

Bush gives Israel time to carry out massacres

Bloody rampage continues in Palestine



'LET EVIDENCE BE HEARD'

Philadelphia teach-in asks, 'If someone else has confessed to the shooting and his legal team has unearthed unheard evidence, why is Mumia Abu-Jamal behind bars?'

3

PENTAGON *running economy?*

Pious sermons emanate from the White House extolling 'free trade' and 'free enterprise.' But behind the scenes, the generals are muscling in on other branches of government to control big business deals and foreign aid.

5

LET HADDAD GO!

A judge's ruling should finally force the government to reveal its charges against this Muslim community leader in open court.

4

STAND UP TO BUSH & ASHCROFT

As sympathy for the Palestinian national movement sweeps the world, Ashcroft's strategy is to brand it as terrorist. To do so, he's using terror against a defense attorney in the U.S. It's another reason to protest like hell on April 20!

EDITORIAL 10

ARGENTINA *eyewitness*

The showdown between social classes is sharpening as the economy teeters on collapse. The real question on everyone's mind: Are the seeds of dual power taking root?

11

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By Richard Becker

April 10—Israel's war on the Palestinian people is also Phase II of the Bush administration's phony "war on terrorism."

So involved is the U.S. in supporting Israel—militarily, economically and diplomatically—that what is taking place at this moment in occupied Palestine must objectively be called the U.S.-Israeli war.

The F-16 fighter-bombers, Apache attack helicopters, armored vehicles and even the rifles carried by the Israeli soldiers come from the United States, much of it provided free.

The massive Israeli offensive begun on March 29 that has taken such an appalling toll on Palestinian cities, towns and refugee camps was given the green light by U.S. officials, from the president on down.

Israeli Prime Minister Ariel Sharon ordered the attack the day after the Arab League voted to support a revived plan for negotiations between Israel and the Palestinians.

Despite facing overwhelming odds, the Palestinians have resisted with great determination. They have none of the high-tech weaponry which the Israelis possess in abundance. Israel has 3,900 battle tanks and more than 500 advanced warplanes. The Palestinians have neither tanks, planes nor weapons to counter them.

The Israeli media is reporting that at least 300 Palestinians and 28 Israeli troops have been killed in the Israeli offensive. The real figures may not be known, due to the fact that the Israelis have declared the West Bank a closed military zone and excluded the international media, even

shooting some reporters and camera persons.

Destruction in the cities and camps is extremely widespread, with much of the infrastructure—water and sewage pipes, electrical power, phone systems, roads, bridges, hospitals, schools and more—deliberately inflicted by the misnamed Israeli "Defense" Forces. In addition, countless homes have been destroyed.

The Israeli army has made extensive use of bulldozers in refugee camps to make narrow streets accessible to tanks.

U.S. support vital to Israeli offensive

While most of the world has been outraged by the Israeli assault, U.S. officials and the corporate media have been overwhelmingly supportive. Without the backing of Washington, in fact, Sharon could not have unleashed his U.S.-supplied army on such a large-scale and politically perilous expedition.

Why "politically perilous"? Almost immediately, demonstrations against the Israeli invasion swept across the Arab world. Within days they grew to be the largest seen in the region in decades. In Egypt and Jordan, where the regimes have tied themselves closely to the U.S. and recognized Israel, demonstrators broke out of the confinement of the universities and battled police in the streets. Large and combative protests took place in Lebanon, Saudi Arabia, Tunisia, Morocco, Bahrain and other countries.

In the first days of the Israeli offensive, administration officials made no criticism of it and continued to hammer away at Palestinian Authority (PA) President Yasser

Continued on page 9

Massive protests sweep globe

7-9

STOP BUSH/SHARON WAR



ON PALESTINE

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This week ...



★ National	
Teach-in for Mumia Abu-Jamal	3
Mumia on the new King George	3
Cuban imprisoned in U.S. thanks supporters	3
Haddad’s hearing must be opened.	4
Taking the war to the unions	4
Home care workers demand better pay	4
Pentagon seeks to control economy.	5
From “High Tech, Low Pay”	5
Demonstrations across U.S. support Palestinians	8
Bush does Exxon’s bidding	10
★ International	
Bush abets Israeli massacres	1
Israel launches scorched-earth policy.	6
World protests hit Bush, Sharon	7
Argentine jobless take control	11
★ Editorials	
Ashcroft’s terror	10
★ Noticias En Español	
Respaldo por causa palestina	12

WW CALENDAR

BALTIMORE	For info (415) 821-6545.
Mon., April 15 Tax Day Protest. Spend our taxes for jobs and human needs, not war, racism and greed. 5:30 p.m. At the Main Post Office, 800 Fayette St. For info (410) 235-7040.	Sat., April 20 Protest the REAL Axis of Evil: War, Racism, Poverty. 11 a.m. gather Dolores Park. Noon march. 1 p.m. rally Civic Center. For info (415) 821-6545 or www.InternationalANSWER.org .
NEW YORK	WASHINGTON, D.C.
Fri., April 12 Rally to stop the massacre of Palestinian people. 11 a.m. to 6 p.m. At Times Square. For info (212) 633-6646.	Sat., April 20 March on Washington Against War & Racism. Assemble 11 a.m. at the White House. For info (212) 633-6646 or www.InternationalANSWER.org .
Fri., April 12 Fundraiser for the medical care needs of the survivors of hunger strikes in Turkey. Sponsored by the U.S. Friends of Human Rights Foundation of Turkey. 7 p.m. At Walker Stage, 56 Walker St., betw. Broadway & Church (N, R, A or C to Canal).	Mon., April 22 Protest Ariel Sharon and George Bush. 7 p.m. at the annual conference of American Israeli Public Affairs Committee. For info (212) 633-6646 or www.InternationalANSWER.org .
SAN FRANCISCO	
Sun., April 14 Workers World Party Forum: Palestine and the U.S. War Drive. 5 p.m. At 2489 Mission St., Room 28.	

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Teach-in for Mumia says

'Let the evidence be heard!'

By Heather Cottin
Philadelphia

The drums of the Sori-Mori—Korean political activist musicians—blended with African percussion on the streets of downtown Philadelphia April 6 as close to 1,000 people chanted, “Brick by brick, wall by wall, we’re gonna free Mumia Abu-Jamal.” With their signs thrust into the air, their banners and liberation flags billowing in the wind, the crowd surged down Broad Street and rallied in front of Benjamin Franklin High School, where Abu-Jamal as a youth had organized for the Black Panther Party.

The multinational group held up signs asking passing cars to “Honk for Mumia.” Scores of drivers responded with horns and fists in support of his freedom. After a brief but lively rally everyone went into the school to attend a teach-in, “Let the Evidence be Heard!,” organized by International Concerned Family and Friends of Mumia Abu-Jamal.

This was a people’s victory. It was the first time the movement in Philadelphia had been able to win the use of this public facility so that more could hear the truth about the trial and struggle of this death-row prisoner.

Pam Africa of ICFFMAJ explained how Judge Pamela Dembe has ruled against allowing evidence to be examined that has emerged only in the past year. Dembe is acting on behalf of the police and district attorney, not according to the law, said Africa.

Judge William H. Yohn, who threw out Abu-Jamal’s death sentence on technicalities last December, has blocked the review of a voluntary confession by Arnold Beverly and other evidence discovered by Abu-Jamal’s new legal team. Beverly says he committed the murder of a Philadelphia police officer for which Abu-Jamal was convicted.

Pam Africa’s uncompromising stand and her powerful demand for Abu-Jamal’s supporters to “organize and organize” inspired the activists to resist fear and threats. Pam Africa called for renaming the building Mumia Abu-Jamal High School. When Abu-Jamal was there as a militant student, he had called for the school to be renamed Malcolm X High.

Youth provide ‘Edutainment’

The organizers included youth in the Philadelphia area who support Abu-Jamal, so the program included an exhilarating and youthful cultural component called “Edutainment.” The six-hour teach-in featured videos and speakers as well as international supporters of Abu-Jamal. Because ICFFMAJ and Act Now to Stop War & End Racism (ANSWER) had leafleted at a rally in support of the Palestinian people two days earlier, the representation of Moslem activists at the teach-in was sizeable.

One of Abu-Jamal’s lawyers, Elliot Grossman, gave a detailed analysis of the present state of the case and the organizers provided for a question-and-answer period for the audience to query him about specifics.

The speakers included a delegation from France, where support for Abu-Jamal is strong among social activists, and a Palestinian, Dr. Shouki Kassis of the Arab-American Discrimination Committee. Jesse Corwin of the Native American Youth Movement spoke as well as Father Luis Barrios, who called for the ending of U.S. Navy bombing of Vieques, Puerto Rico.

Barrios told the audience to stand up for



a prayer. It was, “U.S. Navy out of Vieques, Puerto Rico, Mumia Abu-Jamal out of prison!” which everyone chanted in ringing tones.

Radio station WBIX covered the teach-in live.

In the latter part of the program, Elombe Brath of the Patrice Lumumba Coalition related Abu-Jamal’s case to the struggle in Africa and specifically to Zimbabwe, where the government has been distributing land to the people. Ron Johnson of the Coalition of Blacks for Reparations spoke, as did Frank Morales, who condemned the Patriot Act and the repression which, since 9/11, has added Muslims in the United States to the groups “racially profiled” by cops and now federal authorities.

Other speakers called for an end to Bush’s endless war, which has targeted Iraq, Colombia, Yemen and other poor nations while the money for the military is siphoned out of poor communities.

Philadelphia is a case in point. Official unemployment here jumped from 4.2 percent in December 2001 to 5.5 percent in February, according to the Bureau of Labor Statistics, while the Bush administration was handing over hundreds of billions of dollars to its cronies, the military-industrial robber barons.

Because Mumia Abu-Jamal is outspokenly opposed to the war on the poor and U.S. imperialism, evidence presented at the teach-in linked every major struggle in the

world to his case.

Larry Holmes of International ANSWER addressed the house with news of his recent visit with Abu-Jamal.

“All he wanted to talk about was Palestine,” said Holmes. Holmes and Workers World Party’s Monica Moorehead had met with Abu-Jamal for over five hours in late March. He denounced Israel’s genocidal attacks on the Palestinian people.

Abu-Jamal talked about the Intifada, Holmes reported, and was confident that the Palestinian resistance had produced a direct hit on Bush’s war drive.

The death-row prisoner compared the Palestinian struggle to the resistance of the children in Soweto in 1976. This struggle is so popular today that it has united the entire world against Israeli occupation and the U.S. government’s support of the Israeli war criminals, just as the struggle in Soweto crystallized international resistance to apartheid.

Abu-Jamal talked exultantly about the millions of people who support the Palestinians, and Holmes, who is a director of the International Action Center and a member of the International ANSWER coalition, told the assembly that the coalition’s April 20 March on Washington will be in solidarity with the Palestinian struggle and against the U.S. war drive, while it continues to demand freedom for Mumia Abu-Jamal.

“We are all Palestinians,” Holmes said, and the house took up the chant.

Imprisoned in U.S. Cuban thanks supporters

Five Cubans are being held in U.S. jails because they penetrated right-wing exile organizations in Florida in order to thwart terrorist actions against their country. Cuba has been attacked many times since the popular revolution of 1959 kicked out U.S. gangsters along with the Batista dictatorship and exploiting corporations. The CIA sponsored an invasion of Cuba at the Bay of Pigs in 1961 by some of these right-wing exiles.

On the weekend of March 15-17 meetings were held in three Midwest cities to demand freedom for the five political prisoners. The meetings had the sponsorship of over 30 groups and heard a wide variety of speakers from many progressive organizations. Postcards to the prisoners were passed around at the meetings and signed by hundreds of people. Below we print a letter from one of the prisoners responding to this support.

April 5, 2002

Dear friends,

I read in Workers World about the meetings in Detroit, Chicago and Milwaukee in which our case was discussed, and plans were made to help spread the word on the injustice done to us and Cuba.

My gratefulness is endless to those of you who took part in the meetings and signed the postcard that I just received. I am aware that we are not alone in this fight for justice. There are friends like you who understand the right Cuba has to defend itself from terrorist attacks financed and organized in U.S. territory. Especially when the authorities of this country do little or nothing to stop these attacks.

I truly appreciate your solidarity and support. Together we will make justice prevail.

Thank you very much for your beautiful and encouraging postcard.

Hasta la Victoria, Siempre

Fernando Gonzalez Llort
FCI, Oxford, Wis.

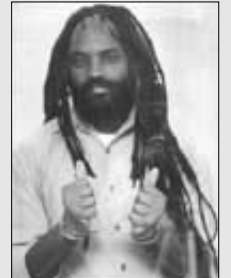
**MUMIA from
death row on**

The new King George

Dear Sistas, Brothas, fellow radicals and, I hope, Revolutionaries;
Ona Move! Long live John Africa!

I greet you all who gather on both coasts, for our liberty and our liberation!

We are, the corporate media insists, in a war, and therefore we should all silently acquiesce in the theft and evisceration



of our liberties. That, they suggest, is the “patriotic” thing to do.

But what if that was the attitude in the 1770s?

If that principle is true, then Americans should’ve acquiesced to the past aggressions of King George.

If so, we would all be speaking the Queen’s English, we’d drive on the other side of the road, and North America would be just a colony in the vast British Empire.

Patriotism is nothing, if it’s not resistance to repression—yes, even, especially, the repression of the government.

Are you freer today under this new King George, who seeks to make much of the Mideast a vast American colony? In this new, Imperial America, the Fourth Amendment has been suspended, secret courts have been established, Habeas Corpus has been



extinguished, and the military runs government services in the air and on land.

What you’ve seen in the Jamal case is startling examples

of how rules can be changed (or ignored) in the middle of the process; how the words of court stenographers—those people who prepare court records and trial transcripts—in short, those who are sworn and trained to listen to, and correctly record, human speech, like Teri Maurer-Carter, are ignored when they reveal the vicious, naked, racist hatred that beats under a judge’s black robe; how evidence of witness tampering, of concocted confessions, yes, of innocence itself, are irrelevant, because—we changed the rules. Kafka himself would recognize such a system.

But I want to thank you, and to inform you, that the beat goes on (as Fred Hampton would say). We are growing—but we must grow more! We are growing—and we are winning.

Contact your support group nearest you for ways that you can help.

**I thank you—and urge you—
Stay Ona Move!**

To Freedom! I love you all!

**From Death Row,
this is Mumia Abu-Jamal.**

A small crack in wall of repression

Haddad's hearing must be opened

By Jane Cutter
Ann Arbor, Mich.

A small crack has been opened in the government's draconian seizure and detention without cause of Arab and Muslim immigrants.

On April 3, a federal judge in Detroit ruled that trials and hearings involving immigrants rounded up by the U.S. government in the wake of the Sept. 11 attacks must be open to the public. The suit had been filed by the American Civil Liberties Union on behalf of the Ann Arbor News, the Metro Times of Detroit and two other newspapers, as well as U.S. Rep. John Conyers, a founding member of the Congressional Black Caucus.

The case involves Rabih Haddad, a Lebanese immigrant and Muslim community leader who has resided in Ann Arbor, Mich., for some years.

Haddad is a co-founder of the Global Relief Foundation, an Islamic charity that has been accused of supporting "terror-

ism" by the U.S. government. In December, the U.S. government seized GRF's assets and arrested Haddad at his home in Ann Arbor on the eve of Eid al Adha, an important Muslim holiday marking the end of Ramadan.

Since his arrest, ostensibly for overstaying a tourist visa, Haddad has been behind bars. While initially held in a county jail in the Detroit area, he was later moved to Chicago. There he was at first held in maximum-security, "super-solitary" conditions. However, as a result of pressure from his supporters, he has since been moved to the general population.

Haddad has appeared at three immigration hearings since his arrest. All these hearings were ordered closed to the public and press. Authorities cited a Justice Department policy issued in a Sept. 21 memo by Chief Immigration Judge Michael Creppy. The "Creppy Memo" issued guidelines for cases for which "the Department of Justice is requiring special arrangements." The

Justice Department, now run by arch-conservative Atty. Gen. John Ashcroft, is behind the closing of hundreds of immigration hearings of Arab and Muslim men detained after Sept. 11.

In an example of looking-glass logic, the government argued against the ACLU that the secret trials were needed to "protect" the detainees from being stigmatized, as well as to encourage them to cooperate with the investigation. Judge Nancy Edmunds rejected this argument, writing, "the subtext is all about the government's right to suspend certain personal liberties in the pursuit of national security."

"It is important for the public, particularly individuals who feel that they are being targeted by the government as a result of the terrorist attacks of September 11, to know that even during these sensitive times the government is adhering to immigration procedures and respecting individuals' rights," Edmunds also wrote.

But not all judges profess such concern about civil liberties. On April 5, U.S. District Judge Wayne Anderson ruled that the government can use secret evidence in the case against Global Relief Foundation in order to "prove" the charity has links to terrorist activities. The evidence was presented in court without the attorneys for GRF being present.

Michigan ACLU Executive Director Kary Moss condemned the decision, arguing that the use of secret evidence is contrary to principles of the U.S. justice system.

Haddad's next court appearance is on April 10. His wife, Salma Al-Rashaid, and three of his four children also face deportation. It would appear that this ruling means that the April 10 proceedings will be open to Haddad's family, supporters and the press. However, opening Haddad's hearing, and the hearings of others like him, is just a first move toward shoring up the civil liberties of immigrants, which have been virtually abandoned in the name of "investigating terrorism."

TAKING THE WAR TO THE UNIONS

By Deirdre Griswold

One of the thorniest problems for progressives in the labor movement is how to raise the issue of imperialist war. The pressure on the union leaders to line up behind any military adventure is very heavy and it comes from both the government and the bosses. Even more difficult has been the question of U.S. support for the racist Israeli settler state, which has been off limits for criticism in most of the labor movement.

At the present time, when protests are breaking out all over this country and the world over the barbaric repression of the Palestinian people by the U.S.-armed and U.S.-funded Israeli military, there is at last

the beginning of a debate on this subject within the unions. The working class in the U.S. today has a large component of nationally oppressed people, many of whom have fled repressive U.S.-supported regimes in their homelands. Sympathy and solidarity with the downtrodden, exiled Palestinians would seem to come naturally to them.

On the West Coast, where labor has traditionally been more militant and progressive than in most of the rest of the country, several unions passed resolutions in the recent period opposing the Bush administration's belligerence and supporting national anti-war demonstrations on April 20 in Washington and San Francisco. However, on April 8 the San Francisco

Central Labor Council took a vote rescinding an earlier resolution that had called for an end to the violence in Israel and Occupied Palestine. The rescinding motion narrowly passed with 67 percent of the votes.

The more progressive trade unionists vowed to continue the struggle.

In New York on April 9, an important resolution was passed by nearly 200 health care union delegates. It contained four demands: that Israel end its occupation of the West Bank and Gaza immediately; stop U.S. military aid to Israel; support the right of return of Palestinian refugees; and endorse rallies, like those on April 20 and others that support these demands.

A Jewish delegate introduced the resolution at a meeting of the 1199 Delegates' Council, Health Systems I-V. Earlier, he had passed out a flyer headed "Palestinian people are being killed ... Our tax dollars are paying the bills." The resolution passed with just one "no" vote. This delegates' council represents over half the unionized health care workers in New York hospitals.

As the movement grows in this country against U.S. imperialist aggression in the Middle East, progressives in the unions will be giving a lot of thought to finding effective ways to reach their sisters and brothers with the information and fighting spirit they will need to break with the positions laid down by the class enemy and its political establishment.

Home-care workers demand better pay

They come from different parts of the world. The union literature they read is written in four languages. But home-care workers showed the unity that can come out of a common oppression on April 4 when they rallied by the thousands at New York's City Hall.

Home-care workers do a vitally important job. They take care of elderly and disabled home-bound patients who otherwise would be hospitalized for long periods. The largest successful union organizing drive in the United States since 1937 came three years ago in Los Angeles, when over 74,000 home-care workers, predominantly immigrants, won a contract through the Service Employees union (SEIU).

Now New York's home health aides want to do the same. They are trying to join with their sisters and brothers, the home attendants and housekeepers, who won their first union contract 15 years ago. Those organized workers now earn \$6 per hour more than the aides, who are the lowest-paid home-care workers in the city and get no benefits, pensions or sick leave.

"We're home-care workers fighting back!" the chants echoed off the canyons of lower Manhattan, just blocks from Wall Street. With determination to win recognition of their 1199 SEIU contract, the aides protested the city home-care agencies that contract out work to the giant healthcare company Visiting Nurse Services (VNS).

The protest called for a living wage and demanded the agencies sit down and negotiate a fair contract. If the company continues to refuse to negotiate, the



workers will rally at the VNS office on April 11.

As their union explains, "When we speak with one voice, we have the power to win!"

—Anne Pruden, 1199 SEIU

WW PHOTO: ANNE PRUDEN

Pentagon seeks to control economy

By John Catalinotto

Using the “national security” ploy, the U.S. Defense Department is attempting to gain more control of both economic regulation and military-assistance projects involving foreign countries.

This attempt involves two new moves in the U.S. Congress to centralize controls in the military to the detriment of civilian agencies.

According to the April 5 Financial Times, the first is contained in draft legislation written by the Pentagon. This new law would force all deals with foreign buyers valued at more than \$100 million to first get a go-ahead from the Committee on Foreign Investment in the United States. CFIUS is a little-known interagency panel that is supposed to ensure that these foreign acquisitions do not violate U.S. national security.

The proposed law is included in the Bush administration’s draft of next year’s military spending bill. According to the Financial Times, it “has infuriated officials at departments outside the Pentagon—particularly the Commerce and Treasury Departments—who were apparently not consulted in the drafting of the measure.”

The proposal also includes CFIUS oversight for any deals in which a U.S. company has had any Pentagon contracts valued at more than \$1 million in the past three

years, or if the deal involves a nationalized foreign firm.

Such a law would give the Pentagon the legal right to interfere in a broad variety of economic decisions. It flies in the face of all the Bush administration’s pious sermons extolling “free trade” along with “free enterprise.” It means the military controls the deals.

A year ago, it meant that CFIUS could shoot down the proposed \$1.2-billion takeover by the Dutch group ASM Lithography of Silicon Valley Group. This brought protests from the Dutch foreign minister.

In other words, the Pentagon can use this new legislation to regulate competition between U.S. companies and their rivals in Europe and Japan. Last year it stopped ASM Lithography from acquiring SVG’s optics division, which was technologically advanced.

Commerce, Treasury and other civilian departments in Washington are equally committed to protecting and extending U.S. imperialist interests. What makes the Pentagon takeover of these functions significant is that the Pentagon’s first priority is to wage war.

In addition, it is tied into the military industries. It has at its disposal over \$330 billion yearly to nurture them, far more than any other government agency. This amount is expected to grow to \$500 billion in the near future as the

military budget rises.

Taking control of ‘military assistance’

But this is only the first step. The second step is an attempt by the Pentagon to grab the prerogative of spending tens of millions of dollars or more on military assistance to unspecified countries or “indigenous forces.” According to an article reporting this in the April 7 Washington Post, this authority “traditionally has rested with the State Department.”

For 2002, this would involve \$130 million. It was hidden in the Pentagon’s supplemental spending request for \$14 billion sent to Congress in March.

Legally, the State Department can’t spend money where it would involve “violations of human rights, sponsorship of terrorism and nonpayment of debt.” Of course, the U.S. government supported the bloodiest death squads in Central America—and Bush has reappointed several of the key players from that period. So these rules may only be window dressing to deflect congressional complaints. Nevertheless, the new Pentagon rule would leave the entire decision up to the secretary of defense. And who is that? At present, it is Donald Rumsfeld, who is far to the right, even in the military spectrum.

It would mean, for example, that on Pentagon say-so alone, money would be available to fund a group like the Northern Al-

liance of Afghanistan, even though that group had terrorized Afghani civilians, especially women.

The \$130 million includes \$100 million for foreign nations “in furtherance of the global war on terrorism,” according to the proposal. It also includes \$30 million to support “indigenous forces engaged in activities in furtherance of United States national security aims, including Operation Enduring Freedom and related activities in combating terrorism.”

Even members of Congress, who have cooperated so willingly with Bush’s sharp lurch to the right, are wary of this complete military takeover of traditionally civilian authority. Sen. Patrick Leahy (D-Vt.), chairperson of the appropriations subcommittee on foreign operations, said, “The concerns this raises are less about the sums requested than about the troubling precedent it would set, and that makes it a controversial proposal.”

By hiding behind “national security” and the so-called war on terrorism, the extreme militarists are trying to sneak in laws and regulations that give them control over more and more aspects of economic life and of foreign affairs.

These developments slice away at what is left of civilian control over the running of the U.S. empire, and make even more necessary the development of an independent popular movement to stop U.S. militarism.

From 'High Tech, Low Pay'

Brass can't solve capitalist crisis

In the book “High Tech, Low Pay,” Sam Marcy wrote of the Pentagon’s efforts to become organizer of the capitalist economy. That was during the Reagan administration. It is happening again today, making the excerpts below from Marcy’s work more relevant than ever.

The Pentagon since before 1983 has been attempting to make a quantum leap into an area which was previously regarded, at least in peace time, as off-limits. It is attempting to become the central organizer, not merely of the war industries, but of the capitalist economy as a whole.

The term “centrally organized economy” has generally been applied by bourgeois economists only to socialist countries. The very term has been anathema to big business. For decades bourgeois economic dogma has held onto the fiction that in the U.S. individual corporate enterprises are dominant; that “free enterprise” and capitalist competition reign supreme; and that it was only the Rooseveltian New Dealers and their latter-day administrators of the capitalist state who injected the government into what is normally regarded as the private sector.

The truth of the matter, however, is that monopoly capitalism in the U.S. has been steadily and relentlessly fusing with the capitalist state for decades, and is intertwined with the military in a thousand and one ways.

It was General Dwight D. Eisenhower who coined the term “military-industrial complex” to describe the infrastructure that was set up during World War II and that was never really demobilized after the war. What is now contemplated envisions the organization of the basic elements of the capitalist economy under the aegis of the Pentagon in so-called peace time.

There is a struggle, a virtual war, going on over whether and how to do this. A glimpse of this was aired in 1983, on a special segment of the PBS program “Frontline” entitled “Pentagon Inc.”

The program dealt with the existence of a little-known group that has tremendous power and authority. It is called the Manufacturing Technology Advisory Group (MTAG) and it includes representatives of both the military and the principal defense contractors. The ambition of this group is to become the MITI of the United States.

MITI is a ministry set up by the Japanese capitalist government which is said to direct the goals of the Japanese economy.

Air Force General Bernard Weiss explained how the military views MTAG: “To me,” said Weiss to a meeting of MTAG that included many military contractors, “I look upon all of us here today in your organizations that you work for as the MITI that will take the U.S. out of the position that it’s in today in productivity and quality and move it back to being preeminent in this world.”

Now, that requires a considerable reorientation of U.S. industry and commerce. It means that this group would, in the words of the PBS narrator, “set the direction for our industrial future. They make up an economic apparatus every bit as rich and elaborate as MITI. But it is the military here controlling the money and the goals are set by military men.”

In Japan, of course, only a very small percent of its gross national product is involved in military research and development as against the huge expenditures in the U.S.

Another speaker at the MTAG meeting shown on PBS was General Lawrence A. Skantze, whose title “Head of Manufacturing Command” was not explained, nor

were his job classification and scope of authority.

General Skantze was more specific than General Weiss. “Since our war-fighting equipment comes from the industrial base,” he said, “the condition within that base must be addressed and corrected. We now have an effort underway to provide a planning system that will guide our industrial base investments and will eventually integrate technology, opportunity and business investment planning. It is a top-down approach we call ‘Industrial Base Plan-

ning.’”

What all this signifies is that the Pentagon is aiming at capitalist regimentation of industry, high-technology industries in particular, and the capitalist economy in general. The whole purpose of it, the Pentagon made clear through these spokesmen, is not to coordinate and plan for useful, cooperative production for the people. It is, as they make very plain, to compete not only with Japan but the whole world, militarily and economically.


It was a frequent theme in the middle

1950s, that is, between the Korean and Vietnam wars, that because of the Pentagon’s enormous power to maximize costs and its authority to hand out lavish and extravagant contracts for defense orders, the capitalist state thereby acquires the ability to abolish capitalist economic crises altogether.

Of course it is all too true that the capitalist state can accelerate military contracts and thereby temporarily stave off an economic crisis. But it is also all too clear that when that fails, they resort to military adventures. In fact, the 20th century is full of examples of militarism giving a temporary respite to the capitalist system, only to later bring on a deeper and more profound economic crisis.

Liberal thinkers are often blinded by what appears to be the omnipotence of the capitalist state because of its power of repression. But while it has tinkered with the economic laws of motion governing capitalist society, it has been unable to alter them in a way that would purge the system of crisis. It only succeeds in delaying the crisis, which is then even more disastrous when it comes.

Military reorganization of the economy
(From “High Tech, Low Pay,” 1986)



Selected Works of Sam Marcy

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CONTENTS. . . BOOKS AND PAMPHLETS

- PERESTROIKA *A Marxist Critique* 1990
- HIGH TECH, LOW PAY 1986
- The Bolsheviks and War 1985
- The Klan & the Government, 1983
- POLAND *Behind the Crisis* 1982
- REINDUSTRIALIZATION
- The Menace Behind the Promise* 1981
- Generals Over the White House 1980
- Imperialism and the Crisis in the Socialist Camp 1979
- CHINA 1977
- End of the Revolutionary Mao Era* 1977
- originally “Suppression of the left”

Horrors the censors try to hide

Israel launches scorched-

By Leslie Feinberg

April 9—The Zionist settler regime has unleashed a vicious war against Palestinians in the West Bank. So much ink and airtime is used to present this state terror against a people without an army as “defensive” that only inklings of the reality of this martial rampage glimmer through media coverage.

Even journalists from the pro-Israel monopoly media outlets in the United States are barred from towns, villages and refugee camps as helicopter warships swoop down and tanks rumble in. And now Tel Aviv is demanding that all news reports must be run past Israeli censors before they can be printed or aired. (CNN, April 8)

But some of the following particulars, culled from diverse sources, offer a more complete picture of the horror and destruction that Palestinians at ground zero are enduring under the boot heel of re-occupation.

Major West Bank towns have been militarily sealed up. The shoot-on-sight curfew keeps an estimated 80 percent of the West Bank population—some 1 million residents—under tight lockdown. When curfews are briefly lifted, there’s no food on store shelves. (Palestine Red Crescent Society, April 5)

“There have also been reports of looting of food and personal items by Israeli soldiers carrying out house-to-house searches,” said an April 5 BBC account. Charges have been made that troops have raped Palestinian women and girls. (nileMedia.com)

The military has wrecked the civilian infrastructure with pinpoint accuracy, destroying telephone lines, electricity pylons, water pipes and roads.

What little food people have is decaying and inedible. Aid agency workers say they are unable to provide humanitarian aid because they are obstructed by the army and come under fire. There’s little medicine and no garbage collection. Under these conditions, the risk of epidemics is growing.

Health care workers have been beaten, shot and detained. The PRCS documented cases of Israeli troops using paramedics as human shields. The agency noted that the army uses wireless devices seized from detained medics to interfere with ambulance services. (April 4)

Since many ambulance drivers and health workers are being detained and barred from working inside the military cordons, it is difficult to accurately determine the scope of human casualties.

On April 7 Israeli Chief of Staff Lt. Gen. Shaul Mofaz stated that about 200 Palestinians had been killed and 1,500 wounded over the previous 10 days. Hassan Abdel Rahman, the Palestinian representative to the United States, had put the Palestinian death toll at 250 and pointed out that many were women and children. (CNN, April 8) But the number of dead and wounded is mounting, particularly in Jenin and Nablus.

Dr. Rania Masri of Al-Awda—the Palestine Right to Return Coalition—denounced the Israeli terror in an interview with Scott Harris for Between the Lines, a nationally syndicated radio newsmagazine. “We have found out they killed 25 Palestinians. The way they killed them was they undressed them and ... tortured them to such an extent that when the ambulances picked them up, they cannot even identify their bodies. And there have been more and more of these massacres.”

QALQILYA, TULKAREM & DORA

When Israeli Prime Minister Ariel Sharon withdrew troops and tanks from the center of two West Bank towns—Qalqilya and Tulkarem—on April 8, it was a calculated maneuver for world public opinion that made headlines.

According to the Palestine Monitor, however, the Israeli army forces “have withdrawn from the town centers, but remain in complete control of the towns with a ring of tanks and other armed vehicles around them. People in Qalqiliya and Tulkaram remain isolated from the surrounding villages and towns, and no one is able to leave the cities.” (RamallahOnline.com, April 9)

Schools and institutions in Tulkarem have been con-



Rubble of a home in Javalya refugee camp in the Gaza Strip bulldozed by Israel tanks.

verted into prisons and military encampments. (PRCS, April 8)

The brutal attempt to crush Palestinian resistance was not ending on April 8. Hours after the “pullback,” before dawn, residents of Dora awoke to gunfire as Israeli troops, tanks and armored personnel carriers invaded their town, which is southwest of Hebron in the southern West Bank. (Associated Press, April 9)

Meanwhile, Sharon’s army carved deeper into Nablus and Jenin, bombarding the populations.

JENIN

Helicopters gunships swarmed into airspace over the northern West Bank town of Jenin at daybreak on April 8, firing dozens of missiles into the crowded refugee camp there. The camp on the western edge of Jenin, less than a square mile in size, is home to some 15,000 Palestinians. Residents who refused to leave were reportedly evacuated by force, but most were still inside the camp when the rocket attack began. (CNN)

“Palestinians say huge armored bulldozers knocked down homes on top of people living in them, to widen narrow alleys so tanks could pass.” (New York Times, April 9)

Many witnesses have described how the men were rounded up, stripped to their underwear, separated from the women and children, and taken away to an unknown location. One woman recalled the soldiers spat on their prisoners.

On that day in Jenin alone, Israeli troops reportedly massacred at least 100 Palestinians. (New York Daily News, April 9) The Palestinian Authority said that “another Sabra and Shatila massacre” is taking place at the refugee camp. (The Guardian, April 9) Sharon is hated throughout the Arab world for the 1982 massacres of several thousand Palestinians in the Sabra and Shatila refugee camps in Beirut.

The exact number of fatalities in Jenin is not known. Many may die from their wounds. The Israelis had already blocked ambulances, aid workers, food and water from the area for five days. “Palestinians in the refugee camps described bodies lying in the streets and people bleeding to death because ambulances could not reach them.” (British Broadcasting News, April 8)

An April 8 news update from the Palestine Red Crescent Society related that Israeli forces raided the clinic run by the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees and surrounded and shelled the Jenin Ministry of Health Hospital. There’s no electricity or water in

the camp and a lack of food and milk. The injured drink urine to hydrate.

The April 8 Palestine Monitor said that the camp had been under sustained military attack for the past five days. The Israeli army used U.S.-supplied Apache helicopters, tanks and missiles.

NABLUS

Israeli troops are laying siege to the Palestinian population in the largest West Bank town of Nablus. At least 14 Palestinian bodies were killed and left sprawled amidst the rubble of narrow alleyways on April 7 alone. (AP, April 7)

Israeli troops tried to invade a makeshift field hospital set up on April 7, “but doctors at the scene prevented them from entering.” Ambulances and their teams are being detained. Tanks blockade the Nablus ambulance station. (PRCS, April 8)

The military noose around the city tightened and the shelling intensified on April 8.

“Scores of wounded Palestinians lay on the floor of a mosque waiting hopelessly for doctors to come.” (Daily News, April 9)

Some 400 to 500 tanks and armored vehicles had invaded Nablus late on April 3. Nineteen Palestinians were reported killed that day, including a girl who died in her home when troops shelled it from a tank. (CNN.com)

By April 5, some 180,000 people had no running water and electricity was cut in most quarters.

RAMALLAH

Ramallah, 10 miles north of Jerusalem, is a city of 200,000 and the base of the Palestinian Authority (PA).

Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat is trapped inside several rooms of what is left of his compound, without electricity, water or phone. Arafat is literally being held prisoner in the debris of his headquarters, surrounded by overwhelming military force. The British imperialists built the walled compound, known as the Muqataa, as a prison complex in the 1920s. It was historically used to jail Palestinians before Palestinians took control of it in 1994. (BBC, March 30)

French anti-globalization activist Jose Bove, arrested for trying to bring food and medicine to Yasser Arafat’s besieged compound, described what he witnessed while he was briefly held at a detention camp for Palestinians rounded up by Israeli troops. “We saw 300 people kneeling down and blindfolded, waiting to be interrogated in the cold and the night. It was unbearable to behold.” (Common Dreams News Center)

Manal Issa, administrative and finance officer of the Khalil Sakakini Cultural Center, transcribed a chilling account by a prisoner who described how he and the other



Palestinian child playing in ruins of home.

Continued on page 10

earth policy



Palestinians in Gaza show defiance.



3 million march in Morocco.

Massive and militant

World protests hit Bush, Sharon

By John Catalinotto

Millions of demonstrators waving Palestinian flags. That's what greeted U.S. Secretary of State Colin Powell when he arrived in Rabat on April 8 to try and line up the Moroccan king behind Washington's Mideast policy.

Waving signs condemning U.S. support for Israeli Prime Minister Ariel Sharon and his "war against unarmed Palestinian people," the protesters burned Israeli and U.S. flags.

The Moroccan Association for the Support of the Palestinian Struggle organized the rally. The group's chairperson, Khalid Sefiani, told the media that "It's not 3 million Moroccans who expressed total and unfailing support to Palestinians but all Moroccan people who, from now on, consider themselves Palestinians."

This was the biggest—but not the only—proof of worldwide anger against both Israel's brutal assault on Palestinian towns and refugee camps and U.S. backing for that assault.

Powell's trip itself, billed as an effort to stop the fighting in Palestine, is aimed at deflecting the growing outrage focused on U.S. imperialism. U.S. strategists worry that the mass outpourings, especially in the Arab countries, could turn into uprisings against U.S. client regimes. In Morocco, Egypt and Jordan, as well as Saudi Arabia and most of the other Gulf states, there is a wide separation between the regimes and the masses.

As the Israeli invasion of the West Bank entered its second week, tens of thousands of people in Cairo and other Egyptian cities protested against Israel and the U.S. despite state repression. When students attempted to leave the University of Cairo grounds, police used violence to stop them, arresting at least 30.

On the eve of the April 6 foreign ministers' meeting in Cairo, Egyptian demonstrators called for military action against Israel. "The liberation of the occupied territories is possible only with weapons," they shouted, "not with a peace initiative."

In Bahrain demonstrators broke into the U.S. Embassy compound and set some vehicles on fire. In Saudi Arabia, after the regime forbade any type of demonstration, police attacked young people who had gathered to protest against the U.S. and Israel.

In Jordan, where a large majority of the population is of Palestinian origin, the regime of King Abdullah tried to channel the protests into non-threatening areas. People were asked to donate blood at the hospitals and send funds to charitable organizations headed by the king. After the interior minister proclaimed that any demonstrations

needed permits, tens of thousands of people took part in a permitted protest April 2 in Amman.

In Khartoum, Sudan, on April 8, more than a million people demonstrated solidarity with the Palestinian struggle and called for a boycott of U.S. products. Government and opposition parties participated.

In Lebanon, where a half-million Palestinian refugees live, there were demonstrations all week; 15,000 marched in Baalbek, according to the BBC. Tens of thousands also demonstrated in Syria, Libya and Iraq. In Turkey, where the regime has military pacts with Israel, mass protests across the country on April 5 followed Friday prayers.

Protests in Israel, Europe, Latin America, Australia

In Tel Aviv Israeli Arabs and anti-militarist Jews joined in the thousands to protest Sharon's offensive and demand that Israeli forces leave the Occupied Territories and remove the Jewish settlements from those areas. "It is not a war against terror, it is a war of occupation and reoccupation," said one speaker.

Also, the movement among Israeli soldiers and reservists to refuse duty in the Occupied Territories has grown. Over 1,000 people have pledged to refuse, and as of April 8 some 30 of these soldiers and officers had been imprisoned for active refusal.

Thousands of people demonstrated in Sao Paulo, Brazil, where there is a large Arab community, and there were also demonstrations in Santiago, Chile, and in Managua, Nicaragua.

Mass protests took place across Europe. In Italy, some 40,000 people marched through downtown Rome April 6 in support of the Palestinian people and against the Israeli war. There were demonstrations of 10,000 in Naples, 5,000 in Milan, 4,000 in Turin and smaller ones in dozens of other Italian cities.

The three trade union confederations in Italy, which are preparing a general strike for April 16 to defend labor rights, pulled out of the Rome demonstration at the last minute, saying it was too pro-Palestinian. Some major individual unions participated, however.

In the Basque Country in Bilbao and Pamplona, tens of thousands demonstrated solidarity with the Palestinians on April 6. They were responding to a united call from both Spanish- and Basque-based trade unions, an uncommon event.

In Paris, some 40,000 people protested Israel's invasion. Slogans included, "From Shatila to Ramallah, the murderers are still there" and "Those who sow injustice



Israelis in Tel Aviv.

will reap the Intifada." The demonstrators also protested attacks on synagogues in France.

Other significant demonstrations took place in Marseilles, Strasbourg, Lyon, Montpellier and at least a dozen other French cities.

On April 7, 25,000 people marched through Brussels, Belgium, to demand an end to Israel's war against the Palestinians. Converging in front of the U.S. Embassy, they shouted, "Bush, Sharon, terrorists! Bush, murderer! Sharon, his dog! We are all Palestinians!"

In Berlin, 10,000 marched on April 6 to the pro-Israel media concern Springer and raised a Palestinian flag on the building. Tens of thousands demonstrated in Bonn, Karlsruhe, Hannover, Dusseldorf and other German cities. Some 10,000 people also demonstrated in Bern, Switzerland.

In Australia, some 2,000 people demonstrated in Sydney, including 30 who tried to invade the Israeli Consulate, and in Brisbane.

Other demonstrations took place in Indonesia and Uganda.

Reports from the Panafrikan News Agency (Morocco), AFP (Sudan) and the newspapers Junge Welt (Germany), Il Manifesto (Italy), l'Humanite (France), and Solidaire (Belgium).

Bustin' out all over

Support for Palestine sweeps U.S.

By Leslie Feinberg

Across the United States, people of all ages and walks of life are delivering a passionate and heartfelt message of solidarity with the besieged Palestinian people. And they are demanding that Wall Street, the White House and Joint Chiefs of Staff end their bankrolling and patronage of the Zionist settler occupation of historic Palestine.

Large, angry protests flooded into the streets in cities and towns across the country for a second week. And the response is mushrooming. Crowds are growing from hundreds to thousands, from thousands to tens of thousands.

It's an unprecedented development. It holds great significance for the people of Palestine, and Arabs and Muslims throughout the world, because it is a growth of anti-imperialist consciousness and combativeness developing in the heart of the world's imperial tyrant.

The actions are bold and gutsy.

Seven activists chained themselves to gas station pumps during morning rush hour in **Albuquerque, N.M.**, on April 9. They shut down the Texaco station with large banners reading: "Stop Israeli terror. No blood for oil. Free Palestine." Police later cut the chains and arrested the pro-Palestinian protesters.

Palestinian supporters disrupted a "Stand With Israel" rally April 7 in **Blue Ash**, a Cincinnati, **Ohio**, suburb.

More than 2,000 peace activists, mostly Arab and Palestinian, took their demands to George W. Bush's ranch in **Crawford, Texas**, on April 6. Bush was home on the range parleying with British Prime Minister Tony Blair to win support for the imperialist objective of overthrowing the Iraqi government. The protest was organized by the Dallas Peace Center and others in support of the Palestinian struggle and against U.S. and British plans to invade Iraq. Police had mandated no more than 600 people and a total of 125 automobiles would be allowed in the area. But the event far exceeded that arbitrary limitation. While no U.S. media were present, there was a strong international media presence. What, CNN couldn't find Crawford?

At the **University of California-Berkeley** on April



9, some 1,500 students and community activists marched across campus to Wheeler Hall. Hundreds of protesters took over the building while supporters rallied outside. Police broke up the sit-in after five hours, arresting 78 people. Demonstrators then marched to police headquarters demanding their release, including one activist who was reportedly brutalized by cops and then charged with assault. Students for Justice in Palestine organized the protest.

UP & DOWN THE WEST COAST

The same day, some 600 **San Francisco State University** students and community members demonstrated at Malcolm X Plaza on campus. The university president had sent organizers of the demonstration a letter threatening them with disciplinary action. But students continued to organize. The administration was forced to give GUPS—the General Union of Palestinian Students—a permit

the morning before the demonstration. After a militant rally, protesters took over 19th Street, blocking traffic. They marched through the residential community adjacent to campus and occupied the four corners of 19th and Holloway by streaming back and forth in the crosswalks.

Students at the **University of California-Davis** held a march that day, too.

"Free, free Palestine," and "Libre, libre, Palestina" rang out in the streets of **Los Angeles** on April 6 as thousands marched demanding an end to the murderous Israeli military offensive and the occupation of Palestinian lands. The event commemorated the 1948 Deir Yassin massacre of at least 120 Palestinian men, women and children in cold blood by Zionist commando units. Hundreds of colorful Palestinian national flags waved at the rally of some 6,000 activists from around the region, from many national and ethnic backgrounds and ages—including many youths—standing together in unity. The broad diversity underscored the growing solidarity in the United States with the Palestinian lib-

eration struggle. The event was organized by the Ad-Hoc Committee to Stop the Israeli War of Liquidation against the People of Palestine. Rally speakers denounced the virtual "green light" of the Bush administration to the Israeli atrocities. Michel Shehadeh, Western Regional Director of the American-Arab Anti-Discrimination Committee, stressed that Israel "is terrorizing and targeting civilians and brutally subjugating an entire nation. It is imperative that the American people stand with what is right."

estimated some 10,000 people packed Times Square. In light of the Bush-Ashcroft administration's terrible repression and racism against Arab and Muslim people since 9/11, it was of great consequence that so many people of Middle Eastern descent turned out. Whole families chanted, waved flags and marched, joined by Black, Latino and white supporters, including Jews. All together they chanted "Bush, Sharon you should know: The occupation has got to go!" as they marched through heavily trafficked streets at the height of rush hour to the Israeli Mission to the United Nations.

Demonstrations took place the same day in **Jersey City** and **Paterson, N.J.**

The Palestine Right to Return Coalition Al-Awda organized an April 6 rally in Union Square in **Manhattan**. Some mosques in **Brooklyn** drew thousands to a demonstration that day that marched across the Brooklyn Bridge to New York City Hall. Perhaps half its ranks were non-Arab supporters. After a City Hall rally, participants helped swell the Union Square protest.

The Metropolitan Muslim Federation has called for an **April 12 rally in Times Square** that is expected to draw very large numbers.

Across the country . . .

In **Chicago**, 5,000 people marched on the Israeli Consulate to demand an end to the U.S.-backed Israeli occupation of Palestinian cities and refugee camps. The demonstration was one of the largest in recent memory, drawing huge numbers from local Palestinian, Arab and Muslim communities and including support from the progressive movement. Protesters demanded an end to the massive military aid that has made Israel the fourth-largest power in the world. They called for the right of return for all the Palestinian people driven from their historic home when the settler state of Israel was set up.

Several progressive and peace organizations, including the **Buffalo, N.Y.**, International Action Center, held a spirited picket line on April 6. Passersby and motorists demonstrated considerable support. The activists who participated are working together to provide transportation from Buffalo and Western New York to the April 20 protest in Washington, D.C., to stop the Pentagon war drive and support the Palestinian struggle.

On April 5, a militant crowd of over 1,000 gathered outside the Islamic Center of **San Diego** to voice their outrage at the U.S.-financed carnage underway in numerous Palestinian cities and refugee camps. Another protest of equal numbers occurred on Sunday in San Diego's Balboa Park. Demonstrators waved Palestinian flags and held signs condemning Israeli aggression. One of the most popular chants was, "Bush, Sharon, you can't hide. We charge you with genocide."

Black Voices for Peace called an April 4 protest in **Washington, D.C.** The American-Arab Anti-Discrimination Committee co-sponsored the event and ANSWER helped mobilize for it. About 1,000 activists answered the call—predominately African American, Arab and Muslim.

From reporting by Bob Anderson, Deirdre Sinnott, Sharon Ayling, John Parker, G. Dunkel, Bill Massey, Dallas Peace Center, Bob McCubbin and Malcolm Cummins.



Times Square, New York City, April 5, left. Signs call for April 20 March on the White House. Above, Philadelphia.

WW PHOTOS: DEIRDRE GRISWOLD AND JOE PIETTE



Boston, above. Jersey City, below. WW PHOTO: RACHEL NASCA



Baltimore, above, Minnesota, below. WW PHOTO: SHARON CECI



Berkeley, above. Washington, D.C., below.



Boston

WW PHOTO: RACHEL NASCA



Albuquerque, New Mexico



PHOTO: JEANNE PAHLS

Bush gives Israel time for massacres

Continued from page 1

Arafat, demanding with surreal arrogance that he “stop the violence.” Arafat was trapped at the time inside his destroyed compound, surrounded by Israeli tanks, with no running water or electricity. The PA leader remains trapped there today.

It was only after six days of the offensive that Bush changed his tune—or at least pretended to. On April 4, the president gave a speech that, while calling for Israel to withdraw from Palestinian cities and towns, also included outlandish new attacks on the PA leadership.

Bush demanded that the surrounded Arafat “stop inciting violence,” and said that the PA president’s plight was “of his own making.” Further, Bush alleged that the PA president had “betrayed the hopes of the people he’s supposed to lead. Given his failure, the Israeli government feels it must strike at terrorist networks that are killing its citizens.”

There was no similar demanding or patronizing language directed toward the Israeli leadership. On the contrary, Bush said, “I speak as a committed friend of Israel.”

Perhaps most outrageous and absurd was the president’s advice that the “Israeli government should be compassionate at the checkpoints,” where its soldiers unceasingly humiliate and punish the occupied Palestinian population. No call by Bush to end the illegal occupation, only to make it more “humane.”

Not surprisingly, Bush’s astonishingly arrogant April 4 speech had the effect of fueling street protests in the Middle East and elsewhere. It had no effect whatsoever on the Israeli military operation, nor was it meant to.

This became clear as soon as the speech was over, when an Israeli official was interviewed by CNN. The CNN reporter asked him what his government would do now that the U.S. president had called on Israel to “pull out immediately.” The Israeli official snapped back, “He didn’t say immediately.”

Bush-Powell peace charade

Bush didn’t say “immediately,” and he didn’t mean “withdraw” at all. Comments from both U.S. and Israeli officials over the next several days clearly showed that the president’s call for an Israeli pullback was nothing but hollow words. The president also announced that Secretary of State Colin Powell was being sent to the Middle East to seek a ceasefire and resumption of negotiations—but wouldn’t arrive in the area until April 11.

The day after Bush’s speech, Israel expanded its assault to more cities and camps. When asked about this on April 5, Bush disingenuously replied that he understood that “things don’t happen overnight in the Middle East.”

On April 6, Bush and Powell talked by phone with Sharon, reportedly urging him to end the invasion. Sharon promised, in response, “to expedite the operation,” a formulation agreeable to U.S. officials. What the Israelis meant, as Bush and Powell well understood, was that their offensive would intensify—and it did.

The attack on Jenin, a camp of 15,000 people living on about one square mile, was so barbaric that even Israeli Foreign Minister Shimon Peres worried publicly: “When the world sees the pictures of what we have done there, it will do us immense damage.” According to Israel’s Ha’aretz newspaper, Peres is privately referring to the battle of Jenin as a “massacre.”

Even in the face of such atrocities, Bush and his advisers have continued to focus their criticism on the Palestinians.

Between driving his pick-up around his Crawford, Texas, ranch on April 6, with his faithful hound dog Tony Blair riding shotgun, Bush made comments to the press on the Middle East.

Speaking of PA President Arafat, Bush said: “He has let his people down and there are others in the region who can lead.” Bush’s designated candidates to lead the Palestinians were Saudi Arabia’s Crown Prince Abdullah, Pres-

ident Hosni Mubarak of Egypt, and Jordan’s King Abdullah II.

Whether Bush was aware that none of these U.S.-anointed “leaders” are Palestinian was not clarified by the always deferential White House press corps.

On the same day, Bush told Britain’s ITV network: “I made up my mind that Saddam needs to go.” No better expression of “democratic” imperialism could be imagined.

Bush’s imperial mentality aside, the ITV statement clearly shows the administration intends to wage a new war of colonial re-conquest against Iraq. Secretary of Defense Donald Rumsfeld’s recent expressions of extreme hostility toward Syria and Iran, as well as Iraq, indicate that the administration is also considering a far wider war in the strategically key region.

But before they can proceed with these plans, Washington is first seeking to liquidate the Palestinian Revolution. There may be some disagreement at the top about the tactics required to attain this objective, but there are no differences at all over the goal.

Bush, Cheney, Rumsfeld, Powell and the rest of the war makers are united in seeing the Palestinian resistance as a major obstacle to their plans in the region and the world. The growing demonstrations of solidarity in the Middle East, Africa, Europe, Latin America, Asia and the U.S. demonstrate the global importance of the Palestinian struggle.

The Palestinian Revolution is, as it has always been, a just struggle against colonialism and for self-determination. It is also today the key struggle against the global U.S. war strategy.

For both reasons, support for the Palestinian cause, especially here inside the U.S., is more important than ever. On April 20, people marching against the Bush program of war, racism and poverty in Washington, D.C., San Francisco and cities around the world will raise high the banner of self-determination for the Palestinian people.



Ashcroft's terror

What is going on with the arrest of attorney Lynne Stewart and two others in New York? Progressive lawyers and other supporters of the outspoken attorney packed the courtroom even as Atty. Gen. John Ashcroft flew to the city April 9 to grandstand before the cameras about his great blow against terrorism.

Stewart has been the legal counsel for Sheik Omar Abdel Rahman. The government is claiming she used her position to pass messages from the blind cleric, who was convicted of leading the conspiracy behind the 1993 bombing of the World Trade Center, to his followers. On arraignment, Stewart pleaded “emphatically not guilty.” Every lawyer who takes on a highly charged political case will have to wonder now if Big Brother is going to make an example of them.

The timing of these arrests, almost four years after the government started eavesdropping on and recording Stewart’s conversations with her client, is a dead giveaway that they have a political motive. The Bush-Cheney-Rumsfeld-Ashcroft gang of right-wingers is fearful of the movement of sympathy for the Palestinian cause that has mushroomed up since their Israeli client’s onslaught began. They know that the protests are getting bigger and more militant, and that national demonstrations are scheduled for April 20 in Washington and San Francisco.

Bush put on a show of pretending to bring Ariel Sharon to heel while sending his enforcer, Colin Powell, on a slow boat to the Middle East so Israel could continue its slaughter of Palestinians. This has opened many eyes to the real relationships in the region. U.S. imperialism is the main oppressor. It calls the shots and is abetting Sharon’s massacres.

So the administration strategists are trying to draw an equal sign between the Palestinian national movement, which has earned great

popular sympathy, and Islamic fundamentalists who have attacked symbols of U.S. power. They call it all “terrorism” in an attempt to create an atmosphere of total terror and intimidation here. They want to force the genie of political opposition to their war schemes back into the bottle. It won’t work.

The Bush gang had a breather for a while after 9/11 as they manipulated the genuine shock and horror among the population to push through their agenda: aggression abroad, repression at home, all to serve the interests of the military-industrial complex and Big Oil. But both the style and the substance of the Bush administration are now so nakedly imperialist, so contemptuous of any and all progressive aspirations of humanity, that the pendulum is rapidly swinging in the direction once again of massive resistance after several decades of relative quiet.

Long after the Vietnam War was over, it was revealed that Richard Nixon, who had supposedly flown off to Camp David completely unconcerned, was in reality in the White House, peeking through the blinds, when one of the largest anti-war demonstrations was taking place outside. It shook him to his loafers. Yes, demonstrations do matter—a great deal. They are a barometer of the sentiment among the politically active part of the population that has to be considered by the powers that be.

The movement must not be intimidated by Ashcroft and his bag of police-state tricks. More and bigger demonstrations are called for. What happens in the United States over the coming weeks and months will have a profound effect on the struggle of Palestinians for their homeland and on the administration’s plans to launch yet another war against Iraq. So much hangs in the balance. See you at the White House—or in San Francisco—on April 20!

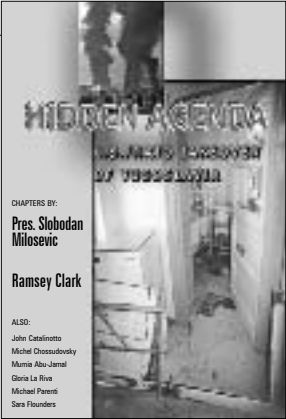
HIDDEN AGENDA U.S./NATO takeover of Yugoslavia

This book presents evidence gathered by dozens of nongovernmental hearings in 1999 and 2000 that the NATO countries engaged in a decade-long conspiracy to foment war in Yugoslavia in order to split it up.

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Bush does Exxon's bidding

Tries to axe climate scientist

By Deirdre Griswold

In a socialist world where the human species would be free to deal with the terrible environmental problems caused by modern industry and technology, the opinions of scientists would be highly valued and given great weight in figuring out what to do.

But that’s not the world we live in now. We live in a class-divided capitalist world where the addiction to profits of giant corporations and banks dictates decisions in every sphere of human activity.

One person who should be listened to is Dr. Robert Watson, head of the UN’s Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change and himself an atmospheric scientist. On Jan. 26, 2001, this prestigious body of 2,500 experts on climate issued a grim outlook on global warming. It answered the skeptics—many of whom are paid agents of the oil, coal and gas companies—with a detailed report showing that global warming was not hypothetical but was already well under way, and that its cause could be traced directly to human activity. The Earth is changing rapidly because of the buildup of greenhouse gases caused by the combustion of fossil fuels, and the IPCC is increasingly alarmed at the speed at which global temperatures are rising.

Since that report was issued, the Bush administration has announced its refusal to abide by the Kyoto accord, the only international agreement—arrived at after much struggle—that seeks to put limits on greenhouse gas emissions.

And now Bush is trying to remove Robert Watson as head of the IPCC. It’s a classic case of “If you don’t like the message, eliminate the messenger.”

Bush needs help in formulating bold ideas, so the energy giant ExxonMobil was glad to oblige. It actively lobbied the White House to withdraw U.S. support for Watson in an upcoming election for IPCC head. Its diktat to Bush was in a company memo to the White House obtained by the Natural Resources Defense Council through the Freedom of Information Act and released to the public on April 3.

ExxonMobil spokesperson Tom Cirigliano did not deny the memo in an interview with BBC News Online on April 5, but added that being able to lobby is “what a free society is all about” and that Washington was “crawling” with environmental lobbyists.

David Doniger, a policy director at the NRDC, said that the oil company’s campaign was “transparently an effort to disrupt the organization and destroy its effectiveness. It’s just another window into the mostly secret relationship between the big energy companies, who are the puppeteers, and the administration, who does what they tell them.”

While this is going on, the Pentagon is drawing up plans to widen its war in the Mideast and Central Asia—a war to guarantee U.S. corporate control over the world’s oil and gas supply. This speaks volumes about their intentions to squeeze every dollar of profit out of these fossil fuels and the environment be damned.

Bush is full of bluster and bravado when it comes to shaking his finger at the world and threatening, “You’re either with us or you’re with the terrorists.” But when the big corporations tell him what to do, he’s a floppy little puppet whose mouth moves in synch with his master’s.



Palestinians taken prisoner during the house to house searches in the refugee camp of Allien in West Bank city of Nablus.

Scorched earth policy

Continued from page 6

men were tied up and blindfolded on the ground, heads ordered bowed, in the pouring rain. “We were detained like that for 13 continuous hours in the same position. They would beat us brutally, yell at us and urinate on our heads. The blows were coming from all sides, on our faces and genitalia.”

Many people from around the world rushed to Palestine in solidarity when Israel invaded. These “internationals” have tried to get the news out, risking their own lives. Those trapped inside Ramallah with the Palestinians issued an eyewitness report over the Internet that the population is held captive under tight curfew. Apache helicopters blast rockets into the city. Gunfire by Israeli snipers crackles day and night. Civilians are used as human shields. The grind and roar of tanks throughout res-

idential areas is constant. Soldiers have taken over family homes, locking scores of people inside single rooms.

The army permits no food deliveries to the city. Large parts of the city are without electricity and heat. And risk of spreading disease is very high. Because the military bars access to the cemetery, health workers have been forced to dig up the hospital parking lot to bury dozens of bodies. (Indymedia)

Adila Laidi, director of the Sakakini Center, got this eyewitness account out on the Internet. He said that on April 7, “we have heard numerous reports of 30 Palestinian policemen executed in cold blood by Israeli soldiers in a building where they sought refuge on Irssal Street in Ramallah. This was after five Palestinian officers were executed by being shot to the head and then had

Visit to a popular assembly

Argentine jobless take control

By Alicia Jrapko
Buenos Aires, Argentina

The continuing economic crisis in Argentina has led to the formation of large organizations of workers and unemployed, who are beginning to contend for authority with the discredited government of President Eduardo Duhalde.

Duhalde was defaulted into the presidency after a revolving door of presidential pretenders went through the Casa Rosada—the presidential palace or “Pink House”—in rapid succession in December as thousands rebelled in the streets and the economy plummeted.

Duhalde has no support and spends his time begging for more loans from a skeptical International Monetary Fund, which is doubtful he can bring about the austerity the imperialist bankers are demanding. Responsibility for this crippling disaster in Argentina lies with years of IMF policies and corrupt politicians who enriched themselves as they sold off, wholesale and in pieces, the country’s basic industries to transnational corporations. The peso, once artificially set at one to the dollar, has now dropped to three to the dollar, with the end nowhere in sight.

As the crisis deepened in December, the banks and wealthy Argentineans sent \$106 billion out of the country—three quarters of the entire debt owed to the IMF. The middle class, however, was stuck with having their bank accounts frozen and deposits devalued by the new peso exchange rates.

But it was the workers who really were left to suffer from a crisis they did not create.

Public schools closed across Argentina and hospitals suffered severe shortages. Every day now 100 children die of malnutrition—in a country that used to have food in abundance. Unemployment is over 30 percent; in some areas, however, where state-owned enterprises have shut down, it is actually 100 percent.

Last month alone over 6,000 businesses closed in Argentina. At least 11 major factories were taken over after the owners bolted and are being run by the workers. It is in this context that the workers are forming structured mass organizations independent of and in opposition to the government.

Unemployed workers from the Buenos Aires community of Florencio Varela have organized themselves into popular assemblies.

WW PHOTO: BILL HACKWELL



Assembly meets in jobless area

The neighborhood of Florencio Varela, located in a corridor south of Buenos Aires where national industries once flourished, is one of those communities where the entire neighborhood is without work. On March 28 a meeting was held there of 500 people. Standing in the rain outside a train station, Juan Cruz, a young, charismatic leader, explained to Workers World the nature of the Popular Assemblies and the Piquetero movement.

Every week the local Popular Assembly meets to discuss immediate problems and solutions. A community member has to attend to be able to vote. Elected delegates who can be recalled at any time participate in a higher governing body called the Body of Delegates. They elect a Board of Directors that answers directly to the assembly as a whole.

This evening they were coordinating all the paperwork of each family present to push for unemployment subsidies of 160 pesos for each person, which the government had promised. It was explained that the paperwork is so extensive and disqualification so easy that they were presenting all the paperwork together at the same time.

They also would be presenting a demand

to the government for work plans, or “Planes Trabajar.” Juan Cruz explained this was a revolutionary demand at a time like this because the plans would not be controlled by the government but by the assemblies themselves.

They also discussed coordinating an action with the other Popular Assemblies in Southern Buenos Aires to simultaneously block highway traffic in the region in order to draw attention to their demands. Elected delegates make up a regional body for larger coordinated actions called the Coordinadora of Unemployed Workers Anibal Veron. This confederation is named after an unemployed worker who was killed by the police during the blockade of a highway during the big uprising last December.

[According to information received since this reporter returned to the United States, the action was successful. Some 3,000 people blocked four major highways with tree trunks and burning tires.]

The basis of unity of the Coordinadora is its independence from all political parties and elected government officials.

“The commerce of this entire country travels over the highway,” Cruz explained. “As unemployed workers, we can’t stop production by withholding our labor, but

we can stop the delivery of products that go right by our communities.” The Coordinadora of Unemployed Workers Anibal Veron incorporates assemblies in Almirante Brown, Lanus, La Plata, Florencio Varela, Jose C. Paz, Quilmes and Esteban Echeverria.

