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La escisión entre Bush y los generales 12



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FROM WHITE HOUSE TO NY TIMES

Their lies sold the war

Will Plame scandal lead to indictments or coverup?

By Fred Goldstein

Deep divisions in the U.S. ruling class, the political establishment and the military over the Iraq war and occupation are pulsating beneath the surface of the grand jury investigation into the outing of CIA agent Valerie Plame.

Much speculation has been generated about whether special prosecutor Patrick Fitzgerald is going to issue major indictments to Bush administration officials, find a formula to ease the blow, or engage in a full-scale coverup.

Little of political significance has emerged so far from the prosecutor. But there have been important indirect revelations in the capitalist media about the way the conspiracy to go to war was executed.

These revelations concern the operation of the White House Iraq Group (WHIG), which was created to sell the war, and the extent to which the New York Times, the authoritative organ of the moderate wing of the imperialist ruling class, became the dupe of its political enemies: the right-wing war party in the White House and the Pentagon.

The Wall Street Journal of Oct. 12 had this to say about WHIG: "Lawyers familiar with the investigation believe that at least part of the outcome likely hangs on the inner workings of what has been dubbed the White House Iraq Group. Formed in August 2002, the group, which included Messrs. [Karl] Rove and [I. Lewis] Libby, worked on setting strategy for selling the war in Iraq to the public in the months leading up to the March 2003 invasion. The group would likely have played a significant role in responding to Mr. Wilson's claims."

Joseph Wilson, a career State Department official, was opposed to the unilateral invasion of Iraq. He went on a CIA mission to Niger and came back with a report rebutting the Bush administration's false claims that Saddam Hussein was seeking uranium ore from Africa. Valerie Plame, a CIA agent working undercover on WMD, is Wilson's wife. Her exposure was retaliation for Wilson's exposure of the nuclear lies of the Bush-Cheney group.

In fact, the Washington Post, in a 5,500-word article on Aug. 10, 2003, published a report compiled by three reporters and three staff researchers modestly entitled "Depiction of Threat Outgrew Evidence." This article contains all the elements necessary for a major investigation of the administration's criminal conspiracy to go to war. The Washington Post had been cheerleaders for the war during the entire period leading up to it. But this report was published later, as the Iraqi resistance was gaining momentum and a sense of disillusionment with the occupation was taking hold in the ruling class.

The article contains clear evidence that the war was based on lies, pointing to a criminal conspiracy to sell the war to the public. "Systematic coordination" to sell the war "began in August," wrote the Post, "when Chief of Staff Andrew Card Jr. formed the White House Iraq Group, or WHIG, to set strategy for each stage of confrontation with Baghdad"

The Post continued: "In an interview with the New York Times published Sept. 6, Card did not mention the WHIG but hinted at its mission. 'From a marketing point of view, you don't introduce a new product in August,' he said." He was cynically

Continued to page 5

Millions More Movement rally: for Black Power and unity



The Oct. 15 rally attracted a large crowd, overwhelmingly African American, to Washington, D.C., to make demands on the U.S. government, including justice for Katrina survivors and reparations. See page 6.

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Utility rate hikes: disaster in the making

By Betsey Piette
Philadelphia

The storm of corporate greed in the aftermath of Hurricane Katrina knows no bounds, reaching far beyond the hard-hit Gulf Coast region. In the mean spirit of Halliburton and Bechtel's no-bid FEMA contracts, on Oct. 7 the Philadelphia Gas Works (PGW) seized the opportunity to push through a 19.4 percent "no-bid" rate hike for the company's 470,000 residential customers, citing rising wholesale costs for natural gas.

With cold weather approaching, this rate hike is a disaster in the making. The increase, which will add \$335 to the average annual bill, follows a 4.9 percent rate hike on Sept. 1, and is expected to be followed by additional increases in December.

For residential heating, oil prices are also 48 percent higher than a year ago. Meanwhile, wholesale prices for crude oil and natural gas are actually declining from the highs reached right after Hurricane Katrina.

The potential deadly impact of PGW's excessive increase is magnified by a Pennsylvania law passed last November allowing utilities to more easily shut off service when customers can't pay bills.

The Energy Association of Pennsylvania lobbied on behalf of electric and gas utilities for the passage of Act 201 [Chapter 14], which was adopted by the state legislature and signed by Gov. Ed Rendell without any public hearings. In the first four months after the bill took effect on Dec. 14, 2004, utility shut-offs soared 113 percent above the same period a year ago.

Act 201 allows utility shut-offs for delinquent payments when a family's total income is 150 percent above the federal poverty level; eliminates a long-standing rule requiring personal contact or the posting of a shut-off notice 48 hours before service is cut, and allows immediate terminations without notice for "fraud or misrepresentation." PGW maintains that a bounced check is grounds for an immediate service shut-off.

Utilities can shut off service to a house even when they know that an occupant has a serious medical condition. Service would be turned back on three days later if a doctor's excuse is provided. Prior to Chapter 14, utilities had to give a customer three days to seek a doctor's excuse before cutting service.

The act also makes it harder to restore service, regardless of the weather. Utilities can charge reconnection fees up to \$124 (two months' deposit) plus any amount still owed. In Philadelphia, reconnection costs could average \$1,200 this winter, compared to \$500 a year ago.

These draconian provisions have already resulted in several deaths, including three children who died in a fire started by an overturned candle used for light after a Pennsylvania Electric Co. computer ordered the power shut off for non-payment in May.

Just as the loss of lives from Hurricane Katrina was preventable, Pennsylvania's legislature and Governor Rendell have the power to prevent the death toll sure to mount as the full impact of Act 201 is felt this winter. This law needs to be overturned and PGW's excessive rate hikes rolled back now. □



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LOS ANGELES

Fri., Oct. 28
 Eyewitness Report from Haiti. John Parker will report from the delegation, led by Ramsey Clark, that went to Haiti in early Oct. Video footage from Haiti. 7:30 p.m. At IAC, 5274 W Pico Blvd #203. For info (323) 936-7266.

Sat., Oct. 29
 Workers World Party Marxism class. 3 p.m.-5 p.m. For info (323) 936-1416

NEW YORK

Sat., Oct. 22
 Workers World Newspaper Public Forum: Forging a United Front between the Black liberation, workers' and anti-imperialist struggles; Assessing the Millions More Movement. Moderator:

Monica Moorehead, Workers World newspaper editorial staff. Panelists include: Brenda Stokely, Million Worker March Movement Eastern Region Co-coordinator; Co-convenor, New York City Labor Against The War; Chris Silvera, Million Worker March Movement Eastern Region Co-coordinator, Pres., Teamsters National Black Caucus; Malcolm Suber, Katrina survivor from New Orleans, People's Hurricane Relief Fund; Nellie Bailey, Harlem Tenants Council, Troops Out Now Coalition; Saladin Muhammad, Chairperson, Black Workers for Justice and Southern Region Coordinator of the Million Worker March Movement; Larry Holmes, Workers World Party, Troops Out Now Coalition. 3 p.m. At New School, 66 W. 12 St., Manhattan. For info (212) 627-2994.

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Nazis kicked out of Toledo

By George Windau
and Michael-Franklin Green
Special contributors
Toledo, Ohio

On Oct. 9, local anarchists, trade unionists and socialists in Toledo, Ohio, quickly put together an effective anti-Nazi united front to confront a march and rally set by the so-called National Socialist Movement for six days later. The NSM, a Nazi party, claimed it was coming to Toledo to show white people how to fight gang violence in an integrated yet predominantly Black North Toledo neighborhood.

The whole episode with the NSM Nazis revolved around a neighborhood dispute between Thomas Szych, who is white, and his Black neighbors. In early August, Szych waved a loaded gun at some children who were taking garbage out to the street. In response, two African-American police officers confiscated Szych's gun—but the local prosecutor did not file any criminal charges, not even a misdemeanor.

Szych called the two police officers "gorillas with guns." He promptly went to the local news media to get attention for his demand to have his gun returned.

While it is not clear who called in the NSM Nazis—Szych or one of his relatives—the fact remains that the NSM Nazis from Roanoke, Va., chose this incident as an excuse to come to Toledo on Oct. 15.

For almost nine days, the local news media, radio, television and newspaper gave an open forum to the NSM Nazis. But not one anti-Nazi activist was allowed to speak anywhere.

Only one newspaper, The Toledo Free

Press, printed a small article about the anti-fascist united front that planned to confront the Nazis "head on."

Toledo Mayor Jack Ford urged everyone to simply "ignore" the Nazis. A local coalition of church and community groups scheduled an "Erase the Hate" unity rally at a senior center in the neighborhood for the same day as the Nazi rally and march.

In the meantime, members of the anti-fascist coalition of anarchists, unionists and socialists were busy passing out almost 2,500 leaflets in Toledo, especially in North Toledo. In addition to recruiting anti-Nazi protesters from other cities, there was direct communication with North End gang members, who decided to call a truce with each other and cooperate with the peaceful protest, along with their white allies, to confront the Nazis.

The Nazis finally announced the location of their rally and march on the very morning of Oct. 15. The socialist and anarchist factions, numbering about 80 people total, marched down Stickney Avenue toward Woodward High School, where less than 20 NSM Nazis were surrounded by some 150 police, some in full riot gear, others on horseback and bicycles. Almost all the cops were white because those of color had called in sick for that day.

By 11:30 a.m., the two separate units of anarchists and socialists had attracted about 700 people from the neighborhood facing the eastern side of Woodward High School. The small squad of Nazis shouted taunts and racial insults at the crowd, which was growing.

The socialists, leading the chants with their bullhorns, chanted: "Nazis out! Nazis out!" The crowd of neighborhood people

changed the words to: "Nazis out! Knock 'em out!"

Soon, small children throwing stones, bottles or broomsticks advanced in front of the adults to stand directly in front of the police blueshirts, who were defending the Nazi brownshirts.

The Nazis quickly withdrew. The mass of people assumed they were going to start their planned march down Mulberry Street, just a few blocks away.

The crowd moved to get past platoons of riot cops, who tried to clear Mulberry Street for the Nazis to march. But the cops could not open the street, even using CS teargas, since the wind quickly dispersed it.

In response to the police firing tear gas, chunks of concrete, bricks and stones started to hit the police. One brick smashed the window of a cruiser, making the car stop which resulted in an ambulance crashing into its rear end.

The police could not disperse nor clear the crowd at Mulberry and Central. Police Chief Navarre told the NSM Nazis to "get out of town or be arrested."

The Nazis were whisked away—but the crowd did not know it for almost half an hour. They did not yet know that they had stopped the neo-Nazis from setting their boots on Toledo's streets.

Mayor Ford, who had advised everyone to stay away from the Nazis, did not follow his own advice. He had to be at the confrontation site on Stickney Avenue. One of the church leaders who had called the "Erase the Hate" unity rally was not even at his own event; he too was with the hundreds of people confronting the Nazis on Stickney.

In the melee at Mulberry and Central, police arrested some 60 anti-Nazi protesters. Later in the afternoon some minor rioting occurred. One gas station was destroyed, cars were turned over and a tavern was set ablaze. These were businesses that the local people knew as supporting the neo-Nazi cause.

The anti-Nazi coalition is holding together. It plans to begin a political as well as legal defense campaign for the 60 adult political prisoners charged with aggravated riot felonies. There are also some 30 to 40 juvenile prisoners from the riot in the late afternoon.

The coalition will demand amnesty for all the anti-Nazi political prisoners and will demand that Mayor Ford take full responsibility for all the events in North Toledo. Instead of the mayor telling the Nazis where they had to be if they wanted Toledo police protection, the Nazis dictated to the mayor where he must provide police protection. If these fascist or hate groups want to march through residential areas, they can do so, but only without police protection—in other words, at their own risk and at no cost to the city.

The coalition feels a great sense of pride that we kept the Nazis off our streets and forced the police to get them out of town, quickly. This was a mini-insurrection by the local residents—one of the few times that the alliance of cops and neo-fascists failed to accomplish a march or rally in the United States.

For more information, see the blogsite of Michael Brooks at historymike.blogspot.com. Text or photos can be copied from the blogsite as long as proper attribution is given.

'Minutemen' not welcome in Vermont

By Bryan G. Pfeifer

Members of the racist vigilante organization known as the "Minutemen Civil Defense Corps" are meeting serious resistance from a wide range of progressive and revolutionary individuals and organizations.

As the Minutemen attempt to recruit and build nationally, they are increasingly confronted with militant resistance and messages such as this one at a Sept. 10 protest in Babylon, N.Y.: "Minutemen, racist, KKK, fascists out of the USA!"

Similar confrontations have taken place in California, Texas and Michigan.

The Minutemen, founded by Chris Simcox in April 2005, are working openly or covertly with at least 15 local, state and federal agencies to deport, menace and even possibly to incapacitate or kill undocumented immigrants attempting to cross the Mexican and Canadian borders into the United States.

The organization also lobbies politicians to pass chauvinist anti-immigrant legislation. And it targets businesses that hire undocumented workers.

Many of the Minutemen's members are current or former military and police personnel. They are highly trained in paramilitary activities, including hand-to-hand combat, surveillance and sniper skills.

Since April the Minutemen have concentrated their activities in Arizona and California. But they now claim to have "volunteer operations" in 12 states on the southern and northern borders.

They work with other legal and extra-legal organizations such as America's PAC, American Caging Inc., Capitol Watch, Citizens United, Conservative Petitions, Declaration Alliance, IFIRE, the National Border Control Council, Ope-

ration Spotlight, the Patrick Henry Center and RightMarch.com.

Politicians who support the Minutemen include Rep. John Culbertson. In August, this Texas Republican introduced a House bill to train civilian "volunteers" to patrol borders. The "volunteers," according to the bill, would resemble the Minutemen but would receive federal training and certification.

California Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger, also a Republican, supports similar policies. But Republicans have no monopoly on this kind of bigotry. New Mexico Gov. Bill Richardson and Arizona Gov. Janet Napolitano, both Democrats, are on the same bandwagon.

On Sept. 28, at a "Secure Our Borders" rally in Washington, D.C., Simcox announced a new operation, effective immediately, to increase the vigilante effort to all five states along the Mexican border, and to eight states along the 4,000-mile Canadian border. Twelve members of Congress from the House Immigration Reform Caucus participated in the rally at the Capitol Hill Club, where a detailed schedule of October rallies and "patrolling" activities was outlined.

The schedule includes coordinated Oct. 15 anti-immigrant recruiting rallies at state capitols or federal buildings in Arlington Heights, Ill., Salem, Ore., and Houston. Other Minutemen rallies are scheduled for Oct. 29 in Sacramento, Calif., at 10 a.m. at the State Capitol steps, and in Tallahassee, Fla., from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. on the front steps of the "Old Historic Capitol Building."

No racists here!

According to the New England Minuteman chapter, Vermont would be their first major "testing grounds" in the

Northeast and on the northern border generally. Vermont, population 600,000, is 98-percent white.

On Oct. 15 an 11-member Minutemen delegation arrived in the town of Derby Line, Vt., just across the border from Stansted, Quebec.

This area is historically well-known for many Underground Railroad passages.

Minutemen delegation members included Weymouth, Mass., police officer Bob Johnson, Bob Cassimiro, executive director of the misnamed Massachusetts Coalition for Immigration Reform, and others from Long Island, N.Y., and elsewhere. Cassimiro spent three weeks in Naco, Ariz., earlier this year.

In a driving rain, dozens of protesters were ready. They dealt the racists a decisive blow. After the Minutemen attempted to gather in town, protesters and sympathetic town residents drove them out, telling them firmly, loudly and repeatedly, "Don't come back!"

Perhaps parodying the Minutemen's xenophobia, David Van Deusen of Moretown, Vt., a protest organizer, said: "They are outsiders, and we don't want them here. We don't want racist policies in Vermont."

James Griffin, a Derby Line resident, agreed. "It's just another form of vigilantism," said Griffin. "I think their agenda is racist, and they're just trying to impose their will. They're just another form of

militia. I don't like their very presence."

Members of various Vermont anti-war and socialist organizations, the Raging Grannies, the Vermont Workers' Center and anti-racist Vermont residents all participated in this action. They vowed to confront the Minutemen anyplace, anytime and anywhere they come out.

The Minutemen say they plan to "patrol" the Vermont border the weekend of Oct. 21-23.

No borders in the workers' struggle

As the Vermont victory and others show, U.S.-born working-class and oppressed people across the country are increasingly standing shoulder-to-shoulder with immigrant sisters and brothers, documented and undocumented, to fight back against the Minutemen, their supporters and similar organizations such as the Nazis and the KKK.

These organizations, depending on the ruling class's needs at any given time, work openly or clandestinely in an attempt to deflect onto immigrants or other oppressed people the endemic crises and the grave harm done by the capitalist system to the working class and oppressed.

Working-class whites who join the protests against these dividers show that they understand the real enemy: the capitalist ruling class. Attacking immigrants or other super-exploited people won't lower unemployment, gas prices or rents, or turn around cutbacks in health care and education spending. Just the opposite.

There are no borders in the workers' struggle. Increasing and ever-widening unity and solidarity among the working class and all the oppressed are essential to building a mighty, independent multi-national class-wide movement. □

The Klan & the Government Foes or allies?

by Sam Marcy

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Challenge to Auto Workers

Delphi bankruptcy is aimed at union

By Jerry Goldberg
Detroit

Delphi Automotive Systems, the world's second-largest automobile parts manufacturer, has filed for bankruptcy in Federal District Court in New York. Delphi is a giant corporation with 185,000 employees worldwide, annual sales of \$28 billion and 33,000 unionized workers across the United States. It was created in 1999 when General Motors spun off its parts division. It is the major supplier for GM. Most of Delphi's union workforce are former GM workers.

Delphi's bankruptcy filing followed the United Auto Workers' (UAW) rejection of outrageous demands made by the corporation. These included a 63 percent wage cut for the workers, from a range of \$25-\$27 to \$10 an hour; the right to close, sell or consolidate its U.S. plants over the next three years; making Delphi workers pay 27 percent of their health-care premiums, up from 7 percent; cutting pensions by more than half, from \$3,000 per month to less than \$1,500 per month; drastically slashing holidays and vacations; and eliminating a job bank that guarantees workers continue to get paid during layoffs.

Delphi is now intent on implementing, through the bankruptcy court, its war on workers' wages and benefits that were won through years of struggle.

Executives take care of themselves

Incredibly, Delphi's bankruptcy filing came one day after it had sweetened its severance package for the corporation's top executives, most of whom are paid \$800,000 to \$1 million a year. It now guarantees them 18 months' severance pay, instead of 12, even in the face of bankruptcy, and guarantees their bonuses as well.

These corporate executives are nothing but a pack of thieves and crooks. In fact, Delphi top management is being sued in federal court for fraud for cooking the books. Delphi's top executive, Robert Miller, who is paid \$1.5 million a year and received a \$3 million signing bonus this year, is the corporate hack who steered the Chrysler bankruptcy in 1979. More recently, he was in charge of the Bethlehem Steel bankruptcy, which resulted in the company's retirees being left with drastically reduced pensions and no health benefits.

The Delphi bankruptcy is meant to set the stage for dramatic reductions in wages and benefits for all parts workers in the automobile industry—and eventually for all auto workers. With its great tradition of struggle, beginning with the Flint sit-down strike of 1937, the UAW has been in the forefront of winning living wages and decent benefits for unionized industrial workers throughout the U.S. Dramatically lowering the wages and benefits of the auto workers will accelerate a dramatic reduction of living standards for the entire working class.

The automobile companies claim they cannot make profits and pay decent wages to their workers. But this is a boldfaced lie. In fact, last year Chrysler posted profits of \$1.9 billion. General Motors reported profits of \$3.2 billion in 2002, \$3.8 billion in 2003 and \$3.6 billion in 2004, and entered this year with a \$25 billion cash investment fund. Delphi itself reported profits of \$1.1 billion in the year 2000 and continued to report net profits through at least 2003.

Delphi's current losses mostly result

from the fact that its success is tied to that of General Motors. GM banked on continually increased sales of SUVs and trucks, where the rate of profit is highest, and put its production in that direction. However, because of the dramatic rise in the price of gasoline, sales of these gas guzzlers have gone down, resulting in losses for GM and for Delphi, its parts supplier. The current losses for GM and Delphi mostly have to do with changes in the current market and the poor management decisions, blinded by greed, that did not anticipate these changes.

Bosses attempt to restructure auto industry

Now, through its bankruptcy filing, Delphi is trying to take advantage of this episodic crisis to implement a fundamental restructuring of the automobile industry. The auto giants are not satisfied with their current rate of profit. New technology allows for the integration of global production on an unprecedented scale. To the corporate vultures, the UAW contracts, with their relatively decent wages and benefits, stand in the way of a new era of super-profits extracted by the super-exploitation of workers worldwide, including inside the U.S.

To challenge the dire threat to the union posed by the Delphi bankruptcy, the UAW leadership must mobilize its entire workforce. The struggle will not be won in the courts. The union needs to organize the power of the membership to fight for and assert the property right of the autoworkers to their jobs and to the wages, benefits and pensions they have earned through their years of sweat equity.

The Delphi workers, who supply GM's assembly plants, have the power to stop production not just there but at General Motors as well, if they withhold their labor. If the bankruptcy court attempts to impose the kind of wage cuts and pension reductions that have been the pattern at United Airlines and so many other companies, the UAW should be ready to shut down the corporation and its parent GM as well.

If Delphi begins to shut down its plants, the autoworkers should prepare to occupy the factories, to protect the property that really belongs to the workers who made these plants run for so long. In fact, the union should demand that, as the representative of the workers who have given the most and have the most to lose, it be named the trustee to administer Delphi through the bankruptcy proceedings.

To send a message to Delphi, General Motors, the rest of the auto industry and the entire ruling class that the union will fight back against any attempts to fundamentally slash the wages and living standards of the auto workers, the union as a first step should invoke Article 50 of the UAW Constitution. This provision authorizes a referendum vote to call for a general strike of the entire union membership when the "existence . . . [and] economic and social standing of our membership" is threatened. Just beginning this process of a vote on a general strike in every UAW local would send a message that the fight against this bankruptcy will not be limited to bourgeois channels, which inevitably result in disaster for the workers.

The organized power of the rank and file can defeat the Delphi bankruptcy and turn around the ruling class's drive to lower the wages and benefits of the entire working class.

Goldberg worked for many years at Ford Motor Co.'s Michigan Truck Plant.

ON THE PICKETLINE

by Sue Davis



SF hospital strikers attacked

Several striking caregivers, all women, were physically assaulted by 70 California Pacific Medical Center "security" guards after a candlelight vigil at the hospital on Oct. 15. Dietary aide Lorenna Hernandez was hospitalized with abdominal injuries after being kicked to the ground by CPMC's military-trained security. Several other caregivers filed police reports after being kicked and punched.

"The security guards were out of control. I was on the picket line and security starting shoving us off the sidewalk," said Hernandez. "I fell to the ground and one of the guards kept kicking me in the stomach. Everyone was yelling at him to stop and trying to get him off me."

Aide Maria Salina was also roughed up. "We were just walking on the picket line and security started running toward us," said Salina. "They told us we needed to get off the sidewalk, but it is our legal right. Besides, there was fast traffic in the street. They started pushing us, shoving me hard in my shoulder and neck."

The workers are represented by the Services Employees union. An Oct. 16 press release from union noted that CPMC had hired the temporary security guards to intimidate the striking workers. Nursing assistants, licensed vocational nurses and other hospital caregivers, mostly women, had no alternative but to go on strike after CPMC's parent company, Sutter Health Plan, refused to accept a federal mediator's compromise. One of the primary issues: higher staffing levels so the workers can provide adequate patient care.

Since the strike began 31 days ago, guards have shoved, spit on, sexually harassed and threatened the strikers.

These hired strikebreakers were supplied by Steele Foundation, an expensive international security firm that sends private armed guards to hot spots around the world. In February 2004, for example, Steele guards hired to protect President Jean-Bertrand Aristide of Haiti allowed the U.S. Embassy to kidnap him and force him out of the country.

Sprint workers strike in four states

Nearly a thousand workers at local Sprint telephone operations in Florida, Tennessee, North Carolina and Indiana hit the bricks on Oct. 9 to protest company demands for massive contract concessions.

In a show of solidarity, more than 100 members of 10 Communication Workers locals in Indiana, Ohio and Illinois held a noontime rally in Lawrenceburg, Ind., on Oct. 13 to demand a fair contract for their CWA sisters and brothers.

"This is the most profitable segment

of the entire company, yet Sprint is demanding contract concessions that amount to an attack on our paychecks, our families' health security, our job conditions and our very future with the company," said Jimmy Gurganus, a CWA vice president.

Sprint wants to eliminate the cap on employee contributions to health premiums, which means workers could end up paying 100 percent of their health care costs. The company also wants to get rid of current limits on transferring jobs to outside contractors—an obvious move to destroy the union. Sprint also wants to eliminate its contribution to workers' 401(k) retirement savings plans, slash both long- and short-term disability benefits, eliminate overtime pay for work on Sunday, weaken workers' seniority rights and cut back on paid leave for vacations, holidays and sick leave.

No wonder the workers are on strike!

Colchester, Vt., teachers walk out

Teachers in Colchester, Vt., have opted to staff picket lines, rather than classrooms, since Oct. 10. The first negotiating session since the strike began is scheduled for Oct. 18. The major issues are pay and health benefits.

According to the Colchester Education Association, which represents the teachers, base pay for teachers in Colchester is the lowest in Chittenden County, and the teachers pay more for health insurance than other teachers in the county.

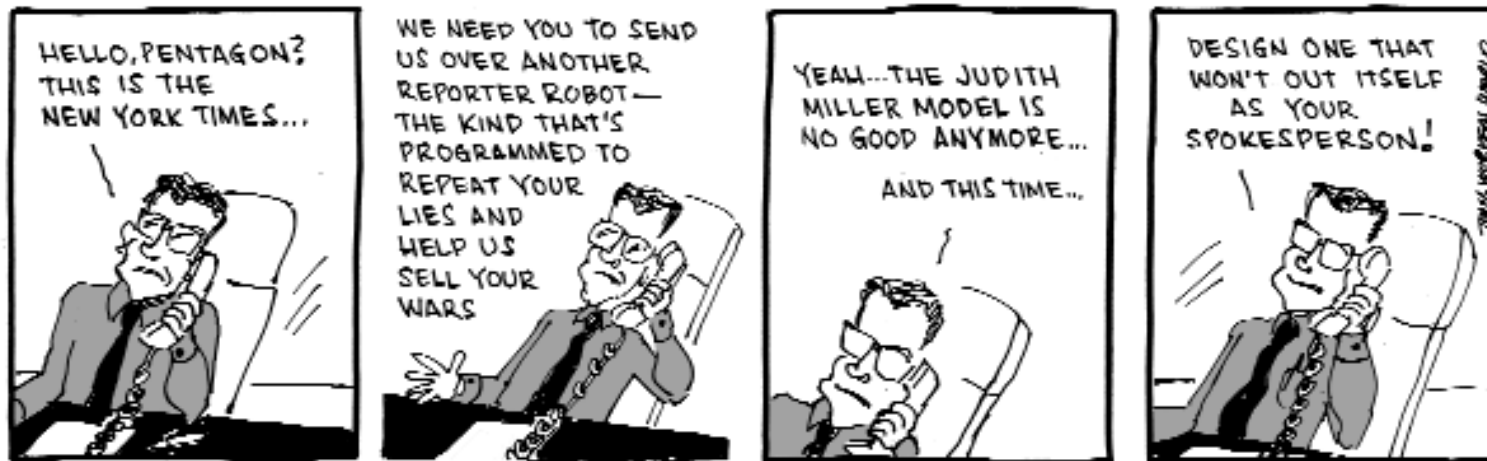
The teachers, who number 180 and who voted 159 to 6 to strike, want a 5 percent raise in each of the next three years and a reduction in health premium payments to 10 percent, which is what teachers in surrounding districts pay. The school board is offering a 3.25 percent raise next year and continuation of 20 percent premiums with a deductible of \$1,000 to \$3,000.

The teachers have received widespread community support, including from students. "It should have never come to this," said high school senior Tristan Brosnan, who joined the picket line on Oct. 10. "The union was right in saying they shouldn't be pushed any further. What are the priorities in our society? Having fair wages for teachers or not?"

Bush attack on gov't unions fails

Despite pressure from the Bush administration that had appointed her, U.S. District Judge Rosemary M. Collyer ruled on Oct. 7 that she would not narrow her Aug. 12 ruling blocking new personnel rules at the Department of Homeland Security. A coalition of four unions representing 160,000 government workers at DHS filed a motion opposing the new rules because they would have slashed the workers' collective bargaining and workplace rights and ended civil service pay scales.

Even before the October ruling, the Bush administration boasted that it wanted to impose similar workplace rules on the entire federal workforce. Its next target was 750,000 workers at the Defense Department. □



BEHIND ROVE, CHENEY, PLAME, MILLER

The scandal is the war

Continued from page 1

explaining why the group had waited until September to launch its propaganda campaign.

"The group met weekly in the Situation Room. Among regular participants were Karl Rove, the president's senior political adviser; communications strategists Karen Hughes, Mary Matalin and James R. Wilkinson; legislative liaison Nicholas E. Calio; and policy and staff advisers led by [Condoleezza] Rice and her deputy Stephen J. Hadley, along with I. Lewis Libby, Cheney's chief of staff. ...

"The day after Card's marketing remark, Bush and nearly all his top advisers began to talk about the dangers of an Iraqi nuclear bomb."

Propaganda blitz begins

On Sept. 8, the propaganda about "mushroom clouds" and "aluminum tubes" began. It was printed in the New York Times, spouted on CNN's Late Edition by Condoleezza Rice, on NBC's "Meet the Press" by Dick Cheney, on CBS's "Face the Nation" by Rumsfeld, and soon after by Gen. Tommy Franks, chief of the U.S. Central Command.

British Prime Minister Tony Blair did his part when he and Bush at Camp David on Sept. 7 each described "alarming new evidence" about the so-called nuclear threat.

Bush pushed the nuclear threat in three different speeches, including his State of the Union address. According to the Washington Post, the WHIG group wanted "gripping images"—hence the emphasis on "mushroom clouds," the "destruction of cities" and so on.

The Post report contains a great deal more material outlining the conspiracy. But what is important about the challenge to the Bush administration is that it came five months *after* the war started and a year after the lying propaganda campaign initiated by the Bush-Cheney group.

All the challenging information had been available before the war. Every lie was refutable. Experts within and outside the government were contesting the WHIG scare tactics. The International Atomic Energy Agency disagreed. CIA experts disagreed. Energy Department experts disagreed—even before the war.

But the imperialist press, the Washington Post and the New York Times included, were backing the war and were taken in by the Rumsfeld-Wolfowitz scenario predicting the U.S. would be able to march in and conquer Iraq easily.

The multilateralist faction of the ruling class may have disagreed with the Bush administration's not trying to build alliances with the European imperialists. They might have disagreed with not getting UN Security Council approval. But they backed the war anyway because of the vision they shared with the neo-cons of

conquering a country with the second-largest oil reserves in the world and seizing a strategic position from which to increase Washington's military domination of the Persian Gulf region.

A monolithic voice for war

Another important aspect recalled by the Washington Post is the role of the capitalist media as a tool of the government and a purveyor of its lies. CNN, NBC, CBS, ABC, Fox News—all owned by different billionaire factions of the ruling class, by Disney, General Electric, Rupert Murdoch, Time Warner, etc.—are all transnational exploiters with an interest in expanding their corporate empires abroad.

They were all blended into a monolithic voice for war. No one in the capitalist media asked about the formation of WHIG or about the coincidence that the sudden nuclear scare campaign fit in so neatly with the known desire of the Bush-Cheney-Wolfowitz preoccupation with "regime change" and "preventive war."

This is important to remember in light of the current grand jury investigation of the Plame leak. The Judith Miller affair and the role of the New York Times requires a great deal more explanation. The fact is that the Times played a key role in promoting all the lies put forward by the Bush administration, even while it is politically opposed to Bush.

Perhaps this flowed from pure profit-hungry greed at having inside Pentagon sources and consequently news scoops. Perhaps it flowed from the Zionist-imperialist orientation of the Sulzberger family, publishers and owners of the Times. Perhaps it was because, as imperialists, their desire for conquest overrode their opposition to Bush.

Whatever the reason, there has been an extraordinary focus on Times reporter Judith Miller, who spent 85 days in jail for refusing to testify before a grand jury. Miller was questioned about her conversations with Dick Cheney's chief of staff, I. Lewis "Scooter" Libby, and whether he mentioned Valerie Plame.

But what she should be put on trial for, along with her employers at the New York Times, is all the articles she wrote about so-called weapons of mass destruction, articles that fit into the strategy of WHIG.

Miller provided the ammo

Eventually the New York Times had to publicly repudiate six of those articles, admitting they were false. But the Times owners and editors knew full well that Miller was getting her information from Ahmad Chalabi. They also knew that Chalabi was a favorite of the Pentagon. They also knew that Chalabi was a favorite of the Office of Special Planning, a separate intelligence unit set up by neo-con Douglas Feith, undersecretary of defense, to massage intelligence and feed it into the

What Judith Miller should be put on trial for, along with her employers at the New York Times, is all the articles she wrote about WMDs that fit into the WHIG strategy. Now she is being pilloried. She merits the charges of being in the pocket of the war-makers, of arrogance, of lying. But she was only the agent; the masters were the publishers of the Times, who are now trying to recover from the scandal they created by becoming tools of the Bush war machine.

propaganda campaign. This was fully known about and widely published in the New Yorker, the Washington Post and other publications.

The "respectable" upper class publishing aristocrats in the board room of the New York Times also knew that Chalabi was an unsavory, discredited former CIA operative who had led a failed coup against Saddam. And they knew he was under indictment for embezzlement in Jordan. He was a despised Iraqi exile whose family fled the 1958 revolution and were looking to the Pentagon to bring them back, by any means necessary, including giving fake intelligence. During the war, by the way, the Pentagon flew Chalabi into Iraq with 700 of his own private militia.

Chalabi was the pre-war connection between the Pentagon and the New York Times, and Judith Miller was the conduit.

Her mode of operation was well known to the Times. Howard Kurtz, in the Oct. 17 Washington Post, quotes a memo sent in December 2000 to the Times by Craig Pyes, a two-time Pulitzer prize winner who had worked with Miller on a series on al-Qaeda.

"I'm not willing to work further on this project with Judy Miller. ... I do not trust her work, her judgment or her conduct. She is an advocate She has turned in a draft of a story of a collective enterprise that is little more than dictation from government sources over several days, filled with unproven assertions and factual inaccuracies."

In spite of all this, after the war started she was "embedded" with the Pentagon-CIA forces looking for WMD in Iraq, known as MET Alpha. "According to one Times editor," wrote Frank Foer in New York Magazine in the summer of 2004, "Rumsfeld himself signed off on it."

Miller used her Pentagon and New York Times connections to order even officers around. She was close to Maj. Gen. David Petraeus, who is now in charge of training Iraqi puppet forces, and used his influence to get her way.

Miller is now being pilloried. She merits the charges of being in the pocket of the war-makers, of arrogance, of lying and self-serving. But she was the agent; the masters were the publishers of the Times, who are now trying to recover from the

scandal they created by becoming tools of the Bush war machine.

Credibility to do what?

It is said that this affair has ruined the "credibility of the Times," that venerable media institution that carries "All the news that's fit to print." It should be made clear what "credibility" means in this struggle.

The capitalist media, including the Times, should have absolutely no "credibility" as far as the vital interests of the working class and the oppressed are concerned. The Times has been regarded as the grand adviser of the imperialist ruling class; it informs them on things it thinks are important and in their interest.

If the Times tells the truth about the workers or the oppressed, it is either because it cannot be avoided, or because it wants to advise the ruling class that if they don't fix a particular situation, they face a threat down the road.

The capitalist media comprise the fourth arm of the capitalist state. They encompass a gigantic machine of capitalist propaganda that operates 24 hours, seven days a week. They function as an ideological and political means of compulsion and are a supplement to the executive, the courts and the Congress. They help to cover up police brutality, the degradation and exploitation of the workers, war conspiracies, imperialist plunder and all other crimes of the class that they represent.

The capitalist media are supposed to be independent of the government. They are supposed to be neutral. And at times, when the ruling class is opposed to the direction of the government, either generally or in a specific instance—as in the Hurricane Katrina disaster or the Iraq quagmire—the big business media can open an attack on the government, as they are doing now.

But it is not because someone lied. The New York Times and the entire capitalist media, for example, knew in advance that the Kennedy administration was training Cuban counter-revolutionaries in Miami and Guatemala in 1960-61, preparing for an illegal act of aggression aimed at overthrowing Cuba's popular revolutionary government. They did not utter a word about it.

Continued on page 10

Millions More Movement:

D.C. rally stresses unity and

By Monica Moorehead
Washington, D.C.

The Millions More Movement held an important all-day rally Oct. 15 on the National Mall here that attracted an overwhelmingly African-American crowd numbering more than 1 million, according to organizers. The main demand put forth by the rally organizers and supported by the masses there was "Black power!"

Not one U.S. flag was prominent in the crowd, but the colors of the flag for U.S. Black liberation—red, black and green—could be seen everywhere.

This MMM rally was first announced a year ago as a commemoration of the 10th anniversary of the Million Man March on Oct. 16, 1995, held at the same site. That event attracted at least 1 million, mainly Black men, and was initiated by the Nation of Islam.

This 2005 event, also initiated by the NOI, was more inclusive in terms of embracing women, the lesbian, gay, bi and trans communities, as well as Latin@s, the Indigenous and other nationalities, all of whom were reflected in the crowd and speakers. The crowd that filled the mall from the U.S. Capitol steps to the Washington Monument included young people, the elderly, organized and unorganized workers, and families.

The speeches were focused on a variety of issues: the prison system and the plight



Louis Farrakhan speaks at Oct. 15 rally.

of political prisoners—especially Mumia Abu-Jamal, Jamil Abdullah Al-Amin (formerly H. Rap Brown) and Leonard Peltier—police brutality, reparations, voter disenfranchisement, LGBT oppression, immigrant rights, economic and political empowerment, education and health, the role of art and culture in the struggle for social justice, and much more.

While the 1995 rally primarily pushed for atonement, especially among Black men, the theme of the Millions More Movement rally was qualitatively different in its political message, due to two main issues: Hurricane Katrina and the Iraq

war. These two issues were common themes, interwoven in many of the talks and cultural presentations throughout the day, especially indignation over the government's handling of the hurricane. Many of the talks took on a strong anti-U.S. government, anti-Bush theme.

Farrakhan offers program of unity

The main presentation at this rally was given by the MMM's national convener and NOI leader, the Hon. Minister Louis Farrakhan. The crowd anxiously awaited what he, more than any other speaker, had to say. And he said plenty.

Farrakhan began his wide-ranging 80-minute speech with the hope that Black people, along with Latin@s, the Indigenous and the poor, would unite to build a strong struggle. He stated, "I can't guess how many of you are here today ... whether there is a million... less than a million or more, it is not the most important thing ... creating a movement of our people is important." He expressed his appreciation to the "unprecedented" number of Black leaders from different political backgrounds and faiths who had come together to speak "with one voice."

He stressed that the failure of the U.S. government to answer the needs of Black people and the poor was exposed by its lack of response to Hurricane Katrina. He recommended that the Department of Homeland Security, along with its emergency management agency, FEMA, be the

target of a class-action lawsuit by Katrina survivors, who should be fully compensated for everything they lost due to "criminal neglect" on the part of the government. The lawsuit, he said, should be based on facts and not hearsay, in terms of what the government did and did not do to rescue people of color off rooftops in New Orleans. He also called for an investigation of what really happened to the levees.

The NOI leader spoke poignantly about the 2,500 children, mainly of color, who are still missing from the Katrina catastrophe and the pain that their families are still going through.

'Organize street by street'

Farrakhan urged everyone to go back home and organize—street by street and house by house—to build a movement that can be ready before another disaster. He warned, "Organizing is serious and there are those who don't want to see us organized. The poor are supporting the rich, who hate anyone who can stimulate the conscience of the poor. Are you sure you want a movement? Then be ready for severe opposition."

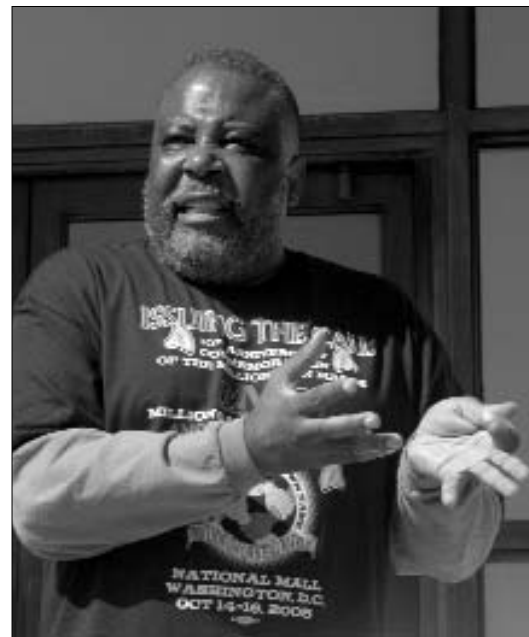
He then presented a proposal to set up a number of ministries. Pointing out that Black people make up a significant percentage of the population, he said the funds could come from an equal percentage of the tax dollars, much of which go to the military budget.

A Ministry of Health and Human Services should truly take care of the health needs of the people. Farrakhan praised the Cuban government for offering to send 1,500 doctors to the Gulf Coast region to care for the Katrina survivors. The offer, to this day, has been ignored by the Bush administration. He also thanked



WW PHOTOS: LIZ GREEN

Labor march to the mall, Oct. 15, above. Larry Holmes and Brenda Stokely from Troops Out Now Coalition, right.



WW PHOTOS: LIZ GREEN

Saladin Muhammad from Black Workers for Justice.

Million Worker March Movement:

Let survivors return home

By Monica Moorehead
Washington, D.C.

The plight of Katrina survivors in the Gulf Coast region, who suffered criminal neglect at the hands of the government, was the theme of a march on the morning of Oct. 15 that began at the Teamsters hall in D.C. and wound up at the Millions More Movement rally on the National Mall.

Leaders of the Million Worker March Movement kicked off the march with talks about the need to set up national solidarity committees for the survivors that would, among other goals, struggle for their right to return home. They brought in the cost of the war in Iraq and how that impacted the Katrina disaster, expos-

ing the racist, pro-war nature of all levels of the U.S. government.

March participants came from Washington, D.C., Baltimore, New York, Raleigh, Boston, San Diego, Los Angeles, San Francisco, Detroit and Providence.

The day before, the MWMM had held an all-day forum at Local 639 Teamsters hall in D.C. on issues that impact the workers and the poor here and worldwide. Chris Silvera, chair of the National Teamsters Black Caucus, and Clarence Thomas, co-chair of the MWMM, presided over that event.

That same day, another important rally was held in D.C. to support the ongoing struggle for reparations. It was sponsored by N'COBRA—National Coalition of Blacks for Reparations in America. □



Chris Silvera, Maria Farrakhan (Louis Farrakhan's daughter), Clarence Thomas visit Katrina survivors in Houston Sept. 11.

Black power



WW PHOTO: MONICA MOOREHEAD

Oct. 15 rally.

the Venezuelan government for offering support to the Katrina survivors—also rejected by the White House.

Cites Cuba's offer of scholarships

He also praised President Fidel Castro of Cuba for offering 500 scholarships for working-class people from the U.S. to study medicine in Cuba, with the stipulation that, upon the completion of these studies, they come back to the U.S. to provide health care for the indigent.

In response to the suffering of Black farmers in the U.S. who have become dispossessed from their lands by racism and rich agribusiness subsidies, Farrakhan motivated the need for a Ministry of Agriculture. He also stated that Native people, much of whose land had been systematically stolen in a genocidal manner by the U.S. government in the interests of westward expansion, still have land in reservations that could be leased by Black farmers, for their mutual benefit.

A Ministry of Education would be necessary to help unite all Black educators because, according to Farrakhan, the "Western system has run its course" and is no longer worthy of educating children.

Farrakhan stated that a Ministry of Defense is vital because "our young people are fighting in the wrong war—either against each other at home or in an unjust war in Iraq and Afghanistan." He said they should be brought home to defend their communities. "You don't need to be in Iraq and Afghanistan," he said. "You need to be in our neighborhoods stopping the police from shooting us down."

Farrakhan connected the need for a Ministry of Arts and Culture to the mass influence of the leader of the Chinese revolution, Mao Zedong. Farrakhan stated that Mao's ideas were very much reflected in Chinese culture because Mao took a great interest in the creative ways that political ideas could be broadly expressed.

Farrakhan said that Africa and the Caribbean are in need of factories and that forming a Ministry of Trade and Commerce could assist in this endeavor. He also stressed that trade alliances should be formed between Africa, the Caribbean, Central and South America to help strengthen these economies. The struggle for reparations, he said, goes beyond the U.S. government making an apology for the slave trade and for slavery. Reparations also mean canceling all debt of developing countries and providing the means to build infrastructure.

Continuing in this vein, Farrakhan reminded everyone that one of the reasons immigrants from Latin America are forced to come here to find work is because the U.S. stole lands from Mexico that are now Arizona, California, Texas and other states.

Among the many other speakers were Clarence Thomas and Chris Silvera from the Million Worker March Movement; Dr. Dorothy Height of the National Council of Negro Women; Indigenous leaders Russell Means and Vernon Bellecourt; Congresswoman Sheila Jackson; Haitian singer Wyclef Jean; Reverends Al Sharpton and Jesse Jackson; Viola Plummer of the Dec. 12 Movement; Damu Smith, Black Voices for Peace; and comedian and social activist Dick Gregory. The entire rally can be viewed at www.millionmanmarch.org.

In a videotaped message played to the crowd, the president of Cuba's National Assembly, Ricardo Alarcón, expressed the Cuban people's solidarity with Katrina survivors and all the poor in the U.S. He also spoke about the case of the Cuban 5, who were imprisoned for fighting against terrorism while the U.S. aids and shelters real terrorists like Luis Posada Carriles.

Jamaican Prime Minister P.J. Patterson spoke via video satellite to express his solidarity with the poor and oppressed in the U.S. His country gave asylum to President Jean-Bertrand Aristide when he was kidnapped from Haiti by the U.S. government in February 2004. Aristide is now in South Africa. □

Save 'Tookie' Williams!

At the Millions More March, Minister Louis Farrakhan raised the urgency of saving the life of Stanley "Tookie" Williams, who is on death row in California's San Quentin prison. On Oct. 11 the Supreme Court refused to hear his appeal and Williams is slated to die on Dec. 13, after being imprisoned for 24 years.

Williams is a famous prison author, known for influencing gang youths to come together and end their deadly struggles against one another. His story is told in the film "Redemption." Williams had an all-white jury, and the prosecutor blatantly used the race card in his trial. In turning Williams down, the high court ruled that racial bias in jury selection is not grounds for appeal. Which shows why the struggle has to be in the streets. □



Help Defeat Their Lies

To our readers:

Getting the most important news to working and poor people in this country is an uphill battle. Every night the real news that matters to you and me is buried and crushed by NBC, CNN and all the corporate media, who mostly give us word-for-word the press releases of the oil and corporate monopolies, the banks, the Bush administration and the Pentagon.

Their job is to make sure we are so confused about politics or "shocked and awed" by the latest offensive that we give up on the struggle.

But Workers World knows better than that. Working and poor people, even when facing enormous repression from U.S. imperialism, will not give up fighting for justice. And that's why we continue to up the ante by getting news out with the latest technology—from an online edition to "podcasts" to mass distributions of our print edition. And it's working! Our stories and analysis are read and reprinted all over the globe.

We cover the issues most important to workers, like the criminal neglect of the U.S. government in the Katrina crisis. Not only did we have our activist reporters go down and cover the catastrophe, we've also become an important part of the struggle for respect, justice and self-determination being waged by the survivors of Katrina. That is why, on Oct. 22, in New York City, Workers World is sponsoring a forum on unity among the oppressed, the workers and anti-imperialist struggles, to fight the waves of racist corporate plunder now aimed at the Gulf area.

Don't just take our word for it. Here's a message from one of the most prominent Black labor leaders heading the Million Worker March Movement:

"There is no other way that we could have reached a broader layer of workers and activists on these issues and more if it weren't for the support of Workers World newspaper, and our membership appreciates this."

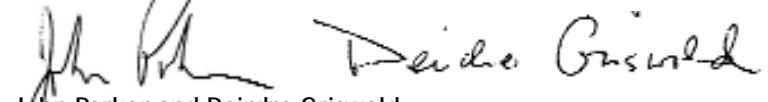
For 45 years, Workers World has reported on popular struggles and ruling class schemes, analyzing them from a socialist perspective.

This is YOUR paper and we're committed to help build the movement. But we can't do that without your assistance.

Right now we are in a Fall Fund Drive, which has a goal of raising \$60,000. Most of that money goes for the upkeep of an office and the printing and mailing of the newspaper. Volunteer labor does the rest.

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Thank you for your support,


John Parker and Deirdre Griswold

For the Editorial Staff

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Iraq's 'constitution'

Illegitimate, imposed, fraudulent

By John Catalinotto

Pentagon generals sent a clear message on what the Oct. 15 referendum on an Iraqi constitution really meant when two days later they ordered the bombing of the city of Ramadi from the air. Seventy "insurgents" were killed, they claimed. But local witnesses on the ground said the U.S. bombs had murdered 39 civilians.

The contrast between "spin" and reality was all too clear. The vote was stage-managed and reported through a controlled media. A "constitution" with no legitimacy was being imposed by force on an occupied nation through an obviously fraudulent vote.

Now even the puppet government has had to delay announcing the results and do a recount to try to make the inflated vote count look believable.

The Iraqi resistance is still there, however, and the war remains one between the Iraqi people and the U.S. occupiers. In the Pentagon's judgment, only one battalion in the Iraqi army is able to fight without U.S. backup—out of 119. A battalion is 750 troops. (UPI, Oct. 3) The Pentagon now has 162,000 U.S. troops in Iraq and the war is costing almost \$6 billion a month.

It is possible to take the draft constitution apart line by line and show that it is reactionary when compared to the existing Iraqi constitution. But the truth is that no matter what the new constitution says, and no matter how many collaborators agree to it, it is completely illegitimate. It is impossible to develop a sovereign constitution under an armed occupation.

First the occupation troops must leave.

On top of this, the occupation forces were carrying out bombings, invasions and other military operations in the days before the vote. The most intense attacks

were in those provinces where the population was most actively against the new constitution. No one was allowed to drive cars, there was a curfew, and in these provinces the few polling places were spread far apart.

The armed groups fighting the occupation all consider this "constitution" illegitimate. According to an article published in the Spanish newspaper *Rebelión* on Oct. 17, "Sunni sources who asked not to be identified asserted that 16 Sunni armed organizations resisting the occupation reached an agreement to suspend their attacks on the day of the vote to allow their community to participate in the referendum and succeed in rejecting the Charter."

The same article quotes Saleh al-Mutlaq, spokesperson for the Council of National Dialog Party, who warns of a possible fraud concerning the counting of the vote. He says that 1,600 of his party's observers assigned throughout the country indicated that 95 percent of Sunni Arabs who voted said they were against the Charter. "I believe that it will help neither the U.S. nor the Iraqis to impose this constitution against the popular will."

"We warn of the risks that if the results of the vote are falsified and [the constitution] is imposed by force, this will generate reactions impossible to contain," Mutlaq added.

Voting fraud

Al-Mutlaq, wrote Al Jazeera, said that "the manager of one of the polling stations in a Kurdish district of Diyala told him that 39,000 votes were cast, although only 36,000 voters were registered there" and also that "soldiers broke into a polling station in Baquba and took ballot boxes heavy with 'no' votes; later results showed a 'yes' majority."

"Bottom line, we can say that the whole operation witnessed interference from government forces," he said.

In provinces where the parties in control are collaborating with the occupation, the "yes" votes were reported to be as high as 97 percent of the total. Even the puppet government knows no one believes this is real.

None of this stopped Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice from celebrating the triumph of the "yes" vote a few hours after the polls closed, or stopped George Bush from hailing the "victory." But the days are gone when he can do a photo-op before a "Mission Accomplished" sign and convince even the people at home, let alone in Iraq.

According to a Pew poll in mid-October, Bush's job approval rating had dropped to 38 percent. The polls also showed that 53 percent told Pew that the U.S. occupation of Iraq is not going well, while half say the decision to invade in the first place was wrong—up from 44 percent in September. An opinion poll by the NBC television network and the Wall Street Journal revealed that, among the African-American population, only 2 percent approve of Bush's performance—the lowest level ever for Black people here.

Attempt to split up Iraq

The attempt to pass this latest version of the "constitution" also shows that Washington is orienting more and more toward splitting Iraq into three parts. Unable to conquer the Iraqi people with an occupation army, U.S. strategists are aiming instead to punish the Iraqis by creating a scenario for civil war.

Most Iraqis didn't get a chance to read the proposed charter. Of those who did, it was only days before the vote. But anyone

who did read it or parts of it could see the following:

- It allows, even encourages, development of Iraqi oil fields by foreign oil monopolies, unlike the old constitution, which mandates holding on to the oil reserves for the economic development of Iraq.
- It encourages autonomous development of the northern, mostly Kurdish region, with access to oil reserves there. It does the same to the mostly Shiite region in the South, which also has access to oil reserves. It leaves the mid-section of the country, including Baghdad—which is both Shiite and Sunni—and the provinces to the west that are the most strongly resisting occupation, with almost no access to future oil reserves.

While religious differences among the mostly secular Iraqis had been minimal in the past, a constitution that connects these differences so closely to control of wealth and power is obviously a recipe for civil war. This restructuring of Iraq would be another crime to add to the list of those carried out by U.S. imperialism against the Iraqi people.

Progressive and anti-war forces throughout the world can only continue to work to end the illegal occupation of Iraq as soon as possible and thereby give Iraqi parties an opportunity to avoid such an outcome.

One other point on the so-called constitution: anyone who thought a U.S. occupation of Iraq would bring more rights to women, more democracy, more freedom from religious authority, must be sorely disillusioned. In all these areas the constitution, if enforced, marks a step backward from that of Baathist-led Iraq. □

One victory, another ongoing struggle

Campus military recruiters in hot water

By Bryan G. Pfeifer

After being "banned" from campus, Charles Peterson has been reinstated at Holyoke Community College. This victory for the entire counter-recruitment and anti-war movement came only after massive worldwide support for Peterson and resistance actions, including a march and rally on campus Oct. 6.

The attempt to bar Peterson from the campus where he studies and works came after a counter-recruiting action there on Sept. 29. He and other members of the HCC Anti-War coalition were brutalized and Maced by campus and state cops as they were protesting Army National Guard recruiting at the student cafeteria. They also focused on the Pentagon's bigoted "Don't ask, don't tell" policy, which essentially bars LGBT persons from enlisting—in violation of the college's and the state's non-discrimination laws.

(www.campusantiwar.net)

The day after this action, Peterson was visited at his home by two state police officers, who told him he was banned from campus and would be arrested for trespassing if he entered public HCC property. Peterson, a leading member of the coalition, is vice president for academic affairs on the Student Senate and is employed at HCC.

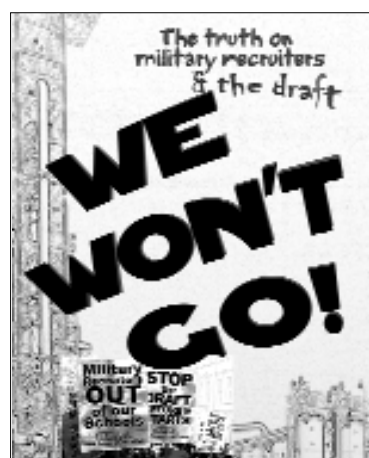
The movement started a campaign that resulted in well over 1,000 calls, emails and faxes from all over the world to col-

lege president William Messner. Many anti-war and other progressive organizations also helped by sending out statements and announcements to thousands of members on their list serves or posting these on websites, among other support actions.

The Anti-War coalition is still demanding an immediate, unconditional public apology from the college; a pledge of non-retaliation against activists; a thorough and impartial investigation; and a ban keeping military recruiters off campus.

Hands off Tariq Khan!

Tariq Khan, a Pakistani student at George Mason University in Virginia and a former U.S. Air Force member, was



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assaulted by police and an ROTC member while protesting Marine recruiters on campus Sept. 29. Evidently they didn't like the sign this veteran was carrying: "Recruiters lie, don't be deceived."

An ROTC member ripped off his sign and police were seen choking the peaceful protester and dragging him, handcuffed, to a police car after he refused to move from the recruiter's table area. Khan has been charged with disorderly conduct, trespassing at his own university and resisting arrest. His court date is set for Nov. 14.

Like Peterson, Khan is receiving widespread support.

An Oct. 3 rally at George Mason to demand immediately dropping the charges against Khan drew over 150 students and allies. Hundreds, if not thousands of people, have supported Khan in various ways. This includes 129 faculty members signing a letter calling for an investigation of the police actions and of the school's policy on First Amendment rights.

Over 550 students, faculty, staff, alumni, campus community members and other supporters have signed a "Drop all charges!" online petition. (new.petitiononline.com/gmutariq/petition.html) And the American Civil Liberties Union is defending Khan, who is considering taking legal action against the university.

As a result of this pressure, the university thus far has issued a statement to Khan recognizing that he was staging a peaceful protest and insisting it is commit-

ted to students' rights to free speech on campus; it also pledged to conduct an internal investigation into the conduct of the police officers against the other students involved in the Sept. 29 incident.

Khan himself, like Peterson, is on the front lines in his own defense. At the Oct. 3 rally he declared:

"Now, I've got a message for the police, and GMU authorities, and for all of the right-wing goons who helped the police brutalize me or who cheered them on. If by 'don't cause any more disturbances' they mean don't tell students the truth about the military, then I will continually cause disturbances. I will not be bullied or intimidated into silence, I will not respect or obey any order that tells me I can't exercise my own inalienable rights," said Khan.

"I will continue to stand against war, militarism, occupation and authoritarianism. And I will not acquiesce to fear tactics and bullying and stupidity and hate. The university authorities' actions against me last Thursday were their way of telling me to shut up. And my answer to them is: 'No, I will not shut up!' They don't want me to say recruiters lie. Well I'm going to say it. 'Recruiters lie!'" concluded Khan.

To support the "Drop all charges, now!" demand, speak your mind to Alan G. Merten, George Mason president, at (703) 993-8700 or mail letters to: Office of the President, George Mason University, 4400 University Dr. MSN 3A1, Fairfax, VA 22030. □

U.S., Cuban, Venezuelan workers to meet

By Cheryl LaBash

Is it cast in stone that workers must pay the cost for bankrupt airlines and auto parts companies and that they must lose jobs and benefits? Workers from the U.S. will have a chance to ask Cuban and Venezuelan union leaders that question and much more at the Cuba/Venezuela/ North America Labor Conference, Dec. 9-11 in Tijuana, Mexico.

The conference will explore how these two Latin American countries are making gains through workers' solidarity and international cooperation, from the Bolivarian Alternative for the Americas (ALBA) to immigration issues created by the intervention of transnational corporations throughout the Americas.

Participants from Venezuela will include José Gil, general secretary of the Aluminum Workers Union (ALCASA); a national coordinator of the central labor federation known as the National Union of

Workers (UNT); and José Ramón Rivero, director of Venezuela Aluminum.

Participants from Cuba will include Leonel Gonzalez Gonzalez, director of foreign relations of the Cuban Workers Federation (CTC); Manuel Montero Bistillero, director of the Americas Department of Foreign Relations of the CTC; Ermela García Santiago, director of the National School of Cadre of the CTC; Lázaro Peña; and Edison Earl Brown, official interpreter for the CTC.

Phil Lenton, international coordinator for Britain's Salud International, will also be there.

A special and exciting opportunity to continue this conference discussion will take place in January at the Sixth World Social Forum, to be held in Caracas, Venezuela. The Venezuelan Trade Union Federation (UNT) will host a U.S./Cuba Labor Exchange delegation and organize visits to work sites in the capital city.

The group will then travel to Colombia

as guests of the SINALTRAINAL union there. Meetings are scheduled with workers in the flower industry and workers from Coca-Cola and Nestle transnational corporations. Special meetings with the African-Colombian organizations Negritude and the indigenous organization Kankuama OIK-Cocacoop are planned along with work-site visits.

For more than 40 years the U.S. government, under both Democratic and Republican administrations, has tried to destroy the Cuban Revolution through economic blockade, assassination attempts, and biological and terrorist attacks. Even though the U.S. government bars its citizens from traveling to Cuba under threat of legal harassment and fines, it can't hide Cuba's huge accomplishments in health care and education, the result of ending capitalist exploitation.

Right now, Venezuela, too, and particularly President Hugo Chávez, is in

the cross-hairs of U.S. imperialism. His government's special "missions" provide food, education and medical care for the majority of the Venezuelan people, who never before shared in the oil wealth of this fifth-largest producer in the world.

At the same time, "non-productive" land and factories are being turned over to the landless and the workers. Unlike Cuba, Venezuela is still a capitalist country, but a radical social transformation is in process.

[In April 2004 WW reporter Betsy Piette attended a UNT-hosted conference. Her report, "Venezuelan models of co-management," can be found at www.workers.org.]

Registration for the Cuba/Venezuela/ North America conference and for the World Social Forum Caracas and Bogotá delegation is open now. For more information e-mail laborexchange@aol.com or call (313) 561-8330. □

Had raised Puerto Rican flag

Victory as Tito Kayak walks free

By Arturo J. Pérez Saad
New York

The hearing room at Manhattan Criminal Court was packed on Oct. 11 with supporters of Alberto DeJesus, commonly known as Tito Kayak.

On June 13 Kayak had attempted to climb up a flagpole at the United Nations and raise the Puerto Rican flag. That day the UN Committee on Decolonization was meeting and would hear testimony on the colonial status of the Puerto Rican nation and the continued contamination of the small island of Vieques caused by the U.S. Navy.

The U.S. wanted to criminalize Kayak's action. The district attorney hoped to give him 90 days in prison. But this hearing came soon after the cowardly assassination of independence fighter Filiberto Ojeda Ríos in Puerto Rico by an FBI hit squad. The Puerto Rican community was angry and activated, and came out in large numbers to the Manhattan court.

Kayak's hearing had been scheduled for 9 a.m. The state changed rooms, times and judges, trying to break up the support. The hearing was postponed until 11 a.m., at which time it was moved from the second floor to a small hearing room on the 16th floor. More police were called in to intimidate the crowd of supporters, which had grown to over 50.

Almost four years earlier, Tito Kayak had served prison time in New York and

then in Puerto Rico for having hung the Puerto Rican and Vieques flags from the Statue of Liberty in November 2001.

However, the large presence in the courtroom this time, and the recent massive protests over the murder of Ojeda Ríos by the FBI, made the state back off. They lowered the charge to a class B misdemeanor on trespassing and sentenced Kayak to either 60 days in jail or a \$500 fine, to be paid by Dec. 14.

By that night, his supporters in New York had raised \$400 of the \$500 needed to pay the fine.

Kayak's attorney, Martin Stolar, a civil rights lawyer and supporter, said this was a victory for the people. He had argued that Kayak had the right on First Amendment grounds to express his sentiments, and that what he had done was not criminal.

In Kayak's closing comments to the judge, he had raised his left fist in the air and said, "¡Filiberto vive!" He continued, "You can put me in jail but there are many Puerto Rican women and men who will follow in fighting for a just cause. Do you know what the saying on my shirt, 'Bieké o Muerte,' means? Well, they do," looking at the supporters behind him in the room, "and they will fight from their hearts as I do for our liberation from colonial occupation."

After the first postponement, the people and Kayak had gone outside and raised the Vieques and Machetero flags in front of the court building. □



Antonio Guerrero Gerardo Hernández Ramón Labañino René González Fernando González

Cuban Five need your support

By Teresa Gutierrez

The case of the Cuban Five got a big boost on Oct. 15 when a 10-minute videotaped interview with Cuban National Assembly President Ricardo Alarcón was shown at the Millions More Movement rally in Washington, D.C., and was simultaneously broadcast across the country by C-SPAN. In the video, Alarcón appealed for the release of the five Cubans, who have been imprisoned in the United States for seven years now.

On Aug. 9 the 11th Circuit Court of Appeals had overturned their convictions, saying they had not received a fair trial. But they remain in separate prisons scattered across the United States.

The five have been incarcerated since 1998. Their only crime was to fight against the terrorism carried out against Cuba by right-wing forces in Florida who are supported and encouraged by the White House.

Their trial was held in Miami, where right-wing Cuban Americans have a stronghold. The 11th Circuit Court determined that the atmosphere in Miami was poisoned against them, and ordered a new trial.

However, on Sept. 28, the U.S. attorney's office in Miami filed an appeal asking the court to reconsider its decision.

Leonard Weinglass, an attorney for the defense, said that the U.S. attorney's appeal is an action that "has no adequate basis in legal practice. The opinion that they [the prosecution] are trying to challenge is the most extensive decision written on the theme of venue in the history of the United States. They don't consider the decision adequate, obviously for political reasons."

The lengthy document issued in August by the appeals court detailed the disruptive and dangerous role right-wing Cuban Americans have played. The court, for example, cited their struggle to keep little

Elián Gonzalez from being sent back home to his father in Cuba in 2000.

In May, another mainstream body had said publicly that the trial of the Cuban Five was unfair. The United Nations Human Rights Commission Working Group on Arbitrary Detentions determined that the detention of the five was arbitrary and illegal. It wrote that "the trial did not take place in an impartial and objective climate," that "the defense attorneys had a very limited access to evidence," and that "the communication with their attorneys, access to the evidence, and consequently, the possibility of an adequate defense were weakened."

Despite these encouraging rulings, the U.S. attorney's appeal could mean long delays in letting the Cuban Five return home. The U.S. government will do everything possible to keep from freeing them as well as to silence their voices.

But their tenacity and firmness to their commitments and ideals have been an inspiration. Despite solitary confinement, being denied visits by their families and being kept in separate jails so they cannot discuss their case together, the five remain principled and steadfast leaders and defenders of the Cuban Revolution.

The struggle to free the Cuban Five is a righteous one. People are encouraged to get involved by signing on to a letter to U.S. Attorney General Alberto Gonzales that has received worldwide support, including from Nobel Prize laureates. The National Committee to Free the Five is also raising money for an ad in the New York Times on the case. Both are available at www.freethefive.org.

The New York Committee to Free the Five, which on Sept. 23 sent a women's delegation to the Justice Department with petitions on the case, has launched a Women's Letter for the Five, and is organizing a second women's delegation. To sign on to the women's delegation, please visit www.freethefiveny.org. □

Alberto Lovera Bolivarian Circle, Padre Luis Barrios, Ramsey Clark, Noam Chomsky, Peter Coyote, Marcia Campos, Danny Glover, Bishop Thomas Gumbleton, August Nimitz, James Petras, U.S. Rep. José Serrano, Rev. Lucius Walker and Howard Zinn invite you to:

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The Pakistan DISASTER

The devastation in Pakistan and Kashmir after the massive earthquake there is being called the biggest humanitarian disaster of recent times. Considering that last year's tsunami in the Indian Ocean killed 270,000 people, according to Wikipedia, this means that the death toll for the recent earthquake will go much, much higher than the official figure now, which rose to 79,000 as of Oct. 19.

Why are so many more expected to die? Because 15,000 villages in a very undeveloped area were flattened, leaving some 3 million people homeless in mountains where the temperatures will soon be way below freezing. UN aid organizations are saying there are not enough winter tents in the world to shelter them. And if there were, how would they get them? Many of the roads are impassable because of landslides.

Pakistan is a nuclear power, but it is still an underdeveloped country where millions, especially in the uplands, live on the edge. In the best of times, they suffer hunger, practically no health care, and little contact with the world. Now, in these worst of times, millions can fall over that edge. There are untold thousands whose injuries sustained in the earthquake can kill them if not treated. Their relatives desperately try to find a place for them on the few helicopters reaching the remote mountain areas.

With buildings demolished, so is much of the food supply. How will people eat? How can they cook without homes? If food from outside reaches them, will they be able to afford it? The dire predictions of mounting catastrophe are assuming the worst.

New Orleans opened the eyes of many in the United States to the extreme poverty that exists here alongside enormous wealth. Pakistan is a much poorer country, but it too is shaped by the laws of capitalist development. Money flows to where a profit can be made, not to where it is most needed to raise up the people's economic and cultural level.

And Pakistan is an oppressed country with a colonial past, meaning that so much of the development it has made is gravely influenced by the dictates of the imperialist world banks. It has also spent a great deal on its military and on nuclear weapons because Britain divided the Indian subcontinent when it left, fueling years of strife between India and Pakistan.

The U.S. encouraged Pakistan's military development when India was close to the Soviet Union. In recent years it has demanded that the Pakistani military play a big role in Washington's so-called "war on terror." All this had to take precedence over setting up clinics and schools in rural areas, so that now, in this crisis, there is no medicine there to keep an injured child from getting gangrene, or doctors to assist those with broken bones and fractured skulls.

The world is rapidly becoming a much more dangerous place. As we write, Hurricane Wilma is churning up the sea between Cuba and the Yucatan Peninsula. It is the most intense hurricane, measured in atmospheric pressure, ever recorded in the Atlantic, and the 12th hurricane so far this season. It is threatening Central American countries still reeling from floods and mudslides from the last storm.

Scientists are nervously predicting that as flu season approaches, the avian flu virus, a very deadly strain, could mutate so that it could be passed among humans. And they warn that even developed countries lack the health systems to manufacture or deliver enough vaccines to protect most of the people. After Katrina, everyone knows what this means: the poor, at home as in the rest of the world, could be left to die.

Nothing is inevitable. Human effort, will, labor, planning can avert catastrophes. But it takes thinking out of the box. And the box is capitalism.

In that magnificently macabre film of the 1960s, "Dr. Strangelove," the world is about to be blown up by a crazed anti-communist general at a U.S. nuclear missile site. Two soldiers are trying to stop him. They need to call the White House to avert a nuclear exchange with the USSR. But they don't have a dime for the pay phone. The captain orders the sergeant to shoot open a Coke machine to get the coins. With Armageddon approaching, he is torn. "But captain, that's private property!"

In New Orleans, the police and National Guard were obviously ordered to protect property first. At the UN, the U.S. and other imperialist powers make sure to fund troops to control Haiti, but cry poverty when humanitarian agencies ask for tents and blankets for Pakistan, or relief for the Central American flood victims.

It's no joke. Capitalism has to go. □

A stunning collapse

Refco, a giant Wall Street brokerage firm, declared bankruptcy the week of Oct. 12. On that day it was revealed that the head of the company had embezzled \$430 million in company funds.

Refco CEO Phillip Bennett reportedly repaid the \$430 million the next day (how nice—did it come out of his petty cash?), but the company's stock price began to fall and by the end of the week, it was in full collapse. That swooshing sound was the fourth-biggest bankruptcy in U.S. history.

Corruption, graft, embezzlement—who's surprised? That's pretty much business as usual on Wall Street.

So why did Refco collapse? It was

actually reported to be in good financial shape and the embezzled funds were quickly restored.

When the capitalist economy is strong, the big money on Wall Street will take almost anything in stride. All part of doing business. If Bennett thought it was safe to embezzle that much, you can be sure his pals were doing it, too.

But when the economy is in trouble, when the capitalist boom turns bad, confidence is lost. Wall Street gets nervous, maybe even scared. Not because workers will be getting pink slips, but because their investments could go bad.

We pay attention. They know better than most the instability of capitalism. □

The scandal is war

Continued from page 5

Once the Bay of Pigs invasion was ignominiously defeated, however, just as now with Iraq, the accusations began flying and there were exposures of Washington's role. The conspiracy came out. But not until they started fighting among themselves over who blew it.

Lies and the Vietnam War

No thinking person beyond the age of kindergarten could have truly believed that small Vietnamese boats in the Gulf of Tonkin had somehow threatened the U.S. Seventh Fleet and the security of the United States. Yet the Gulf of Tonkin "incident" was the basis for the escalation of the Vietnam War and the commitment of 500,000 U.S. troops in a bloody war of conquest. The capitalist media fell in line and repeated the lies of the Johnson administration and the Pentagon. Millions of Vietnamese and 58,000 U.S. troops died.

Once it was known that the war could not be won, then the truth about the Gulf of Tonkin was revealed—in the very newspapers that had knowingly carried the lies in the first place because they wanted Washington to win the war and stop communism in Southeast Asia. The Pentagon Papers were published and many of the lies about Vietnam came out.

The entire capitalist media have always maintained a wall of silence about the U.S.-CIA engineered massacre of 1 million people in the Indonesian counter-revolution of 1965-66. The Indonesian generals slaughtered communists, workers' and peasants' organizations, women's organizations and all progressive and nationalist forces in the country. The rivers of Indonesia literally ran red with blood.

But that was a victorious counter-revolution and a triumph for the oil companies, the U.S. military and the transnational corporations, which profited for years after. There was no outcry in the lying big business press.

Special prosecutor Fitzgerald probably has enough information about the conspiracy to justify a war with Iraq to publish a vast exposé. If he does not have it all, he knows where the bodies lie and how to get it. Only the struggle within the ruling class will determine whether there is a coverup or not.

But this inquiry is not about who outed Valerie Plame. In the words of Lt. Gen. William Odom, former head of the National Security Agency under Reagan, it is really about what he and many imperialist advisers and military leaders consider to be "the greatest strategic disaster in United States history." (Sept. 28 Washington, D.C., news conference) □



WW PHOTO: MONICA MOOREHEAD

Millions More Movement D.C. rally Oct. 15.

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Inside and on the streets

Cuba, Venezuela gain at Ibero-American Summit

By John Catalinotto

Washington's aggressive policies suffered two defeats in Salamanca, Spain, in mid-October: one diplomatic, at the Ibero-American summit, and one in the streets.

Leaders of 19 Latin American countries plus those of Spain, Portugal and Andorra met in Salamanca and voted unanimously to condemn the U.S. blockade of Cuba. They also supported another Cuban proposal that CIA terrorist Luis Posada Carriles be extradited to Venezuela. Posada is considered the organizer of the bombing that downed a Cuban airliner in 1976, killing 73 people, including a fencing team made up largely of teenagers.

While similar summits had earlier protested U.S. economic strangulation of Cuba, this was the first one to use the word

"blockade" to describe these policies. Cuba has long said they amount to a blockade, while the U.S. uses the softer word "embargo." Many of the countries involved oppose U.S. policies because they not only hurt Cuba but punish those countries that trade with the socialist island.

The decision stung Washington enough that its embassy in Madrid said it wanted to express "concern" about the development to the Spanish government. Their concern was that the decision was too friendly to Cuba.

Whether this diplomatic victory will change Cuba's ability to trade with the world is still to be determined. But Cuba and Venezuela won another battle in Salamanca, this one in the streets.

In solidarity with the two revolutionary Latin American countries, progressives

from Spain and Portugal massed in Salamanca Oct. 15 on the last day of the summit.

According to organizers' estimates, between 10,000 and 15,000 people, including 1,000 who came by bus from all over Portugal, marched in Salamanca and rallied outside the Wurzburg Sports Arena in a cold rain. After authorities revoked permission to meet in the arena, demonstration organizers decided to hold the rally in the same locale, but outside.

In an attempt to discourage protesters, the Spanish Civil Guard held up the Portuguese at the border for individual identification, although this is no longer supposed to happen in the European Union. Hundreds of the Portuguese protesters were thus delayed and arrived too late for the march, but in time for the rally.

A small group of 200 right-wing, anti-

Castro Cubans stayed behind a protective barrier of Spanish police.

A report from the Red Current organization in Spain described the events this way: "The shouts and the slogans in solidarity with the Cuban and Venezuelan people and their revolutionary processes were ceaseless during the long march that overflowed the streets of the city. These slogans mixed with those which, justifiably, denounced the role of Spanish imperialism in the recolonization of Latin America and those acknowledging the struggles of other people, like the Bolivians or the Colombians."

Earlier in the day, 5,000 people called together by leftist groups from the Spanish state demonstrated against Spain's King Juan Carlos and against the institution of the monarchy. □

Protests are called as

Morocco & Spain kill, deport African immigrants

By John Catalinotto

In a new development, the Moroccan and Spanish states worked together this October for the first time in blocking, arresting, kidnapping and shooting immigrants from sub-Saharan Africa to keep them from reaching Spain and Europe. At least a dozen Africans have been killed in the crackdown.

The two Spanish-controlled enclaves of Ceuta and Melilla are remnants of Spanish colonialism, located on what most people would consider the Moroccan coast. Over the years workers attempting to migrate to Europe from Africa have been attempting to reach these enclaves, sometimes taking years to do it. Until this year, Morocco ignored them and the Spanish state has allowed them to enter once they

reached the enclaves.

This year both countries changed the rules. Morocco's army fired on the immigrants as they charged the enclave's razor-wire fence to climb over despite painful cuts. And Spain, instead of taking the immigrants across to the European continent, expelled them back to Morocco. The government of Morocco then flew some hundreds to their home countries thousands of miles away or took them to the desert near the Algerian border 320 miles south of the Mediterranean Sea.

With no chance to earn a living in their poverty-stricken home countries of Mali, Cameroon, Niger, Burkina Faso, Senegal, Rwanda and Ivory Coast, some workers will spend years covering the thousands of miles, waiting for a chance to get to Europe, even if all they can do there is sell inex-

Sign at protest in Salamanca, Spain, says: 'No to violations, jailings, tortures in the Sahara'

PHOTO: CORRIENTE ROJA



pensive items in the street.

The workers who are being flown back home are the relatively lucky ones. The others are without food and water in the middle of the desert, their health and lives at severe risk.

The independent Moroccan Association for Human Rights (AMDH) condemned "the barbaric violence" of Spain and Morocco against the Africans, and called for a demonstration in solidarity with the undocumented workers for Oct. 13 in Rabat, the Moroccan capital. The AMDH

stated it opposed the "xenophobia" of Morocco against the sub-Saharan Africans and denounced "the barbaric violence that led to the death of numerous immigrants and also caused a large number to be wounded."

In Madrid, Peace Now, the Red Current and other organizations demonstrated on Oct. 9 at the Spanish Foreign Ministry in solidarity with the immigrants. These groups have called another demonstration, also for Oct. 13. □

Public health planning

African countries push back malaria

By G. Dunkel

Every 30 seconds a child dies from malaria in Africa. That means almost 3,000 every day or over 1 million a year, according to a report in the Times of Zambia on Sept. 28. Malaria can be deadly for children under the age of five and pregnant women, and even adults with resistance to the disease still can't work when their malaria flares up, which causes severe economic hardship.

In Europe and North America, where malaria was common until the 19th century, it was eliminated by reducing the population of mosquitoes that transmit the parasite that causes the disease.

In Africa, a number of programs have been designed to control malaria. GlaxoSmithKlineBio, a major European pharmaceutical company, is working on a vaccine that might be licensed by 2010. Some African countries, like Kenya, are distributing insecticide-treated netting (ITN) to keep mosquitoes from biting at night,

when they are most active. ITN's effectiveness is hampered by its high cost and people's resistance to being covered during sleep.

In 1999, South Africa and Swaziland approached Mozambique with a proposal to jointly develop the Lubombo region. This region can be broadly defined as eastern Swaziland, southern Mozambique and northeastern KwaZulu Natal (part of the northernmost province of South Africa, an area linked by the Lubombo mountains). One of the main obstacles to developing this area was the prevalence of malaria there.

South Africa and Swaziland realized that they couldn't control malaria unless it was controlled in all three countries.

The program the three countries developed consists first of using Indoor Residual Spraying (IRS), which controls the mosquitoes that spread the malaria parasite, and then doing parasite control

with effective medical treatment. The Regional Malarial Control Commission (RMCC) found that this sequence—reducing the mosquitoes, then quickly reducing the parasites—gave the best result.

The workers doing the spraying needed training in spraying and safety techniques, along with the proper equipment. Entomologists needed to be trained to verify how the spraying was working, which insecticides were effective, what species of mosquitoes were present and so on.

The RMCC decided to use ACT for the medical treatment. ACT is the drug artemisinin, derived from the wormwood tree grown in China, combined with another anti-malarial drug. The latter drug lessens the chances that any parasites survive to develop a resistance.

The results have been impressive. In one of the Mozambican zones, the average infection rate for children 2-14 years old

was 62 percent in 2000. This was reduced to 7.2 percent in 2004, and then reduced even further in 2005. In another zone the prevalence of infection, 70 percent in 2002, was reduced to 30 percent in 2004. In the South African part of the region, the rate of infection, which had been 10 percent to 40 percent in some areas, was reduced to less than 5 percent.

The success of these three countries in southeast Africa in controlling malaria is itself a triumph. In addition, it shows that with government attention to public health, it is possible for African countries to provide proper health care.

One of the arguments used by certain elements in the Bush administration and in the U.S. medical establishment to avoid furnishing Africa free or inexpensive medications for controlling AIDS is that the African countries don't have the medical infrastructure to guarantee the proper administration of medication. This latest success exposes the falseness of this argument. □

Con la resistencia iraquí por doquier

Se amplía la escisión entre Bush y los generales

Por Fred Goldstein

Desde Irak hasta la Costa del Golfo, la administración de Bush está a la defensiva, recibiendo ataques por todos los lados. La tenaz resistencia iraquí ha causado una escisión entre Bush y los altos comandos del ejército.

El periódico Los Angeles Times reportó el 1 de octubre que “Los generales de los Estados Unidos que están dirigiendo la guerra en Irak presentaron un nuevo análisis de la situación militar en comentarios públicos y testimonios jurados: Los 149.000 soldados en Irak son cada vez más, parte del problema.”

Durante un viaje a Washington, “los generales dijeron que la presencia de las fuerzas estadounidenses estaban inflamando a la insurgencia, provocando una dependencia indeseable en las tropas americanas” y “estimulando” las fuerzas anti-EEUU, las cuales estos han llamado “terroristas a través de todo el Medio Oriente.”

Bush y el Secretario de Defensa Donald Rumsfeld han rehusado considerar una reducción de tropas. Bush ha repetido muchas veces en sus discursos y conferencias de prensa, que los Estados Unidos “concluirán” cuando las fuerzas iraquíes puedan actuar por sí solas. Como defensa de su política, él ha estado promoviendo la idea de que las fuerzas iraquíes están entrenándose mucho mejor para entrar en batalla. La posición de Bush y Rumsfeld es que las tropas estadounidenses se retirarán cuando ganen.

Escisión con Bush es pública

Pero se evidenció una escisión respecto a los dos asuntos durante las audiencias del 29 de septiembre del Comité de Servicios Armados del Senado. El General John Abizaid, jefe del Comando Central a cargo de todas las fuerzas en el Golfo Pérsico y el General George Casey, jefe de las fuerzas estadounidenses, testificaron que el número de los llamados batallones iraquíes de “nivel uno, el nivel más alto preparado para batallas”, ha bajado de tres a uno, desde junio, sólo un batallón por cada 110.

Además, Casey testificó que se requería una reducción de las tropas estadounidenses, “para quitar uno de los elementos que alimenta a la insurgencia, las fuerzas de la coalición como fuerza de ocupación.” Estos sentimientos fueron repetidos por Abizaid.

El periódico The Wall Street Journal publicó el 5 de Octubre un extenso análisis de la visión del comando militar, citando similares sentimientos entre los altos comandos estadounidenses en Irak. Tomando nota de que Abizaid “habla muy bien el idioma árabe”, el diario reportó que él dijo al Congreso que “debemos reducir nuestras huella militares” en la región.

La crisis queda expuesta a través de las palabras de un general que quiere más tropas. “Un general de la Marina,” escribió el periódico Wall Street Journal,

‘hablando en privado, compara su pedido a la hazaña del pequeño niño Holandés, quien trata de sellar los agujeros en las paredes de una represa.’ Cuando él mueve a los Marinos a una ciudad de la provincia al Anbar vé que los militantes se retiran y se refugian en otras áreas de la provincia donde hay menos presencia estadounidense.”

En otras palabras, los comandantes estadounidenses le están diciendo a Bush abiertamente que han sido enviados a cumplir una Misión Imposible—la de subyugar al pueblo iraquí y forzarles de nuevo a una relación colonial.

Los generales han gastado casi \$300 mil millones de dólares. Han llevado a cabo despiadadas ofensivas, aniquilado a más de 100.000 iraquíes, destruido ciudades, pueblos y villas además de encarcelar a decenas de miles de iraquíes. Y el resultado ha sido la ampliación y profundización de la resistencia.

En el transcurso de esta sangrienta ocupación, casi 2.000 soldados han perecido y 15.000 más han sufrido heridas, según las estadísticas oficiales. La resistencia ha forzado a los ocupantes a aceptar abiertamente lo obvio—que la ocupación es el problema, uno que no tiene solución para el imperialismo estadounidense. Por eso ahora una sección del alto comando está buscando una salida.

Bush responde a los generales

Bush respondió a sus comandantes durante una larga alocución el 6 de octubre ante la Dotación Nacional para la Democracia (NED por sus siglas en inglés), una organización creada por el Congreso que sirve de frente a la CIA. En su discurso, que se puede adquirir en el portal electrónico de la Casa Blanca, él declaró que la guerra en Irak es central a su “guerra contra el terrorismo.” Él declaró que “ni concesión, ni chantaje, ni ningún acto de apaciguamiento, será aceptable. “Nosotros nunca daremos paso atrás, nunca nos daremos por vencidos y nunca aceptaremos nada menos que una victoria completa,” concluyó.

El discurso enfatizaba con retórica viciosa y racista, un imaginario “imperio radical islámico que se extiende desde España hasta Indonesia.” Esto fue presentado por la Casa Blanca como una declaración importante de los planes políticos.

Las declaraciones “sugirieron un renovado esfuerzo de la administración para recuperarse frente a las críticas recibidas por la manera en que manejó la situación producida por el Huracán Katrina, y también con la intención de responder al movimiento contra la guerra... En su discurso, Bush pareció responder a recientes declaraciones de comandantes en Irak, incluyendo la de dos generales que dijeron a los congresistas la semana pasada que la presencia de las tropas estadounidenses estaban ensañando la insurgencia en Irak...” (Los Angeles Times, Oct. 7)

Cuando dos generales del alto comando a cargo de la ocupación/guerra en Irak

desafían abiertamente a Bush y a Rumsfeld, sin duda alguna refleja una gran desilusión entre grandes sectores de la clase dominante. Todos los estrategas de la política de Bush están con sus dedos cruzados esperando que el voto del 15 de octubre sobre la constitución para Irak, diseñada por los Estados Unidos, les dé un impulso.

El ‘federalismo’ significa dividir para conquistar

Ellos han recurrido a elaborar una supuesta constitución “federalista”. Esperan sustituir su falta de capacidad de derrotar la resistencia, con una política de dividir para conquistar. Pretenden utilizar agrupaciones títeres en la clase dominante de Irak para dividir al pueblo iraquí entre sí. Prometen el botín del tesoro petrolero y territorios a facciones distintas de sus clientes iraquíes falsamente denominados “chiítas”, o “kurdos” o “suníes”.

Sin embargo, estos colaboracionistas, que quieren subir al poder bajo las armas de la ocupación, no deben ser confundidos con el pueblo iraquí o de cualquier sector nacional o religioso.

Es por esto que toda persona capaz de reconocer la situación verdadera, que entiende la diferencia entre las facciones que negocian con las fuerzas de ocupación en la Zona Verde y las masas en la resistencia, desde al Anbar hasta Bagdad y Basra, sabe que la constitución no resolverá nada para Washington.

Ciertamente, los comandantes militares no esperaron hasta el voto constitucional para hacer su pronóstico negativo. Nadie cree, con la posible excepción de Bush, Cheney y Rumsfeld, que la situación de las fuerzas de ocupación colonial de los EEUU va a mejorar como resultado del voto constitucional. Como han dicho los comandantes militares, es la misma ocupación la que alimenta la resistencia.

La desilusión de la clase dominante

Zbigniew Brzezinski, un estratega reaccionario y anticomunista del imperialismo estadounidense que fue consejero de seguridad nacional del Presidente Jimmy Carter, expresó públicamente lo que muchos en el establecimiento político de la clase dominante deben estar empujando a pensar.

En una acerba columna titulada “Debate estadounidense”, Brzezinski escribió lo siguiente sobre la aventura en Irak:

“Esa guerra, apoyada por un pequeño círculo de tomadores de decisión cuyos motivos no están completamente expuestos todavía, propagada públicamente por una retórica basada en aseveraciones falsas, ha resultado ser mucho más costosa en sangre y dinero que lo anticipado. Ha precipitado la crítica internacional. En el Medio Oriente ha marcado a los Estados Unidos como el sucesor de Bretaña y como un asociado de Israel para la represión militar de los árabes . . . Esa percepción está disemi-

nada por el mundo islámico.” (Los Angeles Times, 9 de oct.)

Esto fue escrito por un proponente de la Guerra Fría quien en 1979 originó la guerra contrarrevolucionaria en Afganistán, la operación más grande en la historia de la CIA, y quien financió muchas de las fuerzas fundamentalistas que ahora se han vuelto oponentes de Washington.

Esta especie de angustia de la clase dominante sobre el debacle en Irak y la consternación creciente sobre la ineptitud y la desorganización de la administración de Bush durante la crisis del Huracán Katrina, explica mucho el porqué Bush está siendo fuertemente criticado por todos lados.

Ayuda a explicar el porqué el consejero de Bush, Karl Rove, está llamado a testificar de nuevo ante el gran jurado; porqué Tom DeLay, el aliado derechista más fuerte de Bush en la Cámara de Representantes tiene una doble acusación; porqué el ex-jefe de adquisición de Bush en el Ministerio de Control y Presupuesto, David Safavian, fue arrestado con cargos de falsificar información sobre un negocio deshonesto de tierras.

Explica por qué el Senado votó abrumadoramente para desafiar a Bush y pasar una ley auspiciada por su rival Republicano, Sen. John McCain, que prohíbe la tortura en las cárceles militares estadounidenses. Bush ha amenazado con vetar esta ley. Explica el porqué su candidata a la Corte Suprema, Harriet Miers, quien ha sido su asistente personal, ha sido atacada por todos lados.

Por una variedad de motivos, la presidencia de Bush está siendo desacreditada.

Pero estos conflictos están dentro del grupo de la clase dominante y sus representantes. Los grupos y facciones contendientes son todos parte del establecimiento imperialista. Ni Bush, ni McCain, ni ningún político principal del Partido Democrático ha pedido que salgan las tropas estadounidenses de Irak ya.

A pesar de todo su disgusto por el fallido esfuerzo de guerra, todos ellos están tratando de encontrar alguna manera de salvar la situación a beneficio del imperialismo estadounidense. El hecho es que ninguno de ellos tiene una propuesta viable que pueda sacar de apuros al Pentágono.

Pero el movimiento contra la guerra no tiene ningún interés en tratar de salvar la situación para el imperialismo estadounidense. No tiene interés en formular un “horario” para la reducción o la salida de tropas o de buscar cualquier otra fórmula para salvar la reputación del imperialismo estadounidense.

En el espíritu de solidaridad internacional con el pueblo iraquí que está luchando por la autodeterminación e independencia nacional, la demanda debe ser la salida inmediata e incondicional de todas las tropas estadounidenses. Cualquier problema interno que exista en Irak sólo puede ser solucionado por los iraquíes mismos. □