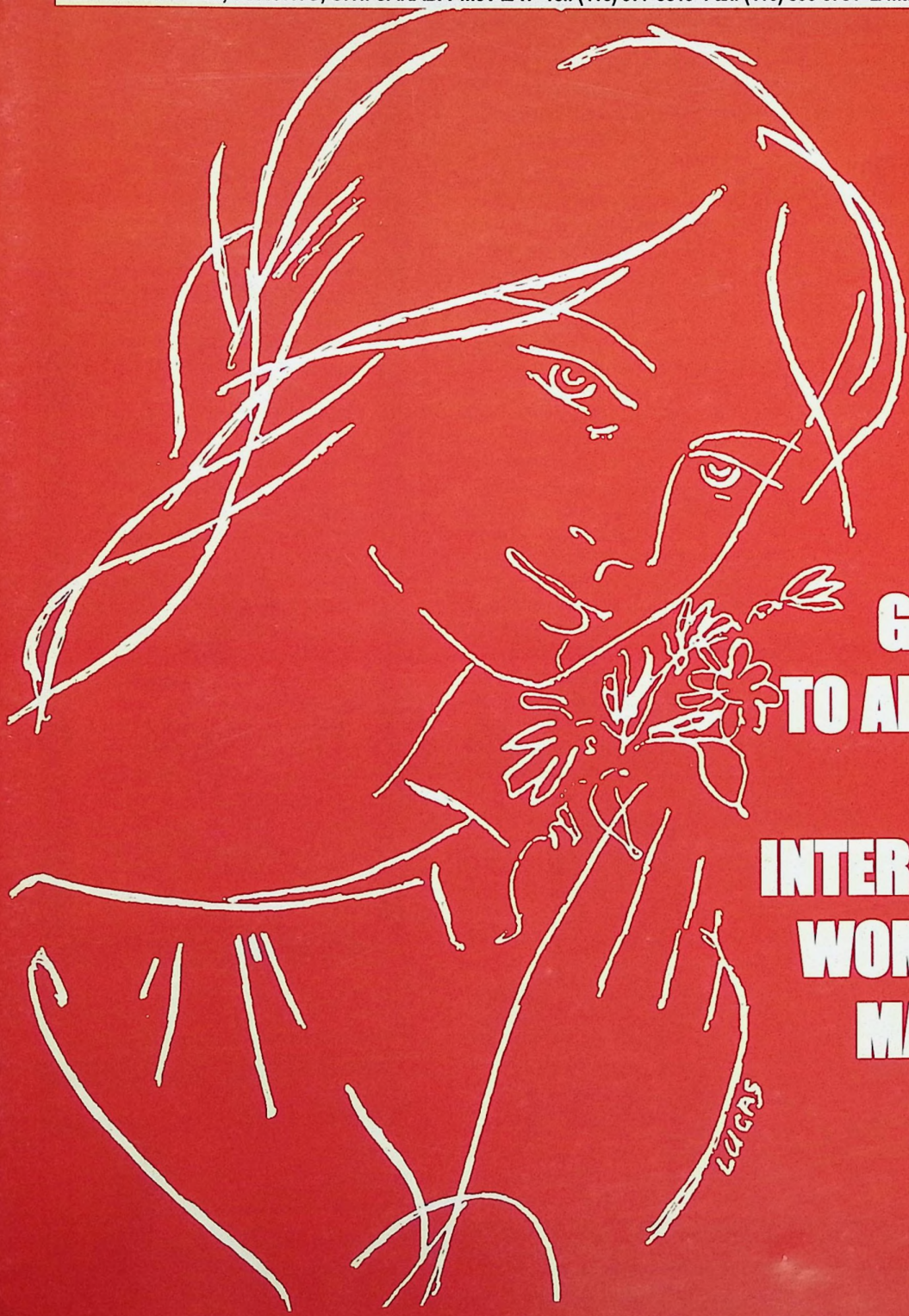


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ORGAN OF THE INTERNATIONAL COUNCIL FOR FRIENDSHIP AND SOLIDARITY WITH SOVIET PEOPLE - VOL. 15 #7, MAR. 2007

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**GREETINGS
TO ALL WOMEN
ON THE
INTERNATIONAL
WOMEN'S DAY
MARCH 8TH**

**INTERNATIONAL COUNCIL
AND EDITORIAL BOARD OF
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SECOND WORLD
CONGRESS IN CANADA -
2005**

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GEORGE
GRUENTHAL



WHY THE INTERNATIONAL COUNCIL HAD TO POSTPONE CONVENING THE THIRD WORLD CONGRESS

George Gruenthal is a member of the Executive Committee of the International Council, Editorial Board of NSC, Editor of NSC Web Page and Secretary of the US Friends of Soviet People

As all readers of Northstar Compass know, the Executive Committee of the International Council for Friendship and Solidarity with Soviet People decided that it would not be possible to hold the Third World Congress of the International Council in Moscow in November of 2007. I think that there is some lack of clarity as to how this decision was made and why, which I would like to try to clear up.

First, the decision to postpone the Congress was made by the overwhelming majority of the members of the Executive Committee, following discussions by phone, e-mail and letters – it was not a decision made by one person or by a small group within the Executive Committee. There were both objective and subjective problems in holding of the Congress in Moscow in 2007 which could not be overcome, at least not in time.

The main objective problem is one that we all knew at the Second World Congress held in Toronto in September of 2005 – the potential for sabotage, disruption and obstruction by Putin's capitalist regime. The simplest form of doing this would be for Putin to deny visas to leading delegates to the Congress from abroad, particularly to Michael Lucas, the Chair of the Executive Committee. Comrades from the Soviet Society for Friendship with Foreign Countries had promised to ask the Russian government for a visa for Michael, but the government never gave a response.

One should note that, while some foreign Communist Parties take part in meetings in Moscow, these parties in general do not call for the removal of Putin's regime. The International Council, however, clearly calls for the rebirth of the Soviet Union and the revival of socialism there, which is to be the theme of the Third World

Congress.

There were also several subjective problems with holding the Congress in Moscow in 2007.

The formation of the Soviet Society for Friendship with Foreign Countries and the change of its name from the Russian Society to the Soviet Society were hailed at the Second World Congress as important steps allowing us to hold the Third Congress on the territory of the former Soviet Union, and we continue to greatly appreciate the work of the Soviet comrades in taking this step. However, we recognized at the time of the Second Congress that this was just a first step, and that other crucial steps were needed.

One of the main weaknesses of the Soviet Society is that most of its members are associated with one party, the Russian Communist Workers Party (RCWP), and it is based in only one republic, Russia. It is important that the RCWP as well as other parties and organizations support the work of the Soviet Society and in particular the holding of the Third World Congress.

The International Council has stated many times that the Council is **not** a new communist international, and so we can certainly not state that any one party is the genuine Communist Party in the former Soviet Union. **The problem of the many communist parties in the former Soviet Union, of the formation of a genuine Communist Party and most importantly its unity with the advanced sections of the working class, can only be solved by the Soviet comrades themselves.** All the International Council can do is support and promote such efforts at unity.

Therefore we must encourage the Soviet comrades from all the political parties, trade unions, youth, scientific and cultural organizations that see the need for the rebirth of the Soviet Union and socialism to help to develop and broaden the Soviet Society as a non-partisan united front. This united front must have the backing of these parties and organizations without being, or even being seen as, a front for one or another party.

Part of this question is the relation of the Soviet Society and the Third World Congress with Zyuganov and the Communist Party of the Russian Federation (CPRF). Zyuganov and the CPRF as a whole have never supported the International Council, and for very clear reasons – they do not stand for the rebirth of the Soviet Union and socialism. They prefer to function as the "loyal opposition" to Putin's regime. Of course, there are many genuine supporters of socialism in the Soviet Union within the CPRF, but they do not determine the policy of that party. Thus, to have a Congress in Moscow that would be objectively beholden to the CPRF would be to undermine the aims and work of the Council. This does not mean that we would oppose the participation of members of the CPRF in the Third World Congress – we should welcome this, but we cannot let the CPRF determine the line or work of the Congress.

These, in my view, are the main reasons that the Congress could not be held in Moscow in November of 2007 as planned.

Where do we go from here?

The preparations for the Third World Congress are continuing.

Clearly, it would be best if the Congress could be held on territory of the former Soviet Union – whether in Minsk or elsewhere. Another possibility would be to hold it in a former socialist country of Eastern Europe. Otherwise, having the Congress somewhere in West Europe would be possible, since this would involve less travel expenses for our Soviet comrades than traveling to Canada.

In any case, the situation will involve more work on the part of both the International Council and the Soviet Society. It will be the task of both organizations to promote the support for the Soviet Society from a broad spectrum of parties and organizations in the former Soviet Union. It will be the task of the Soviet Society to look for a location for the Congress inside the former Soviet Union, and the task of the International Council to look for a location outside the former SU. The location should be one that allows for members of the International Council and of the Soviet Society to attend with a minimum of political problems, particularly visa problems, and one where there is an organization on the ground that can do the logistical work of holding the Congress. It would be best if it were possible for delegates to stay with supporters of the Congress rather than staying in hotels, but if this is not possible the Congress should be held somewhere where the expenses would not be prohibitive. We all have a lot of work to do, but with the political will this will be achieved.

ON TO THE THIRD WORLD WIDE CONGRESS!



STATEMENT BY THE SOVIET FRIENDSHIP SOCIETY WITH PEOPLES IN FOREIGN COUNTRIES

BY VLADIMIR CHECHENTSEV, CHAIRMAN and VIKTOR BOURENKOV,
VICE CHAIRMAN



CHECHENTSEV BOURENKOV

In conjunction with the appearance in the "Ekonomicheskaya Gazeta" newspaper, Number 4, 2007 in Moscow an article titled: "Instead of a Congress-a Conference" we are stating the following:

As members of the Executive of the International Council for Friendship and Solidarity with Soviet People (V. Chechentsev) and members of the Editorial Board of Northstar Compass (V. Chechentsev) and (V. Bourenkov), we agree with the decision that was made by an absolute majority of members of the International Council and of the Editorial Board of NSC to cancel the Third World Congress that was to be held on November 6-7-8, 2007 in Moscow and the decision to postpone the Congress until 2008.

We are disappointed that in spite of the initiative by the Organizing Committee in talking steps to organize the Third-World Congress, headed by D. Dzhohadze of the Soviet Friendship Society, we were not able to resolve many problems that needed to be resolved in order that such a world-wide event would be held on a high level.

At the same time we absolutely are not in agreement with the comments made by D. Dzhohadze in the newspaper that the main cause of the cancellation of the Third World Congress is lack of initiative-plans by Michael Lucas and D. Dzhohadze on one side and V. Chechentsev, V. Bourenkov and Dzhohadze on the other side.