There are literally hundreds of other struggle organizations across Argentina, but only three large ones besides the Coordinadora of Unemployed Workers Anibal Veron. They are (1) the Combative Class Current (CCC) and the Central Union of Argentinean Workers (CTA); (2) the Piquetero Bloc, formed mainly of political parties such as the Workers Party, Socialist Workers Movement, Communist Party and others; and (3) Raul Castels and the Independent Movement of Retired and Unemployed.

What is clear here is that the working class communities are organizing to take the future into their own hands. As they become increasingly stronger they are not just a threat to Duhalde but are rivals for power with him and future agents of imperialism over who is going to control the means of production in Argentina. Juan Cruz said it best, “What choice do we have but to struggle? Currently all that remains for the U.S. to do is come and plant the flag.”

their corpses thrown on the pavement for hours on Friday.”

Another Internet report: “My name is Tzaporah Ryter. I am an American student from the University of Minnesota. I currently am in Ramallah. We are under a terrible siege and people are being massacred by both the Israeli army and armed militia groups of Israeli settlers.”

Hundreds of detainees released in the middle of the curfew were unable to reach their homes, according to an April 8 PRCS update. An emergency worker described how soldiers fired two bullets near his head in a “mock execution.” Two PRCS medics were thrown out of their ambulance and beaten. Troops overran the PRCS maternity hospital, blindfolded two doctors, two nurses and one other worker and took them away.

The Israeli military seized Watan television station on April 5 and began airing pornographic films to deliberately offend Muslim viewers.

BETHLEHEM

The military onslaught and curfew trap all of Bethlehem. More than 250 tanks and armored personnel carriers, backed up by F16s and Apache helicopters, have a chokehold on Bethlehem, on Beit Sahour, the village east of the city, and on Beit Jala, the high ground on the western side of Bethlehem.

Several hundred Palestinians escaping army tanks took sanctuary in the Church of the Nativity in Bethlehem, revered by Christians as the birthplace of Jesus.

On April 8 a fire broke out on a second floor meeting hall overlooking the Basilica of St. Catherine, adjacent to the Church of the Nativity. Israeli soldiers reportedly ignited the blaze when they fired a smoke grenade into the building.

The Israelis claim they shot a Palestinian during a gun battle in which the grenade was discharged. But a priest inside the church, Father Amjad Sabbara, told the BBC, “The Palestinian killed was a police officer who had been trying to douse the flames.” (April 8).



Center, Palestinian liberation hero Leila Khaled at protest in Amman, Jordan.



Respaldo por causa palestina resuena en los Estados Unidos

Por Deirdre Griswold

Ya habían manifestaciones organizadas en muchas ciudades para el día sábado 30 de marzo, para conmemorar el Día de la Tierra—protestas anuales sobre la ocupación de tierras palestinas donde se alza la demanda que aquellos en el exilio sean permitidos a volver a su patria.

Pero entonces llegaron las noticias que fuerzas israelíes habían invadido a las ciudades principales en Cisjordania y habían agarrado a Yassir Arafat como rehén. Mientras que se dio a conocer que estaban experimentándolos palestinos civiles la peor brutalidad desde las expulsiones de 1948, el susto y el horror se convirtieron en resolución a volver estas manifestaciones en una declaración de palestinos y sus partidarios de ultraje.

Desde California hasta Chicago en hielo, Atlanta hasta Seattle, miles de personas salieron durante el fin de semana para demandar que Israel salga de los territorios ocupados y para apoyar a la Intifada heroica. Fue la señal más espontánea y masiva hasta el momento actual del apoyo creciente en este país por la lucha palestina.

Presentamos un resumen de reportes recibidos por este periódico.

LOS ANGELES: 3.000 protestan

Ya cuando llegó el momento para comenzar la marcha 3000 personas gritaban, “Sharon, Bush no pueden esconderse; los acusamos a Uds. con genocidio”.

Manifestantes demandaron un alto a la matanza de palestinos inocentes por fuerzas militares israelíes y por un fin inmediato a la ocupación de tierras palestinas. En la marcha y mitin participaron personas de toda la región del sur de California, palestinos y árabes-americanos, y grupos comunitarios, de religiosos y de activistas pro la paz. Había una participación diversa étnica y racial así como una participación grande de jóvenes.

Una procesión de ataúdes cu-

biertas con banderas palestinas acompañó a los dos lados de la marcha en conmemoración de los más de 1.200 niños, mujeres y hombres palestinos asesinados por el Ejército de Israel. Cientos de banderas palestinas fueron llevadas en solidaridad con las aspiraciones políticas y nacionalistas del pueblo palestino.

Los oradores incluyeron a Michel Shehadeh, Director de la Región Oeste del Comité Anti Discriminación Árabe Americano (ADC por las siglas en inglés); Maggie Vascassenno del Centro de Acción Internacional; y Jim Lafferty del Gremio Nacional de Abogados.

SAN FRANCISCO: refugiados hablan

Aproximadamente 1.000 personas marcharon en Market Street a la Plaza ONU en una protesta militante en contra del reinado del terror por los EE.UU. en contra del pueblo palestino. La manifestación fue organizada por la ADC de San Francisco y la Alianza por una Palestina Libre. Destacado en el mitin que cerró la actividad fueron dos mujeres jóvenes del campo de refugiados Dheisheh asediado por las fuerzas Israelíes.

SEATTLE: 20 grupos organizan actividad

Por lo menos 700 personas árabes y sus partidarios, liderados por palestinos, marcharon por la parte céntrica de Seattle en el Día de la Tierra para protestar la guerra de Israel y los EE.UU. y la ocupación de Palestina. La acción fue iniciada por 20 organizaciones, incluso grupos árabes, justicia social y grupos en pro de la paz. El 18 de marzo, 250 personas se habían reunidas frente al edificio del Servicio de Inmigración y Naturalización para protestar la detención de tres miembros de la familia Hamouis desde Siria. Safouh, Hanan y Nadin Hamouis—padre, madre e hija—

todos habían sido detenidos a punto de pistola a fines de febrero por el INS y el FBI bajo la iniciativa del secretario del estado contra la fuga. Mítines fueron se van a llevar a cabo cada jueves hasta que los suelen.

CHICAGO: 1.000 marchan en la lluvia congelada

Más de 1.000 personas protestaron bajo la nieve y lluvia congelada el 1 de abril para marchar hacia el Consulado Israelí demandando un alto a la guerra israelí auspiciado por los Estados Unidos contra el pueblo palestino. Vinieron principalmente de las comunidades árabe americanas, palestina y musulmana, con apoyo de activistas anti guerra. La protesta ocurrió solo dos días después de que 250 personas se habían llevado a cabo una vigilia en el distrito de tiendas lujosas conocido como el “Miracle Mile”, para oponer al terror israelí. La marcha y la reunión en la parte céntrica fueron iniciados por la Coalición por la Justicia en Palestina. La manifestación demandó un fin a la ocupación, a la violencia israelí y al apoyo de los EE.UU. a Israel. Llamó por el derecho de volver de parte de la gente palestina.

Líderes de las comunidades musulmán, árabe y palestina han jurado hacer todo posible para llevar gente a la manifestación en Washington el 22 de abril para protestar frente a la conferencia anual del Comité de Asuntos Públicos Americanos Israelíes, ampliamente considerado como el grupo de presión política a favor de Israel en los Estados Unidos. Esa conferencia destacará que George W. Bush y Ariel Sharon harán un acto de presencia conjunta que va a enfrentar a una protesta masiva.

DEARBORN, MICHIGAN: 5.000 marchan en contra de la ocupación

En este suburbio de Detroit, donde hay

una población grande de trabajadores árabes, casi 5.000 marcharon a la alcaldía, encabezado por un contingente de alumnas primarias cantando “Dinero para la educación y no la ocupación”. Oradores en el mitin incluyeron al Senador estatal George Hart, quien dijo que “el genocidio contra el pueblo palestino tiene que parar”. David Sole, del Centro de Acción Internacional anunció que iba a llevarse a cabo una manifestación el 20 de abril en contra del racismo y la guerra en Washington, D.C.

HOUSTON: Palestinos se concentran en el centro de la ciudad

Varios cientos de palestinos llenaron las aceras rodeando al edificio donde están los despachos del consulado israelí. La reacción de parte de los peatones fue muy positiva. Habían muchos jóvenes y familias con niños pequeños además que gente anciana de la comunidad. Fue una expresión amplia de ira justa contra Sharon y sus partidarios de los EE.UU. que auspician la muerte y la destrucción en Palestina ocupada.

Miembros del grupo ANSWER en Houston estuvieron así como estudiantes universitarios y miembros del Nuevo Partido Pantera Negra, además que mucha policía.

ATLANTA: Mitin en la escultura de Mandela

Más de 200 personas marcharon hacia el consulado de Israel debajo de una lluvia copiosa coreando y llevando banderas y pancartas. La manifestación fue organizada por Al Awda Georgia y Estudiantes Organizando por la Justicia. Fue apoyado por el Centro de Acción Internacional, la Federación de Izquierdistas Hindúes, y el American Friends Service Committee, entre otros. Un mitin fue organizado en la escultura erigido para celebrar la liberación de Nelson Mandela de la cárcel.

Gracias a John Parker, Bill Hackwell, Jim McMahan, Bill Massey, Cheryl LaBash, Gloria Rubac y James Raynor, por estos reportes. Desde California soleado hasta Chicago helado.



CHILE



COSTA RICA



CHILE



PERU



NICARAGUA



CHILE

Y en America Latina