

## To Our Union Sisters & Brothers on Labor Day:

You can do it. You can help turn this country away from the destructive, anti-worker, pro-big business course that the Bush administration is trying to shove down our throats.

This issue of WW focuses on the potent alliance of unions and independent activists that is bringing back labor's militant history of fighting the criminal corporations.

This movement rejects Bush's war on Iraq and instead fights for workers' real interests: the right to unions, full employment with decent wages and benefits, and an end to racism and discrimination of any kind. Solidarity—not bashing!

Look inside this paper. You'll find articles on:

- **West Coast longshore workers tell Bush:** No union busting in the name of 'national security.' We want a contract!
- **10,000 marchers to California governor:** Sign bill to make growers negotiate with farm workers!
- **Why wages should be paid in cash, not stock options**
- **Workfare slavery has to go!**

**CANADA:** Unions say no to war on Iraq

### LATIN AMERICA:

Workers vs. corporate agenda

- **URUGUAY:** 70,000 workers protest IMF-dominated gov't
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- **COLOMBIA & HAITI:** Coca-Cola and Cointreau leave a bad taste

**PHILIPPINES:** Workers are hidden target of Bush's 'war on terror'

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WORKERS WORLD NEWSPAPER  
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## As crisis grows over plan to invade Iraq

# Protests dog Bush

## Anti-war, labor, environmentalists unite to resist

By Greg Butterfield

As cracks spread through the Bush administration over its plan to invade Iraq, the president-select was dogged by loud, militant protests at every stop on his West Coast fundraising tour in late August.

In Portland, Ore., a virtual "Battle of Seattle II" took place Aug. 22, as riot-gear-clad police pummeled and gassed thousands of protesters, including children.

In Oregon, California and Texas, opponents of the war drive joined with labor unions and environmentalists to denounce President George W. Bush's policies. In Stockton, Calif., they rallied under the slogan, "Hands off Iraq and the ILWU"—the longshore workers' union threatened with government strikebreaking.

Together, these forces are squelching the administration's attempt to give the impression that nothing more is at stake than a tactical disagreement in the Republican Party over how best to crush Iraq.

And the ferment over the Aug. 24-25 weekend wasn't confined to Bush's junket.

Supporters of police brutality victim Donovan Jackson-Chavis, whose violent beating was captured on video earlier this summer, held a caravan for justice from Los Angeles to Oakland, Calif., while the United Farm Workers wrapped up an historic march for union rights in Sacramento.

On the East Coast, militant anti-racists came out in Washington, D.C., to protest a march by the neo-Nazi National Alliance—the kind of vile element stirred up by

*Continued on page 6*

### BASRA, IRAQ

## Ramsey Clark delegation tours U.S. bombing site

Former U.S. Attorney General Ramsey Clark and a delegation from International ANSWER—the Act Now to Stop War and End Racism coalition—arrived in the Iraqi city of Basra Aug. 27. Two days earlier a U.S. bombing raid there killed eight Iraqi civilians. The delegation toured the site of the bombing, met with families of those killed and visited a wounded victim in a local hospital.

U.S. and British aerial attacks have continued almost daily since the Gulf War 11 years ago, though this is rarely reported in the U.S. corporate media.

The delegation's aim is to gather information on the continuing impact of U.S.-led United Nations sanctions, which have claimed over 1 million lives, and to show solidarity with the Iraqi people as they prepare for a threatened U.S. war and invasion. Clark is the founder and chairperson of the International Action Center (IAC), which has campaigned against the devastating economic sanctions for more than a decade.

Other delegates include Mara Verheyden-Hilliard, co-founder of the Partnership for Civil Justice; Johnnie Stevens, co-director of Peoples Video Network; Kadouri al-Kaysi, coordinator of the Committee in Solidarity with

*Continued on page 8*

## 10,000 farm workers march for justice



Sacramento, Calif., Aug. 25. See page 5.

WW PHOTO: BILL HACKWELL

**WORKERS WORLD PARTY**  
**EMERGENCY CONFERENCE** Sept. 21-22 • New York City

# CAPITALISM IN CRISIS

- X Imperialist war on Iraq**
- X Economic downturn**
- X Racism and repression**
- X Wall Street's war at home and abroad**

**Hear what revolutionary Marxists say can be done to fight back**

Workers World Party is holding an emergency conference on the week-end of Sept. 21-22 in New York City to strengthen the fight-back movement against the growing war crisis, escalating racism and repression carried out in the name of "homeland security" and the deepening economic crisis affecting millions of workers and their families.

As the Bush administration readies plans for open aggression against Iraq, steps up its intervention in Colombia, and threatens every country in the world that won't march to the orders of the Pentagon and the transnational corporations, the capitalist system is moving towards crisis.

The loss of TRILLIONS in the stock market is translating into bankruptcies and mass layoffs and poverty for millions of workers. This developing economic crisis is motivating the hawks in the Bush administration to move recklessly in the traditional direction that capitalism takes when it is sinking into crisis—towards war, racism and repression.

**No to imperialist war**

Bush & Co. want to divert this crisis into a general war against the developing and underdeveloped countries. Targeting Iraq is aimed at securing the vast wealth of the Middle East for Big Oil. But it is also meant to keep the U.S. working class from fighting the real enemy—the millionaires and billionaires who exploit them, steal their labor, cut their pay and throw them out of a job the minute they can't make a profit off them anymore.

**No to Pentagon-CIA intervention**

Bush used the 9/11 disaster to claim the right to destroy any movement or government that does not bow to the dictates of Washington—from the Palestinians fighting the U.S.-backed Israeli occupation to the liberation fighters battling the U.S.-sponsored death squad government in Colombia, to Puerto Ricans struggling for independence and to get the U.S. Navy out of Vieques.

Bush and the Pentagon have also targeted Iran, Syria, Libya, Cuba

and north Korea. U.S. troops are fighting in Afghanistan and the Philippines. Wall Street and the Pentagon are intervening in Latin America—from Brazil to Venezuela, Uruguay to Argentina—with coups and financial strangulation. Bush is targeting Zimbabwe for trying to take the land back from rich white farmers who stole it from the people during the days of British rule. The whole continent of Africa is suffering intensified oppression under neo-colonial domination.

Washington wants to turn the world into Wall Street's plantation.

Their huge expansion of the military, plus tax breaks for the rich, have moved the country back into deficit spending—which means more stealing from Social Security and what remains of social services.

**Fight racism; Build a rainbow of unity**

Capitalism thrives on divide and conquer. When in crisis, it steps up super-patriotism and racism against people of African descent, Latinos, Asians, Native people and other nationally oppressed peoples. Since 9/11 Bush, Ashcroft and Company have especially targeted immigrants from Arab and Muslim countries. But this reactionary program endangers the rights and well-being of all working people—oppressed nationalities, women, lesbian, gay, bi and trans people, seniors, disabled, organized labor and others.

How can a working-class program struggle against all these forms of oppression in order to build the broadest, most united fight-back movement against the super-rich and their repressive state?

How can we stop the next war before it starts? How can the anti-war struggle join up with the economic fightback of the workers?

How can those fighting for social justice develop a program that defends the interests of the workers as a whole while the big banks and corporations are ruthlessly slashing and burning to boost their profits?

**Come to the Workers World Party Emergency Conference Sept. 21-22**

This conference will be devoted to discussing and analyzing the present period and reviewing the struggles of the recent past. The goal is to build a fighting movement against the rapidly developing military, political and economic crisis. The conference is where people of all colors,

nationalities, genders, ages and sexual expressions can exchange experiences and develop an approach to the coming struggles.

Party leaders and members have given support and leadership to many organizations in a variety of struggles and have a wealth of experience that they will bring to the conference—fresh from the front lines of these struggles.

**OUR MARXIST HERITAGE**

WWP studies Marx, Lenin and other great socialist revolutionaries and has a firm understanding of their contributions to the world historic struggle against class division and national oppression.

**Build a revolutionary party**

What is needed in this country is a revolutionary working-class party. Workers World Party fights to win the most gains for our class under capitalism. And we work to build a united movement that can get rid of the ruling class once and for all.

**Can such a thing happen in the United States? We think so. Come to the conference on Sept. 21-22 and find out why.**

**CONFERENCE SCHEDULE**

**Sat., September 21**

9 am Registration  
 9:30 am-8 pm  
 Panels and Workshops

**Sun., September 22**

10 am-2 pm  
 Panels and Workshops

**CONFERENCE REGISTRATION**

- Saturday & Sunday \$20 (\$10 fixed income)
- Saturday only \$10 (\$5 fixed income)
- Sunday only \$10 (\$5 fixed income)
- I need motel information
- I need mass housing information (limited availability)

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**ATLANTA**

**Sat., Sept. 7**  
 Voices for Palestine. Hear Dr. Sami Al-Arian, Florida professor fired for supporting Palestine, Sara Flounders national co-director of the International Action Center, and Rania Masri, Middle East human rights activist. 12:30 - 4:30 p.m. At Georgia Tech Student Center. For info phone (770) 989-2536; email aps@atlanta4palestine.org or alantaia@aol.com.

**Sun., Oct. 6**  
 Demonstration at the America Israel Political Action Committee National Summit. Sponsored by Atlanta Palestine Solidarity. 2 p.m. At Swissotel, next to Lenox Mall. For info email aps@atlanta4palestine.org.

**NEW YORK**

**Sat., Sep. 21-Sun., Sep. 22**  
 Workers World Party Emergency Conference. For info call, email or write

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# Behind the defeat of Cynthia McKinney

By Dianne Mathiowetz  
Atlanta

Cynthia McKinney, a five-term progressive congressperson from Georgia, was defeated in the Aug. 20 Democratic Party primary election by a 3-2 margin. Her opponent, former judge Denise Majette, a political novice, received more than \$1.1 to \$1.6 million in contributions in the last months of the campaign, mostly from out-of-state donors connected to corporate political action committees and pro-Israel groups. It was a case of big money picking the winner.

Local right-wing radio commentators and Republican strategists had urged voters in the mostly white, northern sections of the 4th Congressional District to “cross over” and vote in the Democratic primary. Many thousands of Republican Party members did so in a concerted effort to oust McKinney, who has been a strong voice opposing the Bush administration’s foreign and domestic policies.

The Atlanta media played a significant role in demonizing and trivializing McKinney. News accounts invariably attached the adjective “controversial” to her name. Georgia Sen. Zell Miller’s characterization of her as “loony” for raising questions about what the government knew about possible terrorist attacks prior to 9/11 was repeated endlessly. In contrast, her opponent was described as a “moderate” or “sensible” candidate, despite taking no positions on any of the critical issues.

In the last few weeks before the primary, the Atlanta Journal and Constitution wrote articles about the large number of “Arab names” on McKinney’s donor list, saying that some of her contributors were linked to “terrorists”—although no charges have been filed against any of them. McKinney has been a passionate defender of civil liberties and rights for the Arab, Muslim and South Asian communities under assault by the FBI, INS and other agencies following 9/11.

## BILL WEAVER: *the spirit of Stonewall*

By Leslie Feinberg

Workers World Party and the movement for lesbian, gay, bi and trans liberation lost a strong soldier with the death of Bill Weaver on July 21. In his little more than half century of life, he fought hard and left his mark in the battle against the institutions of oppression.

Bill could be found in the front ranks of the gay liberation movement from its birth at the Stonewall Uprising in Manhattan in June 1969. He was a proud member of the left-wing Gay Liberation Front in those early, heady days of struggle.

In later years, Bill grew close to Workers World Party and its lesbian, gay, bi and trans caucus. He joined the Workers World newspaper Supporter Program and bolstered the publication with his donations and his strong agreement with its politics. More than a year ago, Bill moved from New York to Palm Beach Gardens near West Palm Beach. He looked for opportunities to immerse himself in the struggle there and to distribute bundles of Workers World newspaper.

At the core of his political being, Bill was an uncompromising foe of racism and an implacable enemy of the Pentagon—the shock troops of imperialism. And although

McKinney and a fellow Congressional Black Caucus member, Earl Hilliard of Alabama, were both targeted by the American Israel Public Affairs Committee (AIPAC) for defeat because of their views on Palestinian rights. Both had criticized U.S. foreign policy in the Middle East, opposing the occupation and the escalating use of military force by the Israeli army.

AIPAC is a lobbying group that promotes Israeli interests in tandem with the reactionary foreign policy of both Republican and Democratic parties.

AIPAC’s upcoming National Summit, to begin Oct. 5 in Atlanta, will open with a dinner at the Governor’s Mansion. Speakers at the three-day summit will include Gov. Roy Barnes, Bush Homeland Security Director Tom Ridge, National Security Advisor Condoleezza Rice, CNN head Walter Isaacson, Georgia Republican Party chair Ralph Reed—who came up the political ladder as a right-wing Christian strategist—plus four U.S. senators: Trent Lott of Mississippi, John Edwards of North Carolina, George Allen of Virginia and Zell Miller of Georgia.

Its closing luncheon features former House Speaker Newt Gingrich and Natan Sharansky, a former Soviet “dissident” who is now a right-winger in Ariel Sharon’s cabinet in Israel.

This who’s who of the conservative political establishment from both parties is the alliance of political forces that teamed up to defeat McKinney.

### Took a courageous anti-war stand

McKinney first came into the public spotlight in 1991 when, as a member of the Georgia State Assembly, she denounced the war on Iraq. The political establishment in the state roundly condemned her for it.

However, the next year she defied all predictions and won election to the U.S. House of Representatives, the first African American woman from Georgia to go to Washington.

In Congress, she continued to oppose

sanctions on Iraq. She publicly chastised the Bush administration for its non-participation in the Durban, South Africa, conference on racism and voiced support for reparations for slavery. McKinney was the only elected official to speak at the April 20 anti-war, pro-Palestinian march of 100,000 in D.C.

In the last days of her campaign, volunteers came from around the country to help out. A busload of people came from D.C. after the Millions for Reparations rally. Vans and cars came from North Carolina, Alabama, Mississippi, Illinois, Pennsylvania and elsewhere. All felt compelled to stand with McKinney and her courageous opposition to the prevailing politics of militarism and racism.

McKinney’s district was redrawn after the 2000 election, removing some of her strongest bases of support. Turnout in many predominantly African American precincts was low. In some cases, only 10

## OAKLAND, CALIF.

# ‘Justice for Donovan Jackson-Chavis!’

By John Parker  
Oakland, Calif.

Activists from Los Angeles, Sacramento, San Francisco, Oakland and other California cities converged on Bobby Hutton Park in downtown Oakland Aug. 24 to rally support for Donovan Jackson-Chavis and build a fight-back against racism and police brutality.

The Caravan for Justice, which traveled from Los Angeles to Oakland, was organized by the Donovan Jackson-Chavis Justice Committee and included a bus and several cars.

Talibah Shakir from Los Angeles, one of the main organizers of this event, said the caravan activity brought the fight against police brutality to a new level of struggle and urged everyone to stay involved.

The Oakland location was significant since Jackson-Chavis, a 16-year-old victim of police abuse in Inglewood, is just one year younger than Bobby Hutton, a 17-year-old Black Panther who was gunned down by Oakland police in collusion with the FBI’s Cointelpro program that targeted Black leaders in the 1960s.

Fortunately, Jackson-Chavis survived the July 6 police attack. His case gained national and international attention after a witness videotaped the incident.

Two Inglewood cops, Jeremy Morse and Bijan Darvish, have been suspended with pay for their role in the beating of Jackson-Chavis. Morse already had numerous complaints of police brutality against him before the latest incident. As is normally the case with racist police abuse, Morse was allowed to continue his attacks on Black people unhampered. Both cops now await trial.

Activists at the demonstration said they



WW PHOTO: GARY WILSON

Cynthia McKinney in D.C. April 20.

percent of those who had voted in the 2000 presidential election appeared at the polls in 2002.

Supporters cheered McKinney when she vowed to continue the struggle for peace and justice. She urged the broad coalition that had united around her candidacy—labor unions, women’s rights groups, environmentalists, Arab and Muslim organizations, lesbian and gay activists, Jewish progressives, anti-war and anti-racist groups—to stay together “to stop the drumbeats of war coming from Washington.”



WW PHOTOS: BILL HACKWELL

Supporters rally for Donovan Jackson-Chavis, Aug. 24.

were well aware that police brutality is no aberration in the U.S. Many called for community control of the police and punishment and jail time for racist cops. Some called for an end to capitalism, which they said encouraged poverty and police brutality.

Speakers at the event included representatives from the International Longshore and Warehouse Union Local 10, the United Front, Prison Rights Union, Students for Justice in Palestine and International ANSWER—the Act Now to Stop War and End Racism coalition.



## CALIFORNIA

# 10,000 farm workers march on state capital

By Bill Hackwell  
Sacramento, Calif.

In a sea of waving, red union flags, 10,000 United Farm Workers members and supporters arrived at the steps of the California capitol building Aug. 25 to press their demands for legislation protecting union contracts.

Their arrival in Sacramento was the culmination of an historic march that retraced the route of UFW founder Cesar Chavez, who led a 165-mile farm workers' march from Merced in 1966. That march launched the UFW's long legacy of struggle and brought attention to the poverty conditions faced by the mainly-immigrant workers in the fields.

This year's march, led by UFW President Arturo Rodriguez and union co-founder Dolores Huerta, focused on a single demand to a single person. Marchers demanded that Democratic Gov. Gray Davis sign bill SB 1736 into law.

The bill wouldn't cost the state anything. It would simply force the corporate growers—who profit off the labor of California's poorest workers—to negotiate in good faith with the UFW. It would also allow the union to ask an arbitrator to impose a binding settlement in case of stalled contract talks between farm workers and growers.

Since the inception of the UFW, the growers have refused to sign hundreds of negotiated contracts because there was no enforcement.

Taken separately, California has the fifth-largest economy in the world. The agricultural industry contributes \$27 bil-



Aug. 25 march on California's state capital.

WW PHOTO: BILL HACKWELL

lion yearly to it. Yet farm workers continue to do backbreaking work in hot, chemical-saturated fields for low pay and few benefits.

About 75 percent of California farm workers still earn less than \$10,000 per year, and 90 percent have no health ben-

efits, according to the U.S. Department of Labor.

The growers—through their lobbying group, the Western Growers Association—claim that the law would devastate the struggling agricultural industry. Meanwhile, the growers donat-

ed over \$150,000 to Davis' reelection campaign as the bill worked its way through the legislature.

Davis will soon have to decide where he stands: with the growers who are lining his pockets or with the farm workers massing at his door.

## Why wages should be paid in cash, not stock options

By William Gottlieb

The economic crisis has been most severe in the high-tech sector. This part of the economy grew fastest during the 1990s upswing and, as would be expected, it has been hit hardest by the inevitable crisis of overproduction that followed.

The evolution of the high-tech industry is important because U.S. imperialism has increasingly relied on it to offset the decline of so many traditional industries in the U.S. During the last economic boom, there was a great growth in the number of workers employed as computer programmers—usually dubbed software engineers—and systems administrators, etc.

Many of these high-tech workers were partially paid in something called stock options.

It goes like this. Startup dot-com com-

panies like to pay in options because they usually do not have cash on hand to pay workers the old-fashioned way—in money. An option is a contract that enables the owner of the option to purchase stock in the company at a certain price. There may be a certain period before the options can be exercised and eventually they expire.

Suppose at the time the options are issued, the stock of Exploiters Software is selling at \$50 a share. If the stock of Exploiters rises to say \$100, this means that the owner of an option can buy stock for \$50 and then sell the stock for \$100 and pocket the difference, less broker commissions, etc. But if the stock falls below \$50, an option to buy the stock at \$50 is worthless. What good is the right to buy a stock for \$50 if you can buy it on the market for \$49 or less without the option?

While holding any stock is risky, hold-

ing options is riskier by a wide margin. It is easy to lose everything, especially if one is not a "professional investor," that is, a very wealthy capitalist. But there is also a much greater possibility of getting rich very quickly than through the holding of "mere stock." Many of the early employees of Microsoft, for example, became quite rich—not nearly as rich as Bill Gates, but rich all the same—through stock options.

However, with the collapse of the stock market bubble, many of the options issued by Silicon Valley firms are now quite worthless. The workers of "the brain" who were paid in options were effectively swindled. They sold their labor power for what turned out to be very little. Many of the victims of the options swindle in Silicon Valley are programmers and systems administrators from India who hoped to strike it rich in the U.S. through options.

One of the consequences of paying salaries partially in options is that tech workers hope to get rich. They are therefore unlikely to identify themselves with industrial and service workers, seeing themselves as future members of the capitalist class. They are therefore likely to be hostile to unions, and the most reactionary and pro-imperialist currents are strengthened in this way.

### The stock market culture

This points to a broader problem. The U.S. ruling class is continually encouraging at least the better-paid U.S. workers to put their modest savings into the stock market. The IRAs and 401K plans encourage this.

George Bush and other Democratic and Republican politicians continue to talk of "privatizing" Social Security and encouraging workers to invest "individualized" Social Security accounts in the stock market. According to official figures for 1998, just under 50 percent of the U.S. population is directly or indirectly in the stock market, mostly through private pension plans. The current figure is well over 50 percent.

All of this is designed to break down working class solidarity and prevent the development of class-consciousness. Stock market culture is the opposite of class-consciousness and solidarity.

The current stock market crisis underlines also that all these stock-market-based pension plans are a deadly danger to the finances of the workers. The working class should leave the stock market to the capitalist class and demand the expansion of the social insurance principle, not stock-market-based saving schemes. The new workers of "the brain" should learn a lesson that the workers of the brawn learned long ago: wages should be paid in cash and nothing else.

## 'Workfare slavery's got to go'

Chanting "Workfare slavery's got to go" and "A real job with real pay," more than 100 workfare workers and supporters rallied in New York City's Union Square Aug. 22 to mark the sixth anniversary of the "welfare reform law" signed by President Bill Clinton. Speakers said the repeal of welfare rights had hurt many adults and children, and that New York's Work Experience Program amounted to "slavery in the 2000s."

Protesters vowed to keep fighting against the Bush administration's plan, in collusion with leading Democrats and Republicans in Congress, to further tighten work requirements for single parents and eliminate education and training programs. Congress is scheduled to vote on the measure in September.

The action was sponsored by Community Voices Heard.

—Story and photo Anne Pruden



## Union shows its muscle

# Longshore workers stand up to Bush, bosses

By Milt Neidenberg  
Retired Teamster

Class warfare is heating up on the West Coast docks, even though the International Longshore and Warehouse Union (ILWU) has not yet taken a strike authorization vote.

Since July 1, when its contract expired, negotiations have gone nowhere. The Pacific Maritime Association (PMA), emboldened by crass anti-union intervention by the Bush administration and backed up by a powerful conglomerate of global shipping companies, trade associations and retailers called the West Coast Waterfront Coalition, is hell bent on breaking up the union.

### Workers to revelers: 'Contract now!'

All this has fired up the rank and file. When Maersk Sealand, the largest shipping company in the world, opened a new facility in Los Angeles on Aug. 15, nearly 2,000 militant longshore workers and their supporters were outside. The company had built a huge wall of shipping containers to protect its opulent guests as they celebrated the opening of the largest terminal in the world.

Nevertheless, the revelers could hear the demonstrators roar their demands: "What do we want? CONTRACT! When do we want it? NOW!"

Two small planes flew low trailing banners: "ILWU wants a contract now." Eight boats with similar banners moved close to shore, gunning their engines as they passed near two Coast Guard ships and two Port Police boats protecting the extravagant affair. Simultaneously, the Danish dockworkers' union delivered a protest letter to the company's headquarters in Copenhagen.

The longshore rank and file remember well that last year when Maersk moved over 58,000 shipping containers from a port facility, it used scab drivers in violation of the ILWU contract. Maersk, a hard-liner, is one of the most powerful international ship owners represented by the PMA, which is demanding outrageous concessions from the ILWU.

The day following the bold action at the Aug. 15 terminal opening, hundreds of longshore workers and their supporters packed a joint state legislative hearing on federal intervention into the port labor negotiations. One after another, union speakers—Teamsters, Machinists and others—weighed in against the Bush administration for its union-busting threats against the ILWU.

### 'Bush has an agenda to crush unions'

Los Angeles County Federation of Labor Executive Secretary-Treasurer Miguel Contreras summed up the anger of the labor movement: "From day one Bush had an agenda to crush unions. ... No president should be allowed to rob American workers of their best weapon ... the right to strike."

These protest demonstrations are not isolated events. The ILWU has a rich and profound history in the class struggle, dating back to July 5, 1934—"Bloody Thursday"—when San Francisco police attacked a longshore picket line, killing two workers and injuring hundreds more. Ten days later the great historic San Francisco General Strike completely shut down the Bay Area. It was led by then ILWU president, the indomitable Harry Bridges.

The legacy of those years was expressed eloquently at a commemoration this sum-



WW PHOTO: BILL HACKWELL

### Longshore workers' contingent at Aug. 23 Bush protest in Stockton, Calif.

mer in San Francisco, which drew overflow crowds. At the ILWU Local 10 hall, President Richard Mead captured the spirit of those days of sacrifice, courage and struggle. "And here we are today, living testament that they did not suffer or die in vain. ... This very hiring hall is a monument to their struggle." (ILWU Dispatcher, vol. 60, no. 6)

ILWU International President James Spinosa, in the same issue of the Dispatcher, reported that he and other union officials had been threatened by the Bush administration just a few days into the negotiations with the PMA. Spinosa was referring to a secret White House task force, which includes top officials from the departments of Defense and Labor, the Office of Homeland Security and the Council of Economic Advisors.

His report to the 10,500 ILWU members was headlined, "Get Bush out of our negotiations." Spinosa expressed anger over a warning to the union from the task force that if a work stoppage, slowdown or job action of any kind were to take place, the Bush administration might invoke the Taft-Hartley Act or pass special legislation to restrict the union's right to bargain collectively. It even threatened to break up industry-wide bargaining and mobilize the National Guard onto the docks.

The PMA has stiffened its proposals since the Bush threats. It demands the right to outsource union work, using technological innovations that would cost thousands of longshore jobs. It arrogantly insists on the right to break up the hiring-hall practices of the union, initiate massive cuts in health care and safety requirements—in an industry with a high rate of occupational fatalities and permanent injuries—and wipe out other benefits won over years of struggle.

The ILWU continues to fight back. It broke off negotiations for a three-week period and mobilized members and supporters to challenge this arrogance of power.

### ILWU reaches out and finds allies

The strategy of the union is to change the balance of class forces by reaching out to its labor affiliates and broader forces in the mass movement.

On Aug. 12 the ILWU coordinated a series of rallies and demonstrations up and down the West Coast. Thousands took to the streets in Oakland, San Francisco, Los Angeles, Seattle, Tacoma and elsewhere to send the Bush administration a powerful message. These protests confirmed that the solidarity movement is growing by leaps and bounds, both here and abroad.

In a July 30 memo to all the organizers of the Aug. 12 actions, the ILWU national

coordinator had stated: "We are preparing for a long struggle to win a quality contract directly impacting more than 15,000 families in 29 communities in three states."

Back in June, ILWU President Spinosa had told the administration, "Union rights are not a national security threat. There will be no productive bargaining until your administration gets out of our business."

The spreading of street actions is not good news for the Bush administration, the PMA or the West Coast Waterfront Coalition. In a memo dated June 4—almost a month before the contract expired—the WCWC released the minutes of a meeting with the Bush task force and top maritime officials. It urged the Bush administration to pressure the union to stay at the negotiations to get the concessions it wanted.

It emphasized over and over again its fear "that the union was counting on delay and the use of the slowdown to induce shippers to put pressure on PMA to fold on vir-

tually all the issues as they did in 1999."

Worldwide shippers depend on computerized minimum inventories and on-time deliveries that cut labor costs. Competition and their insatiable drive for profits make them vulnerable to a long and protracted struggle.

### Bosses afraid of 'work to rules'

These bosses demand more and more productivity and inhuman speedup. An article in the July 4 Los Angeles Times by Nancy Cleeland gave a true picture of the waterfront. Headlined "Workers Told—Faster, Faster," it described "job speedup" as a source of injury and illness because it brings "exhaustion and pain" and creates "a health and safety crisis."

On July 12 the Local 10 Stewards Council Bulletin commented, "Longshore workers didn't need to read the LA Times article. We are living that grim reality." The stewards reminded the members of the Pacific Coast Marine Safety Code and cited many of the rules that the employers violate day in and day out. They called on their members to work according to those rules—which would slow down production. "Take your 15-minute relief period, and your 10-minute wash-up time before lunch and before you finish your eight-hour shift." The bosses don't like it, but working by the rules is merely invoking the law.

If 10,500 ILWU members rallied around the strategy of "work to rules," it might just bring the PMA to its senses and force it to bargain in good faith. It would also be a strong response to the Bush administration, showing that the workplace is ILWU turf.

Most important, the ILWU struggle has proved that a union's influence can grow as it exposes the politics of the "war on terrorism" and "national security" as really a war against union labor, the unorganized, impoverished and oppressed workers.

## SAN FRANCISCO LABOR COUNCIL RESOLUTION:

# No new war against Iraq — Keep the government off the docks!

Whereas, the San Francisco Labor Council has for many years opposed the US bombing and sanctions against Iraq, which have resulted in dire shortages of food and medicine and contributed to the deaths of over 1,000,000 Iraqis including over 500,000 children; and

Whereas, now the Bush administration is beating the drums for a new war against Iraq, despite mounting opposition to this war at home and abroad; and

Whereas, in early 1998 the U.S. government's drive to launch a new war against Iraq was abruptly halted by a rising opposition movement that included the International Confederation of Free Trade Unions (ICFTU), the San Francisco Labor Council, the Alameda County Central Labor Council, and the students who debated Defense Secretary Cohen and Secretary of State Albright on national television at Ohio State University, which showed that the labor movement and people's movement do have the potential to force a reversal of unjust government policies; and

Whereas, wasting billions of dollars on the Iraq war buildup translates into cutbacks of essential and job-producing social programs at home such as education, health care, social security and housing, and threatening the rights of labor to strike and organize; and

Whereas, the Bush Administration's war drive has a domestic component - threatening to turn his "endless war"

against the International Longshore & Warehouse Union (ILWU) and as an opening wedge against the entire labor movement, by threatening government intervention on the West Coast docks under the guise of "Homeland Security," on the side of the Pacific Maritime Association bosses and a coalition of anti-union corporate interests including Wal-Mart and The Gap; therefore be it

Resolved, that the San Francisco Labor Council, AFL-CIO, reaffirm and join the growing movement in opposition to any U.S. war against Iraq, and call on the unions and AFL-CIO at all levels and Congressional representatives to publicly oppose this war; and be it further

Resolved, that the San Francisco Labor Council strongly condemn any attempt by the government, at any level, to introduce troops or otherwise intervene in the contract dispute between the ILWU and the employers, and call on Congressional representatives to publicly oppose this interference; and be it further

Resolved, that the San Francisco Labor Council endorse the "Stop-the-War" marches and rallies taking place September 14-16, 2002 in Oakland, Los Angeles, Washington, D.C., and other cities, as well as the International Day of Protest on October 26, 2002, behind the banner: "No new war against Iraq—Keep the government off the docks!"

—Adopted Aug. 26

# As crisis grows over plan to invade Iraq Protests dog Bush

Continued from page 1

Bush's racist divide-and-conquer policies since 9/11.

And a delegation of U.S. anti-war activists, headed by former U.S. Attorney General Ramsey Clark, traveled to Iraq and declared its solidarity with the Iraqi people's preparations to resist unprovoked U.S. aggression.

But Bush's tour was the focus as world attention zoomed in on the White House's unpopular plan to re-colonize Iraq on behalf of Big Oil and the big banks.

## Growing isolation

The wavering among top-level Bush advisors is a sure sign that grassroots opposition to the war drive is growing day by day. And the U.S. continues to grow more isolated internationally, because the people of the world don't want a new war in the Middle East.

It is fairly well known that the wing of the administration represented by Secretary of State Colin Powell is gravely concerned about the Iraq invasion scenario. This is not out of some principled respect for Iraq's right to self-determination, but out of fear that the Pentagon will overreach itself and become bogged down in a Vietnam-type war with mounting U.S. casualties, and the potential to spark anti-imperialist uprisings throughout the Middle East and Central Asia.

Now arch-war-mongers like James Baker, Brent Scowcroft and Henry Kissinger—all close advisors of Bush Jr. and big cheeses in the first Bush administration—are getting cold feet. They are warning Bush against going ahead without first taking the time to beat U.S. allies and the United Nations Security Council into line, as his father did prior to the 1991 Gulf War.

Even timid Congress is getting into the act. Bush advisors claim to have a legal loophole that allows the president to declare war without congressional approval, in violation of the Constitution. On Aug. 27 some Democratic and Republican bigwigs said they wanted Bush to seek their approval—while bend-

ing over backwards to virtually promise him a rubberstamp.

## Nuclear weapons ploy

For a long time the White House tried to sell the story that Iraq must be destroyed because it was building biological and chemical weapons.

But Iraq's commercial, public and military infrastructure was completely devastated by the Gulf War nearly 12 years ago. U.S.-imposed UN sanctions have kept Iraq from rebuilding schools, hospitals and clean water facilities, much less "weapons of mass destruction."

Iraq's human resources, too, have been devastated. More than 1 million Iraqis have died in the past decade because of the sanctions—many of them children.

High-ranking members of UN weapons inspection teams came out and said flatly that Iraq does not have the capability to build these weapons.

So now Washington has changed course. And just so no one would get confused by the president's often incoherent rhetoric, Vice President Dick Cheney emerged from the shadows Aug. 26 to deliver the message: Iraq must be conquered because somehow, someday, it might be able to build a nuclear weapon.

Never mind that the U.S. is the only country, ever, to have used nuclear weapons in war. Never mind that Bush earlier this year declared that the U.S. has the right to nuclear "first-strike" in any and all cases.

Cheney also claimed that a U.S. invasion of Iraq would somehow facilitate a "peace process" between the Palestinians and Israel, and that it would promote "moderate" Arab leaders and isolate "extremists." How, exactly, he didn't say.

Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak certainly wasn't won over by that argument. This longtime puppet of Washington came out in opposition to Bush's war plans Aug. 27. Like many other leaders in the region beholden to Washington, he knows that there is a likelihood of popular upheaval if the U.S. invades Iraq.

This could have devastating conse-

quences for the rich and powerful locals who guard Wall Street's oil profits—and lead to a resurgence of struggles for independence, progress and social justice. That's the last thing the U.S. bosses want!

A Saudi Arabian representative agreed with Mubarak, even while being strong-armed at Bush's Texas ranch.

But Bush & Co., drunk with Pentagon military power, don't want to hear it.

The Iraqi people have faced 12 years of unrelenting bombings by U.S. and British aircraft. They have learned to survive under harsh wartime conditions all the time, and to make do with what little they have.

These courageous women and men, who have lost sons and daughters, brothers and sisters, mothers and fathers to brutal sanctions, are now preparing for people's war—what the Aug. 26 New York Times called "urban warfare." They are readying, city by city, block by block, and house by house if necessary, to defend Iraq's independence.

It is not only the Iraqi people, but U.S. soldiers—sons and daughters of the working class—who will pay the price if Bush isn't stopped.

Already 14,000 National Guard members and reservists called up after 9/11 have been notified that they will be required to serve two years of active duty instead of one. (Associated Press, June 27) Will they be sent to kill or be killed in the Middle East? Or will they be ordered to brandish arms against anti-war protesters on U.S. soil?

## Battle of Portland

It was this arrogant playing with people's lives that sparked protests against Bush.

Dubya added fuel to the fire—literal—with his outrageous plan to sell off old-growth forests in the West to timber companies on the rational that cutting down the trees will quell the threat of forest fires.

This transparent giveaway to his corporate pals enraged the Northwest's powerful environmental movement and swelled the ranks of protesters, especially in Oregon. First 100 protesters met Bush in Medford, where they briefly blocked his entourage's path.

Then at least 3,000 people poured into Portland's streets—not only youthful activists, but also families with kids, union members and others. Local Robocops locked down nine blocks surrounding the Hilton Hotel where Bush was speaking at a fundraiser for Senator Gordon Smith.

Late in the afternoon, as the crowd continued to swell, police declared a state of emergency. After a cursory warning to disperse, they attacked the demonstrators with rubber bullets, tear gas and pepper spray, batons and shields. Several people were arrested. Children, seniors and journalists were among those injured.

Some protesters responded to the police assault by throwing rocks and bottles in self-defense.

As usual, the corporate media turned reality on its head, reporting that the protesters had "become violent." They tried to justify the unprovoked police attack with reports that some wealthy guests going to Bush's soiree had been "jostled and taunted by protesters." Horrors!

At an Aug. 24 news conference the National Lawyers Guild called for Police Chief Mark Kroeker's resignation. Others are calling for Mayor Vera Katz to resign. Among the speakers was Don Joughin,

whose kids were pepper-sprayed. He showed photos of his children's red, swollen faces.

"We brought our children to a peaceful protest, we stayed in the back and we were walking on the sidewalk," Joughin said. "Police quickly moved up behind us. ... I yelled to [one of the cops] to let us through because we had three small children. He looked at me and drew out his can from his hip and sprayed directly at me." (Portland Indymedia)

## 'Hands off Iraq and the ILWU!'

In Stockton, Calif., Aug. 23, nearly 300 protesters came out for actions co-sponsored by International Longshore and Warehouse Union Local 10 and International ANSWER—the Act Now to Stop War and End Racism coalition.

First Bush addressed a crowd of right-wing supporters at the Civic Auditorium. Then he was shuttled to the Spanos Jet Center at the airport for a fundraiser for Republican candidate for governor Bill Simon—whose firm was recently fined for shady business deals.

Protest organizers had to fight hard to defend their free-speech rights. When they arrived at the Civic Auditorium, they found the Secret Service had set up a blockade of city buses between the event and the permitted protest area.

At the airport, Bush supporters were allowed to roam free while cops tried to herd protesters into a far-off parking lot. But the crowd refused to go. Instead they established a noisy picket line in the driveway, chanting, "Drop Bush, not bombs," and, "How much did you pay for democracy today?"

"They revoked free speech earlier today and we just reinstated it," said ANSWER's Forrest Schmidt. "The Secret Service often confuses good and bad press with constitutional rights," he quipped.

Bush backers leaving the luncheon had to run a gauntlet of protesters.

At the rally, held in the shadow of Air Force One, Local 10 President Richard Mead explained how the union-busting Bush administration had threatened to intervene in dockworkers' contract struggle with port bosses under the guise of "homeland security." He said his union would fight against Bush's war plans.

Local anti-war activist John Morearty called it the biggest protest to hit Stockton since he moved there in 1967.

Later that day, protests greeted Bush in Santa Ana and Dana Point.

Early the next morning, at a 7:00 a.m., \$1,000-a-plate breakfast fundraiser for candidate Simon in Los Angeles' Westwood area, some 600 people came out to tell Bush "No new war against Iraq."

The ANSWER-organized protest also drew immigrants' rights activists, police brutality protesters, Palestinian supporters and more. People came from as far as San Diego to join the demonstration.

One huge banner read, "Bush, you stink of corporate corruption." The New York Times noted that Bush saw the protest, though it didn't report his reaction.

Then Bush's tour was over. But the protests weren't.

As he returned to his palatial vacation ranch in Crawford, Texas, for more consultations with his Masters of War, activists staged an anti-war caravan that confronted police roadblocks.

Summer may be nearly over. But the struggle against the war is heating up.

With reports from Nancy Mitchell, Richard Becker and Adrian Garcia.

## Prez meets resistance in LA



Some 600 anti-war, anti-racist protesters descended onto the streets of Los Angeles early on Aug. 24 to send a message to President George W. Bush. He was the guest speaker at a private, \$1,000-a-plate breakfast at the Regency Club in Westwood to raise campaign funds for Republican gubernatorial candidate Bill Simon.

"No new war against Iraq" was among the most popular slogans displayed on signs carried by the protesters. Others included, "Stop police brutality, U.S. out of the Middle East," and "George W. Bush: #1 terrorist."

Republicans hoped that Bush's visit

would make people forget about the \$78-million civil judgment leveled against Bill Simon's family investment firm for fraud just weeks ago. Despite Bush's rhetoric of corporate responsibility and ethics, he lauded Simon as "a proven businessman."

The Los Angeles chapter of International ANSWER—the Act Now to Stop War and End Racism coalition—organized the demonstration. Organizers said they were inundated with calls for days before the protest from people eager to express their outrage about the Bush administration's reactionary policies.

—Adrian Garcia

## 30 protesters face major charges

# Anti-racist youths try to stop Nazi march Fascist bus demolished in Baltimore

By Sharon Black  
Washington, D.C.

Hundreds of anti-racist and anti-capitalist youths gathered in Washington, D.C., Aug. 24 to protest a march by several hundred neo-Nazis at the U.S. Capitol. D.C. police armed with pepper spray and garbed in riot gear escorted the National Alliance, a neo-Nazi group, from Union Station to the Capitol. Police outnumbered both groups.

Protesters, angered by the neo-Nazis' white supremacist and anti-Semitic messages, surged into the street to stop their march. They were pushed back by riot police. Bricks and bottles flew through the air.

The protesters were Black, Latin, Asian and white, and also Arab. Many young supporters of the Palestinian cause came out to show that their opposition to Israeli occupation has nothing in common with the neo-Nazi's anti-Jewish venom.

Police attempted to wade through the crowd, tackling and throwing people to the ground, and arresting individual anti-racist protesters. But they met with resistance. Surrounding protesters came to the aid of those being brutalized by the cops, allowing them to break free.

The standoff between police and protesters continued for some time. Youths ran through the city's streets while police maneuvered to keep up until both groups had reached the Capitol.

Leon Swain, a member of AFSCME Local 1072 who participated in the anti-racist protest, proclaimed: "You can see clearly which side the police are on. Their

backs are toward the Nazis and they are facing the people who are opposed to racism with their nightsticks and guns."

Chuck Kaufman, a representative of the Nicaragua Solidarity Network and ANSWER—the Act Now to Stop War and End Racism coalition—stated: "Bush and the Pentagon have created an atmosphere of war, racism and hate which has given a green light to these fascists.

"We must organize to stop the National Alliance and Bush's war on Iraq."

### Nazi bus demolished in Baltimore

Earlier that morning, neo-Nazi organizers had planned to board four buses to Washington at the Baltimore Travel Plaza. But anti-racist protesters thwarted their plans. There was a battle and one bus was demolished. Windows were broken and gas grenades exploded inside the bus.

Press accounts claimed that one National Alliance member was hospitalized and several others injured. Baltimore City Police were called. Twenty-eight protesters were arrested, including their attorney, Larry Hildes.

One 16-year-old woman was charged with 23 counts of assault. Other protesters have been charged with serious felonies, including aggravated assault and possession of a deadly weapon.

Not one neo-Nazi was arrested or detained!

Repression continued into the evening. Without warrants, Baltimore City Police raided a local youth hangout. They later arrived at the Progressive Action Center, a meeting space for anti-globalization activities. Activists at the center refused to allow police to enter and called the news media.

The police—who had drawn their guns in an obvious attempt to intimidate people—left the area, but continued to follow individual cars.

### APC provides refuge

Activists then took refuge at the All People's Congress (APC) Hall.

Renee Washington, a volunteer organizer for the APC, was providing security as six police cars sat outside. She said: "We are not intimidated by the police. The best antidote for this kind of repression is to organize the people."

Washington's fiancée was the victim of a police killing several years ago. She has remained an activist in the fight against police brutality and for justice.



WW PHOTO SHARON BLACK

Howard University students protest Nazis.

Youths and community supporters maintained a vigil in front of Central Booking, where the anti-racist prisoners remained in jail over the weekend. Local anti-racist and community activists are planning a defense campaign to support them.

All of the protesters were released on bail by Aug. 26.

In his book "The Klan and the Government: Foes or Allies?" Sam Marcy, the founder of Workers World Party, pointed out: "The two most formidable and preponderant elements in the capitalist establishment—Big Oil, that untrammelled octopus which pervades every nook and corner of social existence in the country, and the unbridled military—are the most prone to promote lawlessness and extra-legal, extra-parliamentary, and paramilitary force to gain their ends.

"They, together with the military-industrial complex, are the very infrastructure of contemporary capitalist society.

"It is they who finance the growth of a thousand-and-one single-issue, reactionary organizations and who cannot but look benignly upon and covertly finance KKK and neo-Nazi thugs. To them it is just one more covert operation which for public purposes is out-of-bounds of the legal framework of the capitalist government."

Marcy's book, written in the Reagan era, is equally relevant today, with a U.S. war against Iraq looming and the economic crisis of U.S. workers intensifying.

War, racism and repression by the capitalist state are fertile breeding grounds for fascist goons. Only the mobilization of the workers and oppressed can stop them.

## Anti-war protest at Bush's 'Summer Palace'

By Gloria Rubac  
Crawford, Texas

More than 400 activists from around the state converged on Crawford, Texas—George W. Bush's summer palace—on Aug. 24 to demand that the Pentagon not invade Iraq.

After a rally at a local park, a car caravan tried to go to the president's ranch. The caravan was almost a mile long, including bicycles, two buses from Houston and hundreds of cars with banners and Palestinian flags flying.

State troopers, local sheriffs and federal cops blocked the highway to the ranch. When the whole caravan stopped along a small two-lane highway and made plans to march back to the barricade, the local sheriffs threatened to tow all the vehicles.

Activists then caravanned to the Crawford public high school where the media was congregated. They were threatened with arrest for entering the building.

After a brief rally outside the high school, activists departed, vowing to return to Crawford unless Bush stops his war threats against Iraq.



Police choke a demonstrator in Portland, Ore.

## Labor, anti-war movements join hands to protest Bush

Almost 300 protesters told President George W. Bush, "No new war against Iraq—keep the government off the docks!" in Stockton, Calif., Aug. 23. A Republican stronghold in the Central Valley, Stockton was Bush's first California stop in his West Coast sweep.

In a very significant anti-war, pro-labor alliance, International ANSWER—the Act Now to Stop War and End Racism coalition—and San Francisco's International Longshore and Warehouse Union Local 10 jointly called the protest.

The demonstration's central demands were to stop a new war on Iraq before it starts and no government intervention in the ILWU port workers' struggle for a new contract. Many other issues were raised, from disability rights to saving the forests.

Global Exchange activist Medea Benjamin briefly disrupted Bush's morning speech. She shouted "No new war on Iraq!" before she was tackled and detained by police.

People mobilized for the protest from around Northern California. ANSWER, ILWU Local 10 and Global Exchange organized buses from the Bay Area.



Demonstrators protest Bush outside airplane hangar where Air Force One waits, Aug. 23. WW PHOTO: BILL HACKWELL

## Tries to hide U.S. role

# Newsweek 'discovers' evidence of war crimes in Afghanistan

By Greg Butterfield

Newsweek magazine cover-dated Aug. 26 "broke" a story Workers World reported months ago: the massacre of prisoners by the U.S.-allied Northern Alliance in November 2001.

In a cover-story titled "The Death Convoy of Afghanistan," Newsweek reports how captured Taliban and Al Qaeda soldiers were placed in sealed cargo containers and marched across the countryside from Kunduz to Dasht-I-Leili—the site of a now-uncovered mass grave.

When asked by Newsweek's reporters about the number of dead in the mass grave, an unnamed United Nations official said, "The only thing we know is that it's a very large site" with a "high density of bodies in the trial trench."

A leaked UN memo says that 960 captives died of suffocation in the containers on the road to Dasht-I-Leili and there is sufficient evidence to begin a "criminal investigation." Aziz ur Rahman Razekh, director of the Afghan Organization of Human Rights, said, "more than a thousand people died in the containers."

The UN memo goes on: "Considering

the political sensitivity of this case and related protection concerns, it is strongly recommended that all activities relevant to this case be brought to a halt until a decision is made concerning the final goal of the exercise: criminal trial, truth commission, other, etc."

What "political sensitivity" could be so alarming that "all activities relevant to this case be brought to a halt"? It is the indisputable role of the U.S. occupation forces in these war crimes.

And that's why Newsweek isn't telling the whole story.

### U.S. guilty of war crimes

"Nothing that Newsweek learned suggests that American forces had advance knowledge of the killings, witnessed the prisoners being stuffed into the unventilated trucks or were in a position to prevent that," the magazine claims, although it admits that U.S. Special Forces and CIA were "in the area."

One of two things is possible. Either Newsweek's reporters weren't looking too hard. Or Newsweek's editors and management are lying. There is ample evidence of U.S. culpability.

The Pentagon is in charge of all military operations in Afghanistan—both by its own troops and the Northern Alliance. The Bush administration and the brass are calling the shots.

As reported in the July 4, 2002, issue of Workers World, and by mainstream media outside the United States, Irish filmmaker Jamie Doran documented numerous eyewitness accounts of the prisoners held in sealed containers, the Dasht-I-Leili mass grave, and torture of prisoners by U.S. troops and CIA operatives.

Reports of the "caravan of death" and mass graves began circulating last winter. But it was Doran's film "Massacre at Mazar" that brought Dasht-I-Leili to world attention and prompted the UN investigation.

In June, Doran presented a rough cut of the film to the European Parliament and German Reichstag. Together with human rights attorneys and anti-war parliament members, he exposed the existence of the mass grave, fearing the evidence would otherwise be destroyed.

Eyewitness interviews conducted secretly by Doran showed, among other things, that U.S. soldiers accompanied the

"caravan of death"; that U.S. officers ordered Northern Alliance troops to shoot into containers holding suffocating prisoners; that a U.S. officer then ordered the bodies dumped at Dasht-I-Leili; and that U.S. troops stood by and watched while still-living prisoners were executed at the mass grave.

Some of those interviewed by Doran believe up to 3,000 people are buried in the mass grave. All of the eyewitnesses agreed to testify before an international body on war crimes if one were established, despite the great danger to their own lives.

### Spin control?

However much Newsweek would like to aid the U.S. cover-up by putting all the blame on the Northern Alliance, the revelations are spinning out of Washington's control.

While the Dasht-I-Leili mass grave came as a shock to many people here, most of the world already knows about the U.S. role there.

When Doran's film was first shown, the Pentagon and White House issued terse denials dismissing the accounts as baseless. But according to Newsweek, the Department of Defense now says it knew of the mass grave as far back as "December/January."

Now that the proof is out in the open, they are taking another tack. The brass claim they've been urging Afghan President Hamid Karzai to open an investigation all along. Karzai is, of course, a U.S. puppet, a former Unocal Oil Co. adviser who was put in power by the occupation forces.

Asked about the mass grave while visiting Afghanistan, Gen. Tommy Franks, head of the U.S. military command, made a revealing slip of the tongue. "The right thing to do is for people to go take a look," he said, "and then we will decide what we find." (BBC, Aug. 25)

So after the information is gathered, then the military brass and Bush administration will "decide"!

Franks brazenly added that the U.S. military "needs to step up efforts" in countries bordering Afghanistan. (Financial Times, Aug. 26) Meanwhile, the Pentagon is preparing for more bloody massacres, this time in Iraq.

## BASRA, IRAQ

### Ramsey Clark delegation tours U.S. bombing site

*Continued from page 1*

the Iraqi People; and Brian Becker, co-director of the IAC.

In a statement released by the IAC Aug. 28, Clark said: "We came to Basra to visit the hospitals and interview doctors and patients about the state of health care in Basra. We had planned to come here because the region is suffering stunning cancer rates. This area was the site of the greatest use of depleted uranium weapons by U.S. forces in the Gulf War.

"Two days before we arrived in Basra," Clark continued, "U.S. war planes struck again, killing and wounding more than 20 people. We visited one of the wounded at the Basra Training Hospital and interviewed workers in the area who saw and heard the gigantic explosion the morning of Aug. 25.

"While we were in Basra, U.S. war

## Because they 'oppose U.S. presence'

# State Dept. adds Philippine left to 'terrorist' list

By Scott Scheffer

The U.S. State Department has added two groups from the Philippines—the Communist Party of the Philippines and its armed wing, the New People's Army—to the list of so-called Foreign Terrorist Organizations.

If this were not such a serious development, it would be laughable that the U.S. government—currently on the brink of a catastrophic war against the people of Iraq—is accusing anyone else of violence or terror.

After all, neither the NPA nor the CPP has dropped 5,000-lb. bombs from warplanes killing thousands of civilians—the way the U.S. military has in Afghanistan. Nor has either one poisoned the land or people with depleted uranium weapons—the way the U.S. military did in Iraq and Yugoslavia. The list of just the most recent terror crimes by the Pentagon is long.

Jose Maria Sison, who founded the CPP in 1968, pointed out in an Aug. 14 news conference that, on the contrary, the NPA "abides strictly by its own Rules of Discipline." He said all NPA soldiers are required to adhere to "the Guide for Establishing the People's Democratic Government, which serves as the constitution for the areas under NPA control." He further pointed out that this people's army lives up to the Geneva Conventions and Protocol I—international law in situations of internal armed conflict.

The State Department maneuver was unexpected because the corporate press in the United States has been focused on Abu Sayyaf—a small group characterized by the Philippine movement as bandits without any relationship to the progressive struggle.

U.S. troops had been sent to the Philippines, according to the media and the government, to combat Abu Sayyaf,

not the NPA.

Yet, suddenly, according to an Aug. 9 State Department memo, the NPA is being called a terrorist organization because it "strongly opposes any U.S. presence in the Philippines and has killed U.S. citizens there."

The charge omits the fact that the U.S. citizens were four soldiers killed in an NPA attack more than a decade ago, at a time when the U.S. military had a huge presence at Clark Air Force Base and Subic Bay Naval Base.

Demonstrations against the Pentagon presence had grown so large and frequent that the brass ultimately had to close both bases—the two biggest outside the continental U.S. It was a stinging blow to their imperial prestige. And, it was politically difficult for the U.S. media, in the atmosphere that existed at that time, to sensationalize the incident in which the U.S. soldiers were killed. Better to take the licking quietly, they probably thought at the time.

Even when the events of Sept. 11, 2001, gave them the political capital and confidence to try to recoup their losses, they were compelled to use a campaign against the relatively insignificant Abu Sayyaf as a way to test the waters for a renewed U.S. intervention in the Philippines.

### A crime to 'oppose U.S. presence'?

The rationale for singling out the NPA—that it "strongly opposes any U.S. presence in the Philippines"—is also true of dozens of other Filipino people's organizations. Filipino sovereignty is a common thread uniting organizations from all sectors of society, including peasants, students, workers, groups fighting for the rights of women, gay and transgender people, the many oppressed indigenous nationalities and the oppressed Muslims of the southern Philippines.



## Elite troops and 'civilian militias'

# New president remilitarizes Colombia

By Teresa Gutierrez

The war-ravaged nation of Colombia is rapidly becoming ever more militarized as the new president, Alvaro Uribe Velez, moves to carry out his aggressive program.

On Aug. 17, just five days after taking office, Uribe declared a state of emergency. Uribe was Washington's candidate in the election.

The emergency decree authorizes the government to immediately impose a one-time assets tax on wealthy Colombians and is designed to raise \$778 million quickly. The money is to be allocated to create two elite mobile army battalions, to recruit 10,000 police and to fund a 100,000-member informant program.

Under the emergency decree, the Uribe government is allowed to impose extended curfews; prevent access to certain areas without prior court approval; censor the media; and seize land, equipment and professional expertise from private citizens. (Washington Post, Aug. 13)

It requires Colombians, especially those living in rural areas, to inform the government of their travel plans at least two days before they leave town. The government can also suspend elected officials contributing to "public unrest."

### Paramilitaries in guise of 'civilian defense force'

The Uribe administration also announced that it would arm 15,000 peasants as part of his plan to create a "civilian defense force." The recruits will receive a small salary, uniforms and boots. The government is looking into the cost of supplying them with assault rifles, machine guns, mortars and grenade launchers. (Associated Press, Aug. 23)

Uribe has used such tactics before. In the mid-1990s, as mayor of Medellin, he helped arm and supply paramilitary forces also called civilian defense groups. He cre-

ated 69 such units, providing them with radios and motorcycles and authorizing them to carry guns.

Earlier, as head of the civil aviation administration in the early 1980s, Uribe's policies had served the interests of the international drug trade. He authorized permits for the construction of private airstrips in Medellin (Washington Post, May 20). These did more for the drug cartel than for the peasants, who desperately needed roads, not airstrips, to sell their goods.

Uribe's plan now is to create a militia of 1 million civilians to help the armed forces. And who are more willing to enlist in these civilian militias than the paramilitaries?

The election of Uribe, fully backed by the U.S. government, strengthens the hand of the very force that has carried out the most horrific kind of terror against the people of Colombia.

For decades the paramilitaries have committed countless atrocities. Best known as the AUC—standing for the United Self-Defense Forces of Colombia—they are led by Carlos Castaño as well as by Colombian army officials.

The AUC has its roots in paramilitary armies built up by drug lords, according to a British Broadcasting Corporation report of Jan. 7: "As the drug lords became landowners, buying up vast tracts of Colombia—some 3.5 million hectares of agricultural land—they took over local self-defense groups and set up their own, to protect not the local population but their own interests."

Although the U.S. and Colombian governments have paid lip service to criticisms of the paramilitaries, neither has done anything to stop them. In this day and age of Bush's so-called "war on terror," this is proof that they serve at the pleasure of the capitalist rulers.

Human rights organizations, even those based in the U.S., admit that the paramili-

taries are the main abusers of human rights in Colombia. Their terror against the peasants, trade unionists and others they suspect to be in league with the rebels is well known.

Because of worldwide pressure, these death squads have been forced to change their tactics.

In July, the founding leaders of the AUC, in a move clearly intended to help clean up the image of the incoming Uribe administration, announced they were dissolving the organization because they had been infiltrated by drug traffickers and had lost their "identity and principles."

But the killings have continued with impunity. (Washington Post, June 24) What changed was the tactic. Now peasants are being killed three at a time instead of 30 at a time. This more selective killing is not labeled a massacre by human rights groups.

Even Stratfor.com, an online thinktank whose name stands for "strategic forecasting" and that sells political analysis to corporate and government clients, said in a July 19 report that the AUC's dissolution could mean "that violence in Colombia likely will increase as some regional paramilitary groups, now free of any central control, may engage in more frequent and bloodier human rights atrocities."

It added that a new paramilitary organization "could seek an arrangement with

Uribe that would give it political legitimacy and possibly a more structured cooperative role in the coming war against the FARC and the ELN."

### A war for social change

The FARC-EP is the main rebel force in Colombia. The acronym stands for Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia—People's Army. It has been fighting for social change in this highly polarized country for many decades.

Uribe's escalation of war and repression will not be directed against those who have brought miserable conditions for the people of Colombia, but against those who wish to end those miserable conditions.

Uribe appointee Gen. Carlos Alberto Ospina now controls the Colombian army. Ospina served as an instructor at the School of the Americas in Fort Benning, Ga., which has become known as the School of the Assassins because Latin American officers trained there have gone on to carry out some of the worst atrocities in the hemisphere.

The election of Alvaro Uribe means the strengthening of an unholy alliance between U.S. imperialism and the ruling oligarchy of Colombia. Only the people's struggle in Colombia and the worldwide anti-war movement can break up this deadly alliance.

## PUERTO RICO

# U.S. bombing of Vieques to resume

Protests are planned on the island of Vieques, on the Big Island of Puerto Rico and in the United States against the scheduled resumption of bombing by the U.S. Navy Sept. 3.

Vieques residents vow to continue civil disobedience actions on and around the U.S. testing grounds in an effort to stop the military exercises. Hundreds were jailed in earlier protests. The current wave of resistance began in April 1999 after a civilian guard, David Sanes, was killed by a bomb.

What's the Navy's excuse for using the island for target practice? To rehearse the planned invasion of Iraq. Some 23 days of exercises are planned, including aerial bombings and ship-to-shore shelling.

More than a half-century of U.S. military exercises has caused massive environ-

mental and economic damage to the island and its 9,000 residents. The people suffer from increased incidences of cancer and other diseases linked to U.S. weapons testing.

U.S. President George W. Bush says the Navy will leave the island in May 2003. But many residents question whether the Navy will really leave. And Bush has made no guarantees that Washington will clean up its toxic mess.

Families who've suffered generations of occupation in Vieques say May 2003 is too far away. They want the Navy to get out now and pay reparations for the damage that's been done.

In New York City, a solidarity protest is planned for Sept. 3 beginning at 4:30 p.m. in Times Square. —Greg Butterfield

planes carried out two more major bombing attacks against the airport in Mosul and against civil and service installations in Al-Nukhayb, located south of Baghdad," he added. The ANSWER delegates were scheduled to inspect the Mosul airport Aug. 29.

They are also visiting food distribution centers and hospitals and meeting with high government officials.

### Salutes Iraq's 'steadfastness and resistance'

Xinhua News Agency reported that Clark met with Iraqi Deputy Prime Minister Tariq Aziz Aug. 26. He saluted the "steadfastness and resistance of the Iraqi people" and voiced his support for Iraq's resistance to President George W. Bush's invasion plans. Bush's threats constitute war crimes and crimes against peace under international law.

On Aug. 27, Clark appeared live on Pacifica Radio's "Democracy Now!" program. The former attorney general debated a Pentagon spokesperson, Lt. Col. David Lapan. Readers can listen to the debate on the Web by going to [www.webactive.com/pacifica/demnow/](http://www.webactive.com/pacifica/demnow/).

The Iraqi News Agency reported Aug. 28 that the ANSWER delegates met with Minister of Health Dr. Omeed Midhat Mubarak in Baghdad. He explained that the sanctions and daily bombings continue to impose high rates of disease, death and environmental destruction on the Iraqi people.

Mubarak added that the U.S. government still pressures the UN Security Council to enforce measures restricting the import of basic medicines and medical equipment.

In his Aug. 28 statement, Clark said: "People in the United States must recognize that the war against Iraq goes on every day as the Bush administration prepares for a major ground war. ... Bombing and sanctions constitute an integrated strategy designed to overthrow the Iraqi government and replace it with a proxy regime similar to what now exists in Afghanistan.

"The U.S. government falsely declares that its campaign against Iraq is motivated by a concern over Iraq's potential possession of non-conventional weapons. But the real goal is to dominate the strategic and oil-rich region and to destroy any government and people that desire to maintain their independence.

"It is urgent that this country be allowed to trade, buy and sell all the products necessary to sustain and improve life," Clark continued. "The U.S. government is guilty of violating the basic tenets of international law as it wages aggression against Iraq. We urge all progressive people in the U.S. and elsewhere to take immediate action to end the criminal campaign against Iraq."

Updated reports from the delegation can be found on the Web site: [www.iacenter.org](http://www.iacenter.org).

—Greg Butterfield

# Coke and Cointreau leave a bad taste

One wouldn't think of mixing Coca-Cola and Cointreau. But the U.S.-based soft-drink monopoly and the French-based luxury liqueur have at least one thing in common besides a worldwide market for their drink: they rely on death-squad tactics to keep workers in line in the global sweatshop.

That's what demonstrators on 5th Avenue and 56th Street outside Coke headquarters in New York were telling passersby on Aug. 23 who were rushing home for the weekend.

The countries are Colombia—where Washington is currently sending "advisers" to intervene against revolutionary guerrillas—and Haiti.

In Haiti, management goon squads assaulted workers attempting to stake a claim to land for the time between har-

vests of oranges—the fruit used to flavor Cointreau. Two workers were hacked to death.

In Colombia, management at Coke plants in Carpega reportedly instigated the murder of a worker and, at Coke facilities in Cucuta and Barrancabermeja, incited paramilitary death squads to threaten, kidnap and torture trade unionists.

Colombian trade unionist Louis Adolfo, who has faced death squad threats, spoke to the Aug. 23 demonstrators in New York. Adolfo is currently in the United States as a guest of the AFL-CIO.

The Batay Ouvriye Solidarity Network and the Committee for Social Justice in Colombia sponsored the rally and informational picket.

—John Catalinotto



## Who wags the dog?

Many people across the United States watch television news or open the daily press with skepticism. Since virtually every channel and every tabloid carries similar stories with similar spin, inquiring minds figure the news is as “fixed” as World Wrestling Federation matches.

So it may not startle the cynics out there that a CNN senior executive admits that the U.S. media censored its coverage of the Pentagon juggernaut against Afghanistan. But it should jolt listeners and readers to discover that the media blames them—the public—for its whiteout.

Rena Golden, executive vice-president and general manager of CNN International, was unusually forthcoming about how egregious the monopoly manipulation of the news was. Addressing Newsworld Asia, a conference held in Singapore for industry bigwigs, Golden was surprisingly frank. “Anyone who claims the U.S. media didn’t censor itself is kidding you.”

And, she added with candor, “This isn’t just a CNN issue—every journalist who was in any way involved in 9/11 is partly responsible.”

So whose fault is it that the accounts of the one-sided war against a small, impoverished nation were skewed or buried by this big-business monopoly? Who’s to blame for the dearth of coverage about FBI dirty tricks or the racist mass “disappearing” of countless Arab, Muslim and South Asian people in this country?

Does the fault rest with the corporate media’s indissoluble ties to finance capital—particularly the military-industrial complex—that has so much to gain from hegemony in Central Asia and the Middle East? Their loyal ties—that act more like a leash—to the policy-makers in the White House, Congress and war rooms of the Pentagon?

No, this CNN higher up places the blame on those watching the news on television in their living room, or reading the newspaper in their factory lunchroom or on a subway headed to work.

After such an outspoken admission about the depth and breath of media censorship, Golden appears to be trying out for the Olympic back-pedaling team. “It wasn’t a matter of government pressure but a reluctance to criticize anything in a war that was obviously supported by the vast majority of the people.”

Now there’s a Catch-22. Where was the airtime and newsprint for those who opposed the war? Where was the coverage of anti-war protests by tens of thousands?

Instead, remember all those surveys on CNN and other news outlets that made viewers and readers who abhorred the war feel that they stood virtually alone in their views? Those poll results were designed to mold public sentiment, not to bend to it.

Now the media says it’s the fault of its readers and listeners if it doesn’t air all the news fit to print.



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# Resistance in Israel undercuts settler regime

By Leslie Feinberg

The settler state of Israel, imposed on historic Palestine by massive and sustained force of arms and an apartheid structure of racist segregation, could not last for a day without being shored up by its main pillars: Wall Street, the Pentagon and the Big Lie.

But a rising sea change is eroding that support foundation. After more than half a century of resistance to colonial occupation, the fortitude and endurance of the Palestinian struggle—from youth to elders—is inspiring a surge of solidarity around the world. Two prolonged Intifadas—Uprisings—have swept like waves across Palestine.

This determination to fight for freedom against all odds has motivated Israelis themselves to lay down their arms or to refuse to take them up against the Palestinian population.

It is difficult for anyone called into military service to refuse to fight, even in an unjust war. During the Pentagon war against the Vietnamese people, many heroic youths in the United States refused to enlist as soldiers and GIs overseas rebelled against their commanders. Their will to resist induction or even to “frag” their officers was roused by the indomitable resolve of the Vietnamese nation to oust imperialist occupation.

Today in the Middle East, Jewish youths and adults in record numbers are refusing induction into the Israeli “Defense” Forces or are balking at the order of their own commanders to shoot-to-kill Palestinians in the occupied territories. And while the Israeli military wages war against a people without an army—using Palestinian civilians as “human shields”—many people from around the world and across the U.S., including many Jewish activists, are voluntarily traveling to the occupied territories to enter the fray by defending the Palestinian people with their bodies.

This takes a lot of guts and a lot of consciousness to do so, because of the Big Lie. Zionism as a willing tool of imperial empires has always mantled itself in the cynical falsehood that it was creating a safe homeland for Jewish people. After the horrors of the fascist Holocaust, the idea of a haven was certainly appealing. The lie was sweetened with more mendacity: that Israel was “a land without a people for a people without a land.” This prevarication was accompanied by an orchestrated campaign of terror to force a mass exodus of Palestinians from their farms and homes, villages and cities.

The widening ranks of “refuseniks” in Israel objectively demonstrate the growing understanding that no people can free themselves from oppression by acting as an oppressor nation to subjugate another people. Israel has always been, and remains, an outpost for imperialist interests—financial, military and strategic—in the Middle East, not the interests of Jewish people, and certainly not in the interests of the masses of Arab people.

IDF soldiers have witnessed the death and terrible destruction wreaked by the treads of the Israeli military machine that bristles with weaponry made in the USA. They have seen firsthand the torture of Palestinian prisoners, humiliation and brutalization of Arab women, men and children in the grip of apartheid, and the destruction of the Palestinian infrastructure and widespread and organized military looting of Arab homes.

As a result, students as young as high school age are refusing to enlist, knowing that they face prison. Every Jewish male must serve three years in the IDF and then become a reservist.

More than 317 faculty members of Israeli universities have signed onto a letter “to express our appreciation and support for those of our students and lecturers who refuse to serve as soldiers in the occupied territories. ... For 35 years an entire people, some three and a half million in number, have been held without basic human rights. The occupation and oppression of another people have brought the State of Israel to where it is today.”

Soldiers from all ranks, including several hundred decorated officers, are refusing military service in the occupied territories. One of former Prime Minister Benyamin Netanyahu’s nephews is behind bars for refusing service because of Israel’s oppression

and occupation of the Palestinian people. (MiddleEast.org, Aug. 17)

Rami Kaplan, a 29-year-old major in the Israeli armored corps, is a leader in the Courage to Refuse group. He wrote in an April 30 International Herald Tribune article, “Israel’s occupation of the West Bank and the Gaza Strip can in no way be considered democratic. It oppresses 3.5 million people, denying them their basic human rights. My refusal to militarily participate in this occupation, on the other hand, is most certainly a democratic act.”

He continued, “The refusal of the 435 signatories to the ‘Courage to Refuse’ letter is a refusal to fight for continuation of the occupation, or, more precisely, for continuation of the settlements. It is a refusal to fight in a war of choice fueled by an extremist messianic ideology.”

Progressive Israeli activists from Gush Shalom, the Israeli Peace Bloc, warned pilots they were carrying out punishable war crimes after the Israeli Air Force dropped a 2,000-pound bomb from a U.S.-supplied Israeli F-16 into the center of densely populated Gaza City at midnight on July 22. The blast killed Sheik Salah Shehadeh, senior commander of the military wing of Hamas and 14 other adults and children, and wounded at least 176 others. In response, IAF Commander Major Gen. Dan Halutz angrily demanded the Gush Shalom activists be tried, possibly for treason. (gush-shalom.org)

### The bottom line: Divest!

“Divest from apartheid!” Activists who immediately think about the brutal system of segregation in South Africa, backed up by bloody state repression, date themselves back to a multifaceted and fierce struggle in the late 1970s and 1980s against Pretoria’s white supremacist rulers in the tip of Africa who enjoyed the deep-pocket backing of U.S. big business.

But today the demand is for Israel’s corporate cronies in this country—from Wall Street to the ivy-covered halls of academia—to stop financing the apartheid occupation of Palestine.

Since Israel is not a viable economy that can stand on its own, it can only bloom because of the torrential river of U.S. patronage—an average of \$3 billion to \$4 billion a year in official aid and billions more in financial tributaries. The Pentagon and its adjunct military-industrial complex have built Israel into the world’s fifth-ranking military power, despite its having a population of about 5 million people.

From Harvard, MIT and Princeton on the East Coast to the University of California on the West Coast, the demand to divest from Israel is rising on 40 campuses across the breadth of the United States. And, according to dyed-in-the-wool opponents of the pro-Palestinian activist effort, this is just the beginning. Jeff Rubin of the student organization Hillel—which strongly opposes divestment—told the Associated Press he expects the campaign to widen when the new school year opens this fall. “We are taking it seriously,” he said.

Widely circulated petitions list many demands, including a call to ratchet up the pressure on Israel to withdraw from Arab territory it seized in the 1967 war, return to the negotiating table and halt building settlements.

Demands for divestment are aimed at goliaths that prop up the Zionist settler regime—like AT&T, McDonald’s, Hewlett Packard and GE.

Palestinian lawmaker Hana Ashrawi spoke optimistically about the struggle for divestment. “It will begin to get people to question their assumptions,” she said. And she pointed out that Jewish people in the U.S. were among the “people of courage and wisdom” who have added their names to the growing stacks of petitions.

From Berkeley to Ann Arbor, city councils are debating divesting their municipalities from Israel.

And speaking of Berkeley, a group of some 25 lesbian, gay, bisexual and trans activists from the group QUIT—Queers Undermining Israeli Terrorism—took over a downtown Berkeley Starbucks on Aug. 17.

The imaginative and brave action used razor-sharp satire to slice through the Zionist claim to historic Palestine. They declared Berkeley “a city without people for people without a city,” vowing to con-

tinue to establish more “settlements” in future actions. They erected plastic palm trees to “make the concrete bloom” and signs reading, “It works in Palestine, why not here?” and, “It’s ours because we say so.”

The Starbucks was an early target, the group explained, because founder and CEO Howard Shultz is a major backer of the Israeli state and this corporate coffee chain is one of the bull’s-eyes of the divestment movement.

“Since Mr. Shultz clearly believes it is okay for one group of people to grab land belonging to another and say they have a right to it, we figure he won’t mind if we take some of his,” QUIT’s leaflet explained.

#### Parallels to South Africa

The parallels between the racist apartheid system of rule in South Africa and in Israel beg comparison. In a newspaper editorial published in the U.S. press in June, South African Nobel laureate and former Archbishop Desmond Tutu endorsed the call for divestment and drew parallels between the conditions of occupation that Palestinians endure and the segregated districts that Black people were forced into in South Africa during white supremacist rule.

Ian Urbina, associate editor at the Middle East Research and Information Project, pointed out in his article “The Analogy to Apartheid” that white-ruled territories in South Africa consisted of 87 percent of the country, including big cities and most of the arable land. “Nominally independent bantustans, forming a horseshoe-shaped archipelago along the nation’s outskirts, made up the remaining 13 percent of the land.” (Middle East Report 223, Summer 2002)

The state of Israel sprawls over 78 percent of the original British-mandated territory, while Palestine makes up the remaining 22 percent. Urbina added, “In early September 2000, Israeli activists organized a conference in Neve Shalom to announce a Campaign Against an Emerging Apartheid, which some on the radical left feel is an apt description of Israel’s ‘matrix of control’—composed of settlements, bypass roads, security zones and checkpoints—in Palestine.”

Urbina also noted, “Ronnie Kasrils and Max Ozinsky, two Jewish heroes of the anti-apartheid struggle, recently published a letter titled ‘Not in My Name.’ Signed by several hundred other prominent Jewish South Africans, the letter drew an explicit analogy between apartheid and current Israeli policies.” ([http://merip.org/mer/mer223/223\\_urbina.html](http://merip.org/mer/mer223/223_urbina.html))

Jewish Israeli political scientist Ilan Pappet told the Associated Press that he, too, sees clear parallels between the settler state and apartheid South Africa. “The only thing that can end the Israeli occupation is outside pressure,” he believes.

Palestinian rights activist Jabr Wishah recounts his discussion with Nelson Mandela when the former South African political prisoner visited the Gaza Strip three years ago. Wishah, who spent 15 years in Israeli prisons, said he and Mandela compared notes about Israeli and South African interrogation tactics. (AP, Aug. 19)

In a major embarrassment to the Tel Aviv settler regime, Mandela has agreed to observe the trial of Palestinian leader Marwan Barghouti—a lawyer, member of the Palestinian legislative council and secretary general of the Fatah movement in the West Bank. Barghouti, arrested in April on charges of murder and terrorism, is the first senior Palestinian to face trial in the two years of the Intifada.

Khader Shkirat, board member of the Euro-Mediterranean Human Rights Network, quoted Mandela as having said, “What is happening to Barghouti is exactly the same as what happened to me. The government tried to de-legitimize the African National Congress and its armed struggle by putting me on trial.”

# Workers around the world

## CANADA

### Labor opposes U.S. war moves

The Canadian Labor Congress (CLC), that country’s version of the AFL-CIO, has issued a statement opposing U.S. plans to attack Iraq.

“Canadian workers are watching with growing disbelief the U.S. government’s preparations for a full-scale attack against Iraq, and they want nothing to do with it,” said CLC President Ken Georgetti on Aug. 20.

“War would produce more instability in the whole region, create more hardship for innocent civilians, foster new anger and hatred and breed new conflicts. In a multicultural society like Canada, these conflicts are felt painfully in our workplaces and communities.”

The labor federation, which represents 2.5 million workers, called on the government of Prime Minister Jean Chretien to intervene “on the side of peace” to oppose a new U.S. war.

## URUGUAY

### 70,000 say no to IMF

Some 70,000 workers marked Uruguay’s Independence Day Aug. 26 with a powerful protest against layoffs, cutbacks and privatization policies imposed by the International Monetary Fund. Major unions and the parties of the left called the demonstration in Uruguay’s capital, Montevideo.

Jorge Castro, head of the main union federation, said: “We have a government that dedicates itself to carrying out whatever it accords with the International Monetary Fund—policies that have demonstrated disastrous results right across the world.” (Associated Press, Aug. 26)

Uruguay, like Argentina and other neighboring countries, is deep in depression. In July the government closed banks for four days and imposed harsh measures to stop many people from withdrawing their savings until 2005.

The Bush administration recently gave Uruguay a \$1.5 billion emergency loan to protect the interests of Citibank and other U.S. monopolies. But none of that money will go to help the working people.

On Aug. 24 President Jorge Batlle told the IMF that Uruguay’s gross domestic product would plunge 11 percent this year, and inflation would rise by 40 percent.

The thousands of workers waving red flags and union banners, setting off firecrackers and pounding drums Aug. 26, said the government had failed and must be replaced with one that will respond to the people’s needs.

## HONDURAS

### Coffee workers, police clash

Small coffee farmers and farm workers fought pitched battles with police in mid-August in the Central American country of Honduras.

Police attacked more than 1,000 protesters on their way to the capital, Tegucigalpa, with water cannons and teargas on Aug. 13. Farmers and farm workers in El Zamorano threw up barricades, blocked highways with their vehicles and fought back with stones. More than 500 were arrested and 24 were injured.

More than 120,000 Hondurans make their living in the coffee industry, and they have been hit hard by the world capitalist economic crisis. A global coffee glut has driven prices so low that many small farmers can’t afford to harvest their beans.

The protesters were heading for the capital to demand low-cost loans to help them through the harvest. U.S.-backed President Ricardo Maduro had earlier promised \$20 million in loans, but hasn’t delivered. The government is also trying to tack a 3-percent interest rate onto previous loans that were interest-free.

Protesters from other areas managed to reach Tegucigalpa. They fought back as cops tear-gassed them and used nightsticks and heavy plastic shields to beat people.

Four coffee union leaders were arrested and charged with inciting a riot.

Letters of protest can be mailed to Embassy of Honduras, 3007 Tilden St. NW, Suite 4M, Washington, DC 20008, faxed to (202) 966-9751, or emailed to [embassy@hondurasemb.org](mailto:embassy@hondurasemb.org).

—Greg Butterfield

## ARGENTINA

### Mass outpouring in Caracas backs Chávez

Hundreds of thousands of people marched Aug. 24 in Caracas to protest the decision of the Venezuelan Supreme Court not to bring to trial the four officers who headed the abortive coup d’etat last April 11. For over eight miles this human sea, coming mainly from the city’s working-class and poor communities, demonstrated their firm support for the progressive government led by President Hugo Chávez. The attempted coup had received the open backing of the U.S. government and the big-business media.

The president, himself a former army colonel who still has support among most

rank-and-file soldiers and at least part of the military structure, participated in the march. He wore the red beret of his paratrooper unit. The mayor of Caracas estimated the crowd at 300,000.

“If anyone would try again to oust this government or stop this revolution, be it through politics, the military, economics or the law, they’ll have the response of the people, of the revolutionaries,” Chávez said.

Chávez asked the national assembly to investigate the judges who made the ruling. As the president spoke, the crowd chanted, “Take them to jail, take them to jail.” One marcher shouted the names of the 11 justices who had voted to absolve two army generals, a navy rear admiral and a navy vice admiral. The crowd cried “Out!” after each name.

Chávez has accused the judges of corruption and favoritism and urged his supporters to take to the streets in a peaceful “revolutionary counterattack.” He told the crowd that they could not accept the decision quietly. “We cannot remain silent. We must express our complete rejection of this Supreme Court decision.”

Chávez’s Bolivarian Revolution has awakened the anger of the oligarchy in Venezuela by its attacks on the privileges of the rich. It has made the imperialists in Washington and Wall Street furious by its attempt at an independent foreign policy, friendly to Cuba and Iraq. The alliance of super-rich has used its domination of the media to try to stir up middle-class Venezuelans against the former paratrooper and to weaken support for the revolutionary process among the poor.

Despite the media monopoly and the bankers’ economic sabotage that has hamstrung the economy, Chávez is still able to mobilize massive support. The question is whether he and the parties supporting his movement can create in time the structures needed to defend this popular government from its ruthless enemies.

—John Catalinotto

# China mobilizes mass anti-flood effort

By Deirdre Griswold

A disaster seems to have been averted at Dongting Lake on the Yangtze River in China’s Hunan province. Although torrential rains caused the lake to rise six feet above the danger level, a huge effort by soldiers and civilians kept it from bursting its banks and engulfing the 10 million people who live in the area.

As of Aug. 26, according to the South China Morning Post, the flood surge had moved downriver to the city of Wuhan. Officials were cautioning that although the dyke system there appeared to hold, efforts to strengthen the flood control system should continue.

Zhou Guiying, 50, said, “We’re still a little bit worried because the waters have not gone down much. There are no plans to go home. We’re staying on the dykes just in case.”

China has mobilized 1.1 million civilians and soldiers in a Herculean effort to hold back the floodwaters. So far, this has prevented a repeat of the disastrous 1998 floods, when Dongting Lake burst its banks and killed 100 people.

China for centuries suffered periodic floods alternating with droughts that resulted in great loss of life and destruction of property. One of the first accomplish-

ments of the revolutionary Communist government—which came to power in 1949 after carrying out a prolonged struggle against feudal rule, expropriating the landlords and encouraging collective work on the land—was to mobilize millions in building dams and dykes for flood control and irrigation.

In recent years, China, like many other parts of the world, has been suffering from more extreme weather as greenhouse gases emitted mostly in the Western imperialist countries cause global warming. Even as floods ravage southeastern China, much of the north and west of the country are experiencing serious drought.

Mass mobilization, however, and the spending of \$1 billion since 1998 on strengthening the flood control infrastructure, have prepared China better than most other developing countries to deal with these grave problems.

An enormous project is now on the drawing board to divert water from the Yangtze to parched northern regions of the country through three 1,000-mile-long canal systems. At an estimated cost to the Chinese government of \$58 billion, this will dwarf any other water-moving project in the world, and will take many years to complete.

# Discurso por el Presidente de Cuba, Fidel Castro

## PRIMERA PARTE

*Intervención del Presidente de la República de Cuba, Fidel Castro Ruz, en el acto de entrega de 254 escuelas de la capital reconstruidas o construidas, efectuado en el teatro Astral el 13 de agosto del 2002.*

### Compatriotas de la capital y de toda Cuba:

Hace alrededor de 20 meses, en diciembre del 2001, comenzó el lento y fatigoso esfuerzo. Había que restaurar totalmente y amueblar más de 734 escuelas primarias y secundarias de la capital de la República, reconstruir 12 que estaban abandonadas y construir 33 nuevas, con lo cual se mejorarían considerablemente las condiciones de todas las instalaciones de ese tipo, y se incrementarían además en 2.616 el número de aulas necesarias, fundamentalmente para un nuevo programa de la enseñanza primaria, escasa de locales y saturados éstos de alumnos. De las 536 escuelas primarias, 513 poseían comedores que recibían alimentos elaborados en ellas o provenientes del exterior, en condiciones muy desfavorables. El estado de las cocinas existentes era precario; los equipos de conservación y elaboración de los alimentos estaban obsoletos y ninguno funcionaba; todo había que reponerlo en beneficio de casi 130 mil escolares de primaria que requerían de esos servicios, ya que los padres u otros familiares, por razones de trabajo u otras causas, no podían atenderlos a esa hora del día, a los que se añaden 10.673 de la Enseñanza Especial que reciben sus alimentos en las escuelas.

Es de imaginar la lista de problemas adicionales, como falta total o interrupciones en el suministro de agua corriente, la ausencia de bebederos de agua fría en todas, de algunas puertas y ventanas, filtraciones de techos y verdaderas carencias y dificultades en los servicios sanitarios, que afectaban a muchas escuelas.

El número promedio de alumnos por aula era de 37, aunque en varios cientos de ellas la cifra se movía entre 40 y 50 por aula.

En nuestra capital, las condiciones materiales de estudio y la escasez de maestros primarios eran las más difíciles de todo el país. El largo bloqueo, y de forma muy par-

ticular el período especial con su enorme carencia de recursos, y las supuestas pérdidas de vocación docente en nuestra juventud, habían dejado profundas y al parecer insuperables huellas en tan extraordinaria y decisiva tarea revolucionaria y social como es la educación.

Estudios realizados demostraban que los niños de las escuelas primarias de la capital tenían aproximadamente la mitad de los conocimientos de los niños de primaria de Santiago de Cuba. Con relación al resto del país, la Ciudad de la Habana estaba en la misma situación que los niños de primaria de América Latina con relación a Cuba. Como es conocido por investigaciones de organismos internacionales, nuestros niños de primaria, en su conjunto, duplican el conocimiento promedio de los alumnos de primaria de aquellos países.

Había que transformar esta situación en las escuelas de la capital fuesen cuales fuesen las escaseces de recursos materiales y los sacrificios a realizar.

En septiembre del año 2000, al iniciarse el curso escolar, nos propusimos el ambicioso objetivo de resolver el problema de la enseñanza primaria de la ciudad en un período no mayor de dos años, y a la vez aplicar medidas y conceptos en todo el país que optimizarían y multiplicarían los conocimientos de nuestros niños en este nivel escolar, con lo que se situaría a nuestro país muy por encima de cualquier otro en el mundo.

En grupos de cien o más escuelas, a lo largo de este período, se han ido inaugurando las restauraciones concluidas.

En acto celebrado el día 27 de abril del 2001, en el municipio de Plaza de la Revolución, se inauguraron las primeras 144 escuelas restauradas. Y el pasado 29 de junio, en el municipio de La Lisa, con la escuela número 402, el tercer grupo de instalaciones restauradas. Ese día faltaban 344 por restaurar, más las 33 nuevas cuya construcción estaba por concluir, e incluso, en varias de ellas, por iniciar.

Se contaba sólo con algo más de dos meses para cumplir la tarea en el plazo previsto. Septiembre era el mes límite para concluir el noble y colosal empeño que beneficiaría a más de un cuarto de millón

de niños y adolescentes de nuestra capital, en menos de dos años.

En ese breve período de tiempo nos dimos igualmente a la tarea de preparar como maestros primarios, en cursos emergentes, a más de 4 mil alumnos voluntarios seleccionados entre los que cursaban el último año de los Preuniversitarios Pedagógicos de Ciudad de la Habana que estudiaban en las escuelas en el campo ubicadas en la vecina provincia de la Habana.

Los primeros 500 comenzaron en una escuela del municipio de Melena del Sur, especialmente preparada y dotada del material correspondiente y de las condiciones adecuadas para el estudio intensivo, con un excelente y seleccionado claustro de pedagogos.

A pesar de que eran alumnos internos que salían cada dos semanas—401 de Ciudad de la Habana y 100 de Matanzas, para decirlo con exactitud—, ninguno de ellos desertó del programa. Exactamente lo mismo ocurrió en los dos cursos subsiguientes. ¡Una verdadera proeza de la dirección y los docentes de esa prestigiosa y ya famosa escuela!

Los excelentes resultados de esos primeros graduados, su aplicación, su entusiasmo, su eficiente trabajo como maestros, cada uno de ellos bajo la tutoría de un Licenciado en Enseñanza Primaria, han echado por tierra definitivamente la falsa teoría de la ausencia de vocación de nuestra juventud para estudiar y realizar las tareas que sean necesarias, conciliadas a la vez con intereses profesionales de su preferencia y con amplias y variadas perspectivas de continuar sus estudios en las uni-

versidades.

Muy jóvenes, con apenas 19 años, estarían ya realizando un trabajo remunerado, altamente decoroso y de extraordinaria importancia y prestigio social.

Al iniciar este programa, sólo se contaba prácticamente con el heroísmo de los maestros de la ciudad, el espíritu revolucionario de nuestro pueblo, las numerosas instalaciones escolares y el grandioso capital humano creado por la Revolución. Los mínimos recursos disponibles para tal programa había que optimizarlos y casi multiplicarlos.

Ya próximos a cumplir la meta, baste señalar que el costo del importante y vital programa constructivo en las escuelas de la capital es menos que el 10 por ciento de los daños sufridos y los gastos ocasionados para la reconstrucción y reparación total de la destrucción que produjo el huracán Michelle.

Nada es imposible para el pueblo tenaz, inteligente, combativo y patriótico de esta ciudad. La batalla de las escuelas no podía perderse ni se perderá. Ello habría de lograrse con el máximo orden, sin interrumpir ni afectar ninguna otra obra relacionada con instalaciones de producción y servicios de importancia esencial.

Era período de vacaciones, no había clases ni actividades docentes; podía trabajarse día y noche, y convertir cada día en dos, tres o cuatro. Y eso precisamente hicieron y continúan haciendo nuestros bravos forjadores de escuelas en la casi totalidad de las obras. Fuerzas selectas de otras provincias apoyaron solidariamente las obras escolares de la capital.

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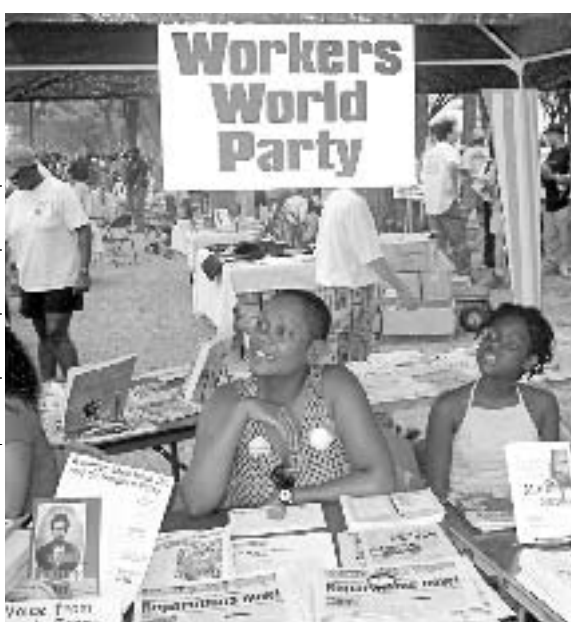


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