property relations that continue to impoverish them while enriching white farmers and transnational agribusinesses.

They also know that the imperialists are always defaming their leaders. In fact, for decades, even after he had received the Nobel Peace Prize for his struggle against apartheid, Nelson Mandela was on a U.S. government list of international "terrorists." The U.S. government only recently agreed to remove

the 85-year-old Mandela and two other former leaders of the African National Congress from the list. (Charlene Smith, "The Independent Online," Aug. 10)

Mugabe received a "rapturous welcome" from the populace at the SADC summit in Dar es Salaam, according to BBC News, and enthusiastic support from South African President Mbeki. This shook up the imperialists.

In a defiant speech, which was the conference highlight, Tanzanian President Mkapa upheld the inalienable right of the Zimbabwean people to recover their land. He said, "I find it insulting that there are powers and people who believe food shortages in the region can only be averted when Africans become servants on white people's-owned land, rather than when they work on their own land." □

Japanese march in solidarity with North Korea



Japanese workers and anti-war activists held a march in solidarity with North Korea on Aug. 25 in the port city of Niigata. They marched through the area where the Korean ship *Man Gyong Bong* was berthed to protest its detention by the Japanese government. The Niigata branch of the General Association of Korean Residents in Japan has also been harassed and threatened by the extreme right, which recently fired bullets into their office. The marchers opposed economic sanctions on North Korea and threats of war against it. The action was called by the National Coordinating Center of Labor Unions of Niigata Prefecture and the Anti-War Joint Action Committee.

PHOTO: ANTI-WAR JOINT ACTION COMMITTEE

Washington cuts AIDS funds

Africa needs help, gets empty promises

By Leslie Feinberg

Just six weeks after President George W. Bush grandstanded across the African continent, vowing to allocate billions to fight AIDS, Washington is already renegeing.

An official of the State Department announced Aug. 27 that it was cutting funding to one of seven agencies that jointly run an AIDS prevention and awareness program in Liberia, Sierra Leone, Sudan and Sri Lanka. The loss of resources would also force the agency to cancel a new project in Angola.

The State Department targeted the agency—Marie Stopes International—for family-planning work it does in China in conjunction with the United Nations Population Fund. Earlier, in July 2002, the White House had blocked a \$34-million award to the UN group for its work.

In both cases the Bush administration claimed it was enforcing a 1985 law that

bans U.S. federal funds for groups that assist in "enforced" sterilization or abortion—a charge Washington has leveled against the Chinese government. U.S. officials admit they have no evidence against either agency.

"However, organizations that work on reproductive health and AIDS argue that the decision betrays the Bush administration's wide hostility to abortion," the Guardian of Britain reported on Aug. 28. "Its commitment to a right-wing Christian agenda has led it to promote abstinence as a strategy against HIV/AIDS in preference to condoms, they say."

Following the State Department pronouncement excluding Marie Stopes from assistance, the other six groups refused any further monies from the department's Bureau of Population, Refugees and Migration.

The United Nations Population Fund had plans to distribute millions of condoms in sub-Saharan Africa and other regions. Condoms have been shown to

be the most effective method of preventing the spread of HIV/AIDS. Now the fund has come under fire from the Bush administration.

The law governing AIDS funding has a clause attacking reproductive rights. Organizations that deal with AIDS prevention and abortion services have to keep their abortion and family-planning programs financially and physically separate from their AIDS work or lose funds. So a health clinic providing care in poor and rural communities would either have to build a new clinic or shut down its family-planning work.

Gloria Feldt of Planned Parenthood characterized this as another "war is peace" Bush spin.

Well put. Congress has already whittled down this year's allotment of that five-year aid plan—\$3 billion—by one-third.

In May, Bush had ballyhooed his endorsement of a \$15-billion, five-year emergency bill to battle AIDS in Africa and the Caribbean.

The money is desperately needed. The pandemic has cut a deep swath across Africa. Millions of lives have been lost. And of the 42 million people in the world believed to be living with the infection today, 29 million live in sub-Saharan Africa, according to the Joint United Nations Program on HIV/AIDS. A continent that was plundered for hundreds of years by slave traders and colonial powers, and today continues to be mined for profits by transnational banks and corporations, it needs reparations to fight this new disease.

But the president says he has an "ABC" approach to fighting the disease: "A" for abstinence, "B" for being faithful and, as a last resort, "C" for condom use when "appropriate."

Fully one-third of the \$15 billion was earmarked for promoting celibacy—a plum to right-wing Christian groups that have thrown troops into Republican election campaigns. They claim to be experts on the subject. □

'Unilateralists' discover the UN

Seek to rescue battered colonial occupation

By Fred Goldstein

It is a measure of the strength of the Iraqi people's resistance to occupation that it has blown the world-dominating, arrogant, "unilateralist" Bush administration's program so far off course that Washington now has to work feverishly behind the scenes to get the United Nations and the European imperialists to pull its irons out of the fire.

Wrote one newspaper, "The Bush administration decided Tuesday to submit a resolution giving the UN a more prominent role" in the occupation of Iraq. "This strategy marks a significant shift and comes amid mounting casualties and increasing costs of operations in Iraq." The goal of the U.S. is to "solicit more troops and money to help stabilize the country." (Los Angeles Times, Sept. 3)

Bush agreed to the language of a draft resolution in a meeting with National Security Adviser Condoleezza Rice and Secretary of State Colin Powell. Its goal is to put an end to "a virtual diplomatic boycott by key countries—from France and Germany to India and Pakistan—when it comes to providing troops, funds and expertise," continued the Times.

The core of the proposal is a multilateral military force that gives the other imperialists some political input but is under U.S. military command. Above all, the others get a slice of the economic pie by being allowed to participate in so-called "economic reconstruction."

What concessions the White House and the Pentagon are actually prepared to make remains to be seen. But the mere fact that Washington has to make the gesture six months after telling the world to go to hell as it launched a war of colonial conquest, expecting a complete takeover of the country within months, is a major political setback for the cabal of George W. Bush, Dick Cheney, Donald Rumsfeld and Paul Wolfowitz—and for U.S. imperialism in general.

A number of factors form the immediate background to this new diplomatic initiative. First and foremost is the rising U.S. casualty figures, some of which were revealed in the Washington Post of Sept. 2.

Unreported U.S. casualties

"U.S. battlefield casualties in Iraq are increasing dramatically in the face of continued attacks," reported the Post, "... with almost 10 American troops a day now being officially declared 'wounded in action.'"

"The number of those wounded in action, which totals 1,124 since the war began in March, has grown so large, and attacks have become so commonplace, that U.S. Central Command usually issues news releases listing injuries only when the attacks kill one or more troops. The result is that many injuries go unreported."

An "increasing number" of soldiers are being wounded "through small arms fire, rocket-propelled grenades, remote controlled mines and what the Pentagon refers to as 'improvised explosive devices,'" continued the Post. The number of troops wounded in action increased more than 35 percent in August—with an average of almost 10 troops a day injured.

"With no fanfare and almost no public notice, giant C-17 transport jets arrive virtually every night at Andrews Air Force Base outside Washington, on medical

evacuation missions. Since the war began, more than 6,000 service members have been flown back to the United States. The number includes the 1,124 wounded in action, 301 who received non-hostile injuries ... and thousands who became physically or mentally ill."

U.S. forces 'stretched to limit'

A new study by the Congressional Budget Office warns that "the Army lacks sufficient active-duty forces to maintain its current level of nearly 150,000 troops beyond next spring," wrote the Washington Post the next day. With all the calls for more troops to Iraq as the solution to crushing the resistance, the fact is that, according to the CBO, "it would take five years to create and staff two new divisions that would permit the deployment of an additional 20,000 troops. It also would cost nearly \$20 billion to start up those divisions ... and about another \$10 billion annually to keep them running."

Sen. Robert Byrd, who requested the CBO study, called the report "quantified evidence that the long-term occupation is straining our forces close to the breaking point."

The only recourse to maintain the occupation at present levels is to call up National Guard and Reserve units. But, according to the New York Times of Sept. 3, the CBO report said that "the need to maintain levels of training and readiness, limit family separation and involuntary mobilization and retain high-quality personnel would most likely constrain the U.S. occupation force to be smaller than its current size."

The overriding problem of the Pentagon is "not necessarily money," wrote the Times. "Rather the problem is the Army's need to keep occupying troops fresh using a unit rotation system, where a unit serves

in Iraq for 6 or 12 months and then comes home for rest and training, replaced by another unit. The report says the Pentagon does not have enough personnel to keep the troops fresh and still conduct operations in Afghanistan, Kosovo, Bosnia and Korea."

Thus, without the draft, the prospect of ripping tens of thousands of reservists and National Guard troops with jobs and families out of their lives and sending them to carry out the hellish task of killing and being killed in a brutal and hated occupation is not an option. Washington has to find cannon fodder somewhere else.

Military high command backs UN resolution

It is important that Bush, in going to the other imperialists and to India, Pakistan and Turkey for military aid, is following the desires of the military high command, probably against the will of Defense Secretary Rumsfeld and his cohorts.

According to the Sept. 2 Washington Post, "A senior administration official said that Marine Gen. Peter Pace, vice chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, had recently begun lobbying key members of the administration to support a UN resolution. The official added that the Joint Chiefs of Staff have become 'much more interested in this than before'" The Post reported that Joint Chiefs head Gen. Richard Myers and Central Command leader Gen. John Abizaid have been "strongly engaged in the internationalization effort, to include a new UN resolution."

In addition to the military problem, the occupation is costing billions each month. An imperialist-organized "donors' conference" is coming up in Madrid on Oct. 23-24, organized by Washington, the IMF and the World Bank. It is calculated to corral other countries into paying a signifi-

cant part of the bill for the occupation. The prospect of the other imperialists paying the bill without being cut in on the spoils is virtually nil. Washington and Wall Street are hoping that, through a UN resolution, enough concessions can be made to coax funds out of other countries at the Madrid donors' conference.

In other words, the Bush administration and the military high command have been put up against the wall by the reality that the Iraqi people are determined not to submit to colonial occupation. They have been forced into the realization that the struggle for absolute world domination involves dragging the working class into their military adventures. Now they want to drag Indian, Pakistani and Turkish workers and peasants as well as European workers to the front lines as cannon fodder and to inflict suffering upon the Iraqi people.

The military, economic and, ultimately, the political consequences of the attempt to colonize Iraq, which show that they completely underestimated the resistance, have forced them in a new direction: attempting to build a multinational imperialist front against the Iraqi people, with the Pentagon militarily in charge but in the guise of a UN mission. It is calculated to strengthen the occupation by bringing in other countries.

