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**WORKERS WORLD
NEWSPAPER**
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Before Pentagon blitzkrieg U.S. WAR OF LIES

By Deirdre Griswold

It doesn't take much digging to prove that the much-hyped indictment of Iraq that U.S. Secretary of State Colin Powell laid before the UN Security Council on Feb. 5 was a brazen rehash of discredited charges.

What is amazing is that the Bush administration obviously doesn't care that its arguments can easily be disproven. It is relying on the power of the U.S.-dominated mass media to sell these trumped-up excuses for a war to a misinformed public.

And it is playing the diplomatic game only to gain time as it deploys a nightmarish armada for mass destruction around Iraq and its rich oil fields.

Take the charge that Iraq gassed thousands of Kurds at the town of Halabja in 1988, and that this proves Iraq's "monstrous human rights record." Just days before Powell's appearance at the UN, this allegation was disproven in an opinion piece in the New York Times of Jan. 31 by Stephen C. Pelletiere. He wrote that "all we know for certain is that Kurds were bom-

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February 15th
Stop the War
THROUGH MASS RESISTANCE & PROTEST
IN NEW YORK CITY AND AROUND THE WORLD

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for the People of the Middle East**

Just as January 18 is the International Day of action anchored in the United States with coinciding actions in 25 countries, on February 15th the European movement has called for people throughout the U.S. to answer their call for mass actions that day. The ANSWER coalition supports the call for February 15 demonstrations. We can stop the war by turning up the heat with local, regional, national and global action.

International A.N.S.W.E.R. coalition
Act Now to Stop War & End Racism
www.internationalANSWER.org

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Can movement meet the challenge?

Having to fight two wars at same time

By Deirdre Griswold

If the Bush administration and the Pentagon are planning to be able to fight two wars at the same time, shouldn't the anti-war movement be preparing to oppose two wars at the same time?

This is not an academic question. At this moment, the U.S. government says it is ready to hold talks with the Democratic People's Republic of Korea. But at the same time, it is sending planes and warships to the area to supplement the force of 37,000 troops it has stationed in South Korea for over 50 years, aimed at the north.

The North Koreans take this threat very seriously. They have good reason to. The DPRK is not a large country—with 25 million people, it has only slightly more than half the population of the south. But it lost an estimated 3 million people during the 1950-53 Korean War. U.S. planes bombed every building over one story. The Pentagon sent 1.3 million troops to Korea; over 50,000 were killed in that bitter war. But among Koreans, virtually every family lost loved ones in the war.

Whatever discussions are held between the DPRK and the U.S., the threat of another war is very real. Indeed, there are many voices in the corporate media arguing that Korea is a bigger "threat" to the United States than Iraq, because there's no evidence that Iraq has a nuclear program any more, while the DPRK has said openly that it is resuming work on a nuclear reactor it had shut down in 1994 in a negotiated arrangement with the Clinton administration.

However, that "Agreed Framework" deal was torpedoed by President George W. Bush last year when he included North Korea in his infamous "Axis of Evil" speech. This characterization of the DPRK was tantamount to a declaration of war, and the Koreans let Washington know very plainly that they considered it as such.

Why are the Bush administration and most of the corporate media so worried about the DPRK? Is it because it is building a nuclear power plant that one day could produce fissionable material that might be used for a couple of bombs? But this is no real threat to the United States. The U.S. has built 70,000



Demonstration against U.S. troops in Seoul, South Korea

nuclear warheads since 1945, and still deploys about 7,000 of them. It encircles Korea with sophisticated ships, planes and submarines.

Or are the imperialist strategists really worried about the growing sentiment in South Korea against U.S. military occupation?

For the last several years, the two halves of Korea have been discussing how to reduce tensions on the peninsula and initiate joint cultural and economic projects. This comes after the rise of a strong and militant movement in the south for reunification and the withdrawal of U.S. troops.

If the U.S. were to leave Korea alone, there is no doubt that relations between the north and south would improve. This is what was happening—until Bush intervened with his threats against the north. Even now, many plans are being implemented for joint north-south projects—like a railway that would link South Korea to China and Russia by way of the north.

The Bush administration is doing all it can to prevent the two halves of Korea from cooperating. After all, what excuse would there be for the continued U.S. occupation of South Korea if the process of normalization were to proceed?

At the same time, the demonization of the leadership in North Korea reaches new lows every day. Never mind that the DPRK continues to seek a dialogue with the U.S. government on securing peace on the Korean peninsula, or that it has successfully reached out to the south. Its leaders are still branded as "xenophobic" and the country a "hermit nation."

Bush accuses the Korean leaders of "starving their own people," but it has been U.S. pressure that prevented the DPRK from getting the energy needed for its economy. No one believes the "compassionate conservatives" any more when

they express concern for the children of Iraq, who have died by the hundreds of thousands from U.S. sanctions. Why should they believe the same lies about Korea, especially when they are being used to rally the population here behind new war moves?

The U.S. has never agreed to negotiate a peace treaty to officially end the Korean War. That is another way of telling the Koreans that it could attack them at any time. In response, North Korea has built a strong defense establishment. It produces missiles and has sold them to other countries.

The military-industrial complex here is horrified at this. It tries to force countries around the world to buy U.S. military equipment. For years, Washington has made South Korea buy U.S. fighter planes and other big-ticket items at a cost of billions of dollars, even when they could get them cheaper from other suppliers.

U.S. arrogance on this question is so great that in December the U.S. got the Spanish Navy to actually board a ship in the Arabian Sea believed to be carrying Korean missiles destined for Yemen. Imagine if some country decided it should board ships carrying U.S. weapons around the world. That would be a 24/7 job.

Korea has a long history of resisting colonialism and foreign domination. In the first half of the last century, its struggle was against Japanese imperialism, which carried out ferocious repression of the Korean people in its attempts to annex the peninsula.

The anti-war movement here needs to become familiar with Korean history in order to understand why today the Korean people's struggle for self-determination is directed against domination by the world's lone superpower, the United States. □

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55 West 17 Street
New York, N.Y. 10011
Phone: (212) 627-2994 • Fax: (212) 675-7869
E-mail: editor@workers.org
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Editor: Deirdre Griswold;
Technical Editor: Lal Roohk;
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: Rebecca Finkel, Elena J. Peckham, Hank Sambach;
Mundo Obrero: Carl Glenn, Carlos Vargas;
Internet: Janet Mayes

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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
422 S. Western Ave.,
Room 114,
Los Angeles, Calif. 90020
(213) 487-2368
fax (213) 387-9355
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

NO JUSTICE? NO PEACE!

Reopen the case of Emmett Till

By Monica Moorehead

NAACP President Kwesi Mfume sent a letter to Mississippi Attorney General Michael Moore on Jan. 31, urging that the case of Emmett Till be reopened.

In 1955, Emmet Till, a 14-year-old African American, was kidnapped, tortured and murdered by three rabid white segregationists in Money, Miss. Two of the murderers, Roy Bryant and J.W. Milam, were acquitted by an all-white jury after just five days of testimony.

Four months after the trial, Bryant and Milam admitted in a *Look* magazine article that they indeed murdered Till. They provided all the gory details, knowing that legally they could not be retried.

Mfume stressed in his January letter: "With the recent passing of Mamie Till Mobley, who fought tirelessly to see justice done in the killing of her son, it is now time to address what remains an ugly mark on the history of Mississippi and the United States. Her extraordinary acts of courage must not be in vain."

In January the Public Broadcasting Service aired a one-hour documentary titled "The Murder of Emmett Till." Interviews with Ms. Mobley just before her death and also more than 48 years ago are part of this film. The documentary won a special prize for its Black director, Stanley Nelson, at the recent Sundance Film Festival.

What led to lynching of teenager?

The Till documentary helped introduce a whole new generation not only to what happened to this youth, but also to the objective factors that led to this horrific lynching.

Emmett Till was born and raised in Chicago to parents who had migrated North, as did millions of Black people, to escape the oppressive South. He traveled to the heart of the Mississippi Delta to visit an uncle in late August 1955.

Upon his departure, his mother warned him that the attitudes of whites in Money toward Black people were "different" from whites in Chicago, even though both cities were ruled by segregation.

As in many Southern towns during that era, Black people faced physical and verbal assault just for walking on the same side of the street as whites. White men viewed Black men as "threats" to white women. Therefore, Black men were strongly "encouraged" to bow their heads and not utter a word to any white woman they approached.

Right before Till went to Money, two Black activists trying to carrying out

voter registration were lynched.

These were examples of the political and social climate that governed the economic conditions of semi-slavery in the South. This was the Southern plantation atmosphere, foreign to Till and other young, first-born generation Northern Black people.



Roy Bryant owned a store frequented by Black sharecroppers. Till and some friends bought some candy there. As Till was leaving the store, Bryant's wife alleged that the teenager, who suffered from a speech impediment, whistled at her.

Several days later, in the middle of the night, Bryant, Milam and another white man kidnapped the teenager at gunpoint from his uncle's house.

Willie Reed, a sharecropper who worked for Milam, stated that he heard Till being beaten by the three men in a tool shed. He heard the teenager screaming. A blood-soaked Till was then driven to the banks of the Tallahatchie River where he was shot point-blank in the head.

A cotton gin fan was tied around his neck with wire. His body was tossed in the river, where it was found days later. After Reed was forced to wash Till's blood from the back of the truck, he disappeared.

The murder of Emmett Till made national and international headlines. Fifty thousand Black people turned out for his funeral in Chicago.

His mother demanded that his coffin be opened so that the whole world could bear witness that her son's face was mutilated beyond recognition due to the savage beating he received with the butt of a .45-caliber pistol.

Disney: another racist snub

The Tampa Bay Buccaneers defeated the Oakland Raiders in the most recent Super Bowl by unleashing a ferocious defense. Dexter Jackson, an African American defensive back, made two of the Bucs' five interceptions against Raiders quarterback Rich Gannon.

Jackson was picked as the "MVP"—most valuable player. Traditionally, Super Bowl MVPs do a television spot for the Walt Disney Corp. in which they are asked what they are going to do after winning the award. "Go to Disney World," is the usual reply.

Sham of a trial

The so-called trial of Bryant and Milam took place in Sumner, Miss., in a hostile, racist atmosphere. U.S. Rep. Charles Diggs of Detroit, an African American, attended the trial where Black and white people were segregated in the courtroom.

After Reed reappeared to bravely testify about what he had seen and heard on the night of Till's abduction, he was smuggled out of town. Later he was hospitalized with a nervous breakdown.

Mose Wright, Till's uncle, also came forward to testify that Bryant and Milam were the abductors of his nephew. He, too, was forced to leave town. He never returned to Money.

The jurors could be heard laughing during their "deliberations." One juror stated publicly that they would have returned with the not-guilty verdict sooner but stalled to try to give the appearance of fairness.

After the verdict was announced, the sharecroppers in Money shut down Bryant's store with a powerful boycott.

Mamie Till spoke all over the country. She told outraged audiences of thousands in the North, predominantly Black, about the sham of a trial her son's killers received and how she would not rest until he received real justice.

She sent telegrams to President Dwight Eisenhower and FBI Director J. Edgar Hoover, requesting that the federal government intervene in her son's case.

Not only didn't the U.S. government intervene, Eisenhower did not even respond to her telegram.

This is another blatant example of the complicity between the local and federal governments in covering up countless murders including not only Till's but those of civil-rights activists like Medgar Evers, Andrew Goodman, Michael Schwerner and James Chaney.

The persistence of civil-rights activists—



Emmett Till and Mamie Till Mobley

along with powerful documentaries like those focusing on Till or the 1963 Birmingham church bombing in Spike Lee's moving documentary "Four Little Girls"—has helped to finally reopen these cases decades after the murders.

Another example of justice denied was reported in a front-page article in the Jan. 26 *New York Times*. The *Times* reported on efforts to bring to trial a Klansman who, together with two other Klan members, kidnapped Black farmhand Ben Chester White in 1966 and riddled him with bullets. White was chosen at random by the KKK. The Klan used the murder as a ploy to lure Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. to Mississippi in a plot to assassinate the civil-rights leader.

Till murder spurs civil rights movement

Emmett Till was lynched one year after the U.S. Supreme Court decision in *Brown vs. Board of Education* that outlawed segregation in public schools.

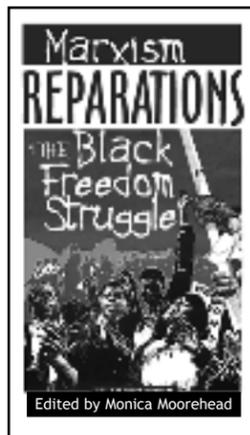
One hundred days after the Till lynching Rosa Parks, a Black seamstress, refused to give up her seat to a white man in Montgomery, Ala. Her arrest sparked the successful Montgomery bus boycott which in turn helped launch the massive civil-rights struggle.

Mamie Till Mobley never stopped fighting for justice. She died on Jan. 6 at the age of 81. Shortly after her death, Illinois Gov. George Ryan paid tribute to her in his historic speech in which he explained why he was shutting down Illinois' death row to show his opposition to the death penalty.

In response to the Jan. 31 Mfume letter, Mississippi Attorney General Moore publicly stated that because much of the evidence from the original trial has been "lost," and both Bryant and Milam have died, he sees no point in reopening the case.

What about the detailed confession by Bryant and Milam in *Look* magazine? Is that not proof enough of who is responsible for this senseless, cold-blooded killing of a 14-year-old boy?

Moore has the authority to designate an "Emmett Till Day" to not only honor Till, his mother and all the civil-rights activists who gave their lives in the struggle for social justice—but to honor a struggle that is far from over. □



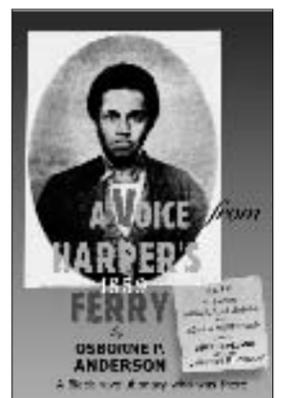
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ANSWER demonstration Jan. 18, Washington, D.C.

WW PHOTO: DEIRDRE GRISWOLD

Unions say 'Money for schools, not war'

Budget cuts put education in crisis

Special to Workers World
New York

Throughout the United States, from coast to coast, states and cities are struggling to manage full-blown budget crises or ward off impending ones.

Revenue from sales and income taxes has fallen sharply because of giveaways to the rich and the downturn in the capitalist economy. The federal government, which is spending more than ever on war and repression, has used its power to push unfunded mandates onto the states, which then shift them to the cities.

Public education, usually a local responsibility that serves mostly children from working-class families, is an easy target.

Federal money has been drying up at the same time that federal mandates—like expanded testing and the No Child Left Behind Act of 2002—put more demands and financial pressures on school systems.

The result is growing chaos in the school systems.

California is facing a projected \$26 billion to \$35 billion budget deficit. Gov. Gray Davis proposes cutting \$5 billion out of spending for education, even though California has lagged behind other states in this area.

What this means on a local level can be seen in Oceanside, near San Diego in Southern California. Oceanside has to cut \$4.4 million from its budget. The school board is proposing to cut temporary teachers, program specialists, a district administrator, secretaries, custodians and a security officer—in the middle of the year. It will decide how to make another \$12 million in cuts later in the spring. (San Diego Union-Tribune, Jan. 28)

Some schools in Oregon, another state with a big budget crisis, have shortened the school year.

In a proposal that is up for a final vote on Feb. 11, Minneapolis is planning to cut 289 teaching jobs and more than 100 administrative positions at the district level for the 2003-2004 school year. The district superintendent also wants to increase class sizes, cut back on district support services, reduce allocation for building maintenance and demand contract concessions. Most of the school districts in Minnesota have to cut millions of dollars from their budgets to adjust to reductions in state aid. (Star Tribune, Jan. 29)

Schools in Louisiana and Colorado have gone to a four-day week to stretch their dollars.

In New York state, Gov. George Pataki faces a projected deficit of \$11.3 billion for fiscal year 2003. In a budget address delivered at the end of January, he called for slashing state aid to education—which has

run about \$14 billion annually—by \$1.2 billion.

Money for schools, not war

Some education unions in the country are demanding that the money planned for war in Iraq go instead for teaching and other social needs.

Here in New York City, under Pataki's budget the city school system—with 1 million children it is by far the biggest in the United States—would be cut by \$450 million. It is also undergoing the biggest reorganization in the past 50 years after being put under the direct control of billionaire Mayor Michael Bloomberg.

The senior colleges of the City University of New York are funded by the state, while its community colleges are city-funded. Outside New York City the state also funds a university system—SUNY—consisting of both senior and community colleges.

Pataki's budget contains an \$82 million, 12-percent cut to CUNY and an \$184 million, 15-percent cut to SUNY operating budgets. The governor also demands that both hike tuition by \$1,200 a year.

Shamsul Haque, a CUNY student trustee enrolled at Baruch College, says, "Students of the working class, minorities and immigrants cannot afford such a high tuition hike."

Pataki's budget was supposedly designed to avoid state tax increases. But according to New York State United Teachers President Thomas Hobart, the cuts in education funding would force a 30-percent real-estate tax increase in some rural counties and 25 percent in Erie County. Without the added taxes, Hobart says, these school systems would shut down.

The United Federation of Teachers represents the 80,000 teachers and staff in the public elementary and high schools in New York,

The UFT has taken a very conciliatory attitude toward the reorganization plan. The union has invited the schools chancellor to speak to its delegate assembly and to have breakfast with the union's executive board.

The Professional Staff Congress represents 20,000 faculty and staff in the CUNY system. The PSC has endorsed the Feb. 15 anti-war march and will ask the 200,000 students in the CUNY system to march behind a banner reading "CUNY says: Money for education, not for war." The PSC's Delegate Assembly has also endorsed the call for day-after peaceful protests in the CUNY system or in the city if Bush does start the war. Beyond the February protests, it has scheduled a day of teach-ins and speak-outs for March 26. □

Across U.S., around the world

People rise up

By Greg Butterfield

The biggest threat to the Bush administration's plan for war and domination in Iraq is the culture of anti-war resistance blossoming in the United States and throughout the world.

Mass demonstrations on Jan. 18 in Washington, D.C., and San Francisco—initiated by the International ANSWER (Act Now to Stop War and End Racism) coalition—and in cities worldwide brought hundreds of thousands of people into the streets to demand, "No war against Iraq."

For tens of thousands of labor unionists and other workers, college and high school students, and community members, it was their very first anti-war protest.

This kind of massive mobilization is vital. It contains the seeds of more militant mass resistance to war, racist repression, and the state-sponsored terrorism of the Bush White House, Big Oil and Wall Street.

More big street protests are planned for Feb. 15 and 16—global days of anti-war action initiated by European groups. Demonstrations are planned in at least six dozen cities worldwide.

In the United States, protests are scheduled in New York City and Chicago Feb. 15 and in San Francisco Feb. 16. ANSWER, Not In Our Name, United for Peace & Justice, and other anti-war groups are building for the actions.

Even as the Masters of War prepare for "A-Day"—the plan of air strikes to bombard Baghdad's civilian population with 3,000 to 4,000 bombs and missiles in a single day, according to the New York Times—they can't ignore the momentum generated by mass anti-war actions.

A climate of open resistance is being felt in every part of the globe. It is taking many creative forms.

57 municipalities say 'no war'

City and county councils in at least 20 states have passed anti-war measures in recent weeks. They include big cities like Chicago, Philadelphia and Detroit. In the last week of January, resolutions in Cleveland; Tacoma, Wash.; Nederland, Colo.; Amherst, Mass.; and Topanga, Calif., brought the number of municipalities to 57, representing 13 million people.

The Institute for Policy Studies in Washington reports that 70 more cities and counties, as well as Maine's state legislature, are considering resolutions. This resistance to the war drive reflects the economic crisis that is creating record unemployment, homelessness and cutbacks while the Pentagon basks in burgeoning billions of dollars.

Former South African president and anti-apartheid hero Nelson Mandela again spoke out forcefully against George W. Bush's war plans on Jan. 30. "It is a tragedy what is happening, what Bush is doing in Iraq," Mandela declared. "What I am condemning is that one power, with a president who has no foresight, who cannot think properly, is now wanting to plunge the world into a holocaust."

Mandela charged Bush and British Prime Minister Tony Blair with manipulating the United Nations in a racist fashion. He also thanked the U.S. anti-war movement for its strong showing and urged South Africans to follow suit. Demonstrations are planned in South Africa's urban centers for Feb. 15 and Feb. 19.

Peace blockade & human shields

For six days in late January members of the environmental group Greenpeace car-

ried out a "peace blockade" at Britain's Marchwood military port in Southampton. The group's flagship, the Rainbow Warrior, dropped anchor directly in front of the port, where a military supply vessel was loading tanks, jeeps and helicopters bound for the war against Iraq.

The British high court upheld Greenpeace's right to carry out the protest, which effectively cut off military supplies for six days. But the British military brass flagrantly defied the court order on the night of Feb. 1.

"The Rainbow Warrior was surrounded by six Ministry of Defense and police boats and up to 20 police boarded the ship just after 10 p.m. Saturday night," Greenpeace reported. "By 3 a.m. they had cut the anchor chain and towed the ship out of the way."

Teams of anti-war activists from Europe, the United States and other countries continue to converge on Iraq to act as "human shields" against a U.S.-led war.

On Feb. 2 Kyodo News reported on a meeting of a group of 40 Japanese activists who plan to fly to Iraq Feb. 16 to act as human shields. They will attend a youth conference and visit schools and hospitals.

Some 60 activists from the Truth Justice Peace Human Shield action group left London en route to Baghdad Jan. 27, according to The Star, a South African newspaper.

And the Lebanon Daily Star reports that 140 Palestinians and Lebanese flew from Beirut to Baghdad on Jan. 30 "to express their solidarity with the Iraqi people."

"We're going to Baghdad to give psychological support to the people there," said Palestinian engineer Hisham Zaatari. "It's the least we can do as Arabs, after seeing that many people from Europe and the United States have already flocked there in masses."

Nayef Sharqieh, a construction worker, said many Palestinian refugees were going on the trip. "We feel that we can't do anything for Palestine, we can't go there, but we can do something for Iraq, so we're ready to do anything to try to prevent the war or to act as human shields," he said.

Poets, bishops & vets

Laura Bush canceled a White House poetry symposium scheduled for Feb. 12 after learning that some poets were planning to bring poems against the war and turn the party into a protest.

When poet Sam Hamill from Port Townsend, Wash., received an invitation to the event, he was "overcome by a kind of nausea." On Jan. 26, he sent an email to 50 friends asking them to compose anti-war poems. He planned to bind them and present them to Bush.

He decided to reconstitute a "Poets Against the War Movement." By Jan. 29—just three days later—Hamill had received more than 1,500 submissions. Poems came from some of the country's most prominent poets and writers, including W.S. Merwin, Ursula Le Guin, Galway Kinnell, Marilyn Hacker and Adrienne Rich.

When the White House caught wind of the outpouring of anti-war sentiment, the symposium was "indefinitely postponed." Poets Against the War has now set Feb. 12 as a national "Day of Poetry Against the War." (www.poetsagainsthewar.org)

Also striking close to home for President George W. Bush is a new anti-war television ad featuring Bishop Melvin G. Talbert, a leader of the United Methodist Church, which is the Bush fam-

to stop the war

ily's religious denomination. In the ad, Talbert says: "Iraq hasn't wronged us. War will only create more terrorists and a more dangerous world for our children."

Hundreds of military veterans have issued a "Call to Conscience to Active Duty and Reservists." Their statement to U.S. troops says in part: "We are veterans of the U.S. armed forces. We stand with the majority of humanity, including millions in our own country, in opposition to the United States' all out war on Iraq. ...

"Our experiences in the military caused us to question much of what we were taught. Now we see our REAL duty is to encourage you as members of the U.S. armed forces to find out what you are being sent to fight and die for and what the consequences of your actions will be for humanity."

It continues: "In the last Gulf War, as troops, we were ordered to murder from a safe distance. We destroyed much of Iraq from the air, killing hundreds of thousands, including civilians. We remember the road to Basra—the Highway of Death—where we were ordered to kill fleeing Iraqis. ...

"The use of depleted uranium weapons ... pesticides, experimental drugs, burning chemical weapons depots and oil fires combined to create a toxic cocktail affecting both the Iraqi people and Gulf War veterans today. One in four Gulf War veterans is disabled."

For the full statement, see: www.calltoconscience.net.

Gov't, corporate censorship grows

As the anti-war ranks continue to swell, pro-war governments and corporate giants are increasing censorship and, in some cases, trying to ban protest outright.

The cable monopoly Comcast, for example, refused to show an anti-war ad sponsored by the Peace Action Education Fund. The ad was to have aired on CNN the evening of Bush's State of the Union speech and on subsequent nights. The Rev. Robert Moore called it "an outrageous infringement on our First Amendment rights."

Protests sparked by Bush's war speech continued on Feb. 1. Big demonstrations were held in cities throughout Germany and in Madison, Wis. In New Zealand, police attacked protesters, arresting 23 who were trying to scale the fence around the U.S. Embassy. The activists carried mock metal detectors and said they wanted to check the premises for "weapons of mass destruction."

"The World Says No to War!" events to take place on Feb. 15 promise some important confrontations between activists and governments over the right to protest war with Iraq.

British Prime Minister Tony Blair's government has officially banned the Stop the War Coalition and the Muslim Association of Britain from using Hyde Park, the traditional site of mass demonstrations in London, where hundreds of thousands are expected to gather.

After a strong public campaign by anti-war groups to defend the right to protest, the Guardian of London reported Feb. 1 that Blair may have to reverse the decision or face the international embarrassment of a half-million-strong demonstration outside Buckingham Palace instead.

In Hungary, the Citizens for Peace Initiative is urging protests against the Budapest police for banning a planned Feb. 15 march from Liszt Ferenc Square to the Hungarian Parliament building. Hungary, formerly a part of the bloc of Eastern European countries with planned economies, is now dominated by a U.S.-puppet capitalist regime.

The Bush administration has touted the support of Hungary and other counter-revolutionary governments as "proof" of European backing for war with Iraq, even as the governments of imperialist rivals Germany and France continue to drag their feet. Public sentiment in Europe is overwhelmingly against war and against Bush.

New York police and city officials have so far refused to grant permits to the coalition United for Peace & Justice for a march and rally on Feb. 15. All the anti-war coalitions building for the Feb. 15 protests say they will fight to ensure the right to assemble and protest.

Readers in the New York area are asked to call Mayor Michael Bloomberg at (212) 788-3040, Police Commissioner Raymond W. Kelly at (646) 610-8526 and Gov. George Pataki at (518) 474-1071 to demand that permits be issued.

For more information on the global Feb. 15 protests and other upcoming actions, visit: www.internationalanswer.org. □



NEW YORK

'Make Feb. 15 Anti-War Day'

By Teresa Gutierrez
New York

New York ANSWER—Act Now to Stop War and End Racism—has sent a letter to the New York City Council asking it to put this city on the map by taking a bold stand against the Pentagon's threatened war on Iraq.

The letter states in part: "On Saturday, Feb. 15, this city will be the site of the next major anti-war event. We are contacting you to ask for your support so that New York City can welcome the anti-war movement by declaring Feb. 15, 2003, 'Anti-War Day.'

"In addition, it is important to us that all the people who want to express their stance against the war be able to do so. As part of Anti-War Day, we are also asking the City Council to do what it can to offer free MTA [subway and bus] travel so that people can come from as far away as the Bronx, Harlem and East New York to join the growing movement against the war." □

New York,
Jan. 29
WW PHOTO:
JOHN
CATALINOTTO



Twenty-six individuals signed the letter. They include former U.S. Attorney General Ramsey Clark, Nadia Marsh of Doctors and Nurses Against the War, the Rev. Herbert Daughtry of the House of the Lord church, National Youth & Student ANSWER Coordinator Peta Lindsay, Daniel Vila of the Harlem Tenants Council, Working Peoples Voices, Michelle Quintus who is the Local Council 5 representative of the Flight Attendants union, Jessie Heiwa of Queers for Peace & Justice, Kadouri Al-Kaysi of the Committee in Support of Iraqi People, Jerry Dominguez of Casa Mexico, and Asha Samad Matias of Muslims Against Racism & Religious Profiling and the Human Rights Center.

Gutierrez, a co-director of the International Action Center, is also a signatory to the letter. □



BROOKLYN BUILDS FOR FEB. 15

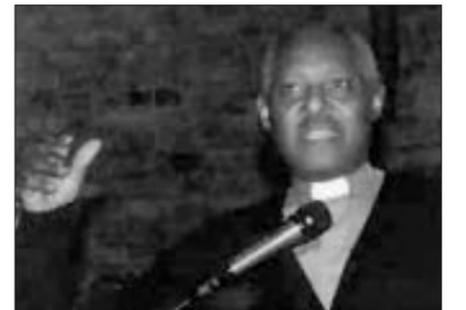
'Find creative ways to resist'

By Monica Moorehead
Brooklyn, N.Y.

"Not only do we have the responsibility to continue organizing against the war on Iraq but we must consider creative, effective ways of resisting if the U.S. war-mongers persist in attacking our Iraqi sisters and brothers," declared Larry Holmes Jan. 30. Holmes, a spokesperson for the International ANSWER—Act Now to Stop War and End Racism—coalition, spoke to an overflow crowd at the House of the Lord church here in Brooklyn.

The multinational crowd of 300 responded enthusiastically to Holmes' remarks at the anti-war strategy meeting designed to build momentum for the major anti-war march and rally set for Feb. 15 in New York City.

The meeting was hosted by the church's pastor, the Rev. Herbert Daughtry. He is also the president of the MLK Jr. Peace Now Movement. Other speakers included AFSCME District



The Rev. Herbert Daughtry

Council 1707 President Brenda Stokely, Dr. Karen Daughtry, Center for Constitutional Rights Executive Director Ron Daniels, City Councilperson Charles Barron from Brooklyn, and International Action Center Co-Director Teresa Gutierrez.

After the speeches, an open mike session allowed activists from different boroughs to share organizing ideas.

The activists who attended the meeting took handfuls of Feb. 15 leaflets provided by ANSWER to get them out all over the city and help build the worldwide day of solidarity to stop the war against Iraq. □



WW PHOTOS: PAT CHIN

Brooklyn, N.Y., Jan. 30.

FEB. 15-16 Protests against the U.S.-led war drive are already scheduled for Feb. 15-16 in 75 cities in 52 countries.

Antwerp, BRUSSELS, BELGIUM • Sao Paulo, BRAZIL • Sofia, BULGARIA • Edmonton, Montreal, CANADA • Barcelona, CATALONIA • Prague, CZECH REPUBLIC • Havana, CUBA • CYPRUS • Copenhagen, DENMARK • Jakarta, INDONESIA • Belfast, Dublin, IRELAND • Rome, ITALY • Osaka, JAPAN • Vilnius, LITHUANIA • Luxembourg, LUXEMBOURG • Skopje, MACEDONIA • Valletta, MALTA • Amsterdam, NETHERLANDS • REUNION ISLAND • Moscow, RUSSIA • Kigali, RWANDA • Glasgow, SCOTLAND • Ljubljana, SLOVENIA • Cape Town, Johannesburg, SOUTH AFRICA • Seoul, SOUTH KOREA • Madrid, SPAIN • Stockholm,

Dragging world to war

U.S. lines up gov'ts, but not the

By Fred Goldstein

Feb. 4— Government after government has stated that if U.S. Secretary of State Colin Powell makes a compelling case for war on Iraq in his Feb. 5 presentation to the UN Security Council, then they can sign on for the war. But if not, then more time is needed to prepare a convincing case for the war.

Translation: U.S. imperialism is trying to drag us into its unprovoked war of aggression against a small nation with huge petroleum reserves coveted by Big Oil. But if we raise our hands to support

the war without being given sufficient "evidence" to hide behind, our own people could rebel and throw us out.

In the case of the French and Russian regimes, their added problem is that they are basically being told to help the Pentagon make a war that is not just against the Iraqi people, but is also against themselves. They have made agreements with the present government of Iraq for huge oil concessions. Should a U.S.-British invasion be successful, it will all fall into the hands of a victorious U.S. military government and any puppet regime it installs.

Paris and Moscow are in the position of

having to choose between losing all or accepting Washington's terms. In addition, the vast majority of their populations are opposed to the war.

It is important to monitor the arm-twisting diplomacy of the Bush administration and the agonizing vacillation of the weaker governments subjected to Washington's threats and bribes. The less success the U.S. government has in pressing its case for war, the more isolated it becomes, the better for the world.

But the obstructionist diplomacy of regimes afraid of the war will never outweigh the hundreds of aircraft, thousands of tanks and huge naval armada being assembled and positioned for all-out war. This military mobilization is the fundamental factor in Washington's drive to war. The ruling class in the U.S. has either passively or actively given its consent to the war, even if some would prefer a UN cover and others want more damning testimony from the inspectors.

Hope in Powell was an illusion

Many of the more cautious elements in the ruling class here, as well as sections of the European ruling classes and all the regimes in the Middle East, were originally hoping that the forces behind Colin Powell would reroute the war drive into long-term inspections and diplomatic negotiation, ultimately avoiding the disastrous, destabilizing invasion that is now looming. This proved to be a hopeless illusion.

The truth is that the only thing that stands between peace and war is the growing worldwide anti-war movement, and particularly the mushrooming movement in the United States. The charade of UN diplomacy, of hypocritical, soft-spoken, peaceful-sounding weapons inspectors, must be completely discounted in the calculations of the movement. Only mobilization and resistance will stop the war.

If the UN Security Council were really looking for "smoking guns" leading to weapons of mass destruction, they would open up the arsenals of the Pentagon, with its 7,000 nuclear warheads and many weapons of chemical and biological warfare.

If the Security Council were opposed to aggression and crimes against humanity, it would immediately investigate reports that Washington is planning to rain down 3,000 or more missiles onto the Iraq people in the first 48 hours of the war in "an effort intended to stagger and isolate the Iraqi military and quickly pave the way for a ground attack to topple a government in shock." (New York Times, Feb. 2)

This tactic is part of the "Rapid Dominance" strategy developed by Harlan Ullman and James Wade in 1996 for the Pentagon's National Defense University. Their book was entitled "Shock and Awe." These plans are in the spirit of the bombing of Guernica in Spain by Hitler in 1937, when the Luftwaffe dropped 100,000 pounds of bombs overnight on the small village, killing a third of the population.

It is also in the spirit of the atom bombing of Hiroshima and Nagasaki. Both Guernica and the atom-bombing of Japan were meant to sow terror into all adversaries by demonstrating an utter disregard for civilian lives on a monstrous scale.

U.S. threat to use nuclear weapons

If the Security Council wants to rein in nuclear weapons, it should issue a "cease and desist" order to the Pentagon after reading what the Los Angeles Times of Feb. 3 revealed about a \$1.26-billion U.S. program to develop tactical nuclear weapons called "bunker busters."

"The Pentagon has launched a fast-track program to develop computers that would help decide when nuclear weapons might be used to destroy deep underground bunkers," the newspaper wrote. While scaring the population here with talk of Iraq's fictitious nuclear program, the U.S. is rushing the planning to use its nuclear arsenal, if necessary, against Iraq's underground shelters.

The Security Council and the client regimes around the world are repeatedly referred to as the "international community." Washington should refrain from the invasion, it is said, unless they approve a second resolution for war. But this so-called "international community" is permitting Powell, now the chief salesman of



Sea of red flags in Calcutta

"Massive." That's the word used to describe the anti-war demonstration in Calcutta on Feb. 2.

The West Bengal State Committee of the Socialist Unity Center of India organized the protest against the "war mongering of U.S. imperialism and its present arrogant war threat on Iraq with British imperialism, its virtually lone lackey."

Thousands from all walks of life made up the sea of marchers waving red flags and garlands.

SUCI reports that rally goers adopted a resolution denouncing Washington for its war moves and attempts to carry out "regime change" in Iraq. The goal of U.S. imperialism and its corporate powers, it stressed, is to establish unchallenged con-

trol over Iraq's vast oil reserve and to revamp its sagging militarized economy "by way of stock clearance of arms and ammunitions through warfare."

The resolution demanded that President George W. Bush be put on trial as a war criminal and denounced the White House for reportedly putting its stamp of approval on the use of nuclear weapons against Iraq.

The resolution expressed solidarity with mushrooming anti-war—some anti-imperialist—movements around the world. It concluded by condemning the Indian government for "cozying up to the U.S. rulers and called upon the Indian people to be true to their glorious tradition of anti-imperialist struggle."

—Leslie Feinberg

Anti-war tour in Germany

ANSWER student activist helps build

By John Catalinotto

Julie Fry is a 23-year-old law student from New Jersey. She is an anti-war activist who works with the International ANSWER—Act Now to Stop War & End Racism—coalition. Fry just returned from a 10-day speaking tour of 10 universities across Germany. Workers World talked to Fry about her experiences there.

Fry explained: "The tour was organized by an organization called ATTAC, a coalition of anti-globalization groups that originally formed in France and now exists in other European countries, including Germany. ATTAC has played a leading role in the German anti-war movement and is now mobilizing for a massive demonstration on Feb. 15 in Berlin."

She said the purpose of the tour was "to bring activists from the international anti-

war movement to Germany to show solidarity and to build links between the German movement and the global struggle to stop the war." The delegation also included Yvonne Ridley, a representative of the British Stop the War coalition, and Alfonso DeVito from No Global in Italy, an Italian anti-war organization.

Fry stressed that the main issue raised by the tour was "how to build a united, international anti-war movement strong enough to stop U.S. aggression against Iraq. People were very interested in learning about how we formed the ANSWER coalition and how we were able to bring out so many people on Jan. 18."

German activists are preparing major actions against U.S. military operations in their country. The movement in Great Britain is expecting over a million people to turn out in London on Feb. 15.

Fry noted, "Everyone was interested in trying to find ways to make it as difficult as possible for Bush to launch his war."

She added: "People were also very concerned about the way the U.S. government is trying to bully or bribe the governments of the rest of the world into supporting its war. Italian activist Alfonso De Vito reminded everyone that Italian Premier Silvio Berlusconi does not speak for the vast majority of Italians, who overwhelmingly oppose war."

"A million people took to the streets of Florence several months ago, and yet Berlusconi has chosen to go along with Bush and the Pentagon."

British activist Yvonne Ridley called Tony Blair the British movement's "best recruiting officer." She said that every time he opens his mouth to defend Bush, hundreds more people join the movement.

Organizers considered the tour a success, Fry stated categorically. "There was a high level of attendance at all of the meetings and participants were very excited to hear about the growing international anti-war movement, especially in the U.S. Most of them had heard about ANSWER's Jan. 18 demonstration in the German media and were relieved to know that people in the U.S. are rising up against Bush's war."

She said that the German organizers used the tour to mobilize people for the Berlin demonstration on Feb. 15. "I think the meetings accomplished their goal of making Germans aware that they are a part of a large, international movement and that it is important that they stand up with the rest of the world on the 15th. People bought bus tickets for Berlin at the meetings."

These include: Adelaide, Brisbane, Canberra, Foster, Geelong, Hobart, Lismore, Melbourne, Newcastle, Perth, Rockhampton, Sydney, Wollongong, AUSTRALIA • Vienna, AUSTRIA • British Army Bases Dili, EAST TIMOR • Cairo, EGYPT • London, ENGLAND • Tallinn, ESTONIA • Helsinki, FINLAND • Paris, FRANCE • Athens, GREECE • Berlin, GERMANY • Budapest, HUNGARY • Reykjavik, ICELAND Auckland, NEW ZEALAND • Oslo, NORWAY • Islamabad, Karachi, Lahore, PAKISTAN • Ramallah, PALESTINE • Manila, PHILIPPINES • Poznan, Warsaw, POLAND • Lisbon, PORTUGAL • San Juan, PUERTO RICO SWEDEN • Berne, SWITZERLAND • Bangkok, THAILAND • Istanbul, TURKEY • Chicago, Los Angeles, New York City, U.S. • Kiev, UKRAINE • For more information, visit www.internationalANSWER.org.

people

a war of undisguised aggression, to come and monopolize 90 minutes of the Council's time before a world audience to put forward a mass of concocted "evidence."

If this group were really representative of the international community, it would instead have invited Nelson Mandela, one of the legendary liberation fighters of the 20th century. He truly represented the knowledge and sentiment of the people around the world last week when he gave a stinging indictment of Washington, its "atrocities all over the world" and its drive to "push the world into a holocaust."

The notion that the UN Security Council represents the "international community" is as fraudulent as the claim made by the Bush administration that it has "Europe" behind it because it got seven so-called "leaders" to sign a declaration of unity with the U.S.

This "unity" statement, published in the capitalist press all over Europe and in the U.S., was probably familiar to Secretary of Defense Donald Rumsfeld when he denounced France and Germany as the "old Europe" and touted the "new Europe" in the east.

Among the signers was, of course, Tony Blair, Washington's junior partner in crime who represents the dreams of regaining a fragment of Britain's old empire by holding on to the coattails of the new emperors in Wall Street and Washington.

Then there were the governments of Spain and Portugal, of faded colonial grandeur, bankrupt and dependent imperialists who are the weakest in Europe and most subject to manipulation. There was also Silvio Berlusconi, president of Italy, another faded imperialist power, who is a despised right-wing media billionaire. There was Denmark, whose planes are now bombing Afghanistan.

Finally, there were the governments of Poland, the Czech Republic, Slovakia and Hungary, the "new Europe," meaning the new colonies of U.S., German and French imperialism who were taken over lock, stock and barrel by imperialism after the

Continued on page 9

solidarity

How has the peace movement in Germany reacted to Chancellor Gerhard Schroeder's statements against the war?

Fry observed: "Most people are relieved that Schroeder has, so far, refused to openly support the war. But anti-war activists point out that Schroeder recently ordered German soldiers to guard U.S. military bases in Germany that will be used in that war. He has also said that the U.S. could fly its warplanes going to attack Iraq over German airspace and U.S. military bases in Germany."

Many see this as tacit support for the war on Iraq and as a breach of Schroeder's campaign promise to oppose the war, she said.

"The German movement is planning demonstrations and acts of civil disobedience at U.S. military bases all over their country. They want to show that



PABLO PICASSO

Who put the wraps on Guernica?

By Leslie Feinberg

A woven tapestry reproduction of the famous mural "Guernica" has hung on the wall outside the United Nations Security Council chamber since 1985. But on Jan. 27, it was covered up with a drape. Why?

Screaming, shattering people and animals: Guernica. The painting is characterized as modern art's most powerful anti-war statement.

Pablo Picasso painted the mural for the Spanish Pavilion at the 1937 World's Fair.

Spain was rocked by civil war. Resistance fighters, joined by solidarity brigades from the United States and around the world, were battling hand-to-hand against Gen. Francisco Franco's fascist forces.

On April 27, 1937, Franco gave the go-ahead for Hitler's air force to use a little Basque hamlet in northern Spain as bombing practice. For more than three hours, the village was pummeled from the sky with high explosives and incendiary bombs. When the smoke cleared, 1,600 civilians were dead or wounded.

By May 1, word of the horror at Guernica reached Paris. More than a million enraged people poured into the streets in the biggest May Day march that city had ever witnessed. The world was stunned. The normally apolitical Picasso was moved to capture the massacre in his now-famous mural.

Apparently the realities of war—particularly the terror, death and destruction at ground zero of bombing raids—are not the backdrop U.S. officials want for their

photo opportunities.

Dignitaries have long been filmed, photographed and interviewed in front of the painting. "So it was a surprise for many of the envoys to arrive at UN headquarters last Monday for a Security Council briefing by chief weapons inspectors, only to find the searing work covered with a baby-blue banner and the U.S. logo," reported the Feb. 3 Washington Times.

The censoring curtain was draped on the days the council discussed Iraq.

"A diplomat stated that it would not be an appropriate background if the ambassador of the United States at the UN, John Negroponte, or [Secretary of State Colin] Powell, talk about war surrounded with women, children and animals shouting with horror and showing the suffering of the bombings." (Washington Times, Feb. 3) □

Kurds tell Pentagon: 'Hands off Iraq!'

Perhaps the most dramatic demonstration against Pentagon war that took place around the world in late January was a Kurdish protest in Baghdad.

Kurds traveled to the Iraqi capital from the cities of Sulaymania, Arbil and Dahouk in northern Iraq. Hundreds demonstrated outside the United Nations headquarters in Baghdad on Jan. 28. (Arabia.com)

They vowed to fight alongside their Iraqi sisters and brothers against U.S. military aggression. Their banners read, "Kurdish clans are human shield to protect Iraq."

The Kurdish people share a distinct language and culture. They live in Turkey, Iraq, Syria and Iran. During the first Gulf War, the CIA cynically tried to manipulate their struggle for self-determination by working with some Kurdish groups as a weapon against the Iraqi government.

It was cynical because the bloodiest

repression against the Kurdish people has been carried out by a staunch U.S. ally—Turkey, which has waged a merciless war against this nationally oppressed people's right to self-determination.

The CIA later abandoned its allies among the Kurds in 1991 because Turkey, a NATO member and important military outpost for the Pentagon, was viewed as more vital.

Hushair Selim Bach, one of the Kurdish clan chiefs who journeyed to Baghdad on Jan. 28, told Arab News, "We oppose any U.S. presence in northern Iraq and vehemently condemn the practices of agents, who made out of this region a fertile ground to [Israeli] Mossad and the CIA."

Those demonstrating outside the UN office called on the international community to stand up with Iraq in its "legitimate self-defense."

—L.F.

Anti-war voices rise in Turkey

The warlords in Washington have brought heavy pressure to bear on their ally, the Turkish government. The United States demands the right to station some 80,000 Pentagon troops there—and to use Turkey as a land and air base from which to attack Iraq.

But, from below, "The opposition to war has been slowly building up in Turkey. There have been many demonstrations and anti-war meetings across the country," wrote Behzad Yaghmaian in the Feb. 1 CounterPunch.

Yaghmaian reported that war is being widely discussed in private and public gatherings: "Students and academicians, journalists and publishers, artists and ordinary people show their resentment of the war in different forms: petitions, public declarations, peace forums and anti-

war rallies."

He continued: "On Jan. 26, a large and diverse crowd gathered outside Istanbul University to demonstrate against the war. They came in the thousands—middle-class men and women in their Western outfit, and those from poor quarters of Istanbul; women under the Islamic headscarf; children on the shoulders of their parents; workers and unionists, and students; and Arab women in their traditional garbs.

"The message was clear," he concluded. "The U.S. was not to be welcomed in Turkey, not by its citizens."

Yaghmaian authored "Social Change in Iran: An Eyewitness Account of Dissent, Defiance and New Movements for Rights" (SUNY Press:2002).

—L.F.

BRAZIL

Chávez visit brings Venezuela front and center

By Berta Joubert-Ceci
Porto Alegre, Brazil

The World Social Forum held here Jan. 23-28 had as its two main and urgent topics the U.S. war against Iraq and the process of neo-liberalism, exemplified in the U.S. plan to set up the Free Trade Area of the Americas.

But an unexpected visit by Venezuelan President Hugo Chávez showed how the 100,000 people attending the WSF felt about another present danger looming over the Americas: the threat of a U.S.-supported coup against his elected government.

Thousands of voices chanting in unison, "Uh! Ah! Chávez no se va"—Chávez is not leaving—let the world know both the immediate crisis and the determination of the people of Venezuela to defend their Bolivarian Revolution.

The people of Latin America and the Caribbean understand passionately that a setback in Venezuela would mean a setback for all the Americas. It was quite moving to see how Venezuelans and non-Venezuelans alike defended this revolution with words and deeds.

The main participants in the revolutionary Bolivarian process have no thoughts of losing. Jacobo Torres, general coordinator of the Bolivarian Force of the Workers (FBT) in Venezuela, told Workers World, "We are more convinced than ever that we are going to further our revolutionary process, that the will of the

people will prevail and that nobody will abolish our constitution."

The FBT is a labor and political organization embracing different union sectors. These pro-Chávez forces are attempting to consolidate labor's power away from the old union organization, which is really like a company union.

The leaders of the old group, the Workers Confederation of Venezuela, have been colluding with the right-wing opposition forces responsible for the bosses' "strike" that has damaged the country's economy.

Right now, Torres said, the oil workers are waging the most difficult struggle. The boss organization Fedecamaras, responsible for the abortive coup last April, tried most viciously to sabotage the economy's vital oil sector.

When these entrepreneurs started a lockout, which the right-wing media called a "strike," the managers left their work places and started sabotaging the sophisticated computer system that coordinates the different complex operations of oil production and distribution, including the automatic filling of oil tanks. This slowed oil production tremendously, jeopardizing not only the economy but the whole society by attacking energy production.

The functioning of schools and hospitals, even doing a simple task around the house, became extremely difficult and could endanger people's lives. Fires and

explosions were a constant threat, since the sabotaging managers broke valves and caused leaks in some pipelines.

The bosses' purpose was to totally choke the country's economy. Oil production decreased from almost 3 million barrels a day in November to 150,000 barrels.

Workers decide to take over production

Then, on Dec. 4, Torres said, the workers decided to secure the oil production. So they, together with the people, occupied the oil plants and evicted the right-wing managers.

"For the first time, the workers took direct control and responsibility for the production of our industry," said Torres. "And little by little, in 15 days, Venezuela started to produce gasoline again.

"Heroic pages were written in those days by compañeros who stayed awake for 96, even 120 hours, working to make sure that raw materials would get to the centers of production and distribution and preventing the coup agents from entering the plants," continued Torres. "Today, we can say without doubt that the workers, together with the national armed forces and with the new management, have started to increase the oil production. When we arrived in Porto Alegre, production had already increased to 1.2 million barrels a day."

Venezuelan speakers, the Venezuelan flag and placards calling for solidarity with

the Bolivarian movement were prevalent in gatherings and demonstrations in Porto Alegre. The Venezuelan ambassador to Brazil, plus several compatriot cultural workers and intellectuals, were guests at the House of Cuba here, where they spoke on the current situation.

But the highlight of the Venezuelan presence in Porto Alegre was Hugo Chávez himself. He was invited by the recently elected president of Brazil, Luis Ignacio Lula da Silva.

Chávez spoke at the Porto Alegre Legislative Assembly building. Powerful loudspeakers were placed on the balcony, allowing the thousands gathered outside to listen to his stirring and militant words.

His 90-minute speech exuded confidence based on the backing of the Venezuelan people. Chávez assured his listeners that the Bolivarian Revolution would not die.

This confidence had been demonstrated several days earlier, on Jan. 23, when people took to the streets in Venezuela in support of their revolution and their president. With thousands wearing the Bolivarians' red beret, the massive demonstration was dubbed the "red tide."

Speaking with a warm and friendly delivery, Chávez declared his allegiance to the people, particularly the poorest, and his conviction that the people are the ones in power. His job, he said, is to guarantee that the will of the people prevails. "Uh! Ah! Chávez no se va!" □

Eyewitness Venezuela

Workers take over oil production, foil bosses' 'strike'

By Natalie Alsop
Caracas, Venezuela

Alsop visited Venezuela in January with a delegation from the International Action Center.

It is difficult for people in the United States to find truthful information about what is happening in Venezuela. The corporate media, both in Venezuela and in the United States, scream that the country is splitting apart, that the economy is in dire straits, that the people are turning against President Hugo Chávez.

What is really happening?

People in Venezuela often say, "Hay dos Venezuelas." There are two Venezuelas.

One Venezuela resembles middle-class and wealthy neighborhoods in the United States. It has travel agencies, Citibanks, Wendy's, Mailboxes Etc. and so on. People live in one-family homes and own a car, or maybe two.

The second Venezuela is characterized by a lack of running water, schools, jobs. Many city families live crammed into high-rise buildings known as urbanizations.

Most country folk earn an existence working on someone else's farm. One woman told us that this is a Venezuela where sometimes "there are more bullets to eat than food."

Almost 80 percent of the people live in this Venezuela.

The 1998 election of Hugo Chávez

began a process that the people call the Bolivarian Revolution, which has galvanized this second Venezuela. There are a million examples of the ways this has happened.

Since 1998, eight popular referenda have been held in Venezuela.

One referendum approved the new constitution—one of the most inclusive in the world.

Laws have been passed protecting small fishers from corporate fisheries, and loaning farm workers the seed money to start their own farms.

The Bank of the Women was created to provide poor women with resources to start cooperatives in their communities.

Cooperatives are being organized in poor barrios throughout the urban areas, supported by resources from the government. These cooperatives provide jobs and education and a sense of ownership of the process. In essence the process has opened up a space for people to organize their communities, and has provided the resources to do it.

The other Venezuela is dead-set against this process continuing. The bankers, business owners and U.S.-owned corporations, along with the press and wealthy oil union bureaucrats, see their wealth and power threatened by the organization of poor and working people. In league with the ruling class of the United States, which depends on Venezuelan oil and markets, they are trying to stop the

Bolivarian Revolution.

Last April 11, these forces attempted a coup. They failed because of the strength and will of the people and of the military rank and file. Then, in December, they started a strike in an attempt to turn the people of Venezuela against Chávez and wrest control of the country from his supporters, the Chavistas.

We asked people on the streets of Caracas and Maracaibo, the two biggest cities, "What is happening because of the strike?" They answered, "No hay paro"—there is no strike.

This is evident merely walking through the streets of Caracas. The only shops that are closed are U.S. corporations and large chains like McDonald's and Nestlé. Otherwise, people are working and the shops are operating.

However, the Venezuelan economy has been affected by the "strike" in some important ways. The banks have been, until recently, open only three hours a day. Oil production descended from 3 million barrels a day to 150,000 at its lowest. [Editor's note: It has since risen to 1.3 million barrels.] And there has been a shortage of milk and wheat, important staples.

But the Chávez government quickly confronted these effects. President Chávez announced that milk and wheat imported from Colombia would be provided at very low cost to those who needed it. The management of the state-owned oil company, PDVSA, which had

been locking out workers and sabotaging machinery, was fired and replaced by Chavistas. And at the end of January the banks were forced open.

All these measures were accompanied by a steady education campaign so effective that the people of Venezuela can truly say, "No hay paro," and then explain why.

The effects of the strike-lockout are social more than economic. It has polarized the Venezuelan population even more. The middle class is starting to split politically, part in favor of Chávez and part against.

The failure of this economic sabotage has made the opposition—the other Venezuela and the U.S. ruling class—even more desperate. The lies being generated by the media have become more and more fantastic.

At one pro-Chávez demonstration that we participated in, a television news crew stood right next to the demonstrators and reported it as an anti-Chávez demonstration. When the Metropolitan police shot and killed two Chavista demonstrators, the press reported that they were from the opposition.

The Chavistas are responding by mobilizing to defend the Bolivarian Revolution once again. A Jan. 23 demonstration of over 300,000 people in Caracas in support of Chávez was just one of the many examples of the immense mobilization of the Venezuelan people. □

World Social Forum 2003

100,000 call for 'another world'

By Alicia Jrapko and Johnnie Stevens
Porto Alegre, Brazil

From Jan. 23 to Jan. 27 over 100,000 people from 156 countries, representing over 5,000 organizations, gathered at the third World Social Forum here under the slogan: "Another World Is Possible."

With the Pentagon on the brink of an aggressive war against Iraq, and resistance to Washington and Wall Street's domination growing stronger throughout Latin America, this Forum became a magnet for popular struggle against U.S. imperialism. Tens of thousands demonstrated both at the opening ceremonies and in a special action against the Free Trade Area of the Americas. Both protests also demanded no U.S. war on Iraq.

The presence of the new Brazilian president, Luiz Inácio Lula da Silva, along with President Hugo Chávez of Venezuela, electrified the participants and caused tens of thousands to spill out of the main meeting hall of the event.

The WSF was born in 2001 as a reaction to the World Economic forum that gathered many of the world's wealthiest bankers and billionaires in Davos, Switzerland. That center of corporate chieftains, of the World Bank, IMF and Pentagon, had become a magnet, too, but of anti-globalization protest.

Porto Alegre, capital of the Brazilian state of Rio Grande do Sul, also hosted the second WSF. But, according to veteran participants, this one took top prizes not only by doubling the size but for mixing a stronger feeling of struggle in with the warmth of solidarity.

Last year, the World Economic Forum met in New York. While thousands of people from the United States went to Porto Alegre to participate in the WSF, other thousands protested this meeting of the rich in Manhattan.

1,700 sessions and workshops

Through the days the WSF met, anti-imperialist sentiment was noticeable in word and mood. There were approximately 1,700 sessions and workshops. Topics ranged from corporate misconduct to the Third World debt, the war on Iraq, the FTAA, the environment, women, HIV/AIDS, and the landless and reparations struggles.

The panelists were philosophers, intellectuals and well-known activists and personalities like left-wing presidential candidate Evo Morales from Bolivia, Nobel

Peace Prize winner Adolfo Perez Esquivel from Argentina, the Rev. Daniel Ntoni Nzinga from Angola, Portuguese journalist and political commentator Miguel Urbano, linguistics expert Noam Chomsky and actor Danny Glover from the United States, Olympic gold medalist boxer Teofilo Stevenson from Cuba, and activist Ismael Guadalupe of Vieques, Puerto Rico.

The first day opened with a march and rally that brought together thousands for justice, peace and socialism. Marchers supported the Bolivarian process in Venezuela and the struggle of the Palestinian people. Hundreds of signs read "No to war," "Down with the FTAA," "Trade with justice," "Solidarity with Venezuela" and "Against the coup." Also popular was "Cuba yes, Yankees no." Chants against the war in Iraq in many different languages could be heard.

A very impressive Cuban delegation made up of representatives of all sectors of Cuban society passed by, led by family members of the five Cuban heroes now held in U.S. prisons. Gloria La Riva and Alicia Jrapko, members of the Committee to Free the Five from the United States, participated in a workshop about the Cuban Five organized by the Brazilian committee.

Lula speaks to WSF and WEF

Brazilian President Luiz Inácio Lula da Silva spoke the second day to thousands of people. The next day he left to attend the Davos Forum. He said he would go to Davos to tell people there that it is not possible to continue with an economic system where a few eat five times a day while many spend five days without eating on the planet Earth.

It was Lula who invited Hugo Chávez to the WSF. People lined up for hours to hear the Venezuelan leader speak. Chávez attacked neo-liberal globalization by proposing a Latin America Monetary Fund opposed to the traditional IMF, World Bank and other imperialist financial organizations. He also proposed setting up a continent-wide organization like OPEC to defend the natural resources of Latin America.

Thousands of copies of Chavez's book, "The Fascist Coup Against Venezuela—The Life of the Homeland Is at Stake Here," were passed out.

Gloria La Riva from the United States spoke at a workshop about terrorism, media and the war. Participants cheered



WW PHOTOS: BERTA JOUBERT-CECI

Banners read, 'Solidarity with Venezuela' and 'No to paying foreign debt—for the socialist revolution.'

when La Riva described the recent anti-war demonstrations, the biggest since the war in Vietnam, organized by International ANSWER.

Berta Joubert-Ceci participated in a panel on Women's Organizations Around the World, and also in a workshop organized by the Secretariat of WSF 2003 discussing the Feb. 15 international day of protest against a war on Iraq called by the European anti-war movement. Joubert-Ceci described the development of the new U.S. anti-war movement led by ANSWER.

Which way to the new world?

With the slogan "A better world is possible," the WSF begs the question: "How do we get there?" A minority of participants, but still a good number, made it clear they believe that the answer to the problems facing humanity is not to reform capitalism or make it more humane.

Groups and individuals with a revolutionary perspective were more likely to have been invited to speak at the parallel sessions, not those put together by the WSF organizers. For example, Hebe de Bonafini, the president of the Mothers of Plaza de Mayo of Argentina, was invited by the Landless Committees of Brazil. She

complained that grassroots organizations had little space at the forum. She said that globalization has to be destroyed, not reformed.

Last year anti-imperialists sharply criticized the WSF's social democratic organizers for refusing to invite groups waging legitimate armed struggles of national liberation, like the FARC-EP of Colombia. These groups were also not invited this year. The ideological thrust of the WSF organizers denies the pressing need for workers and oppressed peoples to struggle for power.

On the other hand, the WSF was still a magnet for tens of thousands wanting to struggle against imperialism. Strong participation by the Communist Party of Brazil gave clarity and fighting spirit to the demonstrations and many of the sessions.

At the ending rally the International Action Center delegation carried a banner reading "Long Live the Resistance of the Latin American People," a resistance that could be seen during the WSF.

Next year's WSF is scheduled to take place in India.

Johnnie Stevens, Alicia Jrapko, Gloria La Riva and Berta Joubert-Ceci made up the International Action Center delegation to the WSF. □

U.S. lines up gov'ts, but not the people

Continued from page 7

collapse of the Soviet Union. By getting these clients to sign up, Washington showed the French and the Germans that even countries supposedly within their sphere of influence are under the political domination of the U.S. That was the meaning of Rumsfeld's outburst about the "new Europe."

Governments don't represent the people

But in truth, even if Bush had gotten all the governments of Europe to sign on, they represent the Europe of a tiny minority of bosses and bankers. The real Europe, the Europe of the people, has been in the streets demonstrating against the war and is scheduled to do it again on Feb. 15 in a massive show of anti-war opposition.

The real representatives of the international community, the community of workers and oppressed peoples and progressives everywhere, in every walk of life, is the mightily growing worldwide anti-war movement.

The Security Council is dominated by imperialists and capitalists who represent the exploiters and oppressors of the world. To leave the question of peace or war against an oppressed nation to the Security Council or any other group of imperialists and their subordinates is to hand the decision over to the war makers.

Only the masses of people—those who will have to kill and be killed, who will be forced to pay for the war, and whose rights will be denied in the interest of the war—can consistently oppose the war and have the strategic social position to put up the kind of resistance necessary to stop the war makers. □





The war budget

Guns or butter? It is said that the government can spend its tax revenues on one or the other, but not both.

The fascist governments in Europe claimed that they could do both back during the great capitalist economic depression in the 1930s.

In the current capitalist recession, the Bush administration has offered a variation on the fascists' promises of the 1930s. Bush thinks there's no reason to promise "butter" to the workers. In fact, the Bush plan cuts social services and will reduce benefits across the board for anyone making less than \$100,000 a year.

But the Bush plan does promise guns and butter. Only the butter this time is for the rich.

Never before in history has a U.S. president offered such a war budget as Bush's. The Bush budget calls for the biggest increase ever for military spending, and expands spending for repressive forces in the "homeland security" department. Yet it does not include one cent for a war on Iraq or even a penny for Afghanistan, either for its continued military occupation or for any other

kind of spending on Afghanistan.

Ignoring the so-called balanced budget law Congress passed not too long ago, Bush's budget promises to create the biggest deficit in U.S. history.

Usually presidents who propose war budgets and talk about the deficits caused by war spending also talk about why they have to raise taxes. But not Bush.

Bush is proposing to drastically cut all taxes paid by the rich. So who is going to be made to pay? You already know the answer.

It's not enough that a handful of Democrats have made some mild criticisms of Bush's budget proposal. Something more decisive must be done to avert this train wreck called Bush's budget. There are already some who are calling for impeachment of the president. That, at least, could start to put the brakes on this coming disaster.

Raise your voice with a multitude of others in the week of protests from Feb. 13-21 to demand money for jobs, education and health care, not warfare. And cast your ballot in the people's effort to impeach the war monger in the White House: www.votetoinpeach.org. □

Lessons of the space shuttle disaster

The space shuttle disaster has raised many questions.

Scientists have long questioned the need to send people into space. It is dangerous and not necessary. Robotic devices can do the same work, without the danger to human life.

The moon missions by NASA weren't performed because of scientific need. They were part of the Cold War against the Soviet Union. This was always the case, and it can be seen even more clearly with the end of the Soviet Union. No one now talks of the necessity to send people to the moon. It is far too dangerous and costly, and for what purpose?

The space shuttle flights with people on board are similarly costly adventures that appear to be driven mostly by the propaganda benefit showing U.S. technological domination of space, not by scientific need. All the scientific experiments performed during the flight of the

Columbia could have been performed on a humanless flight.

There is no scientific gain made by continuing the shuttle missions as they have been. There is no reason to increase the budget for these propaganda missions.

There is another aspect to the shuttle disaster that isn't being talked about. In this time of military buildup, the Pentagon claims that its new weapons are so sophisticated and technologically advanced, that they never make a mistake. Yet the space shuttle is the most sophisticated and advanced technology ever developed by the U.S. military-industrial complex. Obviously it is not mistake-proof.

There is no reason to believe that the U.S. military operations, which have much less sophisticated controls and do not have the kind of continuous ground support given the shuttles, are more accurate or free from error. □



Protest at Concordia University in Montreal last September successfully blocked former Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu from speaking.

Palestinian cause gains support

By Leslie Feinberg

The indefatigable fight of the Palestinian people is inspiring resistance in Israel and around the world.

Two recent examples.

Student groups at York University in Toronto blocked the Jan. 28 lecture of Daniel Pipes, director of the Middle East Forum think tank—which describes itself as "promoting American interests in the Middle East." (The Globe & Mail, Jan. 24)

Pipes is the creator of the forum's infamous Campus Watch web site, which posted online "dossiers" on professors and universities that dared to criticize Israel and express pro-Palestinian sentiment.

Deep anger at Pipes' visit sparked calls for protest.

"Our concern is the racism toward Middle Eastern students," said Ali Hassan, president of York's Middle Eastern Student Association.

York University officials recall what happened last September at Montreal's Concordia University when former Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu was invited to speak.

Some 2,000 protesters—including Arabs and Jews—shut down the campus and took over the building where the Israeli war criminal was scheduled to lecture. Police hit demonstrators with batons, tear gas and pepper spray, but activists fought back in pitched battles with the cops and prevented Netanyahu from speaking.

Israeli military officer tried

The Palestinian people's determination

to throw off the yoke of occupation has created a rift in the ranks of the Israeli military.

Draftees are refusing induction. Reservists have rebuffed superior officers and laid down their arms.

And now, an Israeli military intelligence officer has been court-martialed for refusing an order that he deemed illegal.

The officer, identified in court papers only as Lieutenant A, was charged with deliberately withholding military intelligence.

According to the Israeli newspaper Ma'ariv, the officer was asked to provide information about a target that the air force planned to attack in the West Bank city of Nablus. He determined that the military intended "to cause random casualties, and he balked at the order."

He argued at his court martial that the order was illegal because it was primarily aimed at killing Palestinian civilians.

The plea was rejected. So why was Lieutenant A merely drummed out of the intelligence branch and transferred to low-level administrative work? Why didn't he find himself behind bars?

His actions reportedly created a split in the military.

"This case is being widely talked about in the army now, and there's a lot of people who think he was right to do what he did," one officer observed. "You do not have to be the triggerman to be guilty of a crime." (The Guardian, Feb. 3)

According to The Guardian, "The dissent by junior officers apparently prompted a light sentence for an offense that would usually see a soldier jailed." □

Before Pentagon blitzkrieg: WAR OF LIES

Continued from page 1

barded with poison gas that day at Halabja. We cannot say with any certainty that Iraqi chemical weapons killed the Kurds."

He goes on to explain that the incident took place during the Iran-Iraq war, and that the Kurds were not deliberate targets of the gas but were caught up in a battle. Furthermore, says Pelletiere, "the United States Defense Intelligence Agency investigated and produced a classified report ... that it was Iranian gas that killed the Kurds, not Iraqi gas." Iraq and Iran both used gas in the battle, but only Iran possessed nerve gas, the kind that killed the

Kurds, according to this report.

And who is Pelletiere? The CIA's senior political analyst on Iraq during the Iran-Iraq war and a professor at the Army War College from 1988 to 2000. He got to see much classified material about the region.

Like the story of babies being torn from incubators by Iraqi soldiers in Kuwait in 1990, which was later proven to be totally invented, this gruesome charge about poison gas was created for its media value in softening up the population to accept a war of aggression by Washington.

That Powell used it again—even right after it had been publicly discredited by a CIA expert—shows that he had nothing

more convincing on which to pin his case.

The Iraqi government had a mountain of rebuttal ready as soon as Powell had finished speaking, even though most governments take more time to frame a response to such serious charges. However, the Iraqi ambassador to the UN was given only a few minutes to respond to Powell's hour-and-a-half speech.

Most of Powell's allegations about Iraq concealing weapons were based on unnamed and unidentified "intelligence sources" or "defectors" and therefore cannot be independently verified.

Powell also showed slides purportedly taken by U.S. reconnaissance planes that he claimed showed Iraq's intent to deceive UN inspectors. In a press conference from Baghdad, Iraqi scientific adviser Amer Al-Saadi pointed out that the UN has its own

sources for aerial imagery and has found no such evidence.

The Iraqi pointed out that under Resolution 1441, which Powell cited many times as justification for the U.S. unilaterally moving toward war, member states of the UN are required to hand over any information they might have about Iraqi weapons programs to the UN agencies in charge of inspections: UNMOVIC and the International Atomic Energy Agency.

Not only isn't Washington doing this, but it quickly removed all its so-called "evidence" from the Security Council as soon as Powell finished speaking, according to the Pacifica program "Democracy Now."

Washington is presenting as fact its uncorroborated allegations. And the

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YUGOSLAVIA

Washington's history of 'regime change'

By John Catalinotto

Iraq is not the first country where Washington has demanded "regime change."

A collection of related articles in the Jan. 27 Christian Science Monitor compared U.S. threats of "regime change" by warfare in Iraq with its successful overthrows of governments in Guatemala, Chile, Panama, the Dominican Republic and Grenada, and some less successful attempts, as in Cuba.

To accomplish its goals, Washington has used economic sanctions, diplomatic pressure, trade embargoes and support for local forces trying to overthrow the targeted governments. It has also used bombing and military invasion.

The Monitor articles mention another brutal regime change the United States carried out, in Yugoslavia. What is significant is that this establishment newspaper is now exposing some of the lies it and other media told about Yugoslavia from 1991 to 2000 to demonize the Yugoslav government and its president, Slobodan Milosevic.

In 1999, only a few tens of thousands of people in this country, about half of them Serbian immigrants and their families, actively protested the Pentagon's brutal bombing of the Balkans.

Today, protesters in the hundreds of thousands in the United States, and millions more across the world, are actively demonstrating, signing petitions, writing letters and marching in the streets in an attempt to stop a murderous U.S. aggression against Iraq before it begins. Probably few are sympathetic to or supporters of the Iraqi government. But they know that the Bush administration's plan to invade Iraq has nothing to do with improving the Iraqi government and everything to do with oil profits and geo-strategic power.

In 1999, however, the media-industry propaganda machine managed to mislead a large section of progressive public opinion into believing that the Clinton administration's war in the Balkans had to do with ending dictatorship and stopping genocide against some of the non-Serbian peoples of Yugoslavia. It was successful in hiding the real goal of the United States and Western European big powers: turning all of Eastern Europe back into a colony of Western imperialism. At that time, the European imperialists supported the U.S. war.

The Monitor articles give an opportunity to re-examine that period and to rein-

force resistance to future propaganda offensives.

Admits Milosevic no dictator

Four years ago, as the countdown for war against Yugoslavia was on, the corporate media in the United States and Western Europe depicted Serbs as beasts and Milosevic as a Hitler. Now, the Monitor admits that far from being a brutal dictator, "Milosevic never resorted to dictatorial repression of his political opponents at home.

"Indeed, opposition parties ran all the country's major towns and cities after municipal elections in December 1996; independent radio and TV stations managed to broadcast; opposition-leaning dailies and weeklies published."

The Monitor doesn't add a relevant point here. After a U.S.-backed coup overthrew Milosevic in October 2000, the so-called Democratic Opposition of Serbia, which took over, turned out to be not so democratic. It took over the media that had been favorable toward the then-ruling Socialist Party of Serbia and its allies, while keeping control of all the non-government media.

These had been described in the West as an "alternative" media, but in reality were funded by U.S. and Western European imperialism. The biggest source of funds was billionaire George Soros's Open Society Institute. This group opened up shop in Belgrade in 1991, "and over the next nine years distributed more than \$100 million. ... The money bought newsprint for independent papers, kept publishing houses alive, and funded the growth of [anti-Milosevic radio station] B-92 as it set up local stations in towns controlled by the opposition."

The U.S. Congress voted additional funds. U.S. agents pushed the 18 political parties in the DOS to unite for the election. As the Monitor put it, "U.S. diplomats knocked their heads together until they formed a cohesive and united coalition" that was a "credible alternative." They picked Vojoslav Kostunica to run against Milosevic because he was "reputed to be honest, and sufficiently nationalistic to broaden the opposition's appeal."

It took nine years of subversion and economic sanctions—and three months of bombing that targeted Yugoslavia's economic infrastructure—before the U.S. succeeded in "regime change." During the first six of those nine years Western European—especially German—and U.S. imperialism were undermining and tearing apart Yugoslavia by fostering the



U.S.-bombed train in Yugoslavia 1999. The U.S. hit civilian targets to force regime change

breakaway of Croatia, Slovenia and Bosnia, leading to civil war.

The Monitor now admits that the overthrow of Milosevic in October 2000 "brought to fruition a three-year campaign by the U.S. and other Western governments to dislodge the Yugoslav leader by strangling his country's economy with sanctions and rocking it with bombs during the Kosovo war." This is an admission that the effort to bring down the Yugoslav government began at the latest in 1997, before the struggle in Kosovo that was allegedly the reason for U.S. intervention.

Since the overthrow, two-thirds of Yugoslavs have sunk below the poverty level. The suicide rate among elderly people has reached new heights. Health care has become unaffordable for most.

And so few people voted in Serbia's presidential election that it was voided twice last fall. Kostunica became virtually without power after outright Western puppets like Serbian Premier Zoran Djindjic took over.

Role of Milosevic

Some of the recent media attacks on Workers World Party, centering on its participation in the anti-war movement, charge WWP with being followers of Milosevic. Yet any serious researcher could find WWP articles in the early 1990s that raised criticisms of the Milosevic leadership in Yugoslavia from a socialist perspective.

Once U.S. imperialism and its NATO partners—who are also rivals—targeted Yugoslavia, and the Yugoslav leadership resisted having their country turned into a colony, WWP supported Yugoslavia

against NATO. WWP would defend any government's resistance to being colonized by the imperialists. This is in the best internationalist traditions of the left, which supported the feudal emperor of Ethiopia, Haile Selassie, when he led the resistance to an invasion by the Italian imperialist government in the 1930s.

Since Milosevic was captured in 2001 and kidnapped to The Hague to stand "trial" in a NATO court for alleged war crimes, he has conducted a political defense, with very little outside support, that has skillfully bared the intrigues of the imperialists to dismember his country. Washington meant the farce in The Hague to be a show trial, but the former Yugoslav president has effectively turned it into an exposure of U.S./NATO war crimes against Yugoslavia.

That's why it gets so little media coverage here—and why Milosevic has earned the respect of working-class activists worldwide.

The writer is co-editor of a book about the 1999 war on Yugoslavia entitled "Hidden Agenda: the U.S.-NATO Takeover of Yugoslavia," published by the International Action Center in 2002. □

BELGIUM

Same-sex marriage win

Belgium is now the second country in Europe to legalize same-sex marriage. The noteworthy Belgian legislation was passed into law on Jan. 30 and will take effect in four months.

Same-sex couples will finally be afforded many of the rights of heterosexual couples, including inheritance rights.

Not having these basic civil rights creates a nightmare for same-sex couples in the United States, whose relationships enjoy no such legal protections in this supposed bastion of capitalist democracy.

However, the Belgian law shied away from legal recognition of a very fundamental right: the right to adopt children.

So the struggle continues—there, and here.

—Leslie Feinberg

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media are playing along, saturating the public with this old wine in new bottles.

The stock markets fell after Powell's speech. At least one financial analyst said it was because the markets are afraid that he failed to convince the world to support a U.S.-British war, and that therefore it will be long and bloody. "This (war) is not going to be easy. It's not going to be short and it's not going to be limited," said Hugh Johnson, chief investment officer at First Albany Corp.

What the world saw on Feb. 5 was a classic case of "might makes right." The clear aggressor in this situation is U.S. imperialism, which is determined to go to war against Iraq even though that country has done nothing to provoke a confrontation. Yet most of the capitalist governments in the world are demanding that

Iraq do more to prove it has no weapons of mass destruction. Anyone familiar with logic knows that proving a negative is virtually impossible.

Not one country is demanding that the UN look into U.S. weapons of mass destruction, investigate the Pentagon's stockpiles of nuclear, chemical and biological weapons, or reveal the secret deals made by the White House and State Department in collusion with the big oil companies over who will get what in a post-war Iraq.

These are the issues on the minds of millions around the world. Every diplomat knows, however, that even to contemplate such a question is to bring down the wrath of the true terrorist government—the one run by George W. Bush, Dick Cheney, Donald Rumsfeld, Colin Powell, Paul Wolfowitz, Condoleezza Rice

and John Ashcroft. It is insisting on total obedience from the countries in the UN or they will be made "irrelevant"—a euphemism for their destruction.

Yet even as this shoddy scenario was being played out in the organization that claims to be the guardian of world peace, yet has never even tried to stop a U.S. war, the anti-war forces around the world were preparing for a new round of demonstrations. Some protesters came out in the streets immediately.

In Europe and a number of cities across the U.S., the week of Feb. 15 will be a time of mass mobilizations against the war that are expected to bring out many millions of people. Powell's speech may convince many people that it is up to them to stop this war, especially if it becomes clear that no other deterrent will work. □

EDITORIAL

Sindicatos se resisten a endosar guerra de Bush

Tu nunca supieras juzgando por el guión del espectáculo llamado el Estado de la Unión reporte presidencial al Congreso cautelosamente redactado, lo que tuvo la intención de hacer pensar al mundo que Bush tiene apoyo cien por ciento sólido en los Estados Unidos por su programa de guerra y ataques contra los trabajadores. Pero la oposición se está volviendo más amplia y profunda día a día.

La evidencia más reciente de esto viene del movimiento sindical, lo cual en el pasado generalmente se ha abstenido de tomar una posición en contra de las guerras agresivas.

Pero ahora, sin embargo, por lo menos siete sindicatos nacionales “se

han opuesto a la administración de Bush y su avance impetuoso a la guerra y la usurpación de los derechos civiles acá”, según el grupo sindical del Internet, el Portside.

Los siete son AFSCME, sindicato de empleados gubernamentales; el APWU, sindicato de trabajadores del correo; CWA, sindicato de la industria de telecomunicaciones; el ILWU, sindicato de trabajadores portuarios; SEIU, sindicato de la industria de servicios; UE; sindicato de electricistas; y el UFW, el sindicato de trabajadores agrícolas.

Se están redactando y discutiendo resoluciones en contra de la guerra en sindicatos a través del país, impulsados por la fundación reciente del grupo Movimiento Laboral de los EE.UU. en

Contra de la Guerra, que tuvo contingentes grandes en las protestas del 18 de enero. El contingente en Washington fue encabezado por miembros de la local 1199 SEIU trabajadores de la salud y los hospitales, que llevaron 20 autobuses llenos a la protesta desde Nueva York.

Una de esas resoluciones fue aprobada unánimemente en la reunión de la Federación de Trabajo del condado de Los Ángeles el 27 de enero, el mismo día que Hans Blix estuvo presentando un reporte ambiguo al Consejo de Seguridad a la ONU bajo presión enorme de los EE.UU. La resolución categóricamente se opone a la guerra, sin calificación o hesitación alguna. Describe la campaña en pro de la guer-

ra como “un pretexto por ataques contra los sindicatos, y los derechos civiles, humanos y de los inmigrantes”. Agrega que “la ofensiva pro guerra de la administración de Bush sirve para encubrir y distraer de la economía que está hundiendo, de la corrupción corporativa y los despidos”, y sigue diciendo que “los mil millones de dólares gastados para preparar y ejecutar esta guerra se están robando de las escuelas, los hospitales, el Seguro Social y los servicios por los pobres en medio de la crisis económica más grande de memoria reciente, a la misma vez que la administración Bush planifica simultáneamente sacar aún más del presupuesto para regalar a sus partidarios ricos”. Esta resolución, que toma una posición firme de clase en términos tan resonantes, también responde “al asalto renovado contra el movimiento sindical que incluye el uso de la ley Taft-Hartley [que prohíbe huelgas] en contra de los trabajadores portuarios; excluye el derecho de organizarse a 50.000 nuevos inspectores en los aeropuertos; privatiza a casi 200.000 empleos federales representados actualmente por el sindicato de empleados estatales AFGE; y remueve los derechos de la negociación colectiva a estos empleados”.

También condena a la Ley Patriótica y la Ley de Seguridad de la Patria por funcionar “para socavar los derechos sindicales de organizar y combatir contra ataques anti inmigrantes por la expansión de la capacidad del gobierno de detener a los no ciudadanos, hacer la vigilancia secreta sobre las líneas telefónicas y del Internet, y conducir registros secretos”.

Hace un año una denuncia de la agenda política corporativa aprobada por las dos cámaras del Congreso con apoyo de los dos partidos capitalistas tan clara y llena de la conciencia de la clase trabajadora, hubiera parecido inconcebible. Pero desde entonces, la crisis enfrentando los trabajadores a lo cual refiere esta resolución se ha vuelto mucho más intensa. La arrogancia de los gobernantes ha alienado al mundo entero.

George W. Bush ha comenzado a acusar a los Demócratas de instigar “guerra de clase”, algo que por supuesto no tienen la menor intención de hacer. Pero es él mismo, de hecho que ha librado una guerra doméstica en contra de los trabajadores al mismo momento que él espera que los jóvenes de la clase trabajadora vuelvan a la infantería para llevar a cabo sus ambiciones imperiales. Una vez que el genio salga de la lámpara no hay manera de retroceder. Una nueva marea progresista ya está comenzando a recorrer al país, y esta vez, los trabajadores, sindicalizados y no organizados, trabajando y desempleados, inmigrante y nacido acá, gente de todas edades, géneros, y etnias, van a determinar la forma que asume. Ellos que han sufrido más están en la vanguardia de la lucha. □

SEMANA DE RESISTENCIA CONTRA LA GUERRA DEL 13 AL 21 DE FEBRERO



El refugio de Amiriyya

Prosiguiendo con las movilizaciones para decir no a la guerra, las organizaciones que integran el Movimiento contra la Guerra de EEUU se han sumado al llamado hecho por Europa para movilizaciones del 15 de febrero. El llamado surgió en el Foro Social de Florencia y se ha convocado a una Semana de Resistencia contra la Guerra [4] que se celebrará del 13 al 21 de ese mes. La iniciativa incluye la convocatoria de otra gran movilización en Nueva York y en otras ciudades de EEUU el mismo 15 de febrero bajo el lema “Parar la guerra. En apoyo a la autodeterminación de los pueblos del Medio Oriente”.

Calendario de actividades:

13 DE FEBRERO: Aniversario del bombardeo al refugio de Amiriyya: [5] conmemoración de la destrucción del refugio de Amiriyya (Bagdad) durante la Guerra del Golfo de 1991, en la que un ataque estadounidense de dos misiles destruyó un refugio antiaéreo civil asesinando por incineración a más de 400 personas en su mayoría mujeres y niños de Bagdad y los alrededores que habían buscado refugio durante la campaña de terror y bombardeos de EEUU y de las tropas aliadas contra la ciudad y la población de Bagdad. Las conmemoraciones se centrarán en la organización de foros, conferencias y charlas informativas en ámbitos estudiantiles y universitarios.

14 DE FEBRERO: Desde las 09:00 de la mañana hasta las 16:00 horas se celebrará en Nueva York un taller bajo el título: Construyendo el movimiento en contra de la guerra conectando la lucha contra la guerra en Irak con la lucha por la justicia social y económica, por los derechos civiles en EEUU y contra la globalización, la guerra el militarismo y el racismo. Por la tarde se celebrará una manifestación.

15 DE FEBRERO: respondiendo al llamado del movimiento europeo contra la guerra, la organización United for Peace, ha convocado una gran manifestación respaldada por el movimiento contra la guerra estadounidense que, a su vez está organizando otras manifestaciones en diferentes ciudades de EEUU para el mismo día, en conexión con las promovidas en Europa y en mundo.

16 A 20 DE FEBRERO: Se han organizado marchas, charlas y colección de firmas para el Referéndum Popular Contra la Guerra [6] en diversas ciudades.

21 DE FEBRERO: En conmemoración del aniversario del asesinato de Malcolm X -quien representa el espíritu de la lucha contra el militarismo y el racismo institucionalizado-, numerosas asociaciones de estudiantes de institutos y universidades, así como los activistas más jóvenes de ANSWER han organizado esta jornada para tomar las calles con los lemas Contra la guerra y Contra el racismo.

