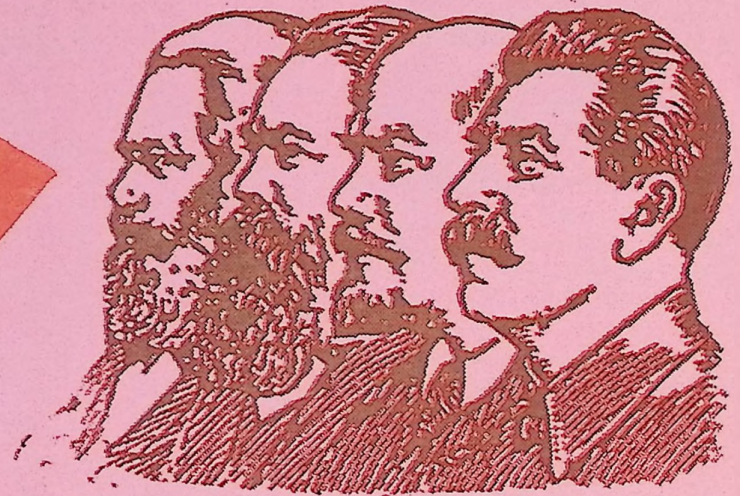


# northstar compass

ORGAN OF THE INTERNATIONAL COUNCIL FOR FRIENDSHIP AND SOLIDARITY WITH SOVIET PEOPLE VOL. 12 #3, NOV. 2003

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**86 TH**  
**ANNIVERSARY**  
**OF THE**  
**GREAT OCTOBER**  
**SOCIALIST**  
**REVOLUTION**  
**1917**

**LIBERATION,**  
**FREEDOM AND**  
**DEMOCRACY!**

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# LIBERATION, FREEDOM AND DEMOCRACY

VIC  
RATSMAN



**EIGHTY-SIX YEARS AGO**, on November 7, 1917, the working class of Russia started on the road to free itself from the capitalist system and began a new and challenging chapter in the development of mankind. After generations of oppression and poverty, the working classes of Russia liberated themselves from the past and began the construction of an entirely new society, where freedom from want and democratic decision-making by the people were to be the hallmark of the new state.

Today, in November of 2003 we also hear the words "*liberation, freedom and democracy*", but this time these words are not coming from the working class but from a quite different source, namely from the President of the United States, George W. Bush and from members of his administration. Liberation, freedom and democracy is what they promised to bring to the people of Iraq.

Some people will say that both efforts were unsuccessful. The October Revolution of 1917 because it failed to deliver a workers' paradise and the Soviet Union ultimately ceased to exist in 1991. And in Iraq and elsewhere, the USA failed miserably because you cannot impose your will on another nation by the use of force and implant a foreign ideology on an unwilling population.

Whatever your point of view, and while the words might be the same,

the meaning of "*liberation, freedom and democracy*" in the two cases and the intended results couldn't be more different. The October Socialist Revolution in Russia came about as the result of hard fought struggles, not only against their own bourgeoisie and property owners, but also against all foreign invaders, amongst whom the selfsame United States of America. The freedom they fought for was a freedom no nation had yet achieved: free education for all to the highest level of one's ability, free medical care, the lowest possible prices for all the basic needs, like food, clothing and shelter. Freedom from unemployment and poverty, freedom from fear of crime, security in one's old age. All this and much more was the goal of the peoples' freedom, and it was achieved!

Democratic participation in the making of decisions at national, regional, local and shop level, both directly and through elected representatives formed the basis of a new socialist democracy. And even though we know that the system was anything but perfect as it was continuously undermined from inside as well as outside by the covert and overt enemies, it nevertheless succeeded in building a powerful nation in fewer years than anyone had ever dreamed possible.

The liberation, freedom and democracy the United States is talking about, not only for the people of the USA or Iraq, but for any nation on earth is almost the complete opposite of what was described above. The number of wars of liberation initiated by the USA include Korea, Vietnam, Chile, Nicaragua, Grenada, Philippines, Afghanistan, to mention just a few. In all cases the objective was to foil the liberation struggles of the people and to subject them to the rule of the



capitalist upper classes. Thus, American liberation is liberty of the bourgeoisie, their freedom is the freedom to exploit the working people of any nation for the private gain of their multinational corporate friends and their democracy is limited to establish strategic hegemony over the entire globe, their wars of "*liberation*" are nothing more than a modern approach to the re-colonization of nations for access to their natural resources and cheap labour.

As in early times, this piracy will prevent the raising of the living standards of the home population and condemn them to continued poverty and struggle for even a meager living standard.

Socialist liberation, freedom and democracy on the other hand means power in the hands of the people, democratic control by the working class, the production of all wealth, and self determination with regard to the future development of one's own country. The few examples of the achievements of the Soviet Union cited above serve as an example of what can be accomplished.

No, the USSR was not yet a utopia and over the years of its existence undoubtedly made its share of mistakes and had its shortcomings. But the October Revolution of 1917 proved this very clearly: That it is possible for the

common people to put an end to the exploitation of man by man, to end the dictatorship of the rich and powerful over the masses and to distribute the fruits of their collective labour equitably among all.

**And that kind of liberation, freedom and democracy is worth fighting for!** ■

**MICHAEL  
LUCAS**  
Editor



## **LEGACY OF DEATH BY U.S. IMPERIALISM**

When will the United Nations Organization have the guts and dedication to fulfill its noble task and charge the US Government with genocide of untold magnitude and untold suffering to future generation of mankind in countries where it had dropped thousands upon thousands of cluster bombs?

US has used cluster bombs on innocent civilians for scores of years in many parts of the world in its quest for the New World Order, since, according to Bush: "God is with us, he is not neutral!"

Cluster bombs and the cluster bomblets that they contain are dropped from US bombers and these bomblets are designed to maim innocent civilian population. These cluster bombs sometimes do not explode on impact and they can lie around for years, playing havoc with the civilian population, long after the hostilities are over.

Bushes and trees and soft soil can minimize the initial contact and thus most duds are left behind. The height from which the cluster bombs are dropped, combined with the timer, which releases the bomblets from the bomb will influence the dud rate.

Here is just a quick summary of where US imperialism has left this legacy of death.

### **LAOS**

Laos was subjected by US war criminals to the most intense bombardment ever between 1964-1975, when USA dropped six to seven million bombs, with one million of these being cluster bombs. The resulting bomblets, from a dud rate is estimated as high as 30% in some places and caused over 40% of all deaths from these cluster bomblets. Individual bomblets dropped by USA contain 200-600 pellets, ball bearings or nails, which main or kill up to 200 meters radius.

### **1991 GULF WAR**

US imperialists dropped over Iraq and Kuwait 13 million cluster bomblets from the air and over 11 million sub-munitions from ground based rocket launchers...this left over 2.4 million dud sub-munitions.

The Human Rights Watch reported that by February 1993, the unexploded bomblets have killed 2,500 people and maimed thousands of others. Over 60% of the victims were children under the age of 15. Even in year 2002, the clearance teams were still finding and destroying over 200 "duds" sub-munitions each month.

### **KOSOVO ND SERBIA**

Human Rights Watch in the war against Serbia (Yugoslavia), between 9- and 150 civilians were killed by cluster bombs in any given district bombed, which represented overall 18-30% of all civilian population. It was reported by experts that cluster bombs were responsible for five times as many victims under the age of 14 than anti-personnel land mines which US imperialists also dropped in their thousands during these wars. Unexploded cluster bombs were 6-10 times more deadly than other unexploded ordnance.

### **AFGHANISTAN**

Between October 2001 and March 2002, the US dropped approximately 1,228 cluster bombs on Afghanistan, which contained 148, 056 bomblets and each bomblet is capable of killing or maiming a person. The Human Rights Watch reported that between October 2001 and November 2002 at least 127 civilians had been killed. plus scores of

injured by cluster bomblets. Over 69% of all those killed were children under the age of 18.

### **THE 2003 GULF WAR**

The US Administration and the Pentagon had admitted that at least 1,500 cluster bombs were dropped in the Operation Iraq but they refuse to divulge as to as to how many artillery shells and rocket-launched sub-munitions were used there. These sub-munitions, according to the Human Rights Watch on the spot, charged that they were used exclusively on the innocent civilian population of Baghdad and other Iraqi cities. The British forces also admitted that they too had used over 11,800 cluster bombs in Iraq.

The above is just a sanitized version of the barbarous crimes committed by US Imperialism all over the world, in the name of "Democracy, God, Freedom, Civil Rights, etc. etc.!"

A news item in the Los Angeles Times of October 16, 2003 reported an item that is very scary and brings to mind the fanaticism of "The Crusaders" in the Middle Ages.

US Defense Secretary Donald Rumsfeld has appointed to his inner Cabinet a Christian extremist, a Lt. General of the US Army, a Baptist preacher who goes around the USA and officially preaches the following:

*\*Why do they hate us? The answer to that is that we are a Christian nation, because we are a nation of believers."*

*\*Our Islamic enemy can only be defeated if we come against these heathens in the name of Jesus."*

*\*I Am a warrior in the Kingdom of God."*

*\*He has praised George Bush as "a man who prays in the Oval Office. George Bush was not elected by the majority of the voters in the United States, he was appointed by God."*

*\*I take my orders from God"*

*\*Satan in Iraq wants to destroy our nation and we are in a spiritual war.?"*

*The extraordinary "spinning" machine of George Bush's White House is whipping all the media and thereby the public, religion into line, to support US imperialist policies in the world! Why is the UN falling for these lies?* ■

# 11<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of NSC celebrated in Toronto



*Michael Lucas, Editor of NSC reading greetings from around the world.*



On Sunday, Sept. 21, 2003 the Editorial Board of Northstar Compass and the Canadian Friends of Soviet People celebrated in a raucous fashion the 11<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of our journal in the ballroom of the Friendship House. Thanks are in order once again to the Society of Carpatho-Russian Canadians for generously allowing us to use the premises once again. Were it not for their generosity, this event would not have been possible, let alone the help to publish NSC like clockwork that we all have come to expect.

This 11<sup>th</sup> Anniversary event was opened-up by Michael Lucas the Editor of NSC, who read greetings from many parts of the world. This was followed by Ray Stevenson and his insightful speech on the work of the journal. Following him was Dr. Adelard Paquin from Montreal, the Editor of the French edition of NSC who added many ideas for the future of NSC and the 2<sup>nd</sup> World Congress for Friendship and Solidarity with Soviet People to be held in September of 2004.

Michael Lucas, who is also an artist, donated 2 of his oil paintings to be raffled off. Chris Harris, member of NSC Editorial Board did the honors.

*Photographs by Michael Popovich*

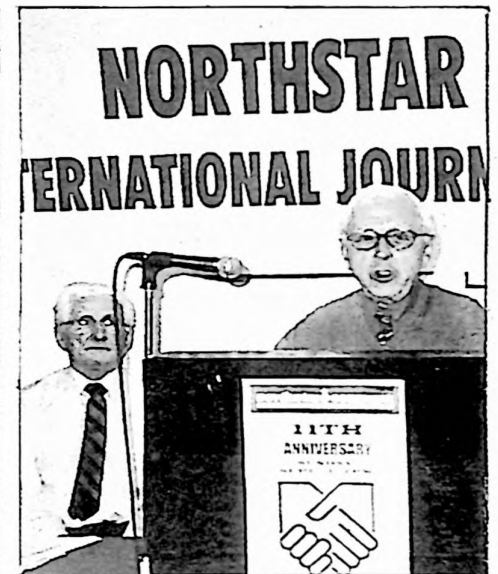


*Ray Stevenson, Associate Editor of NSC giving the main report*

As a guest and a very well known journalist, broadcaster and TV personality, Barrie Zwicker got an ovation for his insightful explanation as to the intrigues of American imperialism.

Thanks were given to the Philippine brothers and sisters who gave a rousing rendition of a Victor Hara song in Tagalog.

Needless to say, everyone had a wonderful time, in keeping with tradition and thanks to John Baby



*Dr. Adelard Paquin, Editor of French edition of NSC. Below, Barrie Zwicker, journalist, TV broadcaster.*



and crew for the gastronomic delights.

Many toasts were drunk to the future successes of our Northstar Compass and everyone took upon themselves to propagate and gain even more new readers.

**RAY STEVENSON**  
Associate Editor of NSC

Dear friends, dear comrades, and all who have made possible the success story of Northstar Compass, and the establishment of the International Council for Friendship and Solidarity with Soviet People.

In extending these deeply felt greetings and salutes, I make special reference to certain exemplary and dedicated people who over the past eleven years have carried the major burden of ensuring that our journal of Friendship, Solidarity and Peace has grown to a point where it is now read and welcomed in many lands and among widely diverse people around the world. Their welcome use is the fruit of very special, untiring...I could add "heroic"...work by our Editor Michael Lucas and equally, by our financial genius and organizer, Helen Lucas. There are no words to adequately pay tribute to their dedicated, and monumental work and contribution to our success. Thank you Michael and Helen from the bottom of our hearts.

Standing with them and as the organization in which they were nurtured and developed, the Society of Carpatho-Russian Canadians in whose building and premises we meet here today, and whose financial and untiring support, beyond anything that could reasonably be asked for, has been the foundation with everything connected with our work has grown. The Carpatho-Russian Society has been a fearless bulwark of unremitting support. To all of them, must go first our deepest appreciation and love. It is our mutual purpose to continue the work that will bring expanded results and to bring every possible assistance and solidarity, keeping close touch in our troubled times the long standing relationship with our Soviet friends and comrades. Whatever success



*Chris Harris and Helen Lucas conducting the raffle of two paintings donated by artist Michael Lucas.*

has been achieved, we must note, rests squarely upon the seventy years of working class and Soviet power, and that for its most creative and prolific years was guided by the science of the working class, Marxism-Leninism.

That the immense and world shaping activity of the Soviet people was sullied and linked to destruction of the proud Union if Soviet Socialist Republics by the counter-revolutionary forces of Imperialism, and the growth of opportunism within the leadership and structures of the new society, had become the central factor of growing world reaction and competitive exploitation. First came the Soviet people but it now extends beyond them to the world stage. Whereas the forty-five years following WW II saw monopolies prosecution of misnamed "Cold War" the economic, political, military and social powers of Imperialism were held in check in a bi-polar world by the powers of the working class and people. They thwarted in part the designs of the Imperialist forces...now called Transnationals... until the eruption of world tragedy of 1980's through to the present day....created the soil from which the hideous and tragic results of counter-revolution have grown. The "Unipolar" world of USA Imperialist domination, together with its "fellow traveling" lesser Imperialisms is now

a fact of every-day life on every continent, and for all the people everywhere. In particular we underline the ongoing "oil resource" fuelled wars of the Middle East, including Iraq and the Palestinian fifty years of intolerable domination in their own land by the Israeli Governments and military forces. The role of USA's dollars, by Government aimed at ensuring US monopoly control of the oil rich area, has resulted. Side by side with that US venture, from 1979 to the present, has been the decimation and handing over of governmental controls by US imperial powers to the war-lords and opium traders in Afghanistan. To the shame of all Canadians, and at the taxpayers expense, Canadian armed forces now are there, our senior Government officials are there, conniving with the US installed "oil" man Karzai. Adjacent to Afghanistan lies immense wealth of the former Muslim Soviet Republics from Azerbaijan to Kirghizia...where oil lies in quantities equal to, or exceeding those of the Middle East.

But despite these appearances of "military might is right" displayed by the oil cabal at the head of the US Government... and that carries with it more than a powerful odor of ultra-reaction...even to the level of a US form of fascist control and the rejection of all preceding claims to

forms of "bourgeois democracy", that phenomena is irrevocably speeding like a run-away out-of-control locomotive into a crisis of all embracing dimensions...economic, military, political and social.

If the ongoing "peoples war" in Iraq confounds the Pentagon, while the juvenile "soothsayer" of Imperialism, USA's George W. Bush Jr. is compelled to run begging to the United Nations, he had previously branded as "irrelevant", it must be clear, even to the "spin doctors" at CNN and others of that ilk, that "Big Lies" may serve football or baseball games...but in the area of "world politics" where peoples demands increasingly are emerging in new ways. As an effective antidote to the "Big Lies" of those who dream... as did Herr Hitler...of world domination, the increasing demands of something approaching 50% of the world's population now barely keeping life and breath in their bodies on less than \$2.00 per day is growing and proliferating even within the "most highly developed capitalist" countries...such as the United States, Canada, etc., providing an unmistakable indication of unrelenting crisis that Imperialism has brought to the world...and for which Imperialism has no cure.

The recent failed World Trade Organization meeting in Cancun, Mexico is something more than a "straw" blowing in the wind in the gardens of the world, or for US imperialism. The demand advanced by the "have-not" countries, for the most part representing precisely growing hordes of the world's destitute, on agricultural subsidies was an "immovable obstacle" for the Imperialist "agribusiness" and designs for control. Briefly, and inadequately said, that confrontation appears as an advanced form of total breakdown of the last vestiges of WW II efforts to implement cosmetic, and elementary forms of international co-operation in the world's financial and commodity markets. In short, it would appear that the world has returned to the pre-WW II chaos of "every Imperialist country for itself"...by whatever means. "Jungle Law" looms like a horrific nightmare before all of mankind...and is now rampant as the world seeks to feed itself...

The Eleven-Year old struggle of Northstar Compass to deliver even in small doses, messages of International "Friendship, Solidarity and Peace" first with Soviet friends, and internationally, has not been without pitfalls, obstacles and resistance. That should not be a surprise to anyone given the history of the past ten years of unfolding Imperialist "Unipolar" world aggression. For our part, we have opened wide our NSC columns, discussions, plans and aims to all who would join with us in the central purpose of creating friendship, solidarity and peace in whatever way we could.

What has been surprising has been the failure of some forces...political and otherwise who drew immense benefit and support over many long years from the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, but have rejected cooperative action to achieve the ends projected...even to the level of rejecting consultation. It has long been a matter of mystery and disappointment to us as to why this situation should have developed in such work, and we hereby express the hope that what ever may be the reasons, they should be put aside and cooperation and mutual assistance to be implemented. If we may be so bold, we suggest that a continuation of the past divided situation cannot achieve even the smallest of positive results. Our aim and our work is to play whatever

modest role we can in the local, national, international development of Friendship, Solidarity and Peace. We see such a development as integral to the struggles of people everywhere to counter the ferocious onslaught being leveled upon all humanity. The requirement is universal work for a **UNITED FRONT ACTIVITY**...regardless of origin, creed, political orientation, history or tradition. We seek neither a leadership role or any kind of imposed control. If there is rejection of that road, we do not believe democratic, socialist or any other advance by the people can be achieved. I suggest that we must pursue with Northstar Compass and our programs of Friendship, Solidarity and Peace those ends, if we are to fulfill our purpose of a world free of imperialist depredations, exploitation, war and horror on the suicidal paths they have created.

Finally, as a suggestion to this assembly, I would like to see a small committee struck whose task would be the selection, issue by issue from the beginning of the most important articles...perhaps four or five per year, that would be published together in a book form anthology. As such, it would symbolize the name "Northstar Compass" and give to the world's people insights into the struggles we have encountered in this "unipolar" world... and the non-partisan

Philippine brothers and sisters entertaining the audience with a rendition of a Hara song in Tagalog.



advocacy of our journal. It should be seen as an international effort...possibly even to raise some financial support.

On a personal note, may I extend my deepest heart-felt wishes of comradeship and warmest feelings of affection to all of you present, as well as to many national and international friends and associates with whom, together we work to make our contribution, since the inception of Northstar Compass, and our entry into the foreboding world created by the dismantlement of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics. Rest assured dear friends, our numbers will grow geometrically in the days ahead.

My embraces and salutations to you all!

#### DR. ADELARD PAQUIN

Editor of French Edition of NSC

Dear companions:

I am delighted to participate in this 11<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of NSC. I take great pride in being amongst you and I carry fraternal greetings to all of you, along with the best wishes of all the readers of the French Edition of Northstar Compass.

First of all, I want to congratulate Michael Lucas and Helen Lucas and all those companions who work on the Editorial Committee of NSC, for having given birth to NSC and to have managed during these 11 years to stay alive, to win international readership and to have become the official organ of the International Council for Friendship and Solidarity with Soviet People.

It is a long history and a very great success! It took a lot of courage and steadfastness, mainly on the part of Michael Lucas and Helen Lucas and also his family. Special thanks must go to the Society of Carpatho-Russian Canadians who help both financially and who offer their premises to be the headquarters not only of NSC but of the International Council and the Canadian Friends of Soviet People. This is in spite of all sorts of provocations and adversity during these 11 years.

NSC has worked in identifying the true cause of the capitalist restoration in the Soviet Union and how to draw lessons from it. In this way NSC helps us to struggle

against all forms of opportunism and revisionism, to realize the situation created by the collapse of the USSR and the introduction of wild and rampant capitalism in this country and in all of the former Peoples Republics in Eastern Europe. NSC is faithful to the revolutionary principals of Marxism-Leninism.

Confronted by this reactionary offensive, NSC felt that it was necessary to launch a counter-offensive in favour of the exploited and oppressed masses and to help them think that the future is socialism for mankind.

We are very happy that we received a message from Viktor Bourenkov in Moscow, the Secretary of the newly formed Russian Society for Friendship with Foreign Countries, that this organization is formed and will unite with other groups in order to be the partner of the International Council for Friendship and Solidarity with Soviet People and will fulfill the decisions made at the First World Congress held in Toronto in 2001. We hope that soon we shall receive the Charter of this organization and plans for future cooperation.

I support the proposal for having this newly formed Russian Society of Friendship to start popularizing this international organization and the NSC amongst all of the former Soviet republics and in the near future to be able to publish the Russian Edition of Northstar Compass.

I would like to suggest that our Soviet comrades undertake to write in each issue of NSC their analyses and most profoundly about the situation there, and to inform our readers how was it that after Stalin's death the revisionists were able to restore wild capitalism and was there any fight back against the revisionist clique inside the CPSU, started during Krushchev's time?

We hope that the readers of NSC all over the world will start to form in their countries Friendship Societies with the Soviet people.

Regarding the holding of the 2<sup>nd</sup> Word Congress in 2004, Michael Lucas gave a report that other venues were solicited and it seems that due to the financial outlay in Euro dollars or other currency, the best venue is still Canada in 2004 - also air travel restrictions will

produce uncertainty. Since some of us cannot get visas to Russia, this presents also a problem.

Because of all this, I would like to suggest that we think about postponing this 2<sup>nd</sup> Congress until the world situation improves or becomes much clearer.

The main thing for all of us now is to keep on and continue to improve the work that we are doing and try our very best to help Michael and Helen to manage the fantastic work they are doing, with the important help from the Society of Carpatho-Russian Canadians.

## Onwards toward the 12th Anniversary of NORTHSTAR COMPASS!



#### ERRATUM

In the last issue, the poem printed under the name of Irina Malenko, was written by Dean Reed, an American who lived in the GDR. The Komsomol members from Odessa who were arrested and tortured were not working for the newspaper Left-ru, we just support their solidarity campaign.



## WHAT WERE SOME OF THE STATEMENTS MADE BY PUTIN IN AN INTERVIEW ON OCTOBER 6, 2003 IN MOSCOW?

*"My relations with President Bush is close and frank-those of a partner and an ally."*

*"Mr. Bush's interests in the sphere of fighting radicalism in our countries coincide."*

*"Yes, there were weapons of mass destruction in Iraq, but the question is as to what happened to them?"*

*"I agree that Russia now is weak and what it holds in the world and what are or are not capabilities as opposed to the USA."*

*"It took Western Europe centuries to evolve into democracies and while inquisition ended in Europe centuries ago, our inquisition in Russia ended only ten years ago."*

*"Our country is following an irreversible trajectory towards capitalism?"*



*"Our position vis a vis USA is pragmatic and very flexible."*

*"We are willing to have US ExxonMobil acquire a large stake in the Russian oil company Yukos"*

*"Boris Yeltsin made decisive achievements in bringing freedom to Russia and my mission is to consolidate those gains. Even if some elements want to change the present path in Russia, it is impossible for this country to make a U-turn."*

***In other words, Mr. Put-in is a lackey of US Imperialism!***

## **RAPE OF FORESTS BY PUTIN'S RUSSIA**

*By Nick Paton Walsh in Moscow*

A plan by the Kremlin, which would allow Moscow to sell off the 843 million hectares of Russian forests to private logging companies, has raised fears of an ecological disaster. Forests make up 70% of Russia's territory and spans 12 time zones. Russia's forests, are known as Europe's lungs and are second only to the Amazon in the amount of carbon dioxide it absorbs, and is home to many rare species.

### **COMMENT:**

*On top of every crime Put-in has committed, as an un-elected stooge for US imperialism, for this crime he should be impeached and removed from office.*

From newspaper  
**"FOR BOLSHEVISM"**

Bryansk, Russia

## **SHOULD BOLSHEVIKS TAKE PART IN ELECTIONS TO THE RUSSIAN DUMA?**

Last September 2 Putin signed a decree for calling the upcoming elections to the Russian Duma that will cost any candidate trying to get a cushy seat in the Duma from \$70 thousand to \$300 million dollars.

It is estimated that there will participate 15-20 parties with their candidates for a seat in the Duma. Each candidate must gather 200,000 signatures in order to qualify to run or if he or she cannot get the 200 thousand signatures, he or she must give a deposit of \$1 million dollars.

The question is very logical and relevant - where do these candidates

get such money? The candidates of the bourgeois parties are getting subsidized by the business interests, hoping that if elected, these businessmen will benefit from the state orders and coffers.

To be a candidate in the CPRF block could cost you \$1.5 million. There are all sorts of shady deals being made between candidates, business interests, governors, mayors and their ilk. Even the present bourgeois media notes that the parties that are now in the DUMA, including the CPRF, have long stopped representing the interests of the masses.

This is shown by just one example - the unity of the bourgeois parties plus the CPRF (*Communist Party of the Russian Federation*) has been responsible for passing of many anti-peoples laws in the Duma, such as the new, very reactionary Labour Law that the trade unionists of Russia are struggling against.

The candidates that will fill the seats of the Russian Duma are those that will represent the capitalist class, including also behind the scenes the interests of the transnational corporations of the West and they will follow the dictates of President Putin and the oligarchs to the full.

There is no place for Communists in the present Duma! This is the organ of the bourgeois state, far removed from the interests of the working class or their interests. Duma elections are a game of the big business, **we as Bolsheviks have no place in there.**

The policy of the All Union Communist Party of Bolsheviks is to boycott the elections. But this boycott means that we must be much more active in this election than ever, in order to present the truth and the ideals of Bolshevism to the electorate and to spread our printed word into every district where all candidates are running!

### **CONSTITUTIONAL MEETING**

The Russian Friendship Society with Foreign Countries meets on October 28<sup>th</sup> in Moscow to finalize future plans for cooperation with International Council and NSC.

# A TEXAS WELCOME

Two UTA students make a wrong turn, and end up in jail in Arlington  
By Thomas Korosec

Pavel Lashko and Boris Andeev the "New Russians", both students at the University of Texas at Arlington, in America for only about a month when they received a rude cultural lesson that they will not soon forget. In these post Sept. 11<sup>th</sup> times, young foreign men are not allowed innocent mistakes.

Last September 6th the two students wandered on their bicycles into an employee parking lot of the Arlington police station, looking for someone to give them directions. Rather than giving them answers, police immediately locked them in handcuffs, held them for questioning by an agent of the Department of Homeland Security and charged them with criminal trespassing.

The parking lot was unguarded and it was behind the police station. They did not know that this was a police station and stopped to ask direction to the Indoor Climbing Gym. Nowhere is there a sign stating that this was the parking lot of a police station. There they spotted two police officers when they asked for directions. Instead, the officers ordered them to stop.

The students explained that they are lost and asked for directions. They were asked for their ID's and produced their UTA student certification cards. After being arrested, the students heard the police officer talk on his radio that "These are Pakistanis." The students yelled back: "No, no, no., we are Russian students".

"We take building security seriously in the wake of 9-11", said Sergeant Will Johnson and he also thought that the students were Middle Easterners.

It seems that the police officers were paranoid and since there are over 3,000 foreign students at the university, the feeling among the students is that they should not be harassed. Arlington police and US Border Patrol criminal investigators, after a long hassle identified these two students that were in the country legally. The local Kiwanis Club posted their bail and are hiring

a lawyer for their defense.

The two spent over six hours in jail before one of their roommates arranged for the bail to be paid. They were charged \$390 each to post their \$750 bails.

The two students said that their American friends were very upset and tried to help them and that if this happened in Russia, the Russians would not help them at all.

*Here is a comment from Irina Malenko from N. Ireland who sent us this piece. She wrote: "These "New Russians" showed again their slave mentality. Why aren't these students raging against the lack of "freedom and democracy" in America or about the violation of their human rights, as they would have raged back at home. These are the representatives of the present privileged class in Russia and they are bought, with their skin and their bones, as the saying goes!"*

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## **Statement: Russian Public Committee for the Defense of Slobodan Milosevic**

*From DeWaarheid*

The International Criminal Tribunal for former Yugoslavia at the Hague has made a decision to give Slobodan Milosevic only three months to prepare his defense. It is an outrageous and scandalous decision. It is a direct violation of the international law, which presumes the equality of sides in a court process.

As is widely known, the ICTY prosecutors have been collecting the evidence for more than four years. In that work, hundreds of the ICTY employees took part. And now it is decided that President Milosevic has to prepare his defense in only three months. He has to collect evidence and to communicate with his witnesses, while being in a prison cell. **That is complete absurdity.**

The particular cynicism of the ICTY behavior is seen in the fact that Milosevic still doesn't receive a qualified medical aid, despite the fact that his health condition raises the

most serious concern.

All of this is taking place parallel to complete isolation of President Milosevic from his political allies in Yugoslavia and from his family. As is known, the persecution of the members of Milosevic's family under false excuses has deprived his wife and son of the possibility to visit him at the Hague prison.

We strongly condemn the ongoing attempt of political slaughter of the Serbian leader and the persecution of his family members.

We demand the adjournment of this trial for two years, so that President Milosevic can prepare his defense in an appropriate way.

We insist on his release from detention for the recuperation of his health and for more effective preparation of his defense.

Alexander Zinoviev  
Chairman of the Committee

### COMMENT:

*An excellent letter of protest was signed by many Russian scientists, writers, professors and academic figures. The protest letter is weak, as it does not point the finger at this illegal US set-up and financed court or does it condemn the US-NATO invasion and genocide attacks and dismemberment of Yugoslavia. Also, where is the demand of the United Nations against this travesty of justice?*

## **UNITED NATIONS WARN, ONE-THIRD OF THE WORLD WILL LIVE IN SLUMS!**

*From Guardian News Service*

One in every three people in the world will live in slums within 30 years, unless governments controls urban growth.

The UN reports has found that 940 million people – almost one sixth of the world's population – already live in unbelievable squalor, unhealthy, disease-ridden slums, with no running-water, sanitation, public services or legal security.

Africa now has 20% of the world's slums while Latin America has 14%. But the worst conditions are in Asia, where more than 550 million people live in unacceptable conditions.

PROFESSOR  
VLADIMIR  
HERASYMCHUK



## OUR HERO- PAVKA KORCHAGIN

In September of 2004, the Soviet people will commemorate the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the birth of a great Soviet writer, Nikolai Ostrovsky. His novel *"How the Steel was Tempered"* has gained a worldwide recognition as a masterpiece. The main hero of this novel is Pavka Korchagin, has become a symbol of pure dedication to the cause of Communism. The life and his life's work had been aptly described by the first man in space, Yuri Gagarin: *"He will be always be the blazing lighthouse for our youth and for all of humanity!"*

*Monument to Nikolai Ostrovsky  
Near the Museum to him in the  
city of Shepetovka.*



Russian Society *"Bravery and Humanism"* together with the *"Union of Soviet writers of Russia"* has started an initiative to hold the Russian - Byelorussian - Ukrainian literary action, to celebrate this anniversary. The start of this action will be in Novorossisk, where Nikolai Ostrovsky was born as a writer, and where he wrote his first historic and heroic book. *"Pravda, 29/9/2003"*.

In order to more deeply learn about this man, we went to see the N. Ostrovsky Museum, in the city of Shepetovske in Khmelnytsky region of Ukraine. Here the writer spent his childhood, had instilled in him the first lessons of revolutionary activity. The Museum is very unique. UNESCO had declared this Museum as an architectural monument. But the present situation in the country makes the work of the people that are responsible for the museum very unstable. In spite of all this, the director and the staff of this Museum are doing everything possible to save this museum. They are finding themselves in an ideological battle and they try to present Ostrovsky as the dedicated fighter for Socialism.

But talking to the museum director and the staff, we find out that the present Ukrainian government's policy towards Ostrovsky is mired in ideological debate. The propaganda of the present Government is to debase the importance of Ostrovsky as a great writer, as a great revolutionary and a great promoter of Socialism - the present attack on him is a policy to debase the main meaning of Ostrovsky's work and just treat him as an ordinary run of the mill writer. We should tell the people, the present generation, as to where did Ostrovsky get this strength, this dedication, being a very sick man and almost blind. He had to dictate all of his words about the heroic times of the revolution of our dear Motherland, writing legendary history of the main hero of his novel, Pavka Korchagin! Ostrovsky, first of all was dedicated to the working class, to his people. He was above all, a dedicated **Bolshevik!** Why this attempt to discredit Ostrovsky?

First of all the question of an idol. Who accuses the Soviet people that they made Ostrovsky as a worshipped idol? Was it not those same people who now have sold out



*The Head of Ostrovsky Museum  
Valentina A. Skripnik.*

socialism and the Soviet Union? First of all, an idol is a religious cult, an icon for the blind believers, to pray to. This is foreign to the Bolsheviks!

But you cannot mix an idol with an ideal! Ideal is a picture of a future, the highest yearning of mankind, the ethico-psychological and a social orientation of a person. An Idol - this is falseness, a spiritual narcotic, a mirage. Ideal - this is the shining star on the road for the future of the working class, for centuries past. This was and will be the shining star of Ostrovsky and his hero Pavka Korchagin.

What about Ostrovsky as a person and as a writer? I feel that he is a follower of the revolutionary Spartak. He is a follower of the Paris Revolution and the Great October Socialist Revolution - but not in the service of the Yellow Devil.

Ostrovsky was a real man! He was a Soviet writer, a builder of Socialism. He was a hero, a fighter, teacher, a trumpeter. A man with a **capital M!**

The attempts by these pseudo-democrats to erase the Bolshevik contents from all the works of Ostrovsky, is understandable by these present anti-Soviets, anti-Socialists and anti-Ostrovsky scum! The ideals and struggles and dedication of the novel's hero Pavka Korchagin flies in their faces, since Korchagin even now is a shining star towards the future Communist society. Mankind keeps going onwards and forwards, against all odds and attempts to derail it.

*"Time is working for the future of mankind, for the patriots of the Motherland. Truth shall be victorious and the heroes of the 21<sup>st</sup> century will not be just anything else, but new PAVEL KORCHAGINS!"* A.Tverskoy-*"Communist"* 27/08/2003

# 10<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY OF YELTSIN'S BUTCHERY AGAINST SUPREME SOVIET DEFENDERS

— From CPSU and the AUCPB



**BUTCHER  
BORIS  
YELTSIN**

This is the 10<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Yeltsin's perpetrated attack with tanks and cannon against the defenders of the Supreme Soviet in Moscow. This is a tragic and one of the most bloody events in the history of Russia, and during these hours, this was a civil war.

If during this bloody event the Russian people did not know as to who was to blame: now those events have cleared the air — 14% of the people blame the defenders of the Supreme Soviet, but over 60% blame this tragedy on Yeltsin and Gorbachev.

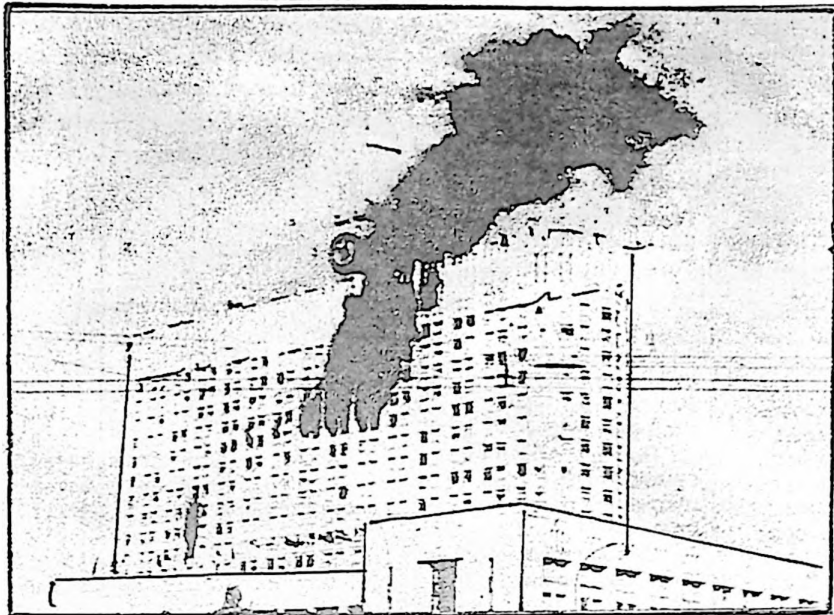
The defenders of the Supreme Soviet Building were not defending the Soviet State, since in 1993 there was actually no Soviet State. The reality is that the defense of the

Supreme Soviet was at that time very cleverly hidden from most of the Soviet people, who in reality were dedicating themselves to save the Supreme Soviet and thus try to reverse the dismemberment of the USSR. In actual fact, it is now known that some of the leaders of the defense of the Supreme Soviet were not really trying to resurrect socialism or the Soviet State.

As in all cases where there are two opposing sides, in the Supreme Soviet building, some of the defenders were dedicated comrades, while some were opportunists and demanded loudly "Defend the Soviet State", but during the night of October 4<sup>th</sup> somehow these elements somehow disappeared from the

Supreme Soviet building. (It is a fact that in the morning of October 4 and all that day, I personally, as one of the defenders of the Supreme Soviet did NOT see any leaders of the communist parties in the Supreme Soviet building, even though I remained there to the very end.) Gennady Zyuganov in the meantime appealed to the defenders of the





**On October 3,  
1993  
-the attack by  
cannons  
and tanks  
against the  
Supreme Soviet  
defenders  
in Moscow,  
ordered  
by Yeltsin!**

Supreme Soviet to "be calm and stop the activity to defend the Supreme Soviet" which was being attacked by Yeltsin's forces. The main weakness of this heroic defense was that there was no appeal to the Russian masses to rise up in the defense of the Soviet State, because on both sides there were only a few thousands of people. Majority of the

people were in the dark as to what was happening since there was no appeal to the Soviet people to rise up and take to the streets by the leadership of the defense of the Supreme Soviet.

Even the judicial authority of Russia supported the defense of the Supreme Soviet and demanded that President Yeltsin be deposed. This

means that the defenders of the Supreme Soviet were defending the legal Soviet state, its laws, its development and its constitutional stability. Those who even now do not understand this, should understand this now.

The defenders of the Supreme Soviet have written with their blood a glorious and tragic page in the history of Russia. The leadership of the Communist Party of the Soviet Union bows its head before the hundreds of patriots who gave their lives, amongst them also members of our party, dying in an uneven struggle against unlawful and reactionary elements of the Yeltsin regime. Long may they be remembered, and may there never again be such a tragedy.

The lack of dedicated Communist leadership of the defenders of the Supreme Soviet, such as Rutsikoi, Khasbulatov, Achalov and others, gave Yeltsin the signal that it will be a cinch to bombard the Supreme Soviet building and also this cardinal fact, these leaders, former members of the CC CPSU, refused to arm the defenders with arms, as they were available and the people of Moscow, plus thousands who came from all

*Left: Yeltsin's goons beating up the defenders of the Supreme Soviet. Right: People pleading with army to join them.*



over the USSR, were just waiting for the signal to rise up to overthrow Yeltsin, Gorbachev and their conspirators and usurpers of power.

Unarmed thousands of defenders of the Supreme Soviet building, against tanks and cannons – this was a massacre.

To this day, ten years after the events, the death toll is still unknown,

since the present regime is hiding and has obliterated all clues of this massacre. This massacre brings to mind the Chile massacre by General Pinochet in 1973.

Such genocide cannot be and will not be forgiven. No matter how long it takes, those responsible will be brought to justice. ■

*Russian people rally at the former Supreme Soviet building where 10 years ago the Soviet defenders were butchered by Yeltsin's provocative actions – with thousands of Soviet defenders killed.*



JERRY MORSE



## AS I SEE IT!

Many things are going on in the Military, Industrial, and Financial Complex, that one has to take a course in an insane asylum on how to understand people crazier than those within its confines. Let us start in Colorado Springs, Colorado, USA.

The US media reported that NATO's defense ministers and military chiefs arrived, ahead of an unusual secret exercise to study how NATO's proposed rapid reaction force might be deployed in a crisis.

One must understand that when Rumsfeld, along with US General Myers, plus Putin's crony, Sergei B. Ivanov, a contingent from the Pentagon, that were sober enough to find Colorado Springs from the State Department. Then there was from Britain Lord Robertson, (after he finished his tea of course), the special tattooed members of the US National Security Council, plus the Austrian chefs, and other important White House members and reps from 19 other countries of NATO.

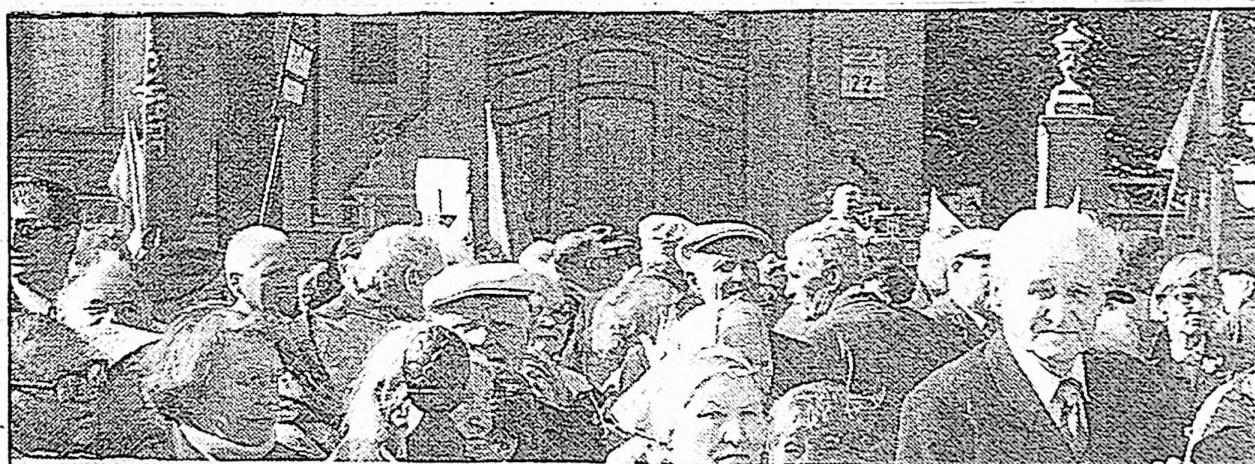
A special prayer meeting was held in all of the churches, mosques and synagogues, calling for non-pollution of Colorado Springs by these NATO representatives.

We must add, the night watchman at the Pentagon said not to call this gathering anything describing it as a "Rapid Reaction Force Exercise" or a "War Game Event", by this Association of twisted minds, but to call it a "Study Seminar".

The patriotic citizens of Colorado Springs have gone house-to-house to collect bits of cloth that will be used to make quilts when all of these warmongers eventually sit around tables in their jail cells after their sentencing by the World Criminal Court wondering what to do with their hands! ■

The revolutionary movement in Russia is growing, with young people taking the leading role and being supported by older generation and trade unions, for the resurrection of Socialism and of the Soviet Union.

On this 86<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Great October Revolution, we wish the Soviet People success against the Putin regime!



Above:  
Union of Communist Youth  
Below:  
Protestors against the rising costs and robbery by the Oligarchs!

Не допустим нового грабежа  
руки олигархов! руки про

Photographs from  
"Pravda" 19/09/2003

# ARNOLD UNPLUGGED

**IT'S HASTA LA VISTA TO \$9 BILLION IF THE GOVERNATOR IS SELECTED**

By GREG PALAST, October 3, 2003



It's not what Mr. Arnold Schwarzenegger did to the girls a decade back that should raise an eyebrow. According to a series of memoranda our office obtained today, it's his dalliance with the boys in a hotel room, just two years ago that's a real scandal.

The Hollywood actor and wannable governor for California, has yet to deny that on May 17, 2002, at the Peninsula Hotel in Los Angeles, he had consensual political intercourse with ENRON chieftain Kenneth Lay. Also frolicking with Arnold and Ken was the convicted stock swindler Mike Milken.

Now, the 34 pages of internal ENRON memoranda has just come through this reporter's fax machine tell all about the tryst between Maria's husband and the US corporate con men. It turns out that Schwarzenegger knowingly joined the hush-hush encounter as part of a campaign to sabotage a Davis-Bustamante plan to make ENRON and other power pirates from ravaging California pay back the \$9 billion in illicit profits they carried off.

Here's the story that Arnold doesn't want you to hear. The biggest single threat to Ken Lay and the electricity lords is a private law suit filed last year under California's unique Civil Code provision 17200, the "Unfair Business Practices Act." This litigation, heading to trial now in Los Angeles, would make the power companies return the \$9 billion they filched from California electricity and gas customers.

It takes real cronies to bring such a suit. Who's the plaintiff taking on the bad guys? Cruz Bustamante, Lieutenant Governor of California and the reluctant leading candidate against Schwarzenegger.

Now, follow the action. One month after Cruz brings suit, ENRON'S Lay calls an emergency secret meeting in

This expose was written before the election in California. Although Schwarzenegger was elected Governor of California, this background information is scary to see how US "democracy" works!

L.A. of his political buck-buddies, including Arnold. Their plan is to undercut Davis (*according to ENRON memos*) and "solve" the energy crisis – that is, make the Bustamante legal threat go away.

How can that be done? Follow the trail with me.

While Bustamante's kicking ENRON in court, the Davis Administration is simultaneously demanding that the George Bush's energy regulators order the \$9 billion refund. Don't hold your breath: Bush's Federal Energy Regulatory Commission is headed by a guy, that was proposed by Ken Lay.

But the Bush's boys on the commission have a problem. The evidence against the electricity barons is rock solid: fraudulent reporting of sales transactions, megawatt "laundering", fake power delivery scheduling and straight out conspiracy (*including meetings in hotel rooms.*)

So the Bush commissioners cook up a terrific scheme: charge the companies with conspiracy but offer them, behind close doors, deals in which they have to pay only two cents on each dollar they filched.

Problem: the slap-on-the-wrist refunds won't sale if the Governor of California won't play along. Solution: Re-call the Governor.

New Problem: the guy most likely to replace Davis is not Mr. Musclehead, but Cruz Bustamante, even a bigger threat to power companies than Davis. Solution:

smear Cruz because – heaven forbid! he took donations from Injuns (*instead of Ken Lay.*)

The pay-off? Once Arnold is Governor, he blesses the sweetheart settlements with the power companies. When that happens, Bustamante's court case is probably lost. There aren't many judges who will let a case go to trial to protect a state if that a governor has already allowed the matter to be "settled" by a regulatory agency.

So, think about this. The State of California is in a hole by \$8 billion for the coming year. That's chump change next to the \$8 Trillion in deficits and surplus losses planned and incurred by George Bush. Nevertheless.. the \$8 billion deficit is the hanging rope California's right wing is using to lynch Governor Davis.

Yet, only Davis and Bustamante are taking direct action against this in order to get back the \$9 billion that was vacuumed out of the state by ENRON, RELIANT, DYNEGY, WILLIAMS CO. and the other Texas bandits who squeezed the state by the bulbs.

But if Arnold is selected, it's "hasta la vista" to the \$9 billion. When the electricity emperors whistle, Arnold comes – to the Peninsula Hotel or the Governor's Mansion. The he-man turns pussycat and curls up in their lap.

I asked Mr. Muscle's PR people to comment on the new ENRON memos – and his strange silence on Bustamante's law suit or the Davis' petition. But Arnold was too busy shaving off his Hitlerian mustache to respond! ■

**QUESTION-ANSWER**

Q: What's the difference between a fishing line and a propaganda line?

A: None – both designed to hook suckers. ■



## VENEZUELAN INTELLIGENCE SOURCES WARN OF USA-CIA BACKED COUP ATTEMPT

By MICHAEL OPPERSKALSKI

Venezuelan sources said that a very much heightened state of security alert is being maintained following multiple indications last month that a USA-CIA initiative is to be launched against the government of Hugo Chavez, but the Venezuelan Armed Forces (FAN) believe that they will nevertheless, be able to contain an eventual threat to Venezuela's constitutional rule.

The USA-backed military-civilian infiltrators are already to be on the ground in Venezuelan territory, but they have not yet reached key positions.

Advance knowledge of their movements by Venezuela's Directorate of Military Intelligence (DIM) has been a major factor in the discovery and counter-operations, and, is now believed to have been

set in progress.

Readers will know that there was an attempt in April, 2002 which saw President Hugo Chavez taken prisoner and the installation of USA puppet dictator Pedro Estanga for just two days, during which he immediately dissolved Venezuelan Constitution, Parliament and the Judiciary in one fell swoop. ■

## U.S. TROOPS SUICIDE IN IRAQ HITS RECORD

By MARK ELLIS – THE MIRROR

U.S. soldiers are committing suicide in record numbers as their deployment in Iraq takes its toll, it was revealed last month. Eleven soldiers and three Marines have killed themselves in the last seven months—double the average for the military.

Besides all this, due to the hate of them by the Iraqi people, the US

Army has sent home 478 soldiers for mental health problems. The Pentagon has now sent a Mental Health Team of doctors to Iraq.

The health officials said that harsh and dangerous living conditions and long deployment are worsening the depressions.

*Yes, President Bush promised the US soldiers that flowers will be showered upon them...but it's not flowers they are receiving, only bullets, grenades, rockets and hatred above all.* ■

## SAUCE FOR THE GOOSE; SASS FOR THE GANDER:

The Israeli government jumps over Palestinian leaders for not doing enough to restrain their soldiers. And when Israeli soldiers go on yet another killing spree, what are we supposed to believe about Israeli leadership—just poor victims of mad-dog soldiers on a rampage?

Tit for tat;  
YOUR cat is black. ■

# CONSTANT BLACKOUTS

## *Are the neocons in the Pentagon targeting electric grids in the world?*

BY WAYNE MADSEN – Online Journal

In July of 2002 George W. Bush signed the National Security Presidential Directive 16 (PD-16), secret plans for the United States to wage cyber-warfare against other countries. Under the directive, the Pentagon – which is under the control of the neo-conservative zealots who make Dr. Strangelove seem relatively sane – is authorized to use electronic weaponry to bring down the electrical grids of enemy nations.

Since Bush's directive was signed, the world has witnessed more unexplained massive blackouts in the history of modern age electricity. Considering that the Pentagon, through manipulative schemers like Donald Rumsfeld, Paul Wolfowitz and retired Admiral

John Poindexter, have championed such ideas as stock market betting parlor for future terrorist attacks and also a US Internet-based personal information surveillance program (*both fortunately to be killed by the US Congress?*), it is not far-fetched to consider the possibility that the recent state of blackouts around the world are the result of another harebrained operation cooked up by the Pentagon neocons to demonstrate America's superiority in cyber-warfare.

After all, the Pentagon has a very bad track record when it comes to using civilian populations as guinea pigs for its experiments. Witness the awful effects of nuclear bomb testing on the peoples of the western United States and the Marshall Islands, depleted-uranium hardened shell on

innocent civilians in war zones, and Agent Orange on American troops and civilians in Southeast Asia.

Since this PD-16 directive was signed, blackouts affecting hundreds of millions of people are occurring on an unprecedented scale.

On September 23, 2002, a massive power failure disrupted central Chile, including the capital city of Santiago. Some 3,500 passengers had to be rescued from the stalled Metro subway trains in Santiago. The official reason was said to be "faulty programming" and a "technical failure" at a power station. On April 29, 2003, a power failure hit the airport in Melbourne, Australia, disrupting operations for 90 minutes.

Buenos Aires and La Plata, Argentina, were hit by a huge power failure on November 24, 2002. On January 31, 2003 saw an unusual power failure hit Cambridge, Ontario, Canada. Buenos Aires was hit again by another sudden blackout on August 7, 2003. Power company officials blamed that outage on the collapse of three power lines, but Argentine President Nestor Kirchner said that he believed private power companies were engaged in a conspiracy to pressure the government to increase the utility rates.

The first major blackout in 2003 occurred in the northeastern United States and Canada on August 14. New York City, Detroit, Toronto, Ottawa, Cleveland and smaller cities and towns in between lost power for hours at the height of the evening rush hour. Some 50 million people were affected. Canadian and US officials pointed the finger at one another for causing the blackout, but the blame soon shifted to a power generation plant owned by the Ohio's First Energy Corporation. President (sic) Bush, who was conveniently fund-raising in California at that time, called the blackout a "wake-up-call".

A few days later, the former USSR Republic of Georgia was plunged into darkness. On August 18, 4.5 million people in Georgia lost electricity; the Tbilisi metro ground to a halt and water supply was cut off. The Georgian energy minister blamed "sabotage" for the outage but he wasn't more specific.

During the evening of August 23, 2003, Finland's capital Helsinki and suburbs, including the international airport at Vantaa, were blacked out. Helsinki Energy was at a loss in explaining how a major short-circuit in a Helsinki switching station resulted in such a widespread failure affecting over a half-million people, especially in a country known for its first-rate electrical grid. Saturdays' evening revelers at the Helsinki Linnanmaki amusement park had to be rescued when the blackout left them dangling on rides in midair. Even Radio Suomi, which relies on emergency generators, went off the air when both of its generators and back up battery power failed. After conducting an investigation, Helsinki Energy announced that no problems

were found with the equipment.

On August 28, 2003, at the height of London's evening rush hour, a massive power outage struck the city and southeast England. The blackout was blamed on a "fault" in the national electrical grid. Eighteen-thousand trains stopped, including 60 per cent of the London Underground, an event that Britain's Network Rail called "unprecedented."

Monday morning September 1, 2003 started out as a normal business day in Malaysia's bustling capital of Kuala Lumpur. However at 10 o'clock, the city and five other Malaysian states were struck by a massive blackout. Workers in the very high Petronas Towers, the world's tallest buildings, were trapped in elevators and with signal lights out, traffic in downtown Kuala Lumpur ground to a virtual halt. What made the event all the more perplexing is that blackouts are very, very rare in the country.

The next day, September 2, 2003, Cancun, Mexico, which was swarming with tourists and advance teams for the following week's World Trade Organization meeting, also found itself plunged into a blackout. The power failure struck Quintana Roo state on the Yucatan peninsula and two neighboring states. Power was out for six hours and affected 3 million people.

Shortly after the lunch hour on September 23, 2003, in eastern Denmark and southern Sweden, including the cities of Copenhagen and Malmo, lost power in what was described as a "very unusual" blackout. Four million people were affected, including thousands of passengers stranded aboard trains and at Copenhagen's busy international airport. Factories on the island of Zealand and in southern Sweden stopped production and the Oresund Bridge linking Denmark and Sweden was closed to traffic.

On early Sunday morning, September 28, 2003, another massive blackout struck Italy, leaving 57 million people without electricity. A simultaneous blackout plunged Geneva, Switzerland into darkness. A finger pointing game started among Italy, France and Switzerland for the case of the failure. The blackout cut off electricity to the Vatican City and Pope John Paul II

had to rely on emergency generators to power amplifiers in order to deliver his Sunday sermon. Thirty-thousand passengers were stranded on trains throughout the country. The blackout was later blamed on a tree hitting a high voltage transmission line in Switzerland.

It's clearly time for the US Congress to demand to see the PD-16 and what tasking for the Pentagon cyber-war planners may have arisen from it. A special focus should be on the Defense Advanced Research Projects Agency (DARPA), the outfit that helped concoct Pointexter's cockamamie Policy Analyses Market and Total Information Awareness schemes. US congressional investigators should toss aside any of the concerns about security, intelligence methods and sources, and similar Taurean excrement and demand a full access to the cyber-warfare plans of the DARPA and the Pentagon's equally culpable Office of Net Assessment and Directorate of Policy and Plans.

There is reason why massive power failures are striking cities around the world and that PD-16 Bush' directive may be a part of that reason. It is also noteworthy that the US Energy firm, AES Corporation of Arlington, Virginia, has a great financial stake in power companies involved in blackouts in Chile and Georgia. AES's Board of Directors is jam packed with individuals with links to past Pentagon high-jinks. It included Richard Darman of the Carlyle Group who as Office of Management and Budget Director under the first Bush presidency and Philip Odeen, former Pentagon 21<sup>st</sup> century information task force chairman and a former president of the top Pentagon contractor, BDM, AES too, should be investigated.

These US neocon wackos running the Pentagon may know those reasons and it's beyond time for our elected members of the US Congress to start cracking heads together, in order to get at the truth of who and what lies behind these multiple unprecedented blackouts on 2003.

Wayne Madsen is a Washington, DC-based journalist and the co-author of the "America's Nightmare: The Presidency of George Bush". ■

# UN WAS USED BY BUSH AS A PROP FOR US PROPAGANDA

By WILLIAM RIVERS PITT

The appearance of George W. Bush at the United Nations Assembly last September was strictly used to parlay to the American people the propaganda from the White House.

There is not enough grammar in the entirety of the English language to describe the incredible international humiliation that has befallen the United States of America. That this humiliation was brought down upon the American people by the man supposedly in charge of the country is, in all honesty, no big surprise for those who have been watching this all unfold. The layers of crushing embarrassments have been building up like river sediment for months upon months upon months. On Tuesday, September 23, 2003, however, George W, Bush managed to completely obliterate the hard-won standing the United States has earned within the global community.

Never mind that the Iraqi seat at the UN was filled by none other than the crawling king-snake, Ahmad Chalabi. Mr. Chalabi has been cheerleading for war against Iraq for many years, and became a boon companion of Donald Rumsfeld and the other neocon hawks who cobbled the war together with a tapestry of lies and fear mongering. He was, in fact, Rumsfeld's handpicked leader-in-waiting of Iraq as early as 1997. Chalabi, it must be pointed out, was convicted of **32 counts of bank fraud and sentenced to 22 years imprisonment by the Jordanian court in 1992**, and yet this handpicked sock puppet was George W. Bush's chosen exemplar of the free democratic Iraq. If you want to know one big reason why the mainstream media reported so long and so erroneously about Iraq's weapons of mass destruction, look to Chalabi, who was the main source for the New York Times reporter Judy Millet's horribly inaccurate reporting on the matter. Where the New York Times newspaper goes, the other newspapers will follow. Thank you Ahmad. I hope that the



**Napoleon Bush**

chair is comfortable for you. You are no more deserving of its accommodation than the people who occupied it before you.

Never mind that the entire United Nations may as well not have shown up in the first place. The pitch and tenor of Bush's speech was not aimed at the sitting members of the United Nations. It was directed at the mainstream of the American media, whose reporting on these matters has been as about as sharp as a sack of wet mice. Yet even to that tone-deaf receiver, Bush failed to complete the pass. He meandered off into a free-association rant about sex slaves, somehow forgetting that his own citizens were waiting to hear how America is going to get out of the mess that he so brazenly threw it into.

Never mind about the propaganda that Iraq had 26,000 liters of anthrax, 38,000 liters of botulinum toxin, the 300 tons of sarin and mustard gas and VX gas, the 30,000 munitions capable of deploying the red death, the mobile biological labs, the infamous "yellow cake" uranium from

Niger - all these have fantastically failed to materialize. All this is sitting on the White House Web Page even now. **None of this existed in Iraq!**

The world now sees this, and it has seen it for some time. That is why the United Nations was used in September as a prop for president's news-bite on all the US media networks. It is a shame and a scandal and also a disaster beyond description that this great nation has fallen so low.

A moment will come on January 20, 2005. It will be cold in Washington D.C. A man who is not George W. Bush will raise his hand in the president's swear-in ceremony and swear an oath to preserve, protect and defend the United States of America. The words "*So help me God*" will be snatched by the wind and carried across the seas and mountains to the furthest corners of the planet. When that happens, all of the Earth will be joined together in the deepest and most profound exhalation and relief. When that happens, George W. Bush will have become in his defeated absence what he completely failed to be with his presence. **A uniter!** ■

## STATEMENT BY THE CC SOCIALIST UNITY CENTRE OF INDIA

We strongly condemn the Israeli air strike within the Syrian territory last October 5, 2003, Sri Nihar Mukherjee, General Secretary of the SUCI said in the statement. This air raid carried out by the Zionist government of Israel is with full backing of the US imperialists in flagrant violation of all international laws and the UN charter, and is an act of blatant military aggression against a sovereign nation.

He pointed out the fact that this brazen attack brought against Syria is with the sole intention to destroy the freedom movement of the people of Palestine.

Urging upon the freedom-loving people of the world to come out strongly against this naked aggression, Sri Mukherjee expressed the firm view that failure to combat these criminal acts would surely embolden the US imperialists to hold the people of the world at ransom and instigate one nation against another. ■

IRINA  
MALENKOV



## FREEDOM FOR WALES

From a speech by a Welsh  
nationalist

We in **PLAID CYMRU** know full well what Socialism meant to the workers of Wales. It was the movement which gave hope to generations of coal miners and quarrymen, to steelworkers and dockyard workers, it gave them strength to fight the excesses of greedy masters, and during the hard times, it gave the working class a feeling of togetherness in the face of exploitation. We understood the depth of feeling, which gave rise to the support for the old Labour Party.

But that party is no more. The party, which the Welsh workers gave their allegiance to all those many years is dead. It has turned into a party that has sold out its soul to big business, and has ditched all the old socialist values in favour of creeping privatization and a naïve faith in the free market forces.

Under Tony Blair, the party which once saw so many of its members going to Spain to fight with the Spanish people against Franco fascism, now sends its young people to their deaths, fighting an unnecessary, illegal war, without United Nations support, a war based on a lie.

We hear a lot as to what else could be done with the money spent on certain projects; the Tories especially love to talk about the hospitals we could build with the money. But do they say that about the cost of the war? What about the money that the Chancellor has set aside to fund the war in Iraq? Of course this is very good for the arms trade, and very good news for the companies given contracts to make good the destruction, and very good

news for those who wanted to secure the oil supplies to America. Make no mistake about it; there is a capitalist and commercial imperative for the war which certainly overrides all other considerations. And no amount of bogus talk of justice, freedom from Tony Blair will ever hide the gruesome, tragic and the highly dangerous reality.

Many moths before the war in Iraq, I withheld a part of my income tax as a protest against our enforced contributions to pay for weapons of mass destruction. The debt has by now accumulated heavy interest and the British Inland Revenue is now threatening legal action. I will now pay, making my check out for "peaceful purposes", as I, and many others have campaigned for many years for the right not to pay for weapons of war, and to direct our taxes to peaceful ends. I mention this because I believe that in a democratic society, we must sometimes exercise the right on fundamental issues of this nature to use other methods of putting our case across.

Our job is to make sure that Wales gets its self-government. Remember how they used to chide us? "*If you get home rule for Wales, you'll be the same as Ireland, with children barefoot in the streets of the capital.*" Funny how they don't say that now!

Labour, hear this: We want self-government for Wales because we want to be like Ireland. We also could teach Ireland a few lessons – in language matters for instance. We want our self-government, self-determination, autonomy, home-rule, freedom, independence, full national status – call it what you will. We know what it means. We know what we want.

**Plaid Cymru** wants to see Wales to emerge from England's shadow and take its place among the nations of the world. We are ready to take our place in the sun. Move over Rhodri Morgan, you are standing in our light! ■

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[WWW.NORTHSTARCOMPASS.ORG](http://WWW.NORTHSTARCOMPASS.ORG)  
Thousands viewers do!

# THE AMERO

BY VIC RATSMA

Although it's been around for about a year now, this month was the first time that I saw a copy of **The New Canadian Magazine**. This glossy publication contained an appealing variety of articles on Canadian culture, business and politics, including a quite informative piece on privacy rights and human rights violations by the Canadian Security Intelligence Agency (CSIS), which is trampling on the rights of a number of Canadians in the Muslim and Arab communities, and (among others.)

What really caught my attention though was an article under the title "*Appraising the Amero*", written by Amy Luft, a writer/researcher and member of the Editorial Advisory Board of the magazine. I must admit, I have never heard of the "**Amero**" before, but the pictures of a number of currency bills next to the article and the introductory lines to it soon made me realize that this was a right wing article advocating and praising monetary union between Canada, the USA and Mexico. The Amero apparently is to replace the Canadian dollar, the American dollar and the Mexican peso by the year 2015. Referring to the studies done by the CD Howe Institute and the Fraser Institute, two right wing Canadian think-tanks, Luft sees many benefits in such a union for Canada and Canadians and states that Canada "*should clearly jump on board*". She brushes aside any opponents, including those who raise the question of Canada's sovereignty and independence from the United States. Luft bluntly states: "*In reality,*

**NSC NEEDS**  
**\$2000.**  
**PER MONTH TO KEEP**  
**ON PUBLISHING!**

Canada has already given up sovereignty in favor of multiple economic blocs as the WTO NAFTA and the UN." In other words don't bother to protest or fight this development because the horse has already left the barn anyway.

Canadians (an I also suspect Mexicans too) ought to be seriously disturbed by such plans. While it is true that the WTO and NAFTA place (at times unacceptable) restrictions on Canada's independence that prevent the government from acting in the best interests of Canadians, the adoption of Amero would further suck Canada into the US orbit and force Canadians into accepting and duplicating US social, economic and environmental policies. While at this time Canada can still maintain at least some distance from the US in these policies and in foreign affairs, after the adoption of a unified currency, this would soon become impossible to maintain. Of course this is just what Luft and the CD Howe and Fraser Institutes are looking for. To them all of these differences in policies are undesirable, unnecessary and costly and should be done away with. Luft argues that Americans have a higher standard of living than Canadians, but this argument is based solely on monetary values and is not what Canadians value most: the collectivity of their social programs such as public medicare, hospital insurance, pension plans and others. Besides, in successive United Nations evaluations, Canada has rated well above the USA as "a good place to live", so why would it be such a good idea to reduce ourselves to US standards?

Despite the fact that Canada and USA are capitalist countries, that we share a 7,000 kilometer long border, that we are one another's largest trading partners and have many other things in common. Canadians are different from Americans. Canadians have a different value system. We are less individualistic, less aggressive, less openly patriotic, we don't rally to the flag on every occasion and we are less militaristic. Canadians are more collectivist, more tolerant of differences, respectful of their as well as other traditions and customs and we don't believe that everyone in the world

wants to live in Canada and wants to be Canadian, as our American neighbours seem to believe about the United States. Canadians have no desire to become part of the world's only super power, only to be trampled underfoot and dragged into American adventurism abroad. Adoption of the Amero as a common currency threatens all of these values and lowers Canada to the standards of the USA.

Fortunately however, the horse is not quite out of the barn yet and there is still time to save Canada's sovereignty and what's left of our independence. But it'll take a determined and an alert Canadian public to do it. ■

## **White House is Ambushed by Criticism from America's Military Community**

*By Andrew Gumbel  
Independent - UK*

George Bush probably owes his presidency from the absentee military voters who nudged his tally in Florida decisively past Al Gore's with the help of the appointed judiciary. But now, with Iraq in chaos and the reasons for going to war there are mired in controversy, an increasingly disgruntled military poses perhaps the greatest immediate threat to his political future, just one year before the presidential elections.

From Vietnam veterans to fresh young recruits, from seasoned officers to anxious mothers worried about their sons' safety on the streets of Baghdad and Fallujah, the military community is becoming ever more vocal in its opposition to the White House.

"I once believed that I served a cause: To uphold and defend the Constitution of the United States. Now I no longer believe that." Tim Predmore, a member of the 101<sup>st</sup> Airborne Division serving near Mosul wrote in a blistering opinion piece last month for his home newspaper, the Preroria Journal Star in Illinois. "I can no longer justify my service for what I believe to be half-truths and bold lies."

The US army dissenters – many of whom have risked deep disapproval

from the military establishment to voice their opinions – have set up websites with names such as "**Bring Them Home Now**". They have cried foul at administration plans to cut veteran's benefits and scale back combat pay for troops still in Iraq. They were furious at President Bush for reacting to military deaths in Iraq with the phrase "**Bring 'em on!**"

And they have given politically embarrassing prominence to such issues as the inefficiency of civilian contractors hired to provide shelter, water and food in Iraq – most of them are financial contributors to Bush's election campaign coffers – and a mystery of respiratory illnesses that many soldiers, despite official denials, believe is related to the use of depleted uranium munitions in Iraq.

"It is time to speak out because our troops are still dying and our government is still lying", said Candace Robison, a 27-year old mother of two from Krum, Texas, and a politically active serviceman's wife, told a recent protest outside President Bush's Texas ranch. "Morale is at an all time low and our heroes feel like they've been forgotten."

How deep the anti-Bush sentiment runs is not yet clear, but there is no doubt about its breath, Charlie Richardson co-founder of a group called "**Military Families Speak Out**", said: "Our supporters range from pacifists to people from long military traditions who have supported every war this country has ever fought – until this one."

"We have all faced death in Iraq without reason or justification. How many more must die? How many more tears must be shed before Americans awake and demand the return of their men and women whose job is to protect them rather than the leader's interest?"

One big rallying point for the criticism of the Pentagon, is the budget plan, which proposes cutting \$1.8 billions from veteran's health benefits.

Another rallying point is the refusal of the Pentagon and the hiding of the truth about the use of depleted uranium ammunition that causes the serious outbreaks of respiratory illness among the troops. ■

## US INCREASES CASPIAN SEA MILITARY BUILD-UP AGAINST RUSSIA AND IRAN

By MICHAEL OPPERSKALSKI

**BAKU, SEPT. 20** The US Coast Guard handed over one of its large patrol boats to Azerbaijan as part of a programme of naval assistance, which has raised the hackles of neighbouring Iran and Russia.

US Coast Guard Vice Admiral Thomas V. Barrett attended the ceremonial handover of the vessel in the capital of Baku, becoming the most senior US naval officer to visit this former Soviet republic.

*"This programme between the US and Azerbaijan is but one component of a broader cooperation to secure peace and stability against terrorism",* said US Ambassador to Azerbaijan Reno Harnish. This is the fifth large vessel to be given to Azerbaijan by the US. ■

## IRAQ

### STATEMENT BY THE WORKER COMMUNIST PARTY OF IRAQ

(Condensed version)

After the collapse of the Ba-ath regime in Iraq, and the invasion by the US/UK invaders, USA faces a huge political vacuum as the pro-USA bourgeoisie is divided and does not have the alternative and program for the people of Iraq. The ethnocentric and Islamic movements and other reactionary groups are unable to represent the entire Iraqi bourgeoisie. The installing of the "interim government" by the US invaders will not solve this crisis, but will complicate the already explosive situation and deepen the dark scenario and will also cause a civil war, instead of a united struggle against US/UK occupation.

The USA has triumphed militarily in this war, however, politically it has not achieved a significant victory so far and it faces even more serious hurdles of the peoples fight-back. This war and invasion mobilized Arab nationalism against the US and prepared the ground for the defeated Ba-ath nationalist forces to

reorganize themselves in a different form and put obstacles before the invaders. The masses in Iraq see the US as an occupier, and this breeds political Islam and Arab nationalism.

The forces of political Islam, including those that are rallying behind the USA and those that are supported by the reactionary Islamic Republic of Iran and the Saudi regime, in the name of "cleansing the Muslim's land of occupiers" and standing against the "Zionist conspiracy" and exploiting the widespread poverty and despair, will capitalize on the legitimate struggle of the Iraqi people against the USA and its military existence. Their plan is to impose an Islamic government on the Iraqi people.

As a way out of the current situation-changing the dark scenario and stopping its lethal consequences and bringing about a happy future for the Iraq people, the Worker Communist Party of Iraq announces the following solution and policies:

\*On the bases of the human identity of people, and by insuring equal rights for all inhabitants of Iraq and the right of the Iraqi people to choose their own regime, the WCPI struggles against the US alternative plans, strategies and policies and against it New World Order in Iraq. In order to defeat this alternative, it strives to represent and lead this anti-US struggle of the Iraqi people as part of the struggle of all progressive and freedom loving

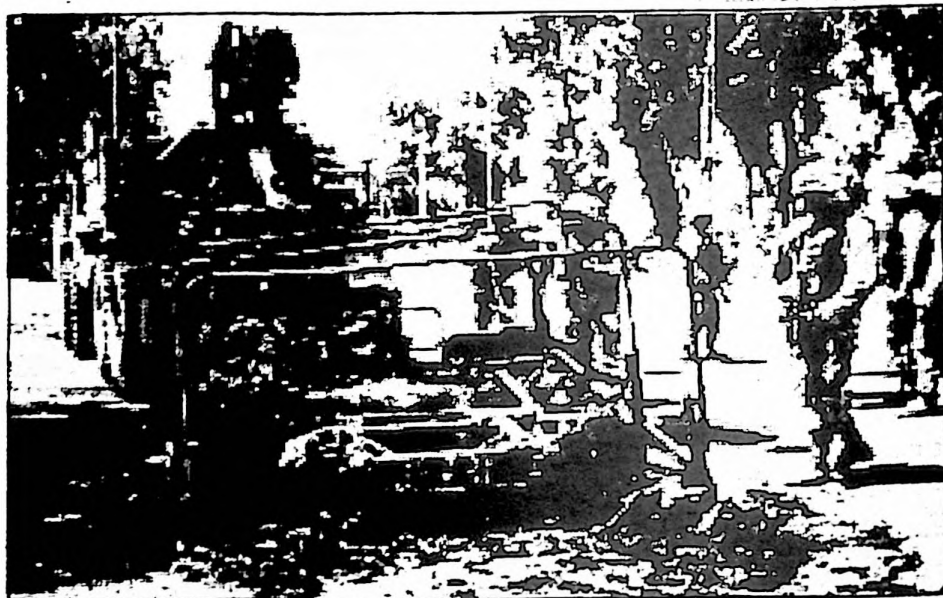
people worldwide.

\*From the WCPI viewpoint, the alternative, which provides a future with freedom, equality and prosperity are ensured for the people of Iraq, is **Socialism and a Socialist Republic only**. In the meanwhile, in order to change the dark scenario brought about by the USA war and its intervention and by the activities of ethnocentric and sectarian forces, the WCPI strives to bring to the fore a communist, progressive and humanist role in the society, by organizing its forces and developing its political and social force, towards creating the future sought by the people of Iraq. In this regard, the WCPI declares that the solution for the current situation is the following:

(1) Immediate withdrawal of the US and British forces and handing over the administration, as well as peace keeping in Iraq to the UN forces for a provisional period and providing freedom and equal material resources to all the political organizations to inform the masses about their alternatives and programs.

2) All political parties must observe and be bound to the "declaration of political freedoms" which must be taken as principle for settling all problems.

(3) After six months of free activities for the political parties to inform the Iraqi people about their alternatives in a free and peaceful climate, the future government of Iraq, must be



• Another US army vehicle destroyed by the Iraqi resistance.

decided upon by the Iraqi people themselves.

(4) Immediate resolution of the Kurdish question must be solved by going to the people in Kurdistan themselves in a free and general referendum, to choose either to stay within the Iraqi central state as free citizens with equal rights, or to separate and establish their own independent state.

(5) The Worker Communist Party of Iraq regards bringing an organized and independent mass movement to the fore, behind the socialist alternative and thus to organize the workers and toilers around itself, to establish councils and mass organizations for undertaking the social administration in all neighborhoods and work places, for bringing about the direct authority to the masses, an essential factor in deciding the political situation in Iraq and deciding the peoples' coming government of Iraq. The WCPI struggles zealously for this purpose and calls on all workers and freedom loving people to unite around this alternative and solution! ■

## **CEASEFIRE OFF: PRACHANDA**

(NEPALNEWS.COM AUG. 27, 2003)

Maoist rebels in Nepal have unilaterally and "temporarily" pulled from the seven-month old ceasefire, with an issuance of a statement in the name of Maoist chief Prachada. He said; "The rationale for the ceasefire, code of conduct and talks process is now over for the time being."

"We decided to sit for talks, giving supreme priority to people's will in order to find a peaceful political outlet. While making the ceasefire announcement, we took it seriously, hoping the present regime will also be serious. But the Royal Army of the old regime started to violate the code of conduct from the very beginning of the announcement, despite the fact that our peoples salvation army, was totally devoted to the cease fire.

The Nepal Royal Army not only unnecessarily increased arrests and checking incidents, but also

continued to seize our People's Army personnel and to murder non-armed cadres brutally. Such acts were a severe blow to our party and people's expectation and enthusiasm for a peaceful political solution.

Despite these facts, our party feeling and optimum responsibility towards the nation and the people, did not let this spoil the atmosphere of the talks. Finally, the first round of formal talks began and our party presented a minimum, political agenda.

In the second round of talks we agreed to limit the royal army to within five kilometers. The royal army not only rejected this agreement, but the government also changed their position with the pressure from the royal army. With this, the talks-process became an orphan and questions arose about the possibility of a peaceful political solution.

After a long gap, through exchange of letters and with a new team of negotiators and with the promise to keep their royal army in check, they released some of our central leaders. The party directed its talks team to sit for the third round of peace talks.

The political agenda presented by the government during these third-round talks did not address even the basic problems of the country, but conspired to strengthen its feudal regression, which came into being after October 2, 2002. Their concept paper did not address even the demands of the parliamentarian parties who believe in multiparty democracy and a constitutional monarchy.

The government's political agenda ended the rationale for peace talks at the very moment when they asked us to surrender our weapons. We rejected this proposal totally and made clear that the fourth-round of talks will be held only if the old regime brings new proposals of going towards a Constitutional Assembly.

At the same time, the royal army massacred 17 non-armed cadres and two civilians. It is immortal and paradoxical to say that this regime is still committed to talks.

Everybody knows that our party is fighting for a People's Republic State. We came to the talk table to fulfill the people's desire for peace,

with the demand for a Constitutional Assembly.

But unfortunately, this old regime is not ready to go for a Constitutional Assembly. Hence the government's double standard has ended the possibility for a forward-looking political solution. With this, we want to make it clear that the rationale for a ceasefire, code of conduct and talks process is now over for the time being.

But, we still do express our commitment for regular interaction with all the well-wishers to make our position strong. We will not close the doors for future talks. We again can sit down to talks if the people's sovereign rights and their basic welfare is guaranteed.

We urge all to help create such a conducive environment for talks! ■

## **Bullets used to suppress protests by the jobless Iraqis**

From Granma International-Cuba

US occupying troops opened fire on hundreds of Iraqis furious at the lack of employment and foreign military occupation. This happened in Baghdad and Mosul on October 2, 2003. The protestors took to the streets of the capital, throwing stones and setting cars on fire.

Reuters agency reported that the violence erupted on the first day of the new school year, as the US occupying authorities tried to present it as the beginning of an era of normality after the overthrow of Saddam Hussein.

In central Baghdad, at least three demonstrators were seriously injured after throwing stones at a building guarded by US troops. Also the demonstrators tried to show the Western newspapermen at the hotel their plight, when the US troops opened up with automatic weapons and guns as protestors ran to hide behind the buildings.

International sources calculate that Iraq's unemployment rate is over 50%. The schools are wrecked, bombed, looted and with no desks, equipment or repairs, many parents keep their children at home for safety reasons. ■

# THE NEW INQUISITION

By **WALTER CRONKITE**,  
ANCHOR, OF THE US CBS  
EVENING NEWS

President Bush's televised answer to the growing concerns of many – including some of the US Republicans – about the powers granted to him, in the USA Patriotic Act was to ask for even stronger measures, particularly the expanded use of “nonjudicial subpoenas.” That means a Federal Agency such as the FBI can write its own subpoenas to conduct a search – no judges needed:

Unfortunately, security and liberty form a zero-sum equation. The inevitable trade-off: To increase security is to decrease liberty and vice versa. In the past, such trade-offs have been temporary – for the duration of the crisis of the moment. But today, we cannot see an end to the War on Terrorism, and that forces us to decide how secure we have to be and how free we want to be.

By Bush delivering such a speech himself last month, he added presidential heft to the issue and took some of the heat off of his attorney general, who is seen by many as the heedless champion of security at any price.

In his 2½ years in office, Attorney General John Ashcroft has earned himself a remarkable distinction as the **Torquemada** of American law. Tomad de Torquemada was the 15<sup>th</sup> century Dominican Friar who became the grand inquisitor of the Spanish Inquisition. He was largely responsible for its methods, including torture and the burning of heretics – Muslims in particular.

Now, of course, I am not accusing the attorney general of pulling out anyone's fingernails or burning people at the stake (*at least I don't know of any such cases*). But one does get the sense these days that the old Spaniard's spirit is comfortably at home in Ashcroft's

Department of Justice.

The Patriotic Act is much in the news, as Ashcroft and his minions seek both to justify the excesses and also to strengthen them, thus intensifying its very dangerous infringements on the US Bill of Rights.

There was something almost medieval in the treatment of the Muslim suspects in the aftermath of September 11. Many were held incommunicado, without any effective counsel and without ever being charged, not for days or weeks, but for months and longer, some under harsh conditions designed for the most

It was in the spirit of inquisition that the US Justice Department announced recently that it would begin gathering data on Judges who give sentences lighter than called for by the legislative guidelines.

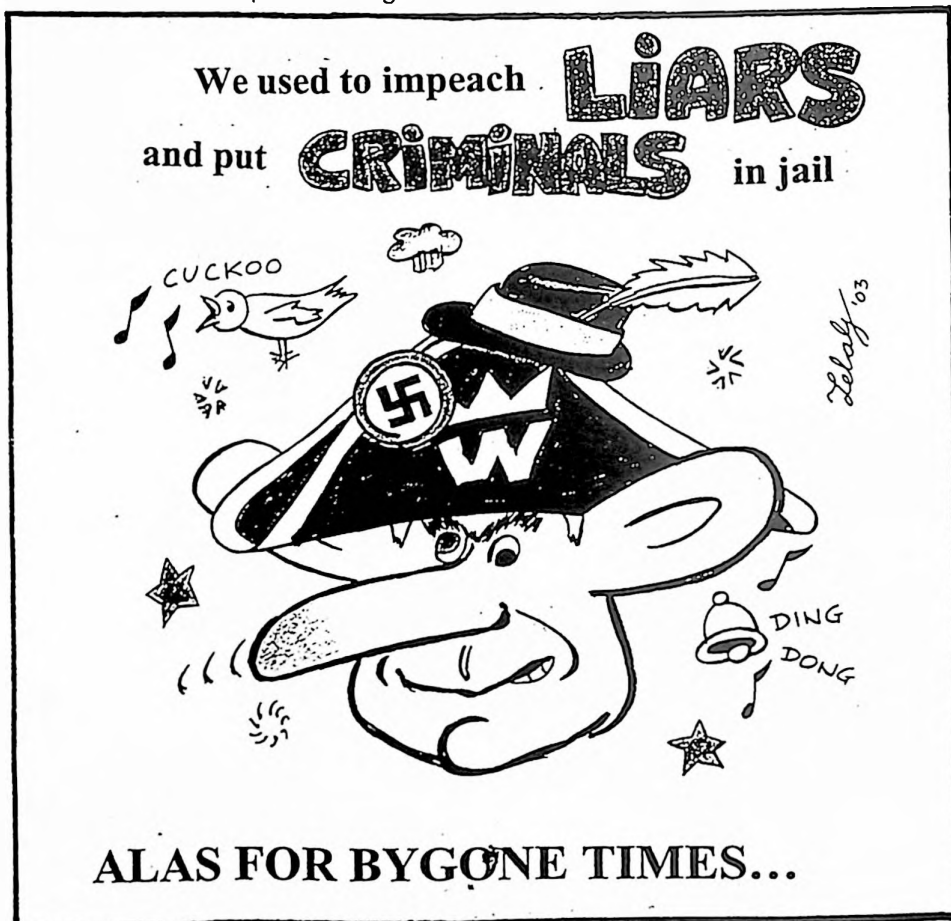
Nothing so clearly evokes Torquemada's spirit as Ashcroft's penchant for overruling US attorneys who have sought lesser penalties in capital cases. The attorney general has done this at least 30 times since he took office, according to the US Federal Penalty Resource Counsel. In several cases Ashcroft actually has overturned plea bargains

negotiated by those government prosecutors.

The New York Times editorialized that the attorney general seems to want the death penalty use much more often.

Ashcroft is not alone in this. His boss Bush, while Governor of Texas, seemed never to have met a death sentence he didn't like. The two of them represent a subdivision of the US Republican Party known as the “**Social Conservatives**”, who often have favored the use of government power to police moral issues they view as modern heresies, such as abortion, homosexuality and obscenity. They contrast with those Republicans who tend to resist such uses of US federal power and can generally be counted on to defend individual rights.

What makes US administration's legal bloodthirstiness particularly alarming is the almost religious zeal that seems to drive it. So, what we are seeing now is a confluence of two streams of American thought. One of these streams represents those who believe that the perceived security must have priority over civil rights. ■





## ZIONIST AGGRESSION WILL FORTIFY OUR PEOPLE'S RESISTANCE!

Statement of the Central Committee  
of the CC Syrian Communist Party

Israel has perpetrated another criminal piracy when the Zionist military airplanes bombarded an inhabited area next to the outskirts of Damascus. This represents a critical escalation of the already tense situation in the region, due to the repeated Israeli aggression supported by American Imperialism against our peoples, with the aims of demolishing the independence of the patriotic regimes and imposing a full Imperialist and Zionist dominance.

The current situation increases the importance of a flint-hard national unity and a united front, which will be the very fortress against which the aggressor's wave will crash down.

We call on the international community to denounce this naked aggression and, we also call for expanding the campaign in the Arabic countries to boycott the American goods and interests. The Arabic countries that have relations with Israel are asked, at least, to immediately break off diplomatic relations.

The Syrian Communist Party is fully confident that the courageous Syrian people, armed with heroism and steadfastness, which are deep-rooted in this tradition, will crush all of the enemy's conspiracies...and they are mistaken by thinking that Syria may be subjugated  
Glory to the heroic Palestinian resistance!

Glory to the brave Iraq resistance!  
Long live Syria, proud and well-fortified against the aggression!

General Secretary  
Wissal Farha Bagdash  
Syrian Communist Party

## U.S. ELECTORAL CHAOS

### FLAWS DISCOVERED IN BALLOT COMPUTERS

By ANDREW GUMBEL,  
Independent- UK

The upcoming 2004 US presidential election maybe compromised by the new voting machines that computer US

scientists believe are unreliable, poorly programmed and prone to tampering.

An investigation published in last months Independent, reveals that tens of thousands of touch screen voting machines may be less reliable than the old punch-cards, which famously stalled the presidential election in Florida in 2000 and having Bush elected by default, leaving this farce of election open to ridicule all over the world.

These machines offer no independent verification, making recounts impossible, and the software is shielded from any public scrutiny by the manufacturer trade secrecy agreements. There were two studies made by scientists, and they then appealed for urgent oversight legislation.

The manufactures are the leading financial donors to the Republican Party of George Bush. One of the manufacturers, Walden O'Dell of Ohio, said: "I am committed to helping Ohio deliver its electoral vote to the President next year!"

In the State of Georgia, citizens there were alarmed at the apparent anomalies in the election results using these touch screen machines for Governor. Both Democratic Senate seats were won at the last minute swing to the Republicans.

The cause of the alarms raised, included very serious malfunction in the voting software, discovered after the machines were packaged for shipment. Hundreds if security flaws were identified. Also, there were in just one polling station 67 voting memory cards lost in the Democratic stronghold of central Atlanta.

*US democracy works very well for the ruling class!*

## MURDOCH IS LOVED BY CC CPC!

Financial Post - Canada

No wonder that Rupert Murdoch, the biggest world-wide monopoly media tycoon is smiling! He was applauded in Beijing last month, by a hall full of senior Communist Party of China cadres when he extolled the virtues of a free market media and then he made a deal with the



Chinese communist leadership that his News Corporation will get the rights, for a million news subscribers!

He was granted exclusive rights to compile and run the multi-million Mandarin Entertainment Channel to over one million Chinese homes as the first step.

The invitation extended to this multi-billionaire mogul and a vicious trade union busting owner, to make the main speech at the CPC Central Party School cadres. No other foreign media boss has ever won such an honour.

This is just his first enterprise to get into China, besides China now being used as a dirt cheap labour production factory for many Western corporations, such as Wall Mart and other large chain stores. Murdoch and his subsidiaries in the West are now preparing to flood China with books, magazines, porno-flicks and all other cultural "achievements" of Imperialism.

## Dumbing down U.S. politics

By LINDA MCQUAIG, Toronto Star

Apparently, watching Arnold Schwarzenegger as a robotic killer in the Hollywood movie *The Terminator* not only entertained millions of people, but also left them thinking. Now, why can't we have a Governor for California like that?

Those who think that the image of a pre-programmed killer not be the perfect springboard for a political career are clearly out of touch with today's America.

Of course, that was only Schwarzenegger's film make-believe persona. In real life, he was a body builder.

If this doesn't reveal much about what he intends to do as Governor of California, his campaign was similarly uninformative. Mostly it relied on populist rhetoric, promising that he'd be "*the people's governor.*"

Populism used to mean defending the interests of ordinary people, championing the little guy.

Now, the new-styled right-wing populists like Schwarzenegger and George W. Bush claim to be close to the people – not by defending the interests of the people, but simply by being uninformed, slow-witted, even inarticulate. (*Laura and I really don't realize how bright our children is sometimes until we get an objective analysis,* Bush told *Meet The Press* in April, 2000.)

In this spirit, pundits declared Bush the winner of the 2000 presidential debate even though he seemed out of his depth debating the more articulate and well-informed Al Gore. The media pundits didn't deny Gore's superior command of the issues, but concluded that Bush's apparent inadequacy showed that he was more down to Earth, while Gore reminded people of the smartest kid in the high school class, the one they used to resent.

The notion of the American people that being smart and having a grasp of the issues is a liability for the job of running the world's most powerful country is, of course, interesting in itself.

My guess is that the right wing isn't actually trying to declare war on smartness. Rather, it is trying to distract attention from the fact that there is nothing in the Republican program that actually benefits ordinary people, who make up most of the US electorate.

But if Bush and Schwarzenegger can be presented as guys the American people can have a beer with, no smarter than the rest of the class (*even less smart than most*), perhaps they can be passed off as regular folks, friends of the little guy. This is no small achievement since these two, in fact, represent big monied interests and, as Bush shows, can be counted to deliver massive tax cuts for the rich.

The secret of the political right in the US in recent years has been its ability to disguise the fact that it does little but serve the interests of the US financial elite.

This is done by involving professional talkers, front-men and movie-action heroes who do successfully keep the focus elsewhere, while the rich help themselves to the nations treasury. The US Congressional Budget Office, a non-partisan agency, released figures showing that the gap between the rich and the poor in the US is the largest in the past 70 years!

Terminate that growing inequality? Probably not!

Interestingly, the new US right-wing populists, in addition to being mental underachievers, also have significant character deficiencies – something that would be considered more of a problem if the US media paid it more attention.

But the US media downplayed the importance of Bush's drunk driving conviction – and his obvious attempt to conceal it – when it came to light just before the presidential election. And the US media hasn't been very interested in Bush's absence from his National Guard duty for months at a time during the Vietnam War – an absence that some US observers believe constitutes *the crime (punishable by death under the present American law) of wartime desertion.*

Schwarzenegger, of course is accused in having committed what amounts to a series of sexual assaults, including forcibly reaching under women's clothing and grabbing their breasts and buttocks. (*Imagine if Monica Lewinsky had reported that she'd been forced to go under the president Clinton's desk.*) Schwarzenegger fudges about the charges made by these 16 unrelated women, but he does admit that he was "*rowdy*".

Then there are confirmed reports that he told an interviewer in 1970's that he admired Hitler, although he does not deny that his father was an SS Colonel during WW II. The governor-elect claims, that he cannot remember this, but now he says that he detests Hitler. Glad that this got cleared up?

In this era of right-opportunism

and populism, American politics seems to have become a kind of opportunity employer – anyone can get the top job. **No brains or character is necessary!**

*With thanks to George Duravetz* ■

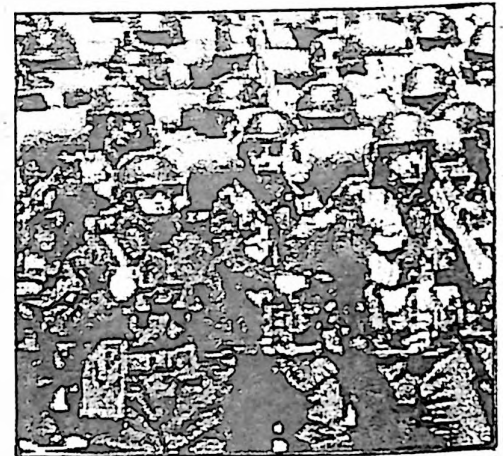
## TURKEY'S FIRST PRIORITY IN IRAQ: ELIMINATE THE PKK-KADEK

By MICHAEL OPPERSKALSKI

ANKARA, TURKEY –The deployment motion of the Turkish government emphasized that the "*first priority*" in Iraq was to prevent the country from being used as a base for terrorist acts against Turkey – meaning the liberation struggle by the Kurdish Workers Party and the Kurdistan Freedom and Democracy Congress in Iraq.

This motion of the Turkish government has the approval of USA and they plan to cooperate. A joint understanding has been reached by US and Turkey as to how this will be achieved.

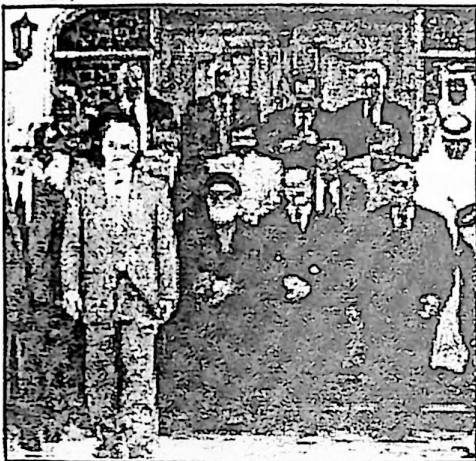
The Iraqi opposition groups fighting US occupation, have stressed that any foreign troops – even from Muslim countries, will also be attacked. The PKK agreed to a truce in 1999 after a 15 year old separatist war against the Turkish state. The Turkish troops coming to Iraq would be deployed in the Sunni triangle.



*Turkish troops ready to depart for occupation in Iraq.*

Turkish press reported last month that US had asked Ankara to send up to 10,000 troops as soon as possible. But the Iraq's US sponsored and controlled Council

does not want any Turkish troops in Iraq. The US government has asked Turkey at a closed-door meeting to deploy its forces west of the Iraq capital, towards the border of Syria and Jordan.



The Iraqi Governing Council does not want Turkish troops in Iraq.

Ankara fears that any moves by Iraqi Kurds for independence from Baghdad could spark unrest in its own southeast, where it has fought for decades a war against the Kurdistan Workers Party at a cost of over 30,000 lives.

Ankara already has stationed thousands of its troops inside northern Iraq in a controversial deployment in order to prevent the PKK returning to Turkey to continue its liberation struggle.

## ISRAEL REELS AT PILOT'S REFUSAL TO GO ON MISSIONS

By JEFFREY HELLER

**JERUSALEM:** (Reuters) Israel government has sharply criticized and grounded last month a large group of Israel air force pilots who refused to carry out missions against Palestinian militants in which civilians could be killed.

"The pilots mutiny" was how Israel's largest newspaper, Yedioth Ahronoth, described their action as commentators speculated whether other soldiers might follow suit in opposing the way Israel military confronts a Palestinian uprising.

The Israel air force chief, Major General Dan Halutz, said in a statement that those in the group would be grounded and given a

chance to retract their statement, and if they refuse, they will face dismissal from the Israeli air force.

Their statement read in part: "We, who were taught to love Israel and contribute to the Zionist enterprise, refuse to take part in attacks on the civilian population centers".

This was the highest profile act of defiance by members of the Israel armed forces have done since the 1982 invasion of Lebanon, when the whole tank brigade resigned rather than invade Beirut.

Meanwhile the Israeli Foreign Minister Selah Shehada accused the pilots of having a hidden agenda, since the pilots are also protesting the Israel occupation of the West Bank and Gaza. He also charged that their stand "has corrupted Israel society!"

## SRI LANKA'S STOLEN CHILDREN

By CNN Correspondent Kasra Naji

It's a parent's worst nightmare: the peace process is faltering and Sri Lanka's Tamil Tiger rebels are recruiting again - they are abducting unsuspecting children at a rate of two per day. The UN agency for children's rights, UNICEF said that it received reports that in the month of September alone, there were recruited 52 children.

But the actual figure could be ten times higher, as many parents in Sri Lanka fear the rebels and don't report when their children are abducted, according to Father Harry Miller, 78, an American Jesuit priest who has made Batticaloa his home for the last fifty years.

"It's like an ogre that descends from the hills once in a while and takes children away. Each time, everybody hopes it is not their child", he told the CNN.

Last month, some of the parents finally got up enough courage and blocked the road near the school in the poor town of Valachenai. Only one parent had the courage to speak to the CNN and said: "I was sick to my stomach when I heard that my 18-year old son was abducted while walking with some friends, by the Tamil Tigers. We have raised him for

18 years. We want him back!"

Parents are afraid to send their children to school.

The residents of this village know that the abducted children are taken to rebel territory just a few hours away from the village.

Twenty years of fighting has wrecked havoc with the people's lives. Poverty and malnutrition are endemic and there is no running water or electricity.

Across the square is a big portrait of a former Black Tiger, a member of the rebel's suicide squad who claimed many Sri Lankan leaders as their victims, along with the former Indian Prime Minister Rajiv Ghandi who was assassinated by them.

The rebels expect Tamil families to contribute at least one son or daughter to the rebel's cause - the reestablishment of a homeland for the Tamil minority in north-eastern Sri Lanka.

"The Tamils desperately need new recruits, since they have lost so many," said Father Miller.

UNICEF teams on the ground are working to verify the exact numbers of children recruited. They said that: "The recruitment of just one child is a serious violation of children's rights," according to Ted Chaiban, UN's representative in Sri Lanka.

## BUSH FAMILY VALUES EXPOSED!

From "Editions Democrite"

For more than a half a century, members of the Bush family have been setting policy and making decisions for all Americans. Let's look at the family that has had such an impact on the lives of the human beings worldwide.

It all started with Prescott Bush, George W. Bush's grandfather. In 1918 he was charged that he robbed the grave and stole the skull of the Native American warrior Geronimo as part of his initiation into Yale's Skull and Bones Society. The Skull and Bones Society has been important to the Bush family. George Bush Sr. and George W. Bush were also members of this secret society.

Prescott Bush got into a little bit of trouble in the 1940s. While the American soldiers were fighting the

German Nazis in WW II, a few of the companies that Prescott managed were seized under the Trading With the Enemy Act, because they were selling fuel and laundering money for the Hitler's Nazis.

Here is more material about Bush family and friends!

The uncle of G.W. Bush, Prescott Jr., during the trade embargo on China, his company was the only US firm allowed to do business there, exporting communications satellites. Now he is the president of the USA-China Chamber of Commerce, with the blessing of the present Chinese leadership. This is one reason why China isn't part of the "Axis of Evil." He also had ties to Manuel Noriega.

For many years the Bureau of Narcotics and Dangerous Drugs (now called the DEA) wanted to have Manuel Noriega arrested for drug trafficking, but George Bush Sr. kept him on the CIA payroll. For more than a decade, thousands of tons of cocaine poured onto the streets of America through the Panama Canal while the US government looked the other way. This destroyed the stability of millions of American families, and the repercussions to our society are still being felt today.

George W. Bush joined the National Guard, in order to get out of going to Vietnam. He was a pilot in Texas until his status was revoked when he refused to take a medical exam. For at least six months he did not even show up for duty.

Bush's friend Orlando Bosch, a terrorist accused of blowing up an airplane killing 76 people in Cuba, but George Bush Sr. thought so highly of him that he gave him a Presidential Pardon.

Columba Bush, Bush's wife was embarrassed after she got caught at the border - customs, smuggling almost \$20,000 worth of clothes and jewelry into America after a trip to France.

Bush's brother Neil Bush, Governor of Florida, cost the American taxpayers \$1 billion after some shady loans he made caused the Silverado Savings and Loan company to go under in 1988. Now he is making millions selling software to Florida schools. At this time he is divorcing his wife and leaving her absolutely broke.

When George Bush Sr. was the

US Vice-President, he was involved in secretly selling weapons to Iran. The money from the weapons sales went to build a secret army that was trying to overthrow the Nicaraguan government. This resulted in years of violence and slaughter for many thousands of Central Americans, and it allowed thousands of tons of drugs to be dumped unto the streets of America. When he was President, George Bush Sr. gave a presidential pardon to all the people involved in this diabolical venture.

Besides their last names, George W. and his brother Jeb Bush, have this in common: all of their children have been in trouble with the law. Unlike most Americans who commit crimes ranging from sexual misconduct to felony prescription



fraud, the Bush kids never go to prison.

Now, George Bush Sr. works for The Carlyle Group. They invest in defense companies, medical laboratories and heavily in the telecommunications industry. The Carlyle Group is one of the US government's biggest contractors. George Bush Sr. and The Carlyle Group stand to make billions of dollars from the War on Terror. On September 11<sup>th</sup> of 2001, during the attacks on the Twin Towers in New York and Washington, Bush Sr. was having a conference at the Ritz Carlton Hotel in Washington, DC with members of the Bin Laden family, one of the heavy investors in the Carlyle Group.

## ISRAEL PLANS FOR ATTACKING IRAN

By Joseph Kay - From DeWaarheid

The most recent issues of the German magazine Der Spiegel reported that the Israeli intelligence organization Mossad received orders more than two months ago to develop plans for attacking Iran. Israel has repeatedly threatened to launch a "preemptive" strike against Iran if it suspects that Iran is developing a nuclear weapons program. For its part, Tehran has stated publicly that it will take unspecified measures for its self-defense in the event that Israel launched a strike on its nuclear facilities.

Israel submarines are now armed with nuclear weapons: an escalation of US backed militarism.

Israel is the only country in the Middle East that possesses nuclear weapons. Estimates put the number of nuclear warheads in Israel's possession at around 200, which makes it the fifth largest nuclear power in the world.

The Times magazine quoted an American State official as saying: "We tolerate nuclear weapons in Israel for the same reason that we tolerate them in Britain and France. We don't regard Israel as a threat!" In other words, because Israel is an ally of the USA, it is free to develop whatever nuclear capacity it wishes, capacity, that is planned to be used against its neighbors.

The United Nations, under great pressure from the United States and with the support of the European countries, has demanded that Iran open up its nuclear facilities for inspection.

But, the UN has been completely silent over Israel's ever-expanding nuclear arsenal! Highlighting the hypocrisy of the UN position is the fact that Israel - unlike Iran and other major Arab countries - has **refused** to sign the main component of the nuclear nonproliferation treaty. The silence of the US administration on this question is deafening.

The blatant double-standard of the United Nations Organization (or should we in fact call it now by its correct name - The United States

**YOU HAVE AN OPINION  
ABOUT NSC? WRITE!**

Organization – Editor) has prompted the Arab countries to lodge a bitter complaint to the UN.

#### COMMENT:

*As we go to press, the United States has used again its veto in the Security Council when trying to condemn Israel for the APARTHEID WALL it built and is extending to separate Palestinians from their rightful home. The world has lost count of the number of US veto's – more than all the other countries combined.*

*Oh yes, maybe the UN Security Council should also condemn the Wall of Death between Mexico and the US, with hundreds of Mexican deaths each year* ■

## INDIAN MAOIST REBELS LINKED WITH TAMIL TIGERS

From South Asia-AFP

India's Deputy Prime Minister Lal Krishna Advani has said that Maoist rebels, who last month tried to kill the leader of the southern state of Andhra Pradesh, have links with Sri Lanka's Tamil Tigers guerrillas.

*"There are links between the People's War Group (PWG), and the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE) as the expertise in use of improvised explosive devices have been inculcated in the PWG from the Sri Lankan organization,"* Advani told reporters last October 7, 2003.

Andhra Pradesh Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu escaped with a minor collar bone wound last October 1 when his vehicle went over mines. Four officials traveling with him suffered serious injuries.



Police blamed the People' War Group for the attack: *"However, in the attempt on Naidu's life, one cannot say that the LTTE did not have a role in it."* Advani said.

The LTTE has been fighting for a separate homeland for Sri Lanka's minority Tamils for three decades in a campaign that has left more than 60,000 people killed since the 1980s.

The LTTE was outlawed in India in May of 1992 after the outfit was responsible for the suicide bomber's

## TURMOIL IN THE NETHERLANDS

By VIC RATSMA

*The Netherlands is in turmoil, Demonstrations, strikes, work slowdowns and other forms of protest occur on a daily basis. All this comes as a result of a rightwing government's program that is determined to implement a series of measures that will negatively effect the whole of the working population of the country, as well as pensioners, disabled people and those of social assistance.*

#### BACKGROUND:

In the early 1980's the Dutch government began with the implementation of a unique consensus-type economic system known as the "poldermodel". This system was based on the co-operation between the government, representatives from private industry and the national labour unions. This policy implied permanent wage moderation to "improve employment opportunities" and attempted to bring government finances under control through cutbacks in social policies, a kind of a Dutch version of Reaganomics, but with the active participation and consent of the labour unions.

#### CAUSES:

What then has changed so that today there is such an uproar in the country?

During the latter years of this "poldermodel" the government failed to recognize the growing deterioration of urban living-and social conditions of the mostly working class districts, particularly in the large cities, where crime, drugs, homelessness, poverty and a lack of personal safety created more and

assassination of former Indian Premier, Rajiv Gandhi.

The Tamil Tigers have been observing a ceasefire with the Sri Lankan government since February of 2002. The Tigers are accused of trafficking arms and narcotics to fund their rebellion. ■

more resentment. Simultaneously, the government reduced peoples' access to, and raised the costs of health care and social programs as well as limiting access to workers compensation benefits. There were also rumblings within the labour unions, where members felt that their "suit and tie" negotiators had become too comfortable in their positions and no longer adequately reflected the needs of the workers. While this would seem to be a situation that was ripe for the left wing political parties to exploit, the reaction from the right wing (*blame immigrants, criminals, be tough*) found the greatest response among the public. Undoubtedly this situation was aggravated by the fact that the largest left of center party, the social democratic Party of Labour (PvdA) was part of the government responsible for this situation.

#### THE PRESENT:

Today, The Netherlands have recently elected a right-wing government that has announced a program of cutbacks that is unparalleled in Dutch history. Every measure of social policy, from healthcare to pensions and from unemployment insurance to housing is under attack. Everyone's wages are to be frozen or reduced, civil service staffing is to be downsized, early retirements made virtually impossible, the pensionable age raised from 65 to 67 years, social security premiums are increased and deductibles applied while benefits are reduced. Disability payments to people injured in accidents and unable to work are to be cancelled unless one is expected to be unable to work for at least five years. There is much more, but you get the picture: less reliance on public social programs and more private responsibilities. The "poldermodel" itself also appears to be on the chopping block with proposals to

cancel labour negotiators toward an agreed to plan and substitute this with individual plant by plant negotiations. Such a "Divide and Rule" policy clearly works to the disadvantage of the weaker unions. Obviously, the present trade union leaders and negotiators are in a bind as the policy of co-operation with their employers and government now backfires on them. The "poldermodel" and labour peace, it appears, had run its course.

The current situation has resulted in the start-up of a new militant union, named "Kort en Bondig" (Short and Concise) whose principles are based in socialism and who fault the major unions' leaders for engaging for far too long in the game of co-operating with their employers. Kort en Bondig wants **ONE** National Collective Labour Agreement that represents all of the employees, regardless of where they work, an Agreement that would function as the minimum standard for all workers. "**There is only one working class**", says Kort en Bondig, "**not one divided by different industries.**"

Above the base level wage that will be agreed upon, additional supplementary agreements could be signed by individual firms and local union representatives.

Public protests against the government's plans now occur daily, involving large and varied segments of Dutch society. But the government does not appear to be listening, making a new agreement with the present union leadership more and more unlikely. No union leader worthy of the name can put his signature to the assault on labour and society's standards that is being contemplated in The Netherlands today. It remains to be seen however, how widespread the lessons of co-operation with ones' class enemy have been learned. Better get the Marxist textbooks out for a quick lesson! ■

#### PLEASE THE PENTAGON:

If Bush is to seek "re-election" (election, really, for it would be the first time) he needs a winning slogan. No problem, Dubya. Here's one just tailored to you: Trillions for "defense", but not one cent for citizens. ■

## THE HANGMAN

By VIC RATSMA

*"The major objectives of American imperialism are to reduce the British Empire to a subordinate position; to cow or smash the USSR, to subjugate China to the status of a satellite country; to reduce Latin America to a semi-colonial system of the United States; to take charge of the international economics of Germany, Japan and various other countries; to dominate the Atlantic and the Pacific oceans with its big navy and air force – in short, to establish American imperialist hegemony over the other peoples and areas of the world,"*

The above remarks were made by William Z. Foster, Chairman of the Communist Party of the USA and were published in the August 1947 issue of "Political Affairs" (1). This is now 57 years ago, written at a time when most people around the world looked upon the United States as a great nation, victors over the scourge of fascism, and the liberators of much of Europe and many other countries, as a people willing to help people rebuild the devastation brought about by World War 2, as a nation of free people under a democratic government. The United States was at the zenith of its popularity. Obviously, William Z. Foster did not see his country that way.

When we look back today, Foster was right. The British Empire is no more and the United Kingdom appears distinctly subordinate to the USA, especially so under its current Prime Minister Tony Blair, who is often portrayed and not without justification as Bush's lapdog. The USSR, like the British Empire has also ceased to exist and many of its former republics are under US influence, and some even have US troops on their soil. China is not yet an American satellite, but its departure from the socialist path towards a market oriented economy, and its acceptance of the US multinational corporations as its business partners can only be seen as a step towards the acceptance of Free Trade Area of the Americas (FTAA) which will ensure US

domination of both North and South America and reduce them to semi-colonial status. Germany and Japan, as the defeated nations in WW 2, have been outflanked and replaced by the USA as the world economic power and especially Japan, it has virtually remained as a nation occupied by the American troops.

And the oceans of the world are continually patrolled by the US military, from bases abroad and at home, on the seas, from the air and from outer space. To summarize – William Foster was absolutely and totally correct in his analyses of American objectives, the proof of which, unfortunately we can see only too clearly today.

It does not take a great deal of imagination to understand that the American people in 1947 did not see their own country in the way that William Foster did. Americans were basking in the glory of their victorious war machine, celebrating their world popularity and expressing their love and patriotism for their country, projected as the best and most prosperous nation in the world and the envy of all who lived outside its borders. Undoubtedly the media of that time, the television stations, radio stations, newspapers and magazines propagated the same message to the American public, while the image of America projected by Foster received only negative comment, if any comment at all. Most Americans accepted an inflated view of themselves vis a vis the rest of the world, an image that seems to have largely remained, if not enhanced, until today.

Who, other than the media should be held accountable for this? Is it not the media's responsibility to inform the public at large about the real state of affairs, to question and challenge government statements and policies, to research issues objectively so that the truth may be told? And is it not the public's responsibility to ensure that they are well informed, by reading and evaluating differing opinions and making sure that they know the truth? An editorial published in the bourgeois newspaper in Halifax, Canada, the "Halifax Herald" (2) of October 14, 2003 surmised that the people of California, US, recently did not vote for Arnold Schwarzenegger,

but for his movie (film) image as **The Terminator**, because no one really knows what Schwarzenegger stands for. But who in the media challenged Arnold for his glad-handing and baby kissing to reveal how he was going to solve California's problems? He was elected by an uninformed public because he was **The Terminator** with the big smile.

These things in no way seem to bother the American media. George W. Bush recently gave an interview on FOX TV, which was reported and commented on the website of *"The Boston Channel (3)*. Bush stated that he doesn't read any newspapers and barely glances at the daily headlines. He gets all of his information from Whitehouse insiders, Condoleeza Rice and chief of staff Andrew Card, people who can hardly be called unbiased sources. But not according to Bush, who stated:

*"I appreciate people's opinions, but I'm more interested in news. And the best way to get news is from objective sources. And the most objective sources I have are people on my staff who tell me what's happening in the world."(?!?)*

Apparently Bush doesn't have to do any reading or thinking of his own, as he is unquestioningly fed information from his trusted sources. Is it any wonder then that the American foreign policy is at odds with the rest of the world? Similarly, is it surprising that the American people, being fed mostly uncritical and government supportive news reports by the television media, these people who are represented in the US House and Senate by a mostly gutless bunch of representatives, afraid to seriously question and challenge the government, is it surprising that these people are ill-informed and in fact misled by the majority of the media? How else to explain the continuous series of polls that show that most Americans to be massively misinformed about events around the September 11<sup>th</sup> events and the invasion of Iraq? And what to make of the comment by Helen Thomas of Hearst Newspapers, quoted by *"The Boston Channel"* that: *"The variety and breath of newspaper stories make the Americans the best-*

*informed people in the world?" Really?* Well, either Americans aren't reading this large variety of newspaper stories, or else Ms. Thomas is dreaming or lying!

William Foster was right in 1946, but the American people did not know it. They did not know of the real objectives of the powers that governed their nation. Unfortunately, 57 years later, little appears to have changed, as they still don't know the truth about those who purport to govern them. Most American people appear to be satisfied to live with a noose around their necks, unconcerned, fancy-free, with little knowledge or understanding of the people in the rest of the world. But, ignorance is not bliss. And one day, much to their surprise, the hangman may show up!

- (1)As quoted in *"Peace and the Cold War"*, part 1, page 123, by Ernie Troy  
 (2)<http://www.herald.ns.ca/>  
 (3) [www.TheBostonChannel.com](http://www.TheBostonChannel.com).

## Mass upheavals topple US-backed Bolivian president

In many news dispatches, TV and radio, the developments in Bolivia came as a shock to US imperialism, so much so that its former president Sanchez de Lozada had to make a hasty retreat to the United States, before the wrath of the people.

Carlos Mesa, was the vice-president and now he is president, even though he represents the same social layer as his predecessor, he faced a full scales insurrection by the people.

There was mass opposition to the privatization of Bolivia's energy resources and this drew in masses of peasants, urban poor and workers into the struggle against the government, besides the years long armed insurrection that is gaining ground and support all over.



**In the United States there are five  
Cuban political prisoners for fighting  
against terrorism**

The attempt to drown this protest in blood, was coordinated by US military officers, but it failed, even though the Bolivian army massacred peasants on the highway in the region of Warisata, and then gunning down scores of workers and poor in the sprawling shantytown city of El Alto.

The USA's Bush administration immediately granted political asylum to Sanchez de Lozada. Bolivia is the most impoverished country in South America. According to statistics the number of people living in abject poverty is over 5,448, 000 people. ■

### DID YOU KNOW?

On the wall of Israeli Knesset (Parliament) is written:  
**"O ISREAL, YOUR FRONTIERS ARE FROM THE  
EUPHRATES TO THE NILE!"**

# BIBLE AND SWORD: U.S. CHRISTIAN ZIONISTS DISCOVER ISRAEL

The Daily Star [Lebanon]

9 October 2003

[http://dailystar.com.lb/opinion/09\\_10\\_0](http://dailystar.com.lb/opinion/09_10_0)

3 e.asp

The first lobbying effort on behalf of a Jewish state in Palestine was not organized or initiated by Jews. It occurred in 1891, when a popular fundamentalist Christian writer and lay-preacher, William E. Blackstone, organized a national campaign to appeal to the then-president of the United States, Benjamin Harrison, to support the creation of a Jewish state in Palestine.

Blackstone gained notoriety through his 1882 national bestseller *Jesus is Coming*, his summary of end-of-time premillennial doctrines. He saw a need to politically support the Jewish people after hearing horrifying stories of the pogroms in Russia. Blackstone appealed to multimillionaire friends such as oil magnate John D. Rockefeller, publisher Charles B. Scribner and industrialist JP Morgan to finance advertisements and a petition campaign that were carried in major newspapers from Boston to the Mississippi. Aside from wealthy financiers, Blackstone also received support from most members of the US Senate and House of Representatives and the chief justice of the Supreme Court. Despite powerful backing, his appeal went nowhere.

There is little record of significant political backing for the Zionist cause after Blackstone's initiative, as fundamentalists began to withdraw from political activity following the Scopes trial and battles over evolution. However, after a 50-year hiatus, gradual change began occurring after World War II. Two post-war developments galvanized conservative Christians: the establishment of Israel in 1948 and the Cold War. A previously small and marginalized school of Biblical interpretation called "premillennialism" began to assert itself within the larger evangelical Protestant community. Israel and the Cold War were usually linked by premillennial preachers and authors who interpreted them using selected prophecy texts. According to their prophetic timetable, as the end of history approached an evil global empire would emerge under the leadership of a mysterious world leader called the "Antichrist" and attack Israel, leading to the climactic Battle of Armageddon. Israel was understood by conservative Christians to be at the center

of these Biblical events, and thus commanded unconditional financial and spiritual support.

When Israel captured Jerusalem and the West Bank (not to mention Gaza, Sinai and the Golan Heights) in the June 1967 Arab-Israeli war, conservative Christians sensed that history had entered the latter days. L. Nelson Bell, the father-in-law of evangelist Billy Graham and editor of the influential journal *Christianity Today*, wrote in July 1967: "That for the first time in more than 2,000 years Jerusalem is now in the hands of the Jews gives the students of the Bible a thrill and a renewed faith in the accuracy and validity of the Bible." Premillennialism gained popularity through a flurry of books and the activities of radio evangelists and television preachers. For example, Hal Lindsay's *The Late, Great Planet Earth*, which became one of the best selling books in history. Lindsay's message popularized the premillennialist narrative for a generation of Americans, placing Israel at its historical center. Lindsay also developed a consulting business that included several members of the US Congress, the CIA, Israeli generals, the Pentagon and the then-governor of California, Ronald Reagan.

With the American bicentennial in 1976, several trends converged in America's religious and political landscape, all pointing toward increased US support for Israel and a higher political profile for the religious right. First, fundamentalist and evangelical churches became the fastest growing sector of American Christianity, as mainline Protestant and Roman Catholic branches saw a decline in their members, budgets and missions.

Second, Jimmy Carter, an evangelical from the "Bible Belt," was elected president of the United States, giving increased legitimacy to evangelicals as *Time* magazine confirmed when it named 1976 "the year of the evangelical."

Third, following the 1967 war, Israel gained an increased share of US foreign and military budgets, becoming the "western pillar" of the US strategic alliance against a Soviet incursion into the Middle East, particularly after the revo-

lution in Iran took the country out of the US orbit. It is during this period that AIPAC and other pro-Israel organizations started shaping US foreign policy. Fourth, the Roman Catholic Church and mainstream Protestant denominations began to develop a more balanced approach to the Middle East, bringing them closer to the international consensus on the Palestine question. Pro-Israel organizations interpreted this shift as being anti-Israeli and, in turn, began to court conservative Christians. Marc Tannenbaum of the American Jewish Committee captured this sentiment well when he told the *Washington Post*: "The evangelical community is the largest and fastest-growing bloc of pro-Jewish sentiment in this country."

The fifth development was the victory of Menachem Begin and the right-wing Likud coalition in the Israeli election of 1977. Begin's Revisionist Zionist ideology that mandated establishing an "iron wall" of Israeli domination, and his policy of annexing Arab land, accelerating construction of Jewish settlements in the Occupied Territories and militarizing the conflict with the Arab world, all found ready support within the American Christian right. Likud's tactic of employing Biblical names for the West Bank (Judea and Samaria) and Biblical arguments to defend its policies ("God gave us this land") found resonance with fundamentalist Christians.

A surprising development, and arguably the lynchpin in forging the fundamentalist Christian-Zionist alliance, occurred in March 1977, when Carter inserted the clause "Palestinians deserve a right to their homeland" into a policy address. Immediately, the pro-Israel lobby and the Christian right responded with full-page ads in major US newspapers. Their text stated: "The time has come for evangelical Christians to affirm their belief in biblical prophecy and Israel's divine right to the land." The text concluded with a line that took direct aim at Carter's statement: "We affirm as evangelicals our belief in the promised land to the Jewish people. We would view with grave concern any effort to carve out of the Jewish homeland another nation or political entity." The advertising campaign was one of



the first significant signs of the Likud's and the pro-Israel lobby's alliance with the Christian right. It redirected conservative Christian support from Carter, a Democrat, to the Republican right. Jerry Strober, a former employee of the American Jewish Committee, coordinated the campaign and told Newsweek magazine: "The evangelicals are Carter's constituency and he (had) better listen to them. The real source of strength the Jews have in this country is from the evangelicals."

By the 1980 elections the political landscape had shifted, both in the Middle East and in the US. The Iranian hostage crisis helped ensure Carter's defeat against his Republican rival, Ronald Reagan. However, it was not the only factor: An estimated 20 million fundamentalist and evangelical Christians voted for Reagan and against Carter's brand of evangelical Christianity that failed the test of unconditional support for Israel.

The power of the pro-Israel Republicans became a prominent feature during the Reagan years, with the president leading the way. On at least seven public occasions Reagan expressed belief in a final Battle of Armageddon. During one of his private conversations with AIPAC director Tom Dine, Reagan said: "You know, I turn back to your ancient prophets in the Old Testament and the signs foretelling Armageddon, and I find myself wondering if if we're the generation that is going to see that come about." The conversation was

leaked to the Jerusalem Post and picked up across the US on the AP wire. This stunning openness displayed by an American president with the chief lobbyist for a foreign government indicated the close cooperation that had developed between the administration and Israel.

A little-known feature of the Reagan White House was the series of seminars organized by the administration and the Christian right with assistance from the pro-Israel lobby. These sessions were designed to firm up support for the Republican Party, and, in turn, encourage AIPAC and Christian Zionist organizations to advance their respective agendas. Participation by the Christian right in gala dinner briefings at the White House reads like a Who's Who of the movement, including author Hal Lindsay, Jerry Falwell, the head of the Moral Majority, and evangelist Pat Robertson, as well as Tim LeHaye (co-author of the influential Left Behind series) and Moral Majority strategist Ed McAteer. State Department official Robert McFarlane, one of those implicated in the Iran-Contra scandal, led several briefings. Quietly working in the background was another Christian fundamentalist, Marine Colonel Oliver North.

Begin developed a close relationship with leading fundamentalists, such as Falwell, who later received a Learjet from the Israeli government for his personal travel and in 1981 was honored with the Jabotinsky Award in an elabo-

rate ceremony in New York. When Israel bombed Iraq's Osirak nuclear reactor in 1981, Begin made his first telephone call to Falwell, asking him to "explain to the Christian public the reasons for the bombing." Only later did he call Reagan. Falwell also converted former Senator Jesse Helms from a critic of Israel into one of its staunchest allies in the US Senate, where he chaired the influential Foreign Relations Committee.

Late in the Reagan administration, a number of scandals in the Christian right began to erode its public support. Pat Robertson's ineffective run for the presidency in 1988 led to a decline in fundamentalist political fortunes. Resilient as ever, the pro-Israel lobby was able to somewhat reassert itself with the election of another Bible-toting Southern Baptist president, Bill Clinton, despite his liberal social agenda. However, Christian Zionist influence did decline after the Reagan presidency, though it would return with renewed vigor after the tragedy of Sept. 11, 2001.

*Donald Wagner is professor of religion and Middle Eastern studies at North Park University in Chicago and executive director of the Center for Middle Eastern Studies. He wrote this text, the third in a series of five on Christian Zionism, for The Daily Star. ■*

**YOU HAVE AN OPINION? WRITE!**

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Treasurer of Deception

**ONE DECEPTION**

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## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

FROM  
**MANILA**  
PHILIPPINES

Dear Friends. Militant Greetings!

Today the heightened attack on the security and livelihood of the Filipino women and their family is more evidently felt. While the majority of the people reel from poverty, cases of fraud and corruption within the government continue to unfold. The government's militant character has also been unmasked, highlighted by the rising number of human rights violations due to heightened militarization in the countryside. The brutal slaying of human rights leader Kan Eden Marcellana and the peasant leader Ka Eddie Gumanoy, both activists from Southern Tagalog is an alarming testimony to this. There is also a notable increase in cases of violence against women such as sexual harassment, sex trafficking, incest, and domestic violence.

In the last three years under the Macapagal-Arroyo government, we see already the direction our country is being led to. Remembering the most recent past, this is the same situation that united us to overthrow the last monarch-fascist Estrada government. Worst, GMA, has not only abandoned the people, she has also shown that she is more loyal to the USA. GMA continues to implement imperialist globalization and duplicating the "US war on terror" in our country.

The worsening attack on the rights and welfare of Filipino women challenges our unity and militance. To draw upon the alliance's general program of action for the next three years, GABRIELA will hold a General Assembly on October 25-26, 2003 with the theme "Broaden our ranks, intensify our Struggle! Fight State Terrorism and Imperialist Globalization!"

Over 200 women members from national organizations down to GABRIELA regional, provincial and municipal chapters will attend this assembly.

In connection with this, we would like to request your support through solidarity messages that will, be read

throughout this event.

Thank you very much for your continued support.

Sincerely yours  
Emmi de Jesus  
Deputy Secretary General

*Message of solidarity and support was sent on behalf of the International Council and the Editorial Board of NSC.* ■

FROM  
**"MOVEMENT FOR USSR"**  
UKRAINE

Dear comrades of the  
Editorial Board:

We, Bolsheviks of Ukraine join all other friends to send greetings on your 11<sup>th</sup> Anniversary since the first issue of NSC appeared and held and is holding the position of truth about the world situation and in the former republics of the USSR.

This dedication, which for the last 11 years NSC has shown in its efforts to help promote the rebirth of the USSR, is bearing fruit.

Each issue of NSC correctly analyzes the situation in former Soviet Union, that the birth of numerous communist parties, which started with the birth of Gorbachev's "perestroika and pluralism", will not mean a victory for the rebirth of socialism or of the USSR, until these ambitious demagogic "leaders", will expose the actual face of the present regimes in former Soviet republics.

Another tragedy is that with so many parties, and so many Union of Officers allied with them, the leaders of these Union of Officers also cannot find a common ground for working unity.

Criticism of G. Zyuganov and the Communist Party of Russian Federation and P. Simonenko of the Communist Party of Ukraine has resulted in many dedicated communists leaving these parties and just vanishing.

Yes, we have the correct and theoretical tenets of Marxism-Leninism, but unfortunately we haven't got leaders of the caliber of V.I. Lenin or J. V. Stalin.

Legal forms of struggle with the class enemy- the bourgeoisie, is an illusion of a peaceful transition to socialism - this is a waste of historical opportunities.

The struggle for the state must be carried on until the final victory:

\*against all opportunism in the communist movements

\*against US imperialism, attacking whom ever they please, threatening socialist Korea, Vietnam and unbowed Byelorussia...

We are appealing to the Executive Committee of the International Council for Friendship and Solidarity with Soviet People to join in the demand that the United Nations take a stronger stand on the question of disarmament of all countries and struggle against creeping neo-fascism.

Galina Savchenko  
Chairperson the  
Movement fir USSR - Ukraine

*The letter contains 10 points and recommendations to the UN about achieving peace and disarmament. We agree with the points and have sent our statement to the United Nations.* ■

**FREEDOM FOR POLITICAL  
PRISONERS IN EX-USSR!**



### ERRATUM

In the last issue of NSC on the LTTE Atrocities, there was an error in the web page signature. Here are the correct ones:  
[www.spur.osn.au/ltteatro.htm](http://www.spur.osn.au/ltteatro.htm) or  
[www.epdpnews.com](http://www.epdpnews.com) or  
[www.go2lanka.com/ltteatrocities](http://www.go2lanka.com/ltteatrocities)

FROM  
LAKE WORTH, FL.  
USA

Dear comrades:

Enclosed is my payment for two years subscription to NSC.

On behalf of two generations of Communists and friends of the Soviet people, please accept our congratulations on this the 11<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of NSC. The so-called commercial news here is unwatchable and unreadable, something out of the Goebbels propaganda machine, but with one difference, more ads than you can count.

We, your neighbor to the south is the most propagandized nation that has ever existed. Many thanks to you, and to the devoted comrades around the world that make this publication possible.

Solidarity forever!

Phil Eisen

FROM  
BISHKERK  
KYRGYSTAN (KIRGHIZIA)

Dear friend:

You might be surprised to hear from me after all these years since our delegation from the Kyrghizian Friendship Society visited Canada and were guests of the Canada-USSR Association in a cross-country tour in late 1980's.

By chance I happened to see your magazine NSC on the internet web page and this brought some very pleasant memories, but also made me very ashamed of myself for not corresponding with all of you comrades, after the shocking events of the dismemberment of the Soviet Union, our Motherland!

Now, we have US troops on our soil as they have in other former Soviet republics, but now I and many others understand that the "US war on terror" is nothing more but an excuse to further the US energy interests in the Caspian oil rich region.

The situation here is getting worse economically, and as a former history professor, I know that this region was a hotbed of intrigue for at least 100 years between imperialist powers, for the control of this vital Eurasian landmass. Now it is the

USA, Iran, Turkey, Pakistan and China that are groping their dirty hands into the oil rich sands of this region.

The main spoils these powers are after is the Caspian oil and gas. On the shores of the Caspian Sea and at the bottom of the Caspian Sea, lie the world's biggest untapped fossil fuel resources. Estimates range anywhere from 110 to 243 billion barrels of crude oil, worth, according to US oil monopolies over \$4 trillion dollars!

According to the US ExxonMobil, Azerbaijan and Kazakhstan alone could be sitting on more than 130 billion of barrels. The US oil mega transnational corporations have already invested more than \$30

billions in new production facilities, while heads of these former Soviet republics, who were the so-called "communists" were bought and paid very handsomely - having villas in France, Spain and Switzerland, besides having their money in banks on Cayman Island.

Such is the present situation here dear friends. We are struggling against mighty odds, and with the growing of anti-Americanism, this in turn produces militant Islamic fundamentalism! We have much work ahead of us to resurrect Socialism and the Soviet Union.

Please do not use my name, for obvious reasons, just as the -

Friend of Canada



## REVOLUTIONARY DEMOCRACY

The September 2003 issue of Indian Marxist-Leninist Revolutionary Democracy is now available. This issue is over 150 pages long and, besides articles on the situation in India, contains a large number of articles of theoretical importance for readers internationally. These include:

\*GDR: 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of June 17, 1953 reactionary uprising.

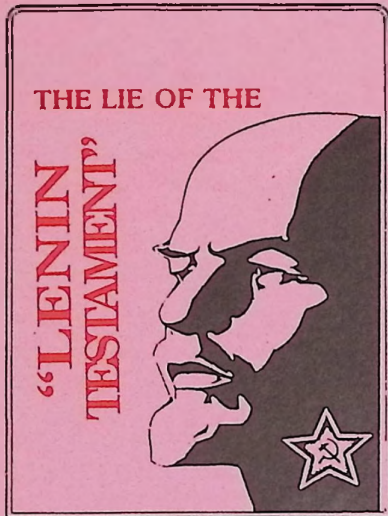
\*Dimitrov and the fight against Titoism in Bulgaria.

\*Stalin on the British Labour Movement in 1951.

Revolutionary Democracy is published twice yearly, in April and September, for \$8 (or 5 p.) for a year's subscription, or \$4 (2.50 p.) from the following addresses:

Revolutionary Democracy, 5-B Sudhir Bose Marg, University Enclave,  
Delhi 110007, India. (Money Order only to - The Manager)  
George Gruenthal, 192 Claremont Ave. #5-D, New York, NY 1007,  
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[www.revolutionarydemocracy.org](http://www.revolutionarydemocracy.org)



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# CREDO OF NORTHSTAR COMPASS



Northstar Compass is the publication of the International Council for Friendship and Solidarity with Soviet People, who are struggling to rebuild socialism in the countries that have for more than 70 years constituted the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics. Northstar Compass carries on the traditions of the "Hands Off Russia Committee", that were established internationally in 1918 to help protect the young Soviet Republic from foreign intervention. Today, after the Soviet Union was dissolved against the wishes of the majority of its people, the Soviet people are again looking to their supporters abroad for assistance in rebuilding the once great Soviet State.

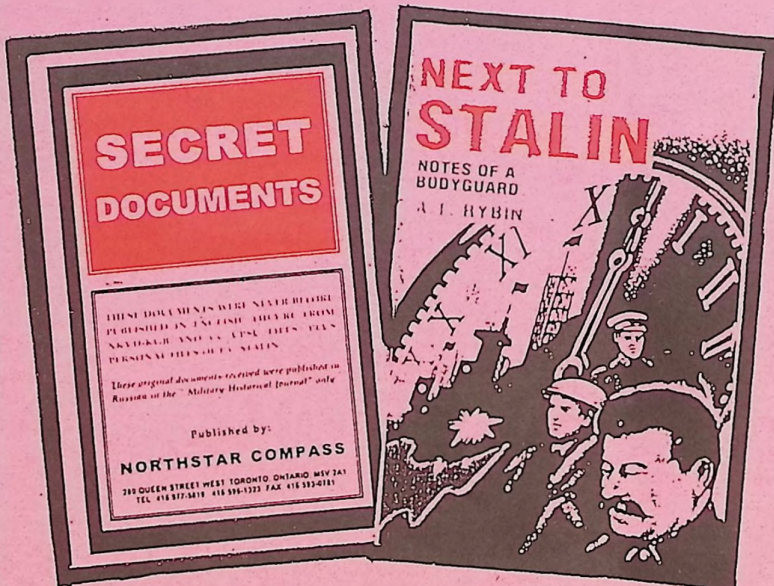
The International Council for Friendship and Solidarity with Soviet People unites – on an independent and non-partisan basis – all those organizations and individuals who support the above objective. In this spirit, Northstar Compass publishes articles of interest in this struggle, covering news and information on the contemporary situation inside the former USSR, as well as related world news about the struggles against neo-liberal globalization and imperialism, now rampant in the world.

Additionally, Northstar Compass covers events and issues concerning the friendship organizations associated with the International Council.

Northstar Compass thus acts as a unifying force to consolidate and coordinate the anti-imperialist forces of the world with the struggle for socialism and the restoration of the Soviet Union. In this manner we act as a united front, but are not a forum for ideological debates. Soviet people themselves will choose the path they will follow towards socialism. □

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