While any "internationalization" of the occupation in Iraq would be a setback for the Bush administration, it would also be an "internationalization" of the attempt at colonial subjugation of the Iraqi people—a united imperialist bloc, so to speak. As such, it should be opposed by all who stand against oppression and for the right of self-determination—who believe that Iraq should be for the Iraqi people, not for an international conglomeration of transnational corporate thieves. □

Israeli tells U.S. Marine:

'We're in the same situation'

The following is an Aug. 12 letter from an Israeli resister to Stephen Funk, a U.S. Marine about to stand trial for refusing to participate in the war on Iraq.

Dear Stephen,

Is this what they call "globalization"? We live half a world from each other, we have led quite different lives, and yet we are both in the same situation: conscientious objectors to imperial war and occupation, we are both standing military trial this summer.

I was slated for induction into the Israeli army in December 2002. After a year of volunteer work in a Jewish-Arab youth movement, I had made up my mind to refuse to enlist. Together with other young people in my situation, I signed the High School Seniors' Letter to [Prime Minister Ariel] Sharon, and to make myself absolutely clear I sent a personal letter to the military authorities notifying them that I was going to refuse.

They let me know they weren't about to let me go: the army only exempts pacifists (at least that's what it claims) and I didn't meet their definition of a

pacifist. So beginning in December I was sentenced by "disciplinary proceedings" (do they have this ridiculous institution in the Marines too?) to 28 days in military prison—three consecutive times. After my third time in jail, I asked to join my friend Haggai Matar, who was being court-martialed, and within a few weeks three of our friends—Noam, Shimri and Adam—joined us.

Now we are on trial and stand to get up to three years in prison for refusing the order to enlist. Sounds familiar, huh? But it's not just what they're doing to us that's similar, it's what they're doing to others: occupying a foreign land and oppressing another people in the name of preventing terror. People like you and me know that's just an excuse for furthering economic and political interests of the ruling elite. But it's not the elite that pays the price.

The people who pay the price are in Jenin and Fallujah, in Ramallah and Baghdad, in Tikrit and in Hebron. They are the Iraqi and Palestinian children, hogtied face-down on the floor or shot at on the way to school. But they are also the Israeli and American soldiers, treated as cannon fodder by generals in air-conditioned offices, whose only way to deal

with their situation is dehumanization—first of the strange-looking foreigners who want them dead, next of themselves. You can ask your Vietnam veterans or our own.

Stephen, people our age should be out learning, working and transforming the world. People our age should be going to parties and protests, meeting people, falling in love and arguing about what our world should look like. People our age should not be moving targets, denied their human and civil rights; they should not be military grunts, exposed to harm in mind and body, lugging around M-16's and guilty consciences; they should not be thrown behind bars for not wanting to kill and die.

It's likely that we'll both get thrown in prison when this all ends. There will be dark moments in prison, moments when it seems that the outside world has forgotten all about us, that what we did and refused to do was in vain. Well, I know what I'll do in those moments: I'll think of you, Stephen, and I'll know that nothing we do for humanity's sake is ever in vain.

*With greatest solidarity,
Matan Kaminer*



Fall offensive

The super-rich and their political tools have been on the offensive for a long time. They've diluted laws protecting workers' wages and conditions. They've found ways to steal billions of dollars from pension funds. They've robbed the working class of its last—resort safety net for times of desperate need—the welfare system. They've cut their own taxes down to practically nothing while finding new ways to squeeze more money out of ordinary people to pay for a government that doesn't do much for us besides make war and put people in prison. Their wars and tax cuts are saddling us with a government debt that in a few years' time will be big enough to knock the Earth off its orbit and send it racing around the outer planets.

They've ripped off billions in extortionate prices for an artificial electricity shortage in California. They've stiffed their own shareholders while salting away billions for their CEOs, who get big pay raises the more workers they lay off. They've turned the gap between rich and poor into the Grand Canyon.

They've given the keys to the safe and the family bomber to a gang of hoodlums who thought it would be fun to take over the whole world—until they ran into a few problems in the Iraqi desert.

They're so focused on the bottom line that they don't even notice that half the world is either under water or baking because of climate change brought about by their greedy, unplanned economic system.

It's time to turn it all around! Time for a fall offensive worthy of its name by all those on the receiving end of this gang of cut-throats and con men.

Some timely events are coming up. On Sept. 13 there will be a worldwide day of action against corporate globalization and war to coincide with a World Trade Organization meeting in Cancun. The super-rich take their capital to wherever they can pay the least and profit the most. But on that day, international solidarity of all workers against these blood-suckers will be the theme.

The same day, a rally will be held outside UN Headquarters in New York by Millions for Reparations demanding payback for the crimes of slavery and colonialism that still leave deep wounds and scars, especially among African Americans.

As the month rolls on, immigrant workers will be traveling in caravans all over the country, to eventually meet up in Queens, N.Y., for a nationwide rally for immigrant rights on Oct. 4. These are the workers who get up at 3 a.m. to work in fast-food restaurants, who slip and slide ankle deep in blood in the slaughterhouses, who shape up on street corners in scores of suburban communities, who rarely find a full-time, permanent job paying above minimum wage. Health care? Pensions? Forget it.

Ending the occupation of Palestine and Iraq will be the demand at protests around the country on Sept. 28. The same government officials who won't lift a finger for workers or the poor here—let the "market" take care of their problems, they say—can find billions for war and occupation in the oil-rich Middle East.

And then comes Oct. 25—the day of a mass demonstration in Washington that will demand the troops be brought home. The way the mood in this country is going, it promises to be a blockbuster. □

Join the Workers World Supporter Program

Supporters who contribute \$75 a year receive a year's subscription, a monthly letter and five free trial subscriptions

\$300 Enclosed to become a WW Sustainer. One time donation of \$ _____. Enclosed 1st monthly payment: \$6 (Supporter) \$10 (Sponsor) \$25 (Sustainer)

Please send me more information about the Supporter Program. Please fill in your name and address below.

Name _____ Phone _____

Address _____ City/State/Zip _____

Email _____

Clip and return to **Workers World Newspaper**
55 W. 17th St., 5th Fl., NY, NY 10011 212.627.2994
fax: 212.675.7869 • www.workers.org • email: ww@workers.org

Murderous collusion of bosses & government

Unions in Colombia resist state terror

By Berta Joubert-Ceci

Workers and their unions continue to organize and protest in Colombia, despite state terrorism.

On Sept. 1—Labor Day in the United States—workers and other activists in Colombia gathered in front of the Nariño Palace in Bogotá, the residence of President Álvaro Uribe. Their message: The Colombian people demand an end to the criminalization of social protest. They are tired of state forces breaking into their houses, detaining and punishing them with the accusation of terrorism and rebellion.

More than 30 organizations sponsored the event. Their call said that "During [Uribe's] 1 year administration, 2,400 peasants, trade unionists, students, human rights advocates, and other residents have been penalized for their social activity or for simply residing in 'suspicious zones.' Mass detentions throughout different regions of the country attest to this. Between Jan. 1 and today, 47 trade unionists have been killed. The strategy of extermination against social organizations in Colombia is protected by the main program of the government, publicly presented as 'the policy of democratic security.'"

Two days earlier, Workers World had spoken with Luis Javier Correa, president of the Food Industry Workers Union (SINALTRAINAL) in Bogotá. The call was interrupted several times by loud noise on the line. The union represents the workers of the Coca-Cola bottling company. Nine of its leading members have been murdered by paramilitaries that the union says are on Coca-Cola's payroll. Many others have had to leave the country due to constant threats and assassination attempts.

In July the union launched the "Unthinkable, Undrinkable" Campaign against the soft drink giant, which in turn is countersuing the union for "damage to its image." The union leadership has also been sued for "defamation." Juan Carlos Galvis, also from SINALTRAINAL and president of the Barranabermeja section of the union federation CUT, was the object of a failed assassination attempt on Aug. 22.

Galvis was a plaintiff in the initial suit against Coca-Cola, based on constant death threats he received in the past, and was the main speaker at a Barranabermeja press conference on July 22 that launched the campaign.

SINALTRAINAL is but one of many unions and organizations that are victims of state terrorism.

Colombia has been in a dirty war for more than 40 years. The corporate media in the United States attempt to reduce it to a "narco war" over the growing of coca. But coca, like the problem with drug addiction in the U.S., is only a symptom.

Great poverty grips this breathtakingly beautiful Andean country. Rich in oil and emeralds, its diverse geography alternates steep moun-

tains and fertile valleys. The north and west coasts open to the Atlantic and Pacific oceans, and the south forms part of the Amazon ecosystem. It could be a paradise with a thriving economy. But instead it seems more like the magical realism found in the writings of Gabriel García Márquez, one of this land's treasures.

The civil war has endured during several Colombian and U.S. administrations, but now is intensifying with extreme right-wing governments in both countries. U.S. capitalists are desperate to bring Colombia into the Free Trade Agreement of the Americas to solve their growing crisis of overproduction. The FTAA would impose conditions drawn up by the International Monetary Fund, World Trade Organization and World Bank. U.S. Trade Representative Robert Zoellick just met with Uribe in Colombia to push for its adoption of the FTAA.

Privatization spreads misery

During Uribe's first year in office, he has privatized many state enterprises. He has also pushed through Patriot Act-type "anti-terrorist" legislation that criminalizes opposition to his government and gives police absolute powers to search homes and detain people arbitrarily, while promoting and encouraging neighbors to spy on one another.

More than 60 percent of Colombia's 44 million people are poor. In Bogotá, with a population of 6.6 million, 63 out of every 100 residents are poor and 1 million face extreme poverty. Many children get nothing but Panela water for days. Panela, although delicious, is only raw cane sugar dissolved in water.

Unemployment is almost 15 percent. Of those employed, 61 percent work in the informal economy and 35.5 percent are underemployed. Uribe's package of economic reforms has increased taxes and food prices and reduced access to basic human services like health care, education and transportation.

The privatization of important sectors like health care and telephone service has produced massive layoffs.

The extreme poverty in this rich country has generated a long guerrilla insurgency. The largest groups are the Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia (FARC-EP) and the National Liberation Army (ELN).

More than 2 million people, many of them Afro-Colombians, have been driven off their land by paramilitaries, who accuse them of being guerrillas or aiding them. Multinational corporations want those territories for their business ventures. In July and August a mostly Afro-Colombian community in Buenaventura, on the southwest coast, was fired on and bombed by the military and paramilitaries. The pretext was that the people harbored and aided the

guerrillas.

At the end of August, 42 leaders of religious, human rights, social and workers' organizations and unions were detained in the Arauca region. Paramilitary activity has grown in Arauca since President Uribe moved his seat of government there for two days. There are reports that the paramilitaries also cross the border into Venezuela, acting in unison with that country's oligarchy to destabilize the government of the Bolivarian Revolution.

Oil-rich Arauca has a 500-mile pipeline used by the U.S.-based Occidental Petroleum Corp. It is secured and protected by U.S. military troops. Colombia is now the third-biggest recipient of U.S. military aid, after Israel and Egypt.

It is no coincidence that Gen. Richard Myers, chair of the U.S. Joint Chiefs of Staff, and Secretary of Defense Donald Rumsfeld visited Colombia less than two weeks apart in August. It highlights Washington's interest in the military escalation of its intervention there. Rumsfeld echoed what President George W. Bush has said several times: "Colombia is a very important country that is in our same hemisphere ... [and it is] on the front line of the global war against terrorism."

Uribe has asked the U.S. to send troops to Colombia to fight the insurgency. Neither government uses the figleaf of a "war on drugs" any longer. He has branded the guerrillas as "terrorists," thus making it legal for the military to exterminate them. He has also rounded up several Latin American governments to join in the accusation, but Venezuela has opposed this, viewing it as interference in the matters of another country. As a consequence, Venezuelan President Hugo Chávez Frías has been accused, including by some officials in the U.S. government, of aiding the FARC and/or being a terrorist haven.

This scenario of repression, the militarization of society and the strangulation of any democratic space for dissent, together with economic devastation, has had the unintended effect of uniting different sectors of society to confront Uribe's right-wing agenda.

Unions have been in the forefront of the struggle, literally placing themselves in the line of fire. They are trying to unite and include those who for decades have been excluded. They know that the only way to win a free and just society is through struggle and have committed themselves to this end.

The progressive forces in Colombia need international solidarity to expose the crimes committed there to the world community. A globalized solidarity and response will help Colombians attain a free and just society.

For more information, visit the following URLs: www.SINALTRAINAL.org, www.IACenter.org, www.killercoke.org and www.ANNCOL.org. □

SEPT. 11, 1973

Lessons of the Chile coup

By Teresa Gutierrez

The date of Sept. 11 will be forever etched in the minds of the Chilean people. Revolutionaries and progressives active here in the 1960s and 1970s will also never forget that date.

On that day in 1973, a fascist coup was carried out. Tens of thousands of Chileans were massacred and the progressive government of President Salvador Allende, a socialist, was overturned. Within a few days, a pro-U.S. dictatorship was installed, headed by the butcher Gen. Augusto Pinochet.

The U.S. government, under the presidency of Richard M. Nixon, carried out this bloody "regime change" with the complicity of the Chilean ruling class. And it was major U.S. capitalist transnational corporations—like International Telephone and Telegraph Co. and Kennecott Copper Co.—that worked with the CIA in plotting the counter-revolution and giving the orders.

This year is the 30th anniversary of that fateful day. Today's new generation of militants and progressives need to know what happened on Sept. 11, 1973. It's important because Sept. 11 should not just be remembered as the day the World Trade Center and the Pentagon were attacked.

The date should also be a reminder that the U.S. government massacred tens of thousands of people in Chile in 1973.

The workers wanted change

In September 1970, Dr. Salvador Allende Gossens had been elected president of Chile. Allende had been a student activist who helped found Chile's Socialist Party in 1933. Later a representative in Chile's Congress, Allende was often called a "champion of the poor."

Allende unsuccessfully ran for president three times before finally winning the election in 1970 as the candidate of Unidad Popular (Popular Unity)—a coalition of socialists, communists and others calling for social change.

The victory was a reflection of the mood of the Chilean working class and the revolutionary fervor sweeping the world. Students, workers and oppressed people were carrying out pitched battles on many fronts. Hundreds of thousands were marching against the U.S. war in Vietnam or for worker and civil rights.

Throughout the Third World—as super-exploited countries were referred to then—oppressed people were carrying out heroic struggles for national liberation. Their heroes were Che Guevara and Patrice Lumumba.

The Chilean masses were no exception.

Allende's election showed that the Chilean workers wanted more. They wanted fundamental social change—to do away with grinding poverty and exploitation. Chileans wanted a country free of foreign corporate and imperialist domination.

They wanted socialism. In fact, Allende won the election on a platform that declared the wealth of the country to be the property of the Chilean people.

From Allende's election in 1970 to Sept. 11, 1973, the whole world watched with baited breath as developments played out. In those three short years, an intense battle was waged between two social forces in Chile.

Who would prevail? The side of the workers and oppressed who were desperately fighting for their class interests? Or the reactionary, militaristic Chilean bour-

geoisie doing the bidding of U.S. imperialism?

Would Allende be able to implement his promises to the workers using the state that had served capitalist interests for generations? Or would the workers seize power altogether, as in Cuba, and begin to build a socialist revolution?

Those were the questions of the day.

Population was mobilizing

In September 1970, a New York Times editorial warned that if Allende's administration carried out certain measures, a military takeover of his government would be necessary. Even changing members of the judiciary would put the new government in jeopardy, the Times threatened.

In October 1970, Allende had to cancel attendance at his formal election by Congress because martial law had been imposed. The commander-in-chief of the Chilean Armed Forces, Gen. Schneider Cherau, had been assassinated in an open death warning to Allende just a month after the election.

Despite these warnings, for the next three years the Allende government carried out measures that reflected the desires of the masses. Large estates were broken up and land was given to poor farmers. Allende nationalized many industries, including steel, coal and the crucial copper industry.

Three U.S. copper giants of the time—Kennecott, Anaconda and the Cerro Corp.—were nationalized. These companies had controlled 80 percent of the total Chilean copper production and had been taking profits out of the country in the sum of \$80 million a year. (Workers World, October 1971)

The government raised wages, froze prices, subsidized milk, and made medical care and education accessible to more people. It sought favorable relations with the Cuban revolutionary government.

The masses were mobilizing and organizing. Workers in textile and auto plants took over factories to prevent layoffs. They fought to defend their gains by any means necessary. In the communities, people built new neighborhoods, often naming them New Havana.

A militant squatters' movement continued to play a significant role. Much of this movement had been organized by the MIR—the Revolutionary Left Movement of Chile.

The MIR supported the Allende government but warned that pitfalls lay ahead. The MIR was one of a handful of organizations in Chile at the time that understood there was a real difference between taking office and taking power. In March 1972 it warned, "To not organize, to not mobilize, to not fight is to open the door to fascism."

Blood ran in the streets

U.S. imperialism, unable to reconcile itself to the new Chile, worked night and day to overturn the Allende government.

The government of Salvador Allende limited its actions to the constitution and bourgeois law. Despite the fact that the people were demanding arms, the government failed to provide them. The work-



Chile's National Stadium, Sept. 12, 1973 turned into a prison camp. Many prisoners were tortured until death.

ers ultimately could not defend themselves from the terror unleashed by the military.

Despite overwhelming evidence of the growing strength and boldness of the pro-U.S. reactionary forces in Chile, the Allende government wavered. A nationwide "strike" was organized by the National Truck Owners' Confederation, paralyzing 70,000 trucks. As in Venezuela today, this strike was really a bosses' lock-out aimed at sabotaging the economy.

Gunmen assassinated Allende's chief military aide. Still, the Allende government attempted to conciliate with the capitalist parties instead of calling for a revolutionary response from the people.

On Sept. 11, 1973, Allende was overthrown in a violent military coup. The fascist generals rounded up Allende supporters and others, executing them on the spot.

Tens of thousands were taken to a huge stadium. Many were tortured, raped, maimed and killed. For days, blood ran through the streets. Many a heroic story of resistance emerged as artists, unionists, students, women and others fought back.

Victor Jara, a beloved revolutionary protest singer of that generation, was killed in the stadium. Today his music lives on and continues to inspire a new generation of revolutionaries. Stories of Jara's death told of his heroism, how he tried to keep up the spirits of his comrades who were tortured. One account said that when the fascist generals cut his tongue out to keep him from singing, he clapped his hands and stomped his feet for rhythm. Then they mutilated his hands before killing him.

It may never be known how many Chileans were killed that day. Official accounts place it around the same number as those lost on Sept. 11, 2001. Many Chileans say that the number is actually in the tens of thousands.

Bodies were taken by military planes and dropped in the ocean, leaving their families in torment about what had happened to them on that fateful day.

The death of Salvador Allende on Sept. 11 is still controversial. Many say he killed himself; others say he was executed. A famous photo shows him, arms in hand, defending the Presidential Palace. Before he died, he issued words of inspiration to

the Chilean people: "Workers of my homeland, I have faith in Chile and its future. Long live Chile, long the people, long live the workers!"

Imperialist terrorism

The release of classified documents in recent years has revealed what many in the political leftwing said at the time: that U.S. imperialism and the Nixon administration in particular carried out the Sept. 11 coup.

On the 25th anniversary of the coup, Tim Weiner wrote in the Sept. 12, 1998, New York Times: "From 1970 to 1973, the United States sought to overthrow the government of Chile and Dr. Salvador Allende, whom it deemed a Marxist threat to U.S. interests. Under orders from President Richard M. Nixon, the CIA mounted a full-tilt covert operation to keep Allende from taking office and, when that failed, undertook subtler efforts to undermine him."

The National Security Archive, a nonprofit group in Washington

that uncovers secret records, published documents that prove the U.S. role. Records reveal how Nixon ordered the CIA to "make the economy scream" to "prevent Allende from coming to power or to unseat him."

At a March 1973 Senate hearing, an ITT vice president testified that there were at least 25 meetings between the CIA and the ITT. He personally met with the then-Secretary of State Henry Kissinger several times to plan the overthrow of Allende. Kissinger became the hated symbol of U.S. terrorism. Even today, he is not able to appear in public without protests.

Lessons for today

While in Chile in December 1971, Cuban President Fidel Castro said: "Every social system thinks itself eternal until history sets it straight. Throughout history, every social system that has been attacked has defended itself and has defended itself with violence. No social system has dissolved itself of its own free will. No social system has resigned in favor of the revolutionaries."

Imperialism can never reconcile itself to the interests of workers and oppressed. Whether it is Chile in 1973 or Venezuela today, revolutionaries should be vigilant about the predatory nature of imperialism.

And more than vigilant: They must be prepared to organize and fight.

In 1973, U.S. imperialism was determined to turn back the clock in the Americas. It wanted to stop the revolutionary fires inspired by the Cuban Revolution from spreading to other parts of the region. It failed on that score.

And even though the liberation struggle in Chile was dealt a setback, the struggle cannot be vanquished.

In 2002, Chilean protesters battled the police on the 29th anniversary of the coup.

In August 2003, workers demanding better working conditions and benefits staged Chile's first nationwide strike in 20 years.

Today, as the ruling class tries to co-opt the hearts and minds of the people in this country by rerunning the tragic events at the World Trade Center, we must remember the other Sept. 11. That Sept. 11 demonstrates that if humanity is to go forward, imperialism must be defeated once and for all. □

Protesta masiva pro inmigrante para el 4 de octubre

Por Teresa Gutiérrez
Queens, N.Y.

Uno de los primeros soldados que murieron en la invasión de Irak fue un inmigrante de Guatemala, José Antonio Gutiérrez.

Morir en una guerra imperialista por petróleo y el dominio colonial es una tragedia para cualquier trabajador. Cuando uno revisa hoy las condiciones horribles de los inmigrantes en los Estados Unidos, la muerte de Gutiérrez se torna en algo mucho más trágico.

Los inmigrantes en los Estados Unidos, especialmente aquellos que llegan de países oprimidos, enfrentan una extrema explotación reforzada por condiciones deplorables de trabajo, detenciones ilegales por razones de raza, encarcelaciones inhumanas sin representación legal, ataques racistas y hasta la esclavitud total.

El sistema económico capitalista en su campaña sangrienta por ganancias más grandes súper explota la labor de estos inmigrantes. El gobierno capitalista históricamente ha sido cómplice de esta situación, llevando a cabo políticas que facilitan la explotación por los empresarios.

Pero una nueva situación existe hoy en los Estados Unidos.

Un movimiento creciente entre la población inmigrante—tanto indocumentados como documentados—indica que ellos están jugando un papel cada vez más grande en los movimientos progresistas y de la clase obrera.

Igual como en las primeras décadas del siglo pasado cuando los inmigrantes judíos, italianos e irlandeses sostuvieron luchas militantes contra los patrones, la situación de hoy refleja el viejo adagio: La represión crea resistencia.

Los inmigrantes y la tal guerra contra el terrorismo

El 20 de abril del año 2002, la más grande de las manifestaciones en solidaridad con Palestina jamás vista en los Estados Unidos se dio lugar en Washington, D.C., organizada por la coalición contra la guerra Actuemos Ahora para Parar la Guerra y Dar Fin al Racismo (ANSWER siglas en inglés.)

Unas de las escenas más excitantes en esta manifestación contra la guerra fue el mar de caras de activistas que tradicionalmente no se ven en las protestas contra la guerra en los Estados Unidos.

La gran mayoría de los participantes en la marcha fue de inmigrantes y niños de inmigrantes de países de todas partes del Oriente Medio y del Asia Central y Sureña. También estuvieron presente personas de la América Latina y de África.

A pesar de—o quizás porque sucedía—la tal guerra contra el terrorismo del Presidente George W. Bush, los inmigrantes y sus niños fueron a decir no a la guerra en Irak y mostrar su solidaridad con Palestina.

El gobierno de los Estados Unidos, al lanzar su “guerra contra el terrorismo,”

esperaba mandar a los árabes y otras personas del Oriente Medio a las sombras de esta sociedad. Pero ocurrió lo opuesto.

Inmediatamente después que la ola de represión por Bush fuera desatada, los inmigrantes comenzaron a defenderse. Sus aliados también se organizaron en su defensa.

Organizaciones establecidas al igual que nuevas organizaciones se alzaron para protestar la ola de detenciones ilegales por distinción racial que ha surgido en el país.

El 26 de junio, el Instituto de Política Migratoria, publicó un reporte diciendo que más de 1200 personas habían sido detenidas en el año después de los sucesos del 11 de septiembre. El gobierno ha rehusado decir exactamente cuántos o quiénes son, según el instituto.

Cerca de 77.000 hombres de países árabes y musulmanes fueron interrogados, fotografiados y se les tomaron las huellas digitales. Cerca de 13.000 de ellos están en proceso de deportación. Organizaciones progresistas creen que las cifras son mucho más extensas.

Inmigrantes de otros países también fueron puestos en la mira. Los trabajadores de color en los aeropuertos de todo el país fueron detenidos y tratados con escrutinio. Muchos trabajadores reportaron ser despedidos de sus trabajos en los aeropuertos sólo por haber nacido en América Latina.

La súper explotación: Nada nuevo en los EE.UU.

La tal guerra contra el terrorismo particularmente ha puesto en la mira a los inmigrantes del Oriente Medio y de Asia Central y del Sur. Pero también tuvo la intención de atemorizar a todos los inmigrantes.

La administración de Bush y los patrones esperaban que los inmigrantes corrieran atemorizados y que quizás hasta se quedaran callados en la economía clandestina. Pero no sucedió así.

En su vez, los inmigrantes se están organizando en cifras cada vez más grandes.

El Buró de Estadística del Trabajo (BET), reportó en el año 2000 que el número de trabajadores inmigrantes en los Estados Unidos había subido a 15,7 millones, una subida de 17% en comparación a tres años atrás. El BET calculó que cerca de 5 millones de estos tra-

bajadores eran indocumentados.

El reporte declaró que los inmigrantes ahora representan el 12% de la fuerza laboral de los Estados Unidos. Esto tiene un efecto profundo en la fuerza laboral y en la economía.

Muchos inmigrantes que vienen a este país tienen una perspectiva particular sobre la lucha entre las clases sociales. Vienen de países devastados por cientos de años de dominación imperialista. La mayor parte de ellos son forzados a emigrar a los Estados Unidos porque no es posible encontrar un empleo viable.

Entonces, cuando sólo encuentran los peores trabajos, no es difícil entender el porqué los inmigrantes luchan en contra de condiciones de trabajo insostenibles. Estos empleos varían desde mandadero de supermercados que paga ilegalmente \$3 la hora, hasta trabajar como jardineros, nanas, cuidando casas o manicuristas.

Según los Breves Noticieros Migratorios de septiembre del 2000: “Hay una ola horrenda de violaciones de las leyes laborales nacionales. Empresarios sin escrúpulos han rehusado proporcionar compensación a empleados lesionados en el trabajo o pagar el salario mínimo o salario de tiempo y medio por horas extras a inmigrantes forzados a trabajar hasta 70 ó 80 horas en la semana.”

“Inmigrantes femeninas se han quejado de que sus patrones las hostigan sexualmente, y temen que si hacen una queja oficial, los patrones las van a denunciar al Servicio de Inmigración y Naturalización (SIN.)

“Un inmigrante, Silverio Otero, un trabajador de una bodega del barrio de Lower East Side de Nueva York, se quejó que por mucho tiempo recibió un salario de \$240 la semana a pesar de que el dueño le forzó a trabajar 72 horas en la semana. Esto es el equivalente a \$3.33 la hora.”

Esto ocurrió hace tres años, mientras la economía era próspera. Es probable que las condiciones ahora hayan empeorado.

Una mujer del país africano de Camerún fue esclavizada por una pareja de Silver Spring, en el estado de Maryland quienes la forzaron a trabajar por tres años sin salario alguno como ama de llaves, responsable de cuidar a los niños. (Washington Post, 28 de marzo de 2002)

Dadas estas condiciones de trabajo, es aún más espantoso que los inmigrantes

arriesguen sus vidas sólo para venir a trabajar.

Un editorial del periódico Washington Post del 16 de agosto con el título “Muerte en el desierto” predijo que este año la tasa de muerte va a alcanzar alturas jamás vistas entre los inmigrantes que intenten cruzar la frontera de México hacia los EE.UU.

Sólo en ese fin de semana se encontraron los restos de cinco inmigrantes más.

El récord de muertos se debe en parte a una ola feroz de calor y también “en parte al incremento en patrullas a lo largo de otras partes de la frontera”, según reportó el diario Tucson Citizen.

Y el peligro no es sólo cruzar. El gobierno no sólo ha llevado a cabo una caza de brujas contra los inmigrantes y gente de color, sino que también ha creado un clima antiinmigrante lo cual ha impulsado muchos ataques racistas.

A través de los EE.UU., inmigrantes de todas las nacionalidades están siendo golpeados, hostigados y perseguidos por matones racistas. La casa de una familia latina en Farmingdale de Nueva York fue incendiada recientemente.

Fuera de la sombra, a la calle

La ola de detenciones racistas, la intensidad de la explotación y la brutalidad de la histeria antiinmigrante promovida por varias instituciones legales y extralegales de este país no dejan a los inmigrantes más alternativa que organizarse en defensa propia.

El 4 de octubre, un acto nacional en pro de los derechos de los inmigrantes se va a llevar a cabo en Flushing, Queens en la Ciudad de Nueva York. Caravanas de activistas laborales, estudiantes e inmigrantes desde todos los rincones de los EE.UU. se van a concentrar allí.

Este evento tendrá una importancia histórica. Está impulsado no solamente por las organizaciones de inmigrantes de muchas nacionalidades sino también por el movimiento sindicalizado. Denominada la “Marcha Verano de Libertad”, está asumiendo el carácter de un movimiento mayor en pro de los derechos civiles similar al de los años 60.

El hecho de que esté ocurriendo en Queens, un condado de la Ciudad de Nueva York donde todos los continentes de la tierra tienen representación, puede ser una señal de que el movimiento de derechos pro inmigrantes está madurando. Tiene el potencial de ser no sólo un movimiento donde los latinos o pakistaníes o haitianos trabajen solamente por sus propios intereses, sino donde ellos y todos los demás inmigrantes puedan unirse y expresar al unísono, como un poderoso puño elevado diciendo: “Basta Ya.”

El evento también se puede volver, implícita o explícitamente en una manifestación mayor en contra de la ocupación colonial de Irak.

El 4 de octubre en Queens: ¿Será el día cuando todo el mundo puede ver que “no hay fronteras en la lucha obrera?” □

SUBSCRIBETE A MUNDO OBRERO

\$2 por 8 semanas de prueba \$25 por un año

Nombre _____ Telefono _____

Dirección _____

Ciudad / Estado / Código Postal _____

WW Publishers, 55 W. 17 St., NY, NY 10011