(1) Professor Dzhohadze from the time of the Second World Congress

that was held in September of 2005 in Canada was an elected member of the Editorial Board of Northstar Compass. The attempt to make everyone think that you were not informed by anyone from the Editorial Board of NSC or from the International Council is not very serious excuse. Why this attempt to say: "No one from the International Council nor Chechentsev or Bourenkov did not inform me even by one word". We must ask the following question: "Then whom do you represent our dear professor?"

And if the question was really about the organizational problems in organizing the Congress was no ongoing contacts either with the International Council or the Editorial Board of Northstar Compass, then why did you not professor Dzhohadze accept the invitation to be hosted and to attend the Mini Conference that was held on September 25-26-27, 2006 in Toronto, Canada where the Congress question was discussed for three days?

(2) Also there was criticism by professor Dzhohadze that there is not enough contacts established with the former Soviet republics. The Soviet Friendship Society is not working energetically enough, but it is ongoing, wrote Dzhohadze. But then in his article he says that he will not make any comment on the work of the Soviet Friendship Society.

First of all, professor Dzhohadze as a member of the Friendship Society since November 2006, and as a member he cannot not take any blame for some of the weaknesses in our work. Besides this, Dzhohadze as a leading member was giving a Report on December 19, 2006 to our Committee on "Plans that are ongoing in organizing the Third World Congress."

And, where are the results of these important plans?

The publishing of private-organizational correspondence

between Lucas and Dzhohadze and correspondence between Bourenkov and Chechentsev, and his commentary shows us that Dzhohadze wants to distance himself and to put all the blame for this cancellation on the shoulders of the International Council and specifically on the shoulders of the Chairman of the International Council and Editor of Northstar Compass Michael Lucas. Besides this he also wants to put the blame on Chechentsev and Bourenkov, Chairman and Vice Chairman of the Soviet Society for Friendship.

In our opinion this is the result of the disunity, the fractional activity of the communist parties and other peoples organizations, some of whom did not and do not actually realize the great importance of what the Third World Congress for Friendship and Solidarity with Soviet People would have been able to accomplish - the dedication of friendship and solidarity with Soviet people and the resurrection of the Soviet Union. There were plans to give birth to the anti-imperialist world-wide front and the unifying of the revolutionary communist movements and the international working class in the struggle for Socialism!

V. Chechentsev - member of the International Council
 V. Bourenkov, member of the Editorial Board - Northstar Compass

Members of the Central Executive Committee Soviet Friendship Society with Peoples of Foreign Countries

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DID YOU RENEW YOUR SUB?

GUEST EDITORIAL



IRINA MALENKOV



INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY

International Women's Day has been observed since the early 1900's, a time of great expansion and turbulence in the industrial world...

1908 - Great unrest and critical debate was occurring amongst women. Women's oppression and inequality was spurring women to become more vocal and active in campaigning for change. Then in 1908, 15,000 women marched through New York city demanding shorter hours, better pay and voting rights.

1909 - In accordance with the declaration by the Socialist Party of America, the first National Women's Day (NWD) was observed across the United States on February 28. Women continued to celebrate NWD on the last Sunday of February until 1913.

1910 - At the Socialist International meeting in Copenhagen, an International Women's Day of no fixed date was proposed to honour women's rights movement and to assist in achieving universal suffrage

for women. Over 100 women from 17 countries unanimously agreed to the proposal. Three of these women were later elected the first women to Parliament of Finland.

1911 - Following the decision agreed at Copenhagen in 1911, International Women's Day was honoured the first time in Austria, Denmark, Germany and Switzerland on March 19th. More than one million women and men attended the IWD rallies campaigning for women's right to work, to vote, be trained, to hold public office and to end the discrimination. However, less than a week later on March 25, the tragic "Triangle Fire" in New York City took the lives of more than 140 working women, most of them Italian and Jewish immigrants. This disastrous event drew significant attention to the working conditions and labour legislation in the United States that became the focus of subsequent International Women's Day events. 1911 also saw the women's "Bread and Roses Campaign."

1913-1914 - On the eve of World War I campaigning for peace, the Russian women observed their first International Women's Day on the last Sunday in February of 1913. In 1914 women across Europe held rallies to campaign against the war and to express women's solidarity.

1918-1999 - Since its birth in the socialist movement, International Women's Day has grown to become a global day of recognition and celebration across the developed and developing countries alike. For decades, the IWF has grown from strength to strength annually. For many years the United Nations had held an annual IWD conference in order to co-ordinate international efforts for women's rights and participation in social, political and economic processes. 1975 was

designated as the "International Women's Year" by the United Nations Organization. Women's organizations and the governments around the world have also observed IWD annually on March 8 by holding large scale events that honour women's advancement and reminding all of the continued vigilance and action required to ensure that women's equality is gained and maintained in all aspects of life.

2000-2007 - This International Women's Day is now an official holiday in Armenia, Russia, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Bulgaria, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Macedonia, Moldova, Mongolia, Tadjikistan, Ukraine, Uzbekistan and Vietnam. The tradition sees men honouring their mothers, wives, girlfriends, colleagues etc. with flowers and small gifts.

In 1999 I for the first time celebrated International Women's Day abroad - in the Netherlands where I was on a student exchange program. There were 4 of us: three girls and 1 boy, and as a real Soviet man he bought flowers for each one of us, even though we did not have much "hard currency". For him there was any doubt that he should congratulate us all. Our Dutch hosts were looking at us in amazement, not knowing and not understanding what this day was all about. To us Soviets, it also was an equal shock to discover that the International Women's Day is not only not an official holiday in the Netherlands, but a totally unknown phenomena all together. And that is in a country that brags so much about their feminism etc. And despite the fact that it wasn't the "Russian Bolsheviks" who invented this day, but it was, in fact, the United Nations who declared this day to be the International Women's Day in order to celebrate women and their accomplishments and the great contributions they have made to the society.

We tried to explain to our Western hosts what this day means. They still could not understand. "Its something similar to our Mother's Day. Isn't it?" Well, yes and no! Because this day celebrates not just the motherhood, but all women's achievements in life, and our women in the USSR were so much more than mothers! But how

do you explain to these people in whose country women-doctors and women-professors are a very rare exception and who simply cannot imagine the women-engineers or women-factory directors?

To me, March 8th always brings memories of the sweet smell of mimosa flowers - the most common present our men gave us in the USSR on that day. Even the little boys in schools were secretly preparing presents and cards for girls in their class, weeks ahead of the Big Day. The evening before the Women's Day, many workplaces had special celebratory meetings where the best female employees were receiving awards for their achievements, often with a concert or a nice meal afterwards.

On the day itself, our men at home and at work were more gallant than any Knight from the old romantic novels. And of course, there were plenty of programs on TV dedicated to women - heroes of the war, hard workers, brilliant scientists and artists and kind, warm-hearted mothers. But this day was also for the grandmothers, daughters, sisters, granddaughters, nieces, cousins, wives, girlfriends and fiancées as well.

Today in capitalist Russia this day is still officially a public holiday. But just like everything else there, it is not the same anymore. Recently, I was on a visit there and going to the Moscow airport by car when I noticed a big crowd of women and girls standing along the road, seemingly in their ordinary working clothes, waiting for something. My first thought was that they were waiting for a truck to bring them to work on the collective farm in order to collect the harvest, like we used to do during Soviet times. But during that time we were usually cheerful, loud and full of jokes when we went to work in the kolkhoz (*collective farm*) but these women were silent. And when I noticed behind the bushes some foreign fancy cars with men who were sitting behind the wheel and watching these women, did I realize that those were the pimps and their female slaves - prostitutes waiting to serve the passing truckers!

What kind of celebration and respect for women can be in such a society? What do these women have to celebrate on that day? The fact

that the women have now become commodities in this present capitalist Russia as well as in other former Soviet republics; that they are the first ones to lose their jobs and also the lowest paid ones; that tens of thousands of our young girls are dreaming of "becoming a model in the West" or "marrying a rich foreigner"? That the present husbands treat their wives worse than in the days of Domostroi (*Domostroi-Rules for Russian Households in the time of Ivan the Terrible*)?

There is now no affordable childcare, many women are forced to abandon their children and some even kill their children, unable to look after them. Female alcoholism and drug abuse has become a mass problem. Most private companies demand from their female employees to sign an agreement that they will not become pregnant in the next five years! Women now worry themselves sick as to how they will, be able to feed and educate their children. The present situation in Russia for women has gone back to the conditions that existed in the Middle Ages!

I was recently watching a Belgian soap opera called "Matryoshki", about the Lithuanian and Russian sex slave workers in Belgium, and the most shocking was not even the treatment that these girls were receiving, but the very fact that they were already considering this as **something normal**, as just a part of ordinary life. And these are the daughters and the granddaughters of Soviet women who fought the Nazis during the Great Patriotic War, who went into space as the first in the world, who were equal members in the truly humane society! Who of them could even in their worst nightmare imagine that their little girls would be living such miserable lives thanks to Mr. Gorbachev, Mr. Yeltsin and the present leader of Russia, the so-called "Liberators from Dignity"?

But we, the Soviet women, are lucky not only because we were born and lived in the most wonderful (*even if it wasn't perfect*) society in all of human history. We are also lucky because, unlike our counterparts in the rest of the world who are only talking about the chance that "another world is

possible", we know **FOR SURE** that it is possible. We have seen it for ourselves and have experienced it ourselves that **IT IS** possible and today our task is to educate the next generation and to raise them to believe that this better world is possible, that it is worth to fight for,

and that the life of our young people today, is unworthy of human beings in the XXI Century!

Here will be plenty of work in the coming years for all of us – as mothers and as memory keepers of the Great October Socialist Revolution!

WHAT IS THE MOST OFTEN QUESTION ASKED OF NORTHSTAR COMPASS?

Why are there so many communist-socialist parties in former Soviet Republics?

NEWS FROM FORMER USSR

RUSSIA MAY EXIT ARMS REDUCTION TREATY

From MOSNEWS

A top Russian General said last month that Moscow might unilaterally opt out of the Arms Reduction Treaty with the United States, which was negotiated by Gorbachev and US President Reagan in 1987. This Intermediate-Range Nuclear Forces Treaty eliminated an entire class of medium-range missiles that had been based in Europe.

General Yuri Baluevsky, the chief of the Russian Army's General Staff was quoted by the Interfax Agency. "Everything depends on what the US does in their attempt to deploy missiles and establish bases into Poland and the Czech Republic."

General Baluevsky's comments came after President Putin said last February 10th that the INF Treaty no longer serves Russia's interests.

PICKET HELD IN DEFENSE OF REFUGEES

By Ludmila Cherjomushkina

Last February 3, 2007 on the Pushkin Square there took place a picket line in defence of the rights of refugees. On this picket there were refugees from Baku and Abkhazia living in row housing on Sholokov St. and Yasny street, plus refugees that were expelled in 2004 from the housing apartments. The picket was organized by the Revolutionary Workers Party, Movement of subsidized housing of the Moscow region and the Youth in Defence of the rights of people.

Refugees from Baku, Azerbaijan (at moment still citizens of USSR) they were expelled from their housing in 1990 by the Moscow City Council. Every year they had to register. Now they are being refused permits to live there. The present Moscow City authority said that they are refugees (still considering themselves as Russian speaking Soviet citizens Editor) and have no right to live in Moscow. Thus they cannot receive any pensions or medical help. Most of these refugees that had to flee the counter-revolution are pensioners, others are very ill, while many are hero veterans of the Great Patriotic War.

The same situation is with the refugees from Azerbaijan living on Sholokhov St, and living there since 1988.

These premises will now be taken over by the city for development and other uses, and name lists are made of those living there, but not one name is listed of these refugees. That means that scores of the Soviet refugees will find themselves on the street. These living quarters were taken over by police when they stormed the building in 2004 and evicted these refugees unto the street and these refugees are trying to live anyplace, on the streets, in underpasses, or anyplace they can.

There is an ongoing campaign to expel all Soviet refugees that had to run for their lives after the dismemberment of the USSR.

The signs-placards that the pickets carried said: "During Soviet times 80-90th years Moscow showed its internationalism. But now they did fool the world and expelling us unto the streets" – "They took away from our parents their Motherland, now they're taking it away from us." – "Our Motherland is the USSR!"

RUSSIA WILL NOT ACCEPT ANY REVISIONS OF WWII

From INTERFAX

MOSCOW- Russia will not accept the demands made by Japan to give back the Kurile Islands. The results must remain inviolable, stated Russian Foreign Ministry spokesman Mikhail Kamynin.

"Our position is well-known and it has not and will not change."

A rally against Japan's territorial claims was held in front of the Japanese Consulate in Yuzho-Sakhalinsk last February. The demonstration was united from all sections of the Russian political spectrum.

Placards carried said: "No to Japanese Revanchism!", "Russian Youth know their country's borders!" "Thanks to the Yalta Conference which returned the Kurile Islands to Russia!"

The demonstrators slammed the Japanese imposed holiday, called "Day of Northern Territories in Japan."

RUSSIA FACES INTENSIFIED NATO ENCIRCLEMENT

From ITAR-TASS

MOSCOW- "We cannot turn a blind eye on the approach of NATO's military-infrastructure to the Russian borders and the US intention to reconfigure its military presence in Europe, which will encompass not only redeployment of some of its troops to Bulgaria and Romania, but also the deployment of a global anti-ballistic missile defence component in the Czech Republic and Poland" said Alexander Kramarenko director

of Russian Foreign Ministry.

"Regrettably, many of our partners, especially those in the West, have remained in the web of illusions and prejudices of the "Cold War Era", and are unable to overcome the retardation of bloc-biased approach and confrontational policies" - Kramarenko concluded.

PUTIN ATTACKS "VERY DANGEROUS" U.S.

Report from Munich Summit



Russian President Putin has attacked the United States for what he said was its "almost uncontained" use of armed force around the world. He stated that "America's very dangerous approach" to global relations was fuelling the nuclear arms race.

US Defence Secretary Robert Gates, who also attended the Summit in Munich said only that the Russian leader had "been very candid."

President Putin continued by saying that: "The world is witnessing an almost uncontained hyper use of force in international relations. One state, the United States of America has overstepped its national borders in every way. This is very dangerous. Nobody feels secure anymore because nobody can hide behind international law."

The BBC defence and security correspondent Rob Watson, attending the Munich Summit said that Mr. Putin's speech was a strident performance which may well be remembered as a turning point in international relations.

US Senator Joseph Lieberman called the speech by Putin as "very provocative."

Russian government's spokesman Dmitry Peskov said that Mr. Putin's speech was "not about confrontation, it's an invitation to think. Until we get

rid of unilateralism in international affairs, until we exclude the possibility of imposing one country's views of other countries, we will not have stability."

CSTO COUNTRIES ARE COORDINATING PLANS AGAINST AGGRESSION

From Byelorussian Telegraph Agency

CSTO countries coordinated draft protocol of assistance in case of any aggression against anyone of them.

This issue was on the agenda of the meeting of the permanent council members of the Collective Security Treaty Organization (CSTO), which was held in Moscow and was chaired by Vasily Rudenok of the Republic of Belarus.

The meeting focussed on the further promotion of military and military-technical cooperation within the framework of CSTO.

ABKHAZIA PREPARED FOR GEORGIAN ATTACK

From CIVIL GEORGIA

Abkhaz leader Sergey Bagapsh said last month that any acts of provocation in the Gali region by Georgian forces will be repulsed and will not thwart the local self-governance elections....according to the Interfax news agency.

"As far as we know the Georgian side has sent several terrorist groups to the Gali district of the republic plus leaflets in order to disrupt the elections but the elections were held and the people voted for separation from Georgia.

BYELORUSSIAN AUTO PLANT EXPORTS TRUCKS TO VENEZUELA

The state owned Auto plant BelAZ is exporting dump trucks to Venezuela and it is the gateway for Belarus to the Latin America in its export of top-notch dump trucks for open cast mining.

According to Minsk they export over 200 dump trucks there, They export these high-end dump trucks not only to former Soviet republics but to China, Australia, Iran and many EU countries.

SERBIA'S HARD-WON 200 - YEAR OLD NATIONHOOD AT STAKE

FROM VOICE OF RUSSIA

Those Western vested forces who have been encouraging and supporting the Kosovo separatists should not lose touch with the enormity of the likely fallout from their actions.

Let us remember that on February 15, 1804, there was an uprising in Orashats against the Turkish yoke and its outcome plus the Turkish-Russian war from 1806-1812, led to the creation of the Serbian Principality and on February 15, 1835 the Serbian Parliament adopted its first national constitution.

But now the territorial integrity of Serbia is in serious jeopardy as Kosovo, the cradle of the Serbian civilization, is on the verge of being torn away from the state.

Since NATO invasion in 1999, Kosovo has been virtually a protectorate of Western countries and it is being given legitimacy through the back-door deals via the recommendation of the UN special envoy, Marti Ahtisaari.

Last month the present Serbian government examined the UN recommendation and 225 out of 250 have voted against the Ahtisaari's plan for Kosovo.

This move of Kosovo separation is very fraught with unpredictable consequences for the region and for Europe.

How many Albanian States will the UN and Europe tolerate in the south of Europe?

The example of Kosovo will spread like a wild bush fire and already that part of Macedonia with a large part of Albanian population is stirring and being edged on by the Western interests. Besides part of Montenegro and southern Serbia can also borrow a leaf from Kosovo.

COMMENT:

A good commentary by the Voice of Russia press, but, it lacks one fundamental question that should be asked of President Putin and the Russian government - why not use its veto power at the UN? Words are cheap, action speaks louder than

words. But of course, this cannot happen since Mr. Vladimir Putin also agreed with the dismemberment of the USSR as he agrees with the dismemberment of Yugoslavia. UN is more and more being used as a pacifier given to any baby to keep it quiet and mum. - Editor

LUKASHENKO DEFENDS HIMSELF

From MOSNEWS

President Lukashenko criticized the West last month for supporting the Byelorussian opposition groups, saying that those foes were outcasts who had failed in the government and lived and are living off foreign financial donations.

The European Union and the United States have halted any dialogue with Belarus and slapped visa bans on Byelorussian diplomats and officials, charging that Lukashenko has rigged the elections and imprisoned dissidents etc.

Lukashenko stated that: " *These well paid European officials come here, walk freely around the streets, meet the so-called opposition, collect some data, come up with criticisms of the so-called dictator Lukashenko and go back home.*" He added that: " *The West is cooperating with these so-called opposition, but they are not opposition, they are renegades who were unsuccessful as members of my government. They were all part of my team. They were all alongside myself and promoted the same ideology. But the portfolios they were given they considered as too small, so they then went into opposition, and, they are making money out of this!*"

The European Union demanded that Belarus accept 12 conditions before any dialogue can be resumed. Belarus government rejected these demands and told the European Union to follow Byelorussian example and " *create full employment and other benefits for all the people.*"

LITHUANIA: has the highest suicide rate in the world.
RUSSIA: in 2nd place with 60,000 suicides per year.

JEF BOSSUYT



Russia: the Ossetians want to go back to USSR.

Kosovo and Ossetia are 2 small squares on the chessboard of the great powers. The population there does not want simply to become victims of new wars.

Serbian province Kosovo is occupied by the US troops since 1999. Last week the UN representative Ahtisaari has launched in Austria a plan that in reality would make the Albanian-speaking Kosovo independent from Serbia (1). And then only one transitional phase will remain for the Albanian nationalists in order to make Kosovo part of Albania. For NATO that will mean a new step in eastern direction and in taking over control of the energy supplies through the Balkans. Albania is a candidate-member of NATO and is prepared to place its territory, its harbours and its airspace fully at the disposal of NATO. It takes part in NATO operations in Kosovo, in Bosnia and in Afghanistan (2). By these action the strategically important area will be stolen from Serbia, the traditional ally of Russia in this region.

Russia also feels the hot breathing of NATO at its southern borders. In 2008 the last Russian troops will leave the ex Soviet republic of Georgia (3). In the meantime, the Americans are building up and training the Georgian army in the ex Soviet base in the capital Tbilisi.

The public opinion in Russia is shocked and forces the government to make steps in response to this. During the World's Economic Forum in Davos Russian First Deputy Prime Minister Medvedev said that Kosovo " *should become a model for all "frozen conflicts" in the world*" (4). This means: " *if the West will declare*

Kosovo independent and accepts this, then we will recognize the independence of Abkhazia and Southern Ossetia" By doing this Russia would take 2 big bites out of the territory of NATO's ally Georgia – as a revenge. Not a single newspaper has actually asked what would the Ossetians themselves wish, except for our newspaper Solidair. Dmitri Kostenko (5) has written for us a report about his trip to Southern Ossetia. Recently he has been an observer during the presidential elections and the independence referendum there on the 12th of November 2006.

Back to USSR.

Already in the XVIII century the Georgian king Herekle (*Irakly*) has asked Russia for military help in order to protect Georgia from Turkish invasion. After the Revolution, in 1922, Southern Ossetia became an autonomous part of the Soviet republic of Georgia, while Northern Ossetia – an autonomous part of the Russian republic. At that time these borders meant little, and nobody cared if your mother tongue was Ossetian, Georgian or Russian.

" *In 1991*" - writes Kostenko, " *the Ossetians have refused to recognize the disbandment of the Soviet Union and the falling off of Georgia. The fascist Georgian nationalists then committed an ethnic cleansing and pushed out 100.000 Ossetians under the motto of "Georgia for Georgians".* The Southern Ossetians have organized and armed themselves and, after 3 years long war have declared their independence from Georgia. This independence they have de facto kept until now. All the very best of USSR has been preserved in this little splinter of USSR. Free education and medical care. priority to the social projects, to the old people and disabled. There is no criminality, no terrorism, and the safety of the Georgian minority is also secured. The Communist party of Southern Ossetia (CPSO) has a lot of influence and 5 elected representatives. In the centre of the capital Tshinvali there is a Lenin street and a Stalin street. " *The independence referendum in Southern Ossetia for us was the first step in order to restore the family of the nations, the Soviet Union*", - says Stanislav Kochiev, chairperson of the CPSO. " *The next step would be joining the union with Russia and*

Belarus. We do not want to be a small separatist island, we want to reunite with Northern Ossetia. In 1989 we've lost our autonomous status and became victims of the Georgian nationalists. Then they killed 800 people, wounded 1700 and burnt out 117 Ossetian villages. In 1991 98% of the Southern Ossetian population voted for keeping of USSR. Unfortunately, Georgia introduced its own currency, destroyed our economy by doing this and the "Orange" president Saakashvili now drags his country into NATO and EU. But Ossetia has built its own political structures. In these elections we have supported our president Kokoity. He does not

allow the privatisation of the land and all the big industry and companies will remain state property. Only small service companies can become private. We receive fuel from Russia and have our own nickel and copper for producing wires. In co-operation with Northern Ossetia we started a woodworking enterprise. The salaries here are higher than in Georgia. That is why 99% voted for our independence."

- (1) De Standaard, 26.1.07
- (2) www.nato.int 5.12.2003
- (3) BBC News 30.7.2005
- (4) The Moscow Times, 29.1.2007
- (5) Dmitri Kostenko is member of the Russian Communist Workers party.

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FASCISM AND ANTI-FASCISM SUBSTITUTION OF NOTIONS

By MARIA DONCHENKO - AKM

Probably everyone who is even a little interested in politics could not miss the recent exaggeration of fascism topic everywhere by forces of quite different ideological directions. Let's begin with what is on the spot - with current authorities raising "fight against fascism" as an official ideology. At the same time all the unwanted are called "fascists" - from communists to liberals. Of course, the problem of neo-nazism exists, but is to a high degree inspired by authorities themselves

who direct the protest energy of youth to the false enemy - to working people with another colour of eyes. Moreover, such spirits are cheered up artificially - remember - example, the anti-Georgian campaign or hysteria around the prohibition the "Russian March" organized by rather moderate forces. But they are inspired by Moscow authorities around the march and its prohibition has only increased popularity of nationalist ideas.

Concerning "anti-fascists" the situation is even more complicated than the fascists (if we take the closest meaning of this word to its true one). Everyone who is not lazy speculates on the topic of anti-fascism during the last months of 2006. So, pro-Kremlin movement reacted at the "anti-fascist" campaign with proper cynicism - distributing cheap New Year gifts to veterans in honour of the 65th anniversary of the Moscow battle victory. Of course it is a good matter if we forgive that the



same authorities had doomed the elderly to poverty, to humiliating miserable pensions and a year ago had tried to take away their deserved privileges.

Even more interesting is the fact that some "left" forces took up the topic of "anti-fascism" some weeks and even months before November, 4. It was the part of the Left movement which positions as irreconcilable adversaries of current authorities and personally Putin (*sometimes appears even as independent on his policy*) suddenly took up the "anti-fascist" rhythorics simultaneously with the ruling party.

Some politicians calling themselves "communists" organized joint actions "anti-fascist" against the "Russian March" even with movements of persons of non-conventional sexual orientation which looked ferocious not only for socialism supporters but for all decent people. A natural question arises – do we need such "anti-fascists"? Several weeks later the same groups found themselves among the participants of anti-Putin's "March of discordants" together with liberals, extremely right "free market" supporters – "against fascism" again. No, comrades, we don't need such "anti-fascism".

A question arises – what do we mean by fascism and anti-fascism (without inverted commas)? Our answer was given on November, 4 at the meeting at the monument of the outstanding fighter against fascism Ernst Thaelmann. Let us take the Great Soviet Encyclopedia published in the 1950s: "Fascism is the most reactionary political trend which appeared in capitalist countries during the period of total crisis of capitalism and which expresses the interests of the most aggressive circles of imperialist bourgeois; the openly terrorist dictatorship of monopolist capital is also called F. Elimination or aspiration to eliminate all the democratic freedoms, extreme chauvinism, preparing and unleashing aggressive, annexationist wars are distinctive for F." So, what fascism are these gentlemen going to fight against? The fascism that had been defeated by Soviet people – they are late for approximately 65 years. Or all of them displeased? It is called otherwise.

Communists, Bolsheviks were always the most consistent fighters against fascism and nazism. It was communists who were

forward during the Great Patriotic war and it was Communist party which lost at battlefields three million and a half members – its doubled pre-war number. So you look for fascists in a wrong place. Moreover, a substitution of notions is taking place in mass conscience – what to call "fascism" and what to call "anti-fascism". So it is no coincidence that on November, 4 we came to the square with the slogan "Capitalism is an enemy of working people of all nationalities". Our task is to unmask everybody who sweeps his muddy paws to memory of our forefathers who defeated fascism and everybody who tries to confuse notions of fascism and anti-fascism and makes substitution in his mercenary interests irrespectively whether they belong to ruling party encampment or portray themselves as opposition.

PENTAGON PREPARES FOR POSSIBLE WAR WITH RUSSIA

FROM PANARMENIAN.NET



The USA Defence Secretary thinks that American armed forces must be ready for a large-scale war with Russia, the Associated Press reported last month.

"We need a full set of measures to conduct a war, including both special military units necessary for war against terrorists and large

infantry troops to be able to fight against large regular armies. We do not know what changes are going on in Russia, North Korea, Iran and others, but mainly Russia", Defence Secretary Robert Gates stated.

Top officials in the Russian Government stated that this is the "Cold War of the 21st Century".

Sergei Markov, Director of the Russian Political Research Institute said: "We can see that Russia is increasingly perceived by the United States as a potential foe since the deployment of US missile shield right on the borders of Russia is intended as a political weapon against our country."

It is a fact that the US withdrew from the AntiBallistic Missile Treaty precisely in order to restore their full control over the strategic nuclear potential of Russia.

Leonid Ivanov of the Academy of Geopolitical Problems in Moscow said that if Russia is not careful: "Russia may end up cornered in the North, and it will become a tiny Nordic country!"

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RUSSIA UNDER DAMOCLES' SWORD

Translated by
Larisa Schirba

"News" from the TV screens radiate official optimism. We are told that "National programs" are being successfully fulfilled. The screen tirelessly shows the Russian Figaro: "Putin here, Putin there..." However, the gloomy reality denies this played-up optimism. Here are two sketches of the true life of Russia.

On the one hand we have the scandal in Courchevel. The police of this French resort detained and interrogated Mister Prokhorov, the owner of the largest Russian nickel enterprise Norilsk-Nikel, a forty-year-old playboy, who arrived at this French town to celebrate New Year escorted by 16 women and by his drinking buddies. Why did he bring the women? In one of their suitcases 200 condoms were found. They have celebrated the New Year "really well" with a tsarist merchant's vigor! This is not an exception, but an example of everyday life of the modern Russian oligarchs who have collected honey from Yeltsin's reforms. Prokhorov's estate is \$7 Billion, however, he ranks only # 8 on the list of Russian oligarchs. The other members of the top list don't party any worse. TV anchor Pushkov described being a witness to several of such oligarchs bringing to one of the hotels of Crete 40 floosies and had fireworks in honour of one of their birthdays. This is why it was necessary to destroy the USSR and the democratic reforms of Gorbachov, Yeltsin and Putin.

On the other hand, we have quite a contrasting story. A young woman, an operator of a construction crane, opened the door of her crane booth and jumped from a 100 meter height. She committed suicide having left behind her elderly mother

and a little daughter. Why? It was time to pay back for the money she had borrowed on credit, but she had nothing to pay with. After having searched her apartment the court police discovered there was nothing valuable to confiscate.

The "democratic" market so highly praised by the publicists, choking with excitement, who painted it in the colours of the rainbow, turned out to be the rope of death for the masses. On yet another TV program we see the court police knocking on the door of an apartment. The resident of the apartment is a woman with five children who now is a "criminal debtor" and according to the court ruling must be evicted and thrown out onto the street. By the end of the year 1.5 Million more Russians who cannot pay their utility bills in full are likely to face her fate. The first on the list for eviction are the residents of the so-called dormitory complexes, which had been built in the USSR by the factories, and the apartments that had been distributed by the factories among the workers. Today these complexes have been sold to new owners as private property and their original residents are being evicted one by one!

The highly praised private property today in Russia is announced "holy and untouchable". For the workers it became a landmine under their lives. According to the new Real Estate Law only the owner of an apartment or house is the legitimate master of the dwelling. Hence, a son having inherited an apartment from his mother, now being the legitimate owner, throws her out onto the street. Likewise, a wife kicks out her former husband, and son and so forth. This Real Estate Law gives the state the right to evict residents for unpaid utilities and to move them onto the street any time of the year. It is not by chance that this Law has been called "The Cannibal Law". It was adopted by a majority vote by the Putin's ruling party "United Russia".

Another component of Damocles' sword are the constantly rising utility prices on building maintenance, water, electricity, gas, telephone and others. The reason, again, lies in private property. Now, according to the liberal doctrine, absolutely everything is privatized:

from a square meter of apartment to plumbing and sewage. The private owner is interested in only one thing: PROFIT!

The Soviet state, the state of the workers, built entire residential districts and gave the apartments to labourers for free. It maintained the whole life infrastructure and did capital repairs. Today the bourgeois government is trying to avoid all responsibilities and to make the residents pay for everything. However, what wealthy residents can easily afford lies as an unbearable burden on the shoulders of ordinary labourers.

For now the mainstream mass fooled by television and mass culture obediently carries its cross without looking into the roots of the origin of the vise, which is being screwed every year tighter and tighter. Nonetheless, history shows: slaving and patient suffering always comes to an end! And then nothing will save the oligarchs from the people's wrath.

WHERE IS THIS GOING TO LEAD?

In a report from the China-Russia border, Russia's RenTV has called the emerging demographic situation between the two countries as "catastrophic". This crisis, according to this news channel, is due to "large scale creeping expansion" of scores of thousands of Chinese migrants into Siberia.

These Chinese workers entering Siberia illegally are now replacing Russian workers in this capitalist economy here. The Russian workers say that they are not prepared "to work over 12 hours each day for a pittance."

This report also states on very good authority that the Chinese students are taught in school that Siberia was always a Chinese land. This report also states that Chinese officials are subsidizing this migration of its citizens and warns that by year 2025 Chinese may become Siberia's predominant ethnic group.

Then this predominant Chinese migration group will demand the right to vote, and this to be followed "by demands for independence from Russia."

PAGES FROM THE PAST

HERE IS JUST ONE PSYCHOLOGICAL METHOD USED BY GERMAN NAZIS BEFORE START OF WWII

THESE PHOTOGRAPHS ARE 60 YEARS OLD



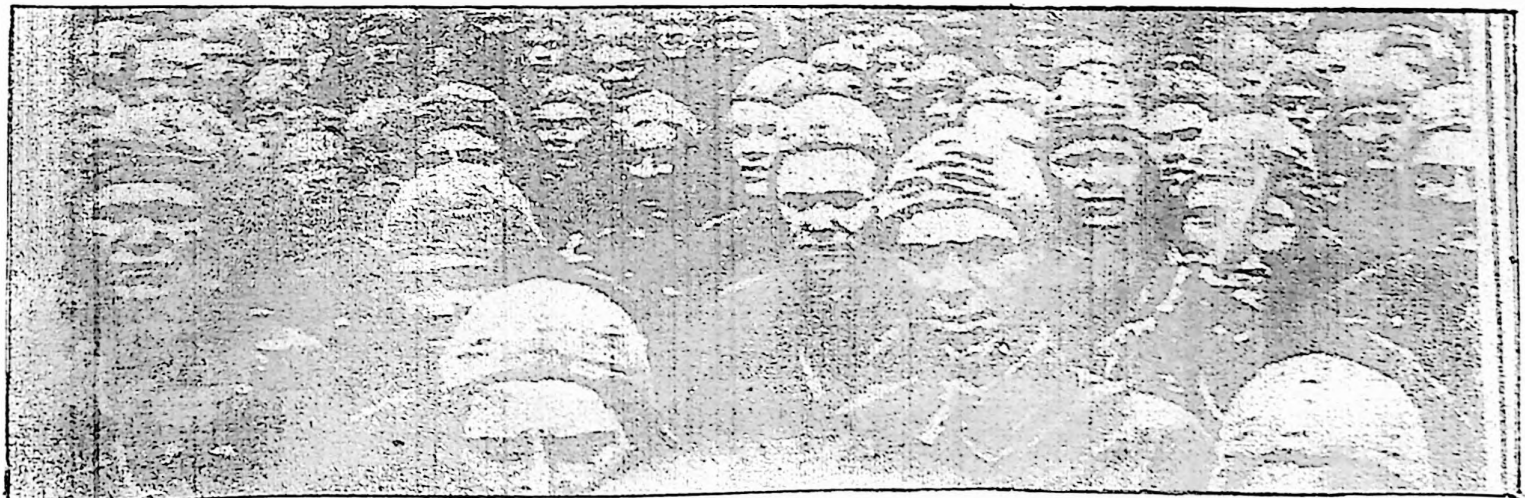
This is just an overview from the brochure published by the German Nazis to brainwash the German people before Hitler attacked the Soviet Union.

The title of that propaganda brochure was **"INHUMAN"** and showed grossly retouched faces of Soviet people and included vicious racist propaganda in the brochure.

This brochure was first given to the SS storm troopers, but later it was published in millions of copies and every German had it, plus it was given to all the school classrooms for the children. This over the years produced hatred and Germans began to look at Soviet people as inhuman that must be wiped off the face of the earth.

Imperialism since 1917 followed in the footsteps of Goebbels by always promoting (*but much more sophisticated*) Russophobia and anti-Sovietism.

Konstantin Kolontsev
Sevastapol, Crimea



THE RED FINNS

By KONSTANTIN EROFFEV,
LENINGRAD

All of us have more or less gotten used to the fact that Russia today is in "bright isolation" in politics and economy. Distant states cherish a full range of feeling towards Russia - from hatred and fear to ravenous economic assertions and demands on Russia for territorial concessions. But there was no other country that was a reliable ally but now is ignored by the present Russian elite. So is Byelorussia now ignored by our political elite. But let us not forget that in recent past when the Soviet Union was alive and well, many countries all over the world were choosing to follow the Soviet model of development, brave experiments in social and in ideological fields were causing much support and admiration of millions of people all over the world. Leading foreign public and scientific figures did not hesitate to lend effective help to the USSR. In many countries large groups of people which in many countries formed the majority of the population, were willing to sacrifice unselfishly and with their whole hearts and gave their knowledge and even their lives sometimes for Soviet Union's interests. Our numerous supporters who were called "Lenin's Guard of the Planet" were neither outcasts in their own society or were not paid employees of the Soviet secret service, as ours and foreign media depicted this part of our history. We cannot call personalities that helped the Soviet Union like Rollan, Zweig, Mann, Neru, Joliet-Curie as agents and spies for their unselfish help to Socialism and the USSR!

Is it possible now, today, to find a writer or a scientist of universal level and prestige directing his or her talent to help the present capitalist Russia?

By contrast, the number of our enemies is increasing. That is why in this article for Northstar Compass I want to give just a word of encouragement about the truthful friends of Soviet Union, of Soviet

Russia. They were and are the Finnish Communists and Socialists who extended a friendly hand of friendship to the Russian people in the hardest of times and under hardest of conditions.

In October of 1917, Finland was a country where Socialists in Finland which had risen to power as a result of an electoral win (*but it was not a revolutionary action as it was in Petersburg and Moscow*). A United Socialist Bloc appeared which included contradictory forces - openly nationalistic, anti-Russian Kulak-Bourgeois groups of P.R. Svinhufvud, ready for revenge for a century of submission to the Russian Tsar and Empire. Leaders were inclined to favour a Finland to be democratic and friendly to Soviet Russia, not submitted to it politically or economically.

The right-wing then (*as is the case now of the former Socialist East European countries and the Baltic States*) started the separation movements, vicious racist slogans, outright nationalistic slogans as well as sophisticated social rhythorics (like "plunder the plunderers" and "exploit the exploiters" - this found a vivid response among the farmers-kulaks who constituted the framework of the Finnish peasantry and petty bourgeoisie elements and lumpen proletariat.

There were over 200,000 Finns who were workers, teachers, employees and even members of the Finnish Parliament who started to organize to defend the Russian Socialist Revolution. But, don't forget about the "Third Force" - the military, who were in the German Kaiser Army, secret services and all of these were trained in military camps in Germany during WWI. German commanders wanted them to attack the Russian garrisons on Finland's territory and to destabilize the situation and join with the Finnish nationalists to attack Russia and also help the Germans and the West to defeat the October Revolution. The present Russian defenders of the "Tsar's Empire" tell the Russian TV audience that the German spies

came in sealed railroad carriages. No, the German allies didn't arrive in railroad carriages at all to attack Russia, but thousands of well-trained and well armed soldiers landed openly on the Finnish seashore and unleashed the "White" terror against the supporters of the October Socialist Revolution and their political adversaries.

The role of the Finnish Baron K.E. Mannerheim was interesting at that time. He was a General in the Russia's Tsar's Army, who later became the President and Marshall of Finland, but, who is now portrayed by the present Russian bourgeoisie and the mass media as a wise ruler and a generous cavalier, who adored Petersburg and loved Russia. But as history showed, this General Mannerheim in a few weeks, took the lead and headed the pro-German troops and then organized them to massacre all of the Russian military and Russian speaking population in Finland.

As a reply to the terror of the Finnish Suojeluskuunta (*White Finnish Troops*) - it is interesting to note that in Swedish language, these White Fins were called Skyddskar (**SS in abbreviated form**).

On January 28, 1918 the Finnish Red Guard and its supporters almost occupied the government institutions in Helsinki, practically without firing a shot and in the industrialized Southern Finland cities - Turku, Tampere, Pori, Kotke, Lahti and Vyborg. The Finnish Red Guard set up in these cities - the Councils of People's Assignees and the regulatory committee - the Main Workers' Council. On January 29, 1918 this Council published a program of democratic reforms, elimination of peasant slavery, improvement of labour legislation, state control over private banks and large industrial enterprises. Then on February 23, 1918 a Soviet-Finnish Treaty for strengthening friendship and brotherhood was written and then signed on March 1, 1918 when the official ceremony took place. But the Finnish counter-revolutionary underground was not wiped out.

The counterrevolutionary forces did not accept this program that was supported by the vast majority of the Finnish people, and, with the help of Western powers and German-trained SS troops, they attacked the Red

Guard. In April of that year 15,000 Germans landed in Finland and captured Helsinki. The volunteer Swedish brigade occupied Karelian territory neighbouring Soviet border. The Red Guard stood on heroic defensive, but they were poorly armed, they could not withstand the onslaught by a superior well trained army and they could not receive help from the struggling Soviet forces, who were fighting a life and death battle in defending themselves against the Western backed foreign invasion.

Beginning in May of 1918 the outright vicious massacre of the Red Finns and their relatives began – up to 90,000 persons were locked up in camps while over 8,000 were murdered on the spot. Besides the Finns, the Russian population was subjected to genocide. Tsar's officers were also shot, even though they supported the White Finns, but were killed just because they were Russian. The most vicious and massive genocide was organized by the White Finns in Vyborg – all office workers, students, factory workers – anyone that could not speak Finnish was killed outright. Out of the 19 churches 11 Russian Orthodox Churches were vandalized and completely destroyed.

There was forced evictions, forced deportations, constant hysteria was unleashed against Russians and of course, against anyone that supported the October Socialist Revolution. This was a well-orchestrated plan by Western

imperialism in order, as Winston Churchill said - ***"Drown the baby in its cradle."***

Nearly 100,000 Finnish Red Guards fought their way to the border of Soviet Russia and there were also thousands of political refugees from this White Terror. Many Red Finns joined the Red Army and defended Petrograd in 1919 and helped the Red Army expel the White Finns from Soviet Karelia. The Red Finns helped to safeguard the October Revolution on the northern front. Many Red Finns remained in the Soviet Red Army and some of them became Generals – A. Antilla, E. Toykka, E.A. Rakhya, etc.

In 1939 the political situation between USSR and Finland was strained, pushed to the breaking point by Western powers. The West pushed Marshal Mannerheim in his quest for a ***"Greater Finland"*** at the expense of Soviet territory. The President of Finland Svinhufvud at that time declared that: ***"Each enemy of Soviet Russia should be a friend of Finland."***

Some of today's capitalist Russia's *"historians"* try to belittle Mannerheim's strong Finnish army when it attacked the USSR in 1939 and, that the Red Army was unprepared etc. The Finnish Army numbered over 600,000 well-armed soldiers, supported by volunteers from the West (*that is more soldiers than Napoleon had when he invaded Russia*). Western powers gave Finland 350 top-line aeroplanes, 500

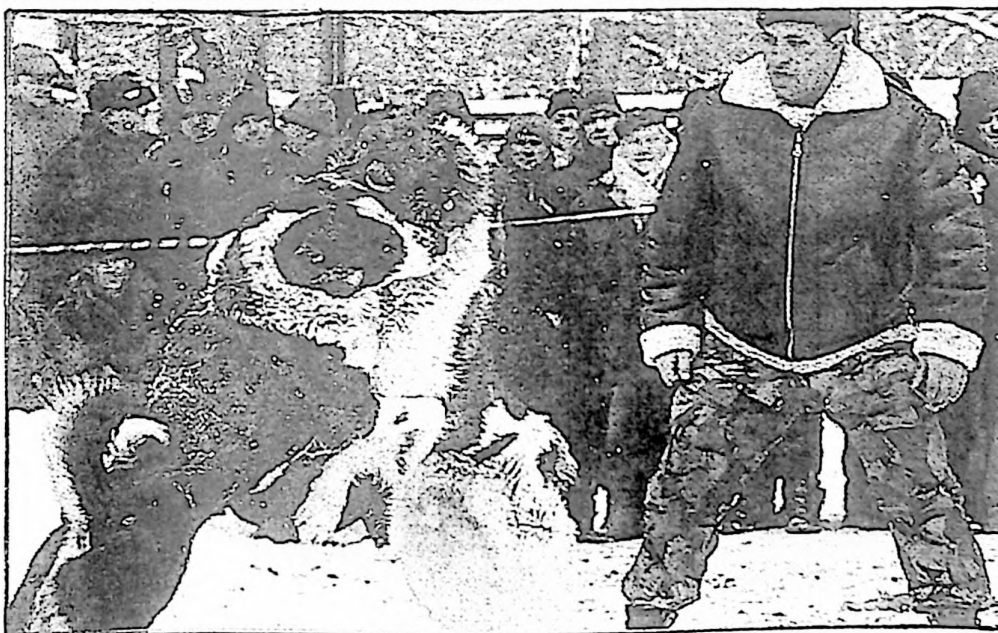
cannons, over 6,000 machineguns and other countless assistance like training, spies, provocateurs, etc. This was the Western built and supported army that the Soviet Red Army defeated inside of 3 months.

At the beginning of March of that year, the Finnish government begged the Soviet Union to start the negotiations for peace. The warfare stopped on March 12, 1940.

The Red Army could have completely wiped out the White Finns, but it was the heavy political pressure by Britain and the USA, because, at that time the Soviet Union was expelled from the League of Nations under pressure from Britain and US, while plans were known to the Soviet Government, headed by J. Stalin, of a large-scale invasion of the USSR by the Anglo-American forces was in the works, in case the Red Army goes any further in defeating the White Finns and their German and Western backers.

Britain and the US imperialists did not want to fight their former ally, Germany whom they supported overtly and covertly, as they planned to invade the USSR, while the Germans would then become their ally in order to defeat Communism. The Soviet Government knew of these plans and thus took steps to secure allies in their life and death struggle against Nazi Germany.

Red Finns did not achieve their dream of a Socialist Finland, but their dedication and bravery will go down in the history books about their internationalism.



A BRUTAL SPORT IS HAVING ITS DAY IN RUSSIA

In the Tula Province outside of Moscow, brutal dog fights are arranged and a certain type of person who has absolutely no feelings, understanding or compassion – drunkards and in one word, the scum of society are promoting, attending, betting on the outcome, breeding these dogs to fight and tear themselves apart – and these former Soviet citizens call these dogfights sport!!!! This sport is outlawed on most countries.

CRISIS IN PUTIN'S RUSSIA!

According to the "Washington Times" newspaper last month which stated: "the low domestic Russian birthrates and rising immigration of people from former Soviet Republics, thus producing a serious and explosive growth in Russia's Muslim community. At present Russia's Muslim population has increased by over 40% since 1989, to about 25,000,000. The prediction of demographers is that by 2015, Muslims will make up a majority of Russia's conscript Army and by 2020 they will be one-fifth of the whole population. If things do not correct themselves, in 30 years Muslim descendents will outnumber by a very large margin ethnic Russians."

According to the Estonian Tartu University, Paul Goble, a research associate at that University: "Russia is now undergoing a religious transformation due to the present policies of the government that promotes and supports, both politically and financially this religious movement, that will be of even greater consequence for the whole international community than was the collapse of the Soviet Union."

COMMENT:

That is why there must be a **movement for unity and back to the future and for the rebirth of the USSR**, where all of the problems listed above would not have happened and internationalism would be the policy that would solve all of the problems listed, promoted, supported and financed by the present regimes in former Soviet Union.

TOO LATE TO SHUT THE BARN DOORS AFTER THE HORSES HAVE LEFT!

The present Russian regime woke up to the fact that millions of former Soviet citizens have left and gone abroad, some for good, others to find employment and a better future for their families and also to get away from the present horrific hardships in Russia and other former Soviet republics.



Now, President Putin has started a campaign to repatriate over 300,000 Russians living and working abroad – this was reported by the Deutsche Presse-Agentur. Russia is going to spend over \$200 million dollars to lure back to Russia 50,000 in 2007, 100,000 and 150,000 people in the following two years. In this regard Russia will open immigration offices abroad, including in Germany, Armenia, Latvia, Kyrgyzstan, Tadjikistan, Turkmenistan and other countries.

President Putin said that Russia needs more immigrants: "Leading Russian private companies and corporations will have to draw qualified workers from abroad without regard of their ethnicity."

COMMENT:

A bit too late Mr. Putin – because of the policy of your present capitalist Russia, hundreds of thousands of workers left your "capitalist paradise" and went abroad.

By the way, why did Russia deport 5,000 Georgian immigrants back to Georgia last year alone? What about close to 2,000,000 illegal Chinese migrants that have become squatters in Siberia? They're cheap labour force, ready to work 12 hours per day?

I have a good slogan for you Mr. Putin. It was used by Israel to get Soviet Jews to go to Israel - "Let My People Go!" So, appeal to those countries where the Russian immigrants are now and ask: "Let My People Come Back!" Editor.

WAR OF WORDS HEATING UP BETWEEN RUSSIA AND BYELARUS

According to the latest events taking place and reported on Internet and in the Russian newspapers that NSC receives, here in a capsule form is the problem:

* Gazprom which is a privately owned gas and oil producing monopoly, has warned Belarus not to siphon gas from the main pipeline leading across its territory if the natural Gas monopoly cuts off the gas to Byelorussia. Gazprom has raised its price astronomically and now is demanding that Belarus pay \$105 per 1,000 cubic meters in 2007 more than double the price that Byelarus was paying according to the signed contract.

* To make matters even more complicated, since Belarus is a mixed economy and capitalist enterprises are a factor, Russia's private monopoly Gazprom has now purchased a 50 per cent stake in Belarus' government Beltransgaz controlled pipeline operator – thus the squeeze is on President Lukashenko, who is under siege both from Imperialist West and from capitalist Russia.



* President Lukashenko of Byelorussia has threatened last month to charge transit fees for Russian oil being shipped across Byelorussian territory. Meanwhile the Byelorussian agriculture official, Ivan Danchenko, stated that Russia has virtually halted all imports of Byelorussian sugar.

DID YOU RENEW YOUR NSC SUB?

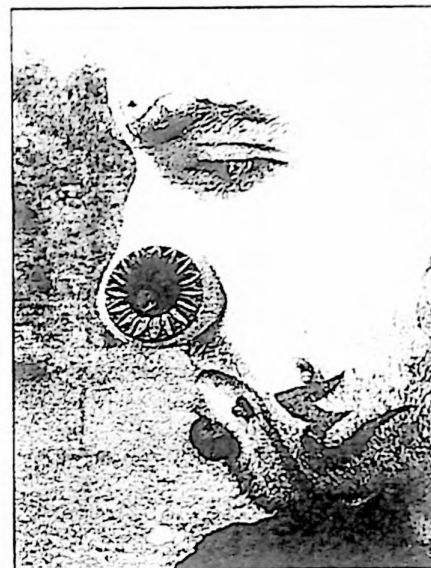
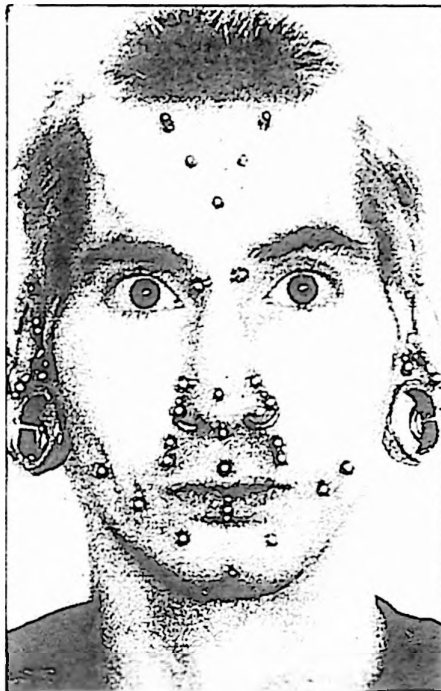
DID YOU KNOW?

WHAT IS THE SCO?

SCO is the "Shanghai Cooperation Organization" which was started in June 2001 by the leaders of China, Russia, Kazakhstan, Kyrgystan, Tadjikistan and Uzbekistan and it is promoted as a counter organization to NATO. It is also promoted by some of these leaders as similar to the Warsaw Pact Countries – which basically is very false, since SCO is composed of countries that are all capitalist – including China.

Nepal wants to join now as a full member, while India, Mongolia, Pakistan and Iran have observer status.

SCO is another junior capitalist block of nations competing against the stronger imperialist groupings headed by US imperialism. This SCO is certainly not promoting socialism or leading the struggle against the New World Order – they just want their piece of the pie, nothing more, nothing less.



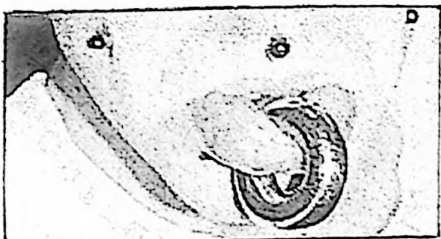
THE WORLD HAS GONE MAD!

Dear readers:

We received many photographs via e-mail about the madness that has gripped some young people in the West that are shocking to look at. Too bad that NBSC does not have the money to print these images in colour. But NSC thought that this is only prevalent in the West, but after further research on the web world-net - lo and behold the same ugly phenomenon has now gripped capitalist Russia. An American company that specializes in this "art form" has now opened their offices in Moscow and Leningrad. To get this done is expensive, besides being painful.

YES, THE WORLD HAS GONE MAD!

Editor of NSC
mmplish@worldnet.att.net



**VLADIMIR
HERASYMCHUK**



UNITY OF ACTION – AN IMPORTANT CONDITION OF OUR STRUGGLE

In this year progressive mankind is going to celebrate the 90th Anniversary of the Great October Socialist Revolution. On these important days there was to be held the Third World Congress for Friendship and Solidarity with Soviet People in Moscow. Of course if the Congress was to have taken place, my well wishes would be that it must be held on a very constructive bases, without any problems, foreseen or unforeseen. We are in full agreement and solidarity with Michael Lucas, Chairman of the International Council as he outlined at the Mini Conference that was held in September of 2006 in Canada that was dedicated to the 15th Anniversary of Northstar Compass. Our task is to guarantee that this Congress is to be the starting point in the rebirth of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics. In this regard, I would like to give my opinion on some problems that are facing us and that must be resolved.

(1) When the Third World Congress takes place in 2008, we might run up against some problems and also some barriers. Amongst them could be – no agreement on pressing problems of strategy and tactics of our struggle and other internal attitudes. The initiators of such Congress discord could be delegates with theoretical misunderstanding, with revisionist tendencies, with dogmatism, or even provocations. **Therefore it's necessary that the Congress orientation must be**

spelled out and no backing out from them.

(2) The program, the tasks, the adopted constitution and aims and purposes that were adopted by the First and Second World Congress, there might be an attempt to subvert their meaning or an attempt to dismiss them in total.

The aims of our Friendship were clearly spelled out at our First and Second World Congress. The aim is to unify and consolidate all left forces with the Soviet people in the struggle to resurrect the USSR. But how do we achieve this consolidation? The path is to have it develop towards socialism. But we must understand in what way this can be accomplished, because there are scores of parties and movements in ex-USSR who call themselves Marxists-Leninists and are putting their program out to the people. Most of them are promoting private enterprise together with some state owned industries. But do these proposals have anything in common in building Socialism?

The criteria for communist parties and workers parties should be: (a) Dictatorship of the proletariat is the highest form of democracy (b) State ownership of all the means of production.

(3) Revolutionary thoughts and actions always take place in the economic-social conditions. The present century saw the appearance and consolidation of *Globalism*. This is the aim of the ruling oligarchs, led by US Imperialism.

This had its beginning in 1945 when Imperialism started and fanned the Cold War, which never stopped to this day. This became the vehicle and the tool of US and NATO, with the direct-indirect occupation of other countries, such as Yugoslavia, Iraq, Afghanistan and others.

After the temporary demise of the Soviet Union, US and NATO are on the path to dismember Russia itself. In this, they are helped by the internal traitors inside the present regime, and the dismemberment of Russia is practically complete. This situation gave the opportunity to the internal Russian traitors to sell to the US \$12 billion 500 thousand worth of uranium. Pentagon received this uranium and raw materials for their missiles, rockets and their very huge war machine.

During 1990's the Russian

government liquidated the tanks for the Russian Army from 64,000 to only 7,000 and all along the line of liquidating and dismembering the defensive arsenal in keeping with the dictates of US. Even the fighter jets and helicopters were liquidated from 6,000 to 1,500. They also liquidated their navy top of the line ships from 437 to less than 100. The only aircraft carrier Russia has, the "Admiral Kuznetsov" has been mothballed as was agreed to by the present Russian regime. *(This is according to A.G. Fomin, General retired in Burevestnik interview)*

Today around Russia itself the NATO bases are completely encircling the Russian territory. There are bases being built in Poland, the Czech Republic, radio electronic listening devices in all of the former Socialist countries, plus US military advisors operating in inside their countries. There are plans already in the works for internal NATO intervention inside of Russia.

The organizing of a wide united front in the struggle against US globalization – is one of the most important tasks that the friends of the Soviet people and the Marxist-Leninist parties have in front of them.

(4) The program for the rebirth of the USSR during this problematic time in the present history faces us with many problems. The whole present capitalist regimes in former Soviet republics are geared towards the propaganda against the people, in order to degrade them as human beings and to psychologically brain-wash them into accepting that things cannot be otherwise. The media never tells the truth, it subverts the truth, inserting instead pseudo-truths. Soviet people now have a very hard time to fight this daily bombardment of lies and half-truths. But this is why this hard task we must overcome and lead the way. We must analyse this problem and find a solution to move forward.

In this world of ours, these problems must be decided by the form and method of organizing the revolutionary struggle in this period of capitalist bourgeois totalitarianism. We do not as yet utilize Northstar Compass fully or even other left-wing party newspapers or journals. In these

printed materials we rarely read the latest in scientific studies regarding these problems. Although there are international seminars and meetings, it seems that they just repeat the known Marxist-Leninist phrases and symbolism and it is left for future seminars and meetings to see what practical uses these discussions might have.

(5) We must also be cognisant in analyzing the situation in the present bourgeois society and use our strategic aims to gain our objectives.

As an example, the movement for unity of Byelorussia and Russia does not automatically mean that Socialism will be reborn. But the unity of these two Slavic peoples will make this task much easier. But the top echelons of Russia are trying to sabotage this unity and thus depriving the Russian people of well being of this close-brotherly neighbour.

(6) In the present world situation it seems that it is impossible to struggle for the rebirth of our Socialist Motherland. But, we must

never ever forget the understanding of revolutionary theory and practice by our Soviet people. **The task at this new historical period in the world, is that we must remember that the Soviet people had their own Soviet Motherland – the USSR - and their Marxist-Leninist observations. We were building a future Communist Society.**

Of course it is impossible to foresee all forms of struggle and integration of peoples. We know that in a capitalist society private ownership of the means of production disunites the people, while under socialism the peoples' ownership of the means of production unifies the people.

(7) In the present world situation, it looks as if the tendency for unification and integration of peoples is gaining ground. The prime example is in Latin America where countries are beginning to orientate themselves around Cuba, Venezuela and others. But we cannot at this moment say that there is a fast-forward movement in Latin America

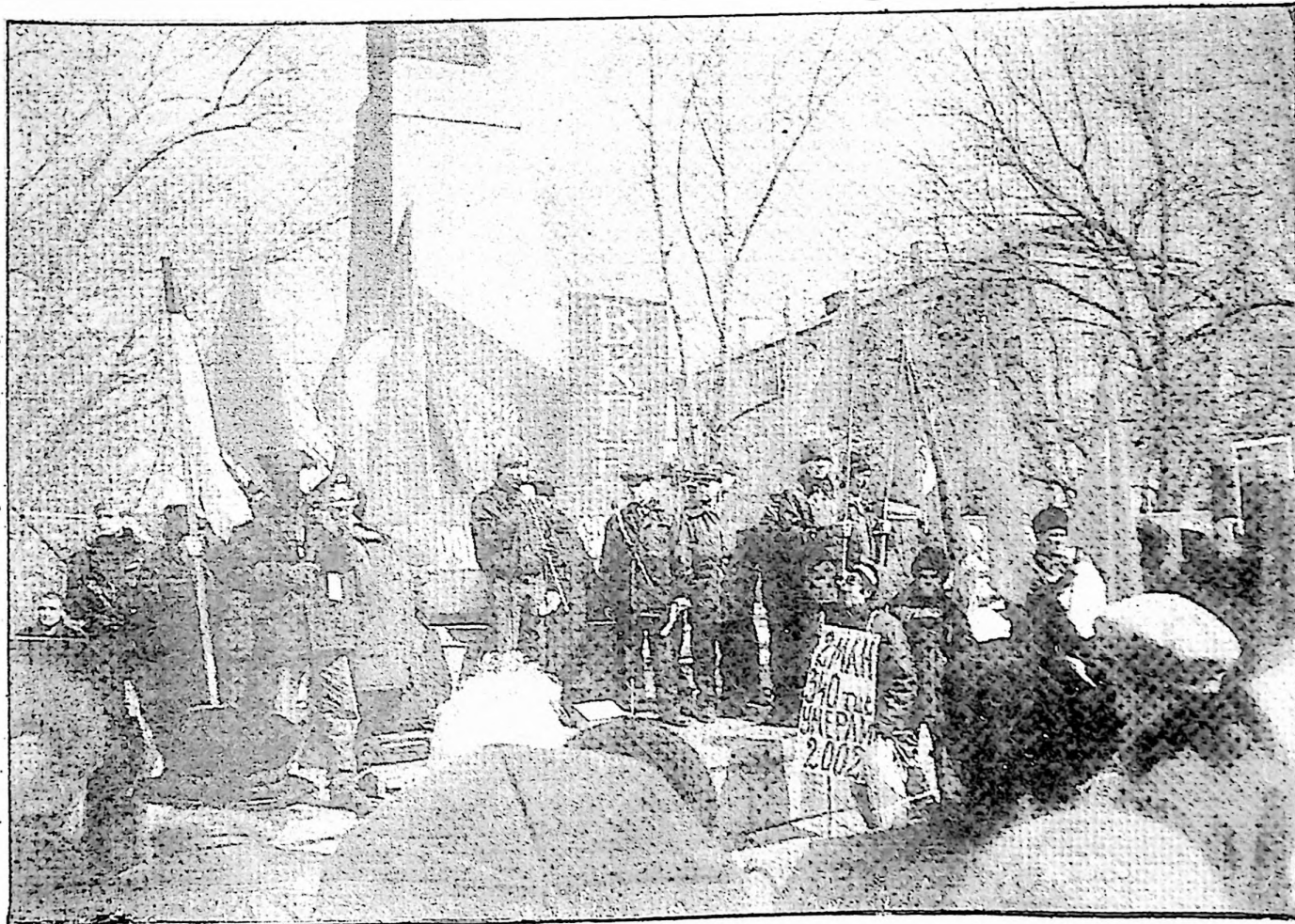
towards Socialism. The path to socialism in Venezuela, Bolivia is far yet from proclaiming it or achieving Socialism. We must also remember that Fidel Castro for a long time never said that Cuba is going to build Socialism. Is this not correct?

But nevertheless, the national-liberation and democratic uprising of peoples in Latin America has a class character. The so-called one-polar world of the US Imperialism is the stumbling block for the revolutionary movements on all continents.

Oh people! Take a look around you! Do you not see, that after the dismemberment of the USSR in the death struggle with the Imperialist Yellow Devil, the human race is rushing in a very fast pace towards a world catastrophe?...None existence! To save this world of ours can only be done by Socialism and Communism! The Great October Socialist Revolution showed the people the path - to a bright Future and to Stalin!

Translated from Russian in a shortened version for space reasons only. Editor

Meetings held on Nov. 7th – Bolsheviks at Krasnoyarsk, AUCPB



OVERVIEW OF THE TRADE UNION MOVEMENT IN ST. PETERSBURG AND LENINGRAD REGION IN 2005-2006

BY V. BOLSHAKOV

Part One: Employers

General growth of economic activity in the last two years made it a lot easier for employers to hire labour. Most actively developed industries, into which foreign capital is invested, particularly automotive sector. Along with this, employers' anti-union policies "improve". In the last two years new anti-union methodologies have been applied in Leningrad Region on many occasions. More and more frequently employers resort to the following measures.

Employers try to get rid of the union by restructuring the enterprise

a) In the course of conflict in closed joint-stock company Portoflot (the seaport of St. Petersburg), which started in spring 2005, trade union Federation of Independent Trade Unions of Russia (FITUR), which required wage indexation, by Feb. 2006 was disassembled, since the board transferred the entire property into the newly created firms and suggested that the workers find their new jobs in these firms after being laid off from Portoflot. The workers, frightened that "not all will be rehired", rushed into new companies. The trade union ended its existence, and its chairman was discharged.

b) PROFTEK (Trade union of TEK, energy sector). In June 2005 the city transferred all services of the enterprise "TEK St. Petersburg" on the Petrograd side with its 600 workers to the "daughter" company of Gazprom open joint-stock company "Peterburgteploenergo" (PTE). Earlier on over 300 people were members of the trade union federation FITUR and 50 of PROFTEK. Now all employees were offered to quit TEK and get rehired into the newly created company PTE. New board decided to build relations only with the trade union FITUR. Only 10% of the staff joined this union. At the same time another union, PROFTEK (30 members),

was created. In spring 2006 it defended its laid off members during massive restructuring. This union confronted the board with illegality of its actions and after threatening with inevitable judicial defeat and penalties in millions rubbles, trade union attained doubling of the compensation for its dismissed members. By fall 2006 trade union FITUR self-destructed, its Chairman moved to PROFTEK, which increased to 50 members and continues grow. The board proposed to PROFTEK to reach a collective agreement and now negotiations on wages are being conducted.

c) In March 2006 a conflict started in the refrigeration depot "Predportovaya" (dock yard refrigeration sector) where a restructuring took place and, again, a "daughter" company has been created in place of the original enterprise. The board decided to use restructuring to crush the trade union with 150 members. In spite of a whole series of the actions such as pickets in St. Petersburg and Moscow, meeting, letters of solidarity, Gosduma Deputy Tyulkin's help, leaflets with compromising material about the Chief of Depot and procurator's interference, board did not forego its intentions. The majority of the members of trade union were officially forced to leave it, but they continue to pay dues unofficially. Those who refused to leave the trade union and to voluntarily quit their jobs in depot in August 2006 were transferred the department with no active work, which entails loss of wages by several times. However, 20 workers insist on remaining in this department and intend to take the matter to court after they will be discharged in early 2007. Those union members who quit are not being rehired into the newly created company. The goal of the union now is to create a cell in the new company and to return the lost posts.

d) In fall 2006 a merger of FUTIR of the airport "Pulkovo" with FUTIR of the airline "Russia" occurred. As a result, the collective agreements reached by the trade unions of air traffic controllers, stewards and pilots a year prior became invalid. Negotiations on new collective agreement experience difficulties.

Employers evict trade union committees from the property of enterprises and prevent Chairmen from entering the property.

a) In July 2005 the board required the Port Committee of Dock Workers of Morpört (Seaport) of St. Petersburg "clear the premises within a month", as well as turned off their phone and power. However, after a strike of dock workers and solidarity actions of trade unions forced the employer to put off his intention.

b) In September 2005 trade union committee of the Southern branch of PROFTEK of "TEK of St. Petersburg" (energy sector) was forced to move from the boiler room into the company headquarters downtown. At the same time the management prohibited the leadership of the union to go to the workplace of the union members. Since fall 2006 only the Chairman of the union Gusev can go to union members' work sites but not any other member of the union leadership.

c) In October 2005 the board of the enterprise "Vodokanal" ("Water Channel") under the pretext of conducting repairs required an independent trade union to vacate the location of the trade union committee in the Southern station where majority of the trade union members work. The board unlocked the union's office, made inventory list and lately has transferred the belongings to the union. After some pickets and negotiations the trade union committee was given another office downtown, which is extremely inconvenient for the members. The Chairman of the trade union Bryukhovichenko is still prohibited from visiting the work sites of his union members.

d) In the course of conflict in the refrigeration depot "Predportovaya" during May 2006 the board sealed the office of the trade union committee (in the building of depot) together with the entire property and documents of the trade union and deprived the Chairman Trifanovsky the opportunity to enter the territory. Only after a number of actions trade union committee obtained an office, but the garage, outside of the depot and Trifanovsky received the right to approach his members' work sites. The workers guard new trade union committee office, however, the conflicts have happened already on two occasions. Trifanovsky alone and with comrades was locked in the garage and was let free only with the interference of the police. Now the board again requires to vacate the union committee office by January 1, 2007. Trade union is determined to protect its space.

e) Under various pretexts union committee offices of "Portoflot" (port enterprise) and locomotive-drivers.

f) The union Chairman Semushkin at the plant "Caterpillar -Tosno" was not allowed to see his union members at their work places and eventually was fired back in 2004. In August 2005 under the pressure of the procurator Semushkin was given both access to the plant and a desk "for trade union work" right next to the office of HR Director. In summer 2006 the management again attempted not to let him see the union members. Now Semushkin does have access to the plant, however, the effectiveness of union work is brought to the minimum because of a constant supervision of guards after all movements of the Chairman on the plant territory and his encounters with the workers.

Employers reject transfer of member dues to the unions

a) In summer 2005 the employer October Railway ceased to transfer payments to the account of regional organization RPLBZH (machinists). After the matter was taken to court, towards the end of 2006 payments resumed, however, in one-and-a-half years without payments trade union survived one of the hardest times in its existence.

b) In fall 2005 board of the company "Portoflot" in the course of labour dispute refused to transfer membership fees to the trade union

of water transport workers (PRVT). In January 2006 the transfer of payments was renewed by judicial solution, but up to that moment organization in Portoflot has already fallen apart down due to the flight of workers into the new firms (see above).

c) In fall 2006 as a result of the termination of collective agreement in the airport Pulkovo (because of the merger with the airline "Russia") the board refused to transfer membership payments to the accounts of stewards' and pilots' trade unions. In connection with this before the renewal of collective agreement the trade unions of Pulkovo were transferred onto a "starvation ration".

Employers deprive the trade union activists of earning money for overtime work.

In many enterprises overtime pay composes the substantial part of the general earnings and is estimate by many workers as a privilege. Especially this is true for Leningrad Region where the possibilities for earning big salaries are severely limited. It is no wonder that the deprivation in overtime is turned into of the means of action against rebellious workers. This measure is combined with others, among them firing of the leaders, penalizing activists, transfers to inactive departments, refusal in promotions and by blaming the trade union in the production problems

a) Independent trade union at "Skania- Pieter" was established in February 2006 and self-dismissed after only the month in spite of the protests of his Chairman Perepelkin. The reason was prohibition to the overtime for the members of the trade union.

b) Analogous pressure on the members of trade union at the plant "Caterpillar -Tosno" led to the fact that the trade union of 78 official members in the early 2006 toward the end of the year lost 74 people. This trade union intended to go underground since early 2007. The program of further actions is developed and it will be carried out.

Employers develop anti-trade-union campaign in the media.

In June-September 2005 the board of the "Morport" ("Seaport") regularly printed articles against the

trade union of dock workers in the newspaper "Metro", which was printed in 200 thousand copies and was distributed in metro stations. PROFTEK (union in the energy sector) prepared articles in defense of dock workers, but the editorial staff of "Metro" refused to publish it saying that "Morport" has paid monopoly right on the dock theme up to October 2005. There were articles against dock workers in other publications as well. In defense of dock workers articles were published in the newspapers "Za Rabochee Delo" ("For the Workers' Cause"), "Narodnaya Pravda" ("People's Truth"), "Profsoyuzny Kur'er" ("Trade Union Messenger"), "Rabochaya Demokratiya" ("Workers' Democracy"), "Trudovaya Rossia" ("Labouring Russia"), etc., Internet-publications and several thousand leaflets were spread around the city. As opposed to earlier action by employers, now anti-union media campaigns became a rule. This tells us that the employers are learning. They no longer look at union activists black sheep rebels simply to be dealt with by firing. Employers started to treat unions as organizations, which are not loyal, they study their structure, work principles, strengths and weaknesses. They learn to oppose unions with full knowledge. Possibly, employers are familiar with the certain new procedure of anti-trade-union actions, which actively is studied at the elite seminars for the managers conducted by one of the training business concerns of St. Petersburg. Another way of the employers sharing their methodologies is through their networking groups, such as Russian Union of the Industrialists and Entrepreneurs.

Finally, one can note a new trend: media's interest to trade unions, especially in the industries where foreign capital is involved. This has to do with journalists copying the trends of civilized capitalism, indispensable attribute of which in the West is trade union coverage. This means trade unions should exploit this niche more actively and utilise media to the maximum.

In the April issue of NSC we will continue with more focus on trade unions and their response to the employers.

INTERNATIONAL NEWS

CIA IS ACCUSED OF COUNTERFITTING US \$50-\$100 DOLLAR-NOTES

From Frankfurter Sonntagszeitung-Germany



The CIA is charged that it is responsible for manufacturing nearly-perfect counterfeit 50 and 100 dollar notes that Washington blames the regime of North Korea. This was done after extensive investigation and after interview with counterfeit money experts and also leading representatives of the high-security publishing industry.

These US-dollar forgeries designated as "Supernotes", which are so good in quality that specialists are unable to distinguish them from the genuine notes, have been circulating for almost two decades without any reliable identification of the culprits. Because of their extraordinary quality, Washington thought that some country was behind this enterprise.

The White House had accused North Korea of this deed already in autumn of 2005 and that derailed the Six-Party Talks on Pyongyang's nuclear weapons program. Since then tensions on the Korean Peninsula have increased very considerably around these so-called counterfeit "Supernotes."

According to the world experts in counter-fitting money, North Korea hasn't the technology to produce such notes. The CIA falsified these "Supernotes" at a secret facility near Washington in order to fund the covert operations without even the US Congress knowing or approving.

THE DEATH MARCH

By Milton Mayer "They Thought They Were Free- The Germans 1938-1945 - Chicago University Press 1955

This is just a small excerpt from the book by Milton Mayer, which describes the manipulations used by Nazism in Germany in order to subