

# WORKERS WORLD

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## L.B.J., Like Hitler, Uses Poison Gas; Wages Racist War Against Vietnam

### The Invisible Government Of Selma, Alabama

Who are the real rulers of Selma, Alabama? Are they the sadistic "posse-men" and the white hoodlums that hurl missiles and epithets at Black Freedom Fighters? Are they even the bullying Sheriff Clark and the arrogant Mayor Smitherman?

The ruling class of the United States would like us to think that these sick, miseducated goons, gorillas and petty officials are indeed the rulers of Selma. They would like us to think that the struggle in Selma is a race conflict be-

tween poor black people against almost-as-poor white people.

But the truth is that a class struggle is going on in Selma—a struggle of the very poor against the very rich, a struggle of the poorest workers against the richest bosses.

The rulers of Selma are not two-bit sheriffs or four-bit mayors. They are millionaires.

According to the New York Times of March 14, there are about 45 doctors and

(Continued on Page 2)

### Gas Not So Bad, Says White House—Hardly Worse Than That Used on Black People at Home!

Like Harry S. Truman's infamous rationalization for dropping the atom bomb on Hiroshima ("It saved lives!"), Johnson and his Nazi gauleiters are explaining how "humane" their new gas warfare is.

The vomiting and nausea caused by the gas won't kill anyone they say—except the very young or very old—and will most likely spoil the peasants' aim long enough so the U.S. planes or U.S.-equipped puppet troops can kill them "humanely"—and save their own lives.

Moreover, says Defense Secretary Robert S. McNamara, the gas is not much different from that used in U.S. riot control. The Black People of Roch-

ester, Philadelphia, Harlem, Selma and New Jersey will be gratified to learn that what's good enough for them is good enough for the Vietnamese, too!

On March 19, it was also announced that napalm bombs are being used in North Vietnam.

"Napalm has an awesome effect on personnel," says a Washington reporter. "When hurled into buildings it not only burns them but consumes oxygen so rapidly that the people inside may be asphyxiated even when untouched by flame."

Up to now, Washington has claimed that only "military" targets were being attacked in the North. The thousands of people who are being killed and burned by this fiendish bomb will be interested to hear that Arthur Sylvester, Asst. Secretary of Defense for Public Affairs, says that the bomb is only a "conventional substance" and no thought has been given to the possibility of using nuclear weapons in Vietnam—yet.

Up to now, the U.S. policy on the use of all chemical weapons, including poison gas, has been that the U.S. would use them only if its enemy used them

(Continued on Page 3)

### U.S. Gas Warfare for Vietnam (Alabama Rehearsal)



### Fighting for "Democracy" in Vietnam

## US Planes Kill 37 Children in 1 Day

By Peter Storch

A Reuters news dispatch from Vietnam last week gave the following terse report of the progress of the U.S. war for "freedom" there:

"DANANG, March 18—South Vietnamese planes bombed a nearby village yesterday, killing about 45 villagers, including 37 schoolchildren, military sources said today. . . .

"Manquang (the village bombed) is regarded as a Vietcong-controlled village although it is only five miles from the United States airfield here.

"Villagers carrying coffins marched to Danang after the raid, but were turned back by Vietnamese troops."

The touching and terrible news related above was given exactly four short paragraphs on an inner page of a New York newspaper.

No indignant editorials were written. No condemnations were uttered. No war crimes trials were initiated. No prayers were said in the pulpits. No headlines about terror or massacre, no "rescue missions" were organized. No donations were solicited for the survivors. No flowers sent to decorate the barren box-coffins. Only tacit approval for the military who forced the bereaved parents to trudge the five miles back to commit

their tragic burdens to their bomb-pocked earth.

This Nazi horror was carried out and supported by the ruling class of the United States. The common people of the United States did not even know what had happened of course.

But in other countries of the world, even in capitalist countries, the workers and oppressed people are learning more and more about the ruthlessness of the U.S. imperialists. That is why they are attacking embassies, burning libraries, confiscating property of U.S. capitalists.

The oppressed of the United States itself, however, who now have only the vaguest inkling of the full savagery of their imperialist master, have a common destiny with the oppressed of other countries and will in the future be even more opposed, and more effectively opposed, to the U.S. ruling class than their sister and brother workers abroad.

It may not be possible to avenge the 37 tiny victims of the U.S. Nazis at this moment, but the time will come when the masses at home will not only attack the symbols of U.S. imperialism, but will ruthlessly extirpate and demolish every trace of this outlived and monstrous system.

### They Claimed It Was Suicide Again

## U.S. Cops Kill Another Puerto Rican

NEW YORK, March 21—Another police station murder here has been uncovered by doctors in Puerto Rico.

The cops have handed out the exact same lie to account for the killing of César Rafael Ruiz Zapata, as they did for the killing of Jaime Gonzalez. Once again, this time in the 18 Precinct on 54 St., a Puerto Rican was beaten to death by Murphy's butchers inside a jail cell. And again, the cops claimed that it was a case of strangulation with the victim's own shirt.

Ruiz Zapata was arrested Friday evening, March 5, on an assault charge and was reported dead by the cops that same evening. His body was then flown a few days later to be buried in his home town in Puerto Rico. But Puerto Rican doctors, after a second autopsy, revealed that the body showed bruises and cuts around the body but not the neck—exactly the same report was given by a Puerto Rican doctor in the case of Jaime Gonzalez!

The Puerto Rican community has already supported three powerful demonstrations, organized by the MPI, against the killing of Jaime Gonzalez. The duplication of the crime against another Puerto Rican, Ruiz Zapata, will only spur greater resistance against Murphy's Killers in Blue.

### Cabbies Shout "No!"

New York, Mar. 24—Thousands of taxi drivers struck here today and filled Madison Square Garden. When Mayor Wagner proposed another stall of ("one or two weeks") before settling grievances the entire hall stopped him with deafening roars of, "No! No! No!"

### Sadist Cop Rewarded

NEW YORK, March 22 — John Devlin, the cop who brutally beat and shot Gregorio Cruz last September, got the final whitewash today as his boss, Commissioner Murphy, "cleared" him of all charges of brutality. And, for doing his "job," Devlin got \$4,000 back pay for the time he was suspended!

The editor of El Diario said: "This is a severe blow to the hopes of the Spanish-speaking community, which had expected that justice would be done in the case of Cruz."

Cruz himself said: "I hold no bad feelings for this man Devlin. But something is wrong here. I had all the evidence on my side. All he had on his side was his own word."

The MPI has told Workers World tonight that it is going to hold a demonstration tomorrow in front of the 5th Precinct Station House at Elizabeth Street and Canal Street at 7:30 P.M. to let the Puerto Rican people show their mounting indignation at Murphy's killer-cops.



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## Stolen Victory

In the lead car of the final (successful) march from Selma to Montgomery was Major John Cloud, the man who directed the rout and near-massacre on Selma's Bloody Sunday three weeks ago. Along the highway were members of Alabama's racist National Guard. Overhead were U.S. airplanes and helicopters, not for the moment bombing the villagers of Vietnam, but getting their pictures taken "defending" the marchers of Alabama. Also walking in the march were the much-publicized representatives of some of the biggest oppressor-billionaires in the world.

A few days previous, the President of the United States (who in his time had voted against a half a dozen anti-lynch bills!) called on both houses of Congress to pass some more civil rights legislation, and gave the signal that let the march finally go forward—and nearly smothered it with respectability.

Thus an indubitable victory for the civil rights movement was not only paid for with the blood of martyrs, black and white, but was half-stolen from the masses by a hypocritical and deadly-dangerous racist ruling class.

Johnson would willingly lynch the whole Black People of Selma if he could, as he is trying to lynch the people of

Vietnam. But he was compelled by the masses' struggle to make this little concession, wrapped up in phony publicity though it was.

The actual sending of some token U.S. troops (along with the grotesque federalizing of the Alabama National Guard!) in one sense was a small concession. But it was also a charlatan's trick that far surpassed both Eisenhower's and Kennedy's performances for sheer theatrical hypocrisy.

We have said before that IF the troops actually prevent the injuring of a single black person, nobody in his right mind could say that is a bad thing. But the basic function of these troops is to keep law and order—imperialist white-supremacist law and order. And when the Black People are compelled to defend themselves against racist violence, the troops will abandon their "neutralist" role on the command of the oppressor government, and attack the oppressed rather than the oppressor.

This is what Major John Cloud did before and what he will do again. It is what Lyndon Johnson did before and what he will do again.

Only the strength of the masses themselves will prevent this and guarantee the continued march to Black Freedom.

## "Loyal Opposition" to the War

Just how serious is the liberal opposition to the reactionary U.S. war in Vietnam?

A huge proportion of the masses is opposed to the war in one way or another for the simple, honest reason that the masses themselves have to bear the burden of the war and they know instinctively that there is no threat to their well-being by the peasants of Vietnam.

But what about Senators Morse and Gruening, what about the New York Times, what about the big names who occasionally speak out for "negotiations," etc.?

It is significant that these extremely well-informed people never attack the war-makers by name. They hint darkly that Johnson is being given "right-wing advice" or that somebody "in the Pentagon" has the bit in his teeth—and things like that. If it is true that Johnson himself is such a weak sister that his underlings can push him into a war so easily, then it would be important to know just who these underlings are and to attack and remove them, would it not?

Surely the New York Times, which has pipelines to the Pentagon as well as to the State Department, must know who all the culprits are. If the Times is serious in its opposition to the war, why doesn't it name names, expose the identity of the warmakers and call for their removal? And the same question goes for Morse, Church, Gruening and the rest of the mighty champions of peace in the country's high places.

The answer is that the big liberals generally oppose the war from the point of view of what they think is best for imperialism.

They are afraid that a deepening of the war will make things more difficult for capitalism and will commit the Asian masses more irrevocably to the road of liberation and the goal of socialism.

Therefore, they reason, the U.S. bosses would do better to bail out of the war now and negotiate as "good" a peace as possible. Therefore, they reason, the generals and admirals are trigger-happy brass hats who are getting the ruling class in trouble and they should be muzzled—temporarily anyway.

It is necessary for the working class to make use of the split in the ruling class. It is necessary to quote the anti-war statements of Morse and the truth about the liberation struggle occasionally revealed by the New York Times and other servants of the ruling class. It is at times necessary to utilize the pro-imperialist opposition of Senators in order to arouse the anti-imperialist opposition of the masses.

But in spite of all that, the fundamental watchword for the advanced workers who hope to lead the anti-war struggle to a successful conclusion is to have no confidence in the capitalist opponents of the war. These "loyal oppositionists" will fold up their tents and quietly steal away—into the camp of the warmakers—whenever the real battle is joined and the fate of imperialism is at stake.

## U.S. Stooges Killed 21, Wounded Hundreds

### March 21, 1937: A Day to Remember

NEW YORK, March 21—On the 28th anniversary of the Ponce Massacre in Puerto Rico, Juan Antonio Corretjer addressed a united group of friends of Puerto Rican liberation in New York and pledged a continued struggle for the Island's freedom.

Proposing a telegram of congratulation to Mao Tse-tung for the Chinese acquisition of the atom bomb, affirming solidarity with Ho Chi Minh in Vietnam and the freedom fighters of Venezuela, he pointed out that every liberation struggle now going on has as its enemy the same U.S. imperialism that oppresses Puerto Rico.

Compañero Corretjer was a close collaborator of Albizu Campos at the time of the great struggles which were climaxed by the Roosevelt-sponsored massacre in 1937. He went to prison with Albizu that year and remained there until nearly the end of the Second World War.

Representatives from the Nationalist Party, the Movimiento Pro Independencia (MPI) and Movimiento Libertador also spoke. Corretjer is now National Secretary of the Liga Socialista de Puerto Rico and he called for a revolutionary



Juan Antonio Corretjer

socialist solution along the lines of Fidel Castro.

He has just written a pamphlet on the Ponce Massacre which casts new light on this imperialist crime. It will be published shortly—in English—by World View Publishers, 46 W. 21 St., New York, N. Y.

### Puerto Rican Freedom Day

HAVANA, March 21 — The Cuban Government declared that today (the anniversary of the Ponce Massacre) should be "a day for the independence of Puerto Rico."

### Workers World Protests Persecution of PL, May 2nd

Gracie Mansion, New York, N.Y.!

Hon. Mayor Robert Wagner

We vigorously protest your administration's savage persecution of the Progressive Labor Movement, the May 2nd Movement and their friends. We are particularly aroused against the Star Chamber proceedings of the New York Grand Jury and the barbarous penalties against those who refuse to testify in this jury's witch-hunting and fishing expeditions. We demand the release of those now imprisoned and further demand an immediate investigation into the whole grand jury system.

Workers World Party  
46 W. 21 St., N.Y. 10, N.Y.

### Protest Police Killing Of Jaime Gonzalez

NEW YORK, March 13—About 100 people, mostly Puerto Ricans, picketed the notorious 41st Precinct Police Station in the Bronx today over the ruthless killing of Jaime Gonzalez, a Puerto Rican taxi driver, inside of one of the jail cells.

The cops were also confronted with well over 100 Puerto Ricans from the Simpson St. neighborhood, who, while watching the picket line, were also denouncing and heckling the murderous cops along with the pickets.

It was the third demonstration held by the Pro-Independence Movement of Puerto Rico (M.P.I.) over the Jaime Gonzalez case. MPI also held a street rally prior to the picket line telling all the people in the neighborhood that the Puerto Rican people of New York will meet with strong resistance any brutality committed by "New York's finest" killers.

## — The Invisible Government of Selma

(Continued from Page 1)

40 clergymen and a similar number of barbers, grocers, etc., in this town of 28,000 people (over 50 per cent of whom are black). And there are 18 millionaires.

These 18 men probably own more than the whole 28,000 townspeople combined. And even if they don't, they own something more important than that. They own the land, the factories and the big

stores in which all the others make their living. In other words, they are the masters.

They tell the mayor what to do. The sheriff cannot take a step without consulting them. They decide what the schools teach, whom the factories hire, which passengers the taxi drivers pick up and which they refuse. Their grandfathers built the leading hotel of the town with slave labor and they keep the slaves' descendants out of the hotel—except as wage slaves.

Their paid agents write the editorials in the newspapers. Their subsidized preachers preach the sermons in the churches. They shape the minds of the white population and up to now, they have brainwashed a large portion of the black population too.

Naturally, the white goons must be fought, stricken down and crushed. They are the scum of the earth. They do the same dirty work as scabs in a strike. But there is still a greater enemy: the boss who hires them.

So it is in Selma. The descendants of the slavemasters and the new entrepreneurs in Selma from the North have an equal interest in poorly-paid laborers, a reserve army of unemployed—and the cultivation of a continuing hatred for the people upon whose backs their fortunes were built.

And the very "posse-men" who do the dirtiest work for the millionaire bosses, were originally assembled by them in 1958 to stop a union campaign to organize the workers to get higher wages.

Karl Marx said a hundred years ago that behind every political struggle was a class struggle.

This is a hundred times more true of the civil rights struggle today, and the ruling class has a hundred times more reason to hide the truth.

the BIG boss



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## Cops Get Come-Uppance From Judge; Judge Faces Impeachment Proceedings!

By John Moore

Last fall in Chicago two Puerto Rican youths were on their way home from a night out.

Suddenly two cops appeared. According to news accounts the youths had been drinking but there had been no incidents and no complaints. The cops charged that one had a broken beer bottle in his hand.

The youth's story is, of course, not mentioned.

At any rate the cops pulled their guns and attempted to arrest the two youths. The youths, fought back. One, it was charged, cut one cop's face. This cop was also shot in the foot by his gun-toting fellow cop.

The two youths, Jesse Rodriguez and Simon Suarez, were hauled in and charged with "aggravated battery."

Up to this point the story is familiar enough. The ending would seem to be predictable in today's U.S. courts: a guilty verdict and a prison sentence for two young Puerto Ricans who had committed no crime.

But in this case, a strange thing happened.

The judge ruled the youths had acted in self-defense. He freed them.

This was indeed unusual. Ninety-nine times out of 100, if not oftener, the judges believe—or pretend to believe—the cops. The prisoner is guilty until he is proven innocent. The cops' lies are supported by their fellow cops and their superiors, and they are accepted uncritically by the courts.

And the point that the youths were not doing anything illegal when stopped by the police would ordinarily be dismissed by the judge as out of order. (They hurt a cop, didn't they?)

In fact, the whole practice of arresting the poor just on suspicion although admittedly unconstitutional, is carried on continuously and openly. Some 100,000 are arrested this way every year and listed in the FBI's "Uniform Crime Reports."

The judge in this case, George N. Leighton, made some of these points and showed how the probability was that the

youths had acted in self-defense and in any case, the burden of proof was on the cops, not the youths.

Judge Leighton is not the usual political hack doing soft time on the bench for previous services to the money-power. He is an outstanding criminal lawyer, a magna cum laude Harvard Law School graduate and a recognized authority on jurisprudence. He happens also to be an Afro-American.

The result of his carefully thought out decision revealed dramatically just how free judges are in today's America to act in defense of the bourgeois law they supposedly enforce.

Hell broke loose.

The Gestapo-structure began an indignant campaign to oust Judge Leighton.

Judge Leighton and any other judges in Illinois and the U.S. who haven't got it straight that they are merely there to carry out the orders of the ruling class had better get it straight now.

Last week Illinois state legislators introduced a measure to bring about impeachment or a transfer of Judge Leighton.



The cops, the judge and a victim who fought back.

## India Ruling Class Keeps Them in Jail

## India Communists Win an Election

By Phyllis Fishberg

After a popular election in the state of Kerala, India, gave a majority of seats in the Kerala Legislative Assembly to Communists, the Indian federal government was forced to show its true oppressive nature.

Against the clearly-expressed wishes of the people, the Shastri government decided to continue its control, meaning its dictatorship, of the state under the pretext that "it was impossible to form a popular government because no party was sure of majority in the 133-member Legislative Assembly elected early this month." (New York Times, March 19.)

In fact, no party did receive an absolute majority in that election, but the pro-Peking Communist party won 40 seats (according to the Times; Time magazine gave a figure of 58), making it the largest party in the assembly.

This was quite an embarrassment to the Shastri government, which insists that "Chinese Communist aggression" is the main threat to India today.

But the people of Kerala know from experience that the main threats to the Indian people lie elsewhere. One of them

is grinding poverty, which the government has made no real attempt to eliminate. On the contrary, it is the ruling Congress Party government itself, with its corrupt and brutally suppressive practices, which constitutes another major threat to the people.

And this government's attempt to stir up fear of Chinese aggression among the people is merely a tactic to enable it to continue its suppression. The people showed their awareness of this by their vote. They knew they were not voting for a party that was in collusion with a fictive foreign aggressor, but for a party which stood for the international principles of people's solidarity against a repressive bourgeois government.

E. M. S. Namboodiripad, leader of the Kerala Communists, stated that, though his party lacked an absolute majority, he would be able to form a government after negotiating with other parties.

In order to do this, however, the 29 elected Communist legislators who were in jail would have to be released. They were arrested two months ago under "Emergency Defence of India" regulations and have been held without trial.

The government, of course, refuses to release these men, who have not been convicted of anything, and then gives as one of its reasons for retaining control of Kerala the very fact that a government cannot be formed because the majority of the winning party's legislators are not likely to be released from jail!!!

This is very thin camouflage for the fact that the bourgeois government is retaining control because it wants control, and is saying, in effect, "The wishes of the people be damned."

The wishes of the people of Kerala were very clearly expressed in the recent elections. And bourgeois "democracy" consists in obeying the wishes of the people, when they are the same as the wishes of the ruling class.

In Kerala, too many people voted in their own interests, for those who would truly represent them. The bourgeois government claims to be a representative democracy, but it had no hesitation, when faced with these circumstances, to come out into the open as the dictatorship it is.

The bourgeoisie have thus obligingly given the masses a proof in deeds of the truth of what the pro-Peking Communists have said in words: namely that there is no peaceful, parliamentary road to power.

## Indonesian Workers Give U.S. Bosses the Boot

JAKARTA, Indonesia, March 22—Under strong pressure from the Communist Party and the revolutionary population, the Indonesian Government today ousted the Western imperialist managers from oil companies seized by the government last week.

But by this time, the workers had already occupied the head office of the Caltex Oil Company, just to make sure the job would be done, and pronto.

In related developments, the Postal Workers Union served notice on the U.S. Embassy that regular mail delivery was to be curtailed by the postal workers, electrical power for U.S. personnel residences was blacked out, and diplomatic ties between the Jakarta government and Washington became more tense than ever.

Meanwhile, Pan American officials learned from union workers at the airports that they could not expect the subservience from the Indonesian workers which they arrogantly demand, and that, in fact, one of its planes would not even be allowed to stay through the night. The plane left less than two hours later, after Pan Am scrambled to alert those scheduled to fly tomorrow that their plane was to depart immediately.

Most of the passengers reached the plane on time: these Yankees went home!

ism and the new world of socialism. The actions of the former make it inevitable that the masses will be ever more clearly and consciously on the side of the latter.

## Family Battles to Survive Brutal Landlord, Slow Relief



(An appeal from some workers in St. Louis)

A mother, Mr. Annie Mae Clark; four children ages from four to thirteen years; a grandmother, age 67 years old; all living at 3125 Delmar in St. Louis are in a desperate condition. This family has been without fuel, gas and electric lights.

For several months this family could not pay rent, so the landlord, Arthur C. Blase, came to their flat and took hinges and doors down plus some windows, then proceeded to fight the young mother physically because she could not pay her rent. She tried to ward him off as best she could. And then she made a report to the 9th District police, but they only listened and did nothing.

This family has just been approved for welfare but must stand the waiting period for a check which will not take care of all their needs. Meanwhile these children are sick from sleeping in an open house. The Comm. of the People of St. Louis is supporting their cause.

For more information: write or call Mrs. Delores Richardson, EV 2-0972, 5721 Etzel St.; Mrs. Bertha Pennington, 3134 A. Delmar; Mrs. Joan Byrd, 5604 Julian—all in St. Louis.

## A Trucking Worker Tells His Story

I work at Yale Transport—and in case anybody thinks that's the aristocracy of labor, here's the story:

The ILA has some of the platform men and the Teamsters have the drivers. The men in the union get three dollars and change an hour. Yet, the guys on the windows (like myself), many of the platformmen and most of the helpers get \$1.75 an hour. That's \$70 a week if you get 40 hours work. If that isn't bad enough, during the pre-Christmas rush, from August to December, the speed-up gets so bad that the company brings in men from a labor pool (Man) who work on a daily basis for \$1.25 an hour.

The way the company gets so many men to work for only half the union scale is to hire all new men (except for drivers) as "part time" men. When they hire you, they know—and you know—that you need at least 35 or 40 hours work in order to stay alive but your time card says 20 hours a week and part-time men are not eligible for the union!

So all the "part-time" guys work 30 to 50 hours a week, that is, work full time, doing the same heavy work as union men, for half the pay!

But that's only part of it. Because you're part-time and don't have union

conditions you're not entitled to a lunch hour, a coffee break, and you are subject to worse speed-up because you have no union protection at all. In the last month or so Yale has gotten many new accounts, including many large chain stores like Korvettes, Lit Brothers, J. C. Penny and others, which means a tremendous increase in income and freight handling, but they haven't put a single new man on the receiving platform. The speed-up is so bad that it can take you up to half an hour just to eat one lousy sandwich because you have to take quick bites in between packages.

When business picks up, the foreman just works you that much harder. But when things get just a little bit slow they cut your hours or lay you off altogether. When I asked one of the foremen, who's just a little bit less rotten than the others, what my chances of getting on full-time were, he told me to forget it and advised me to look for another job. He said, "When things pick up the company will liek your behind, but when it gets slow they'll cut your heart out."

—As though by allowing me to work nine and ten hours for \$1.75 with no lunch and no coffee break YALE was making love to me!

F.G.

## — Gas Warfare

(Continued from Page 1)

first. Even in the fantastically destructive Second World War, such was the case.

Now, in a dirty war on barefoot peasants, women and children fighting for their homes and their tiny acres with crude weapons against a highly mechanized power in the air, the U.S. unleashes some horrors the Nazis didn't get around to.

Already, some in the capitalist camp are fearful of the shocked reaction

among the Asian people and the colonial masses of the world. They are afraid of winning the battle of Vietnam at the cost of losing the global class war, itself.

"And how do you know what gas the enemy will use once you start this fiendish business," nervously asks James Reston of the New York Times.

One thing the "enemy" will use—gas or no gas—is the wider and wider support of the rising tide of world revolution.

The great decision poses itself ever more sharply to the masses as a choice between the old world of U.S. imperial-



## Ho Chi Minh Trail—or LBJ Highway?

# Real Aim of U.S. Bombings in Laos

U.S. planes are bombing Laos nearly as much as they are North Vietnam. This is being played down in the United States or else presented as an attempt to bomb the so-called "Ho Chi Minh Trail." But the truth is that Laos itself is being attacked with ever more furious and massive U.S. air assaults. Why?

For a time during the second World War, Japan held all of Indochina. The conquest was begun by taking control of two strategic areas in Laos, the Plain of Jars and the Bolovin Plateau.

Today, these areas are part of the 75 per cent of Laotian territory held by the Pathet Lao.

In these simple facts lies the real reason for the bombings in Laos that are masked as measures to cut off supply lines to the Vietnamese liberation fighters.

U.S. imperialism has conducted a massive propaganda campaign to make the world accept the fact that it is conducting a war against the Vietnamese people. Apparently it is not quite prepared with enough "reasons" to justify one against all of Indochina.

So General Taylor makes statements to the effect that "aerial attacks on North Vietnam and Laos supply lines and bases could contribute to a victory over the [South Vietnamese] Commu-

nists."

But the victory he is really working so hard for is one over the entire Indo-Chinese people!

U.S. aggression in Laos is designed to put the right-wing Laotian forces into power in that country. The Plain of Jars and the Bolovin Plateau are held legally by the Pathet Lao under the terms of the 1962 Geneva agreements. Last July the right-wing leader Phoumi Nosavan attacked the Plain of Jars with ten thousand men and U.S. aircover. They only succeeded in securing a little piece of the Plain, but when the Pathet Lao tries to take it back, the U.S. capitalist press screams, "Communist aggression."

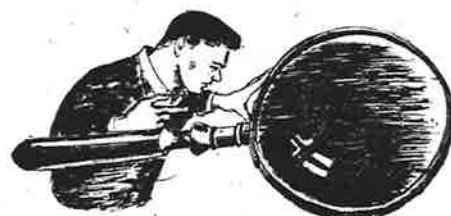
On November 23 of last year, Maxwell Taylor threatened to bomb the town of Tchepone in southeast Laos. The fact is, as Laotian officials told Anna Louise Strong in Hanoi a few days later, "The U.S. had already been attacking Tchepone since October, with a ground force of 10,000 troops of various nations, assisted by 100 planes." (Far East Reporter.)

But the U.S. is not only interested in having its puppet government control Laos. There is another reason for its vicious attacks there.

Tchepone lies along Highway Number 9, which runs from the Vietnamese coast to Thailand. This highway was of strategic importance to the Japanese during World War II. Today, the U.S. has a naval and air base at one end of it, Danang, and controls it through Vietnamese territory. At the other end, it controls the highway in Thailand, and in the Laotian lowlands held by the U.S. puppet government. But for 63 miles the road runs through Pathet Lao territory.

If the U.S. can take control of these 63 miles, it will have full control of an important, militarily strategic highway from which it can attack all the Indo-Chinese countries, and even China.

This is the true reasoning behind U.S. aggression in Laos. The mythical "Ho Chi Minh Trail," the bombing of "supply lines" outside of Vietnam to win the war in Vietnam, is a cover-up to mask the true extent of U.S. imperialism's ambitions in Asia.



## Through the Magnifying Glass

By John Moore

### A Devil's Island in New York

The Women's House of Detention is a sort of Devil's Island in the middle of New York City. A huge brick fortress at 8th Street and 6th Avenue, it has long had conditions that sound like a story out of the 18th century.

"There are so many roaches around here, they get in our ears," reported one prisoner to a reporter last week.

"There were four big rats in my cell last night," said another.

Over 700 prisoners are jammed into a space built for 461, two or three in each 6½ by 7 foot cell.

And while these conditions would be outrageous no matter who was housed there, it is ironic to note that many held there have not been convicted of a "crime." They are those who are merely charged with what the ruling class calls a "crime" and who are unable to raise the bail set by the courts or those who have been refused bail.

Yet these conditions, known since the 30's, have gone unchanged and would be still relatively unnoticed in the newspapers of big business but for a recent new type of prisoner.

Previously prisoners were from the poorest and most oppressed working class. Their sufferings are not considered important.

But recent demonstrations against the war in Vietnam and in support of civil rights have drawn middle class student youth and some have been arrested.

Protests of these girls and their families have burst into print and revealed some of the barbarous treatment the prisoners receive.

Andrea Dworkin, 18, Bennington College freshman arrested while protesting the war in Vietnam, told of how in the process of a physical check-up, she was given an internal examination of her sex organs that was both protracted and painful. Verbal abuse by the examining doctors indicated that this was intentional torture.

A New York columnist printed her testimony about sadistic prison matrons, callous, Nazi-like doctors and maddened inmates debased by the system which is supposed to be "correcting" them.

Hundreds of working-class women are being similarly tortured.

A conscience-stricken ruling class may possibly bestir itself slightly to move the college girls out of the dungeon, but the poor remain—and the dungeon remains.

Fortunately an organization has taken up this fight and has proposed changes that would guarantee permanent results if adopted.

The Chelsea Women's Association, in whose area the prison is located, has made demands which go to the heart of the matter. Their demands are:

"Dismiss administrators responsible for brutalization of prisoners;

"Close this dungeon;

"End bail system which frees the rich and jails the poor."

To support their demand the Chelsea Women's Association is organizing a demonstration to take place at the prison Saturday, March 27 at 11:00 A.M.

### One Day in March—1965

When the alarm came, the children knew what they must do. The older ones took the little ones by the hand and hurried them outside to the tunnel in front of the shanty-like building that was their school. They looked up in the sky to see if the planes were really coming.

"It will be all right," they told the little ones and the teacher tried to keep everyone calm.

You may be able to picture the little ones sitting on the ground in the dark shelter, their large eyes a bit frightened but trusting that it would be all right.

Perhaps they were holding each other's hands when the bomb from the plane hit.

Some of them were killed immediately. They never knew what it was. Some screamed in pain. They were crushed. Others died of suffocation as the earth clamped them like a vise.

The pilot of the plane who dropped the bomb announced that he thought he'd hit the target—it was a military target—it was part of a village that, they said, had been flying a Viet Cong flag. This could not be allowed.

The puppet pilot and his satisfied U.S. advisor flew back to the base and went to join the others who were laughing and talking about the bombing raid and how they each had done. It was an easy run, a milk run—no anti-aircraft fire. The base commander congratulated them and, of course, they all knew they were doing it to help freedom.

The plane and the bombs too were from the land of the free—that is, from America. The very best and most efficient equipment—efficient like those gas furnaces devised by efficient people in Germany.

Did you ever wonder how the Nazis who devised, built and ran the gas chambers could do it—how they could live with things like that?

But they were foreigners—Germans—hard to understand.

These killers, however, they're Americans—from New York, Los Angeles—or maybe Selma, Alabama.

The people of the village, the parents of the children, their relatives and friends, they dug bodies of the children out of the ground. The parents found the bodies of their own children. They had to look at them—in spite of the terrible shock and pain—imagine how you would feel if it were your son, daughter—or any child close to you.

There was a shock and a sick anger and they put the bodies in coffins, child-sized coffins, and someone said they should carry them in and show the Americans and the people what they had done.

They started the grim parade, carrying the coffins up to the gates of Danang where United States Marines are guarding the planes.

The soldiers stopped them, though, and they turned back and buried the bodies of the children with bitter tears.

Do you think these people, living now with a deep anger burning inside, will surrender, will stop fighting?

Would you?



Laotian youth militia drilling to fight imperialist invaders.

## Mae Mallory Speaks on Malcolm

BUFFALO, March 15—Mae Mallory, famous Black Liberation fighter who advocates armed self defense, spoke to a standing-room-only crowd here last night at a meeting sponsored by the Buffalo Labor Forum.

Mrs. Mallory, giving her eye-witness account of the murder of Malcolm X, said police had asked her to be a witness and she had told them that, "I saw the CIA kill Malcolm." She was not called as a witness.

Said Mrs. Mallory, "A black hand pulled the trigger but it had a white CIA brain behind it."

The audience, which was about half black and half white, was made up largely of college students and black workers. Some professors also came.

Leaflets were distributed at a prayer meeting for Selma victims held yesterday morning and many came from the prayer meeting to hear the views of Mrs. Mallory who is well known for her militant advocacy of self defense.

The response of the audience indicated that the majority did not have to be convinced of the necessity of revolution. They wanted to know how to make it.

"How do we get this revolution started?" asked one member of the audience.

"An eye for an eye!" said another.

A white professor asked if it were not possible for a white to be a black revolutionary.

Mrs. Mallory answered by asking, "Why can't a white be a white revolutionary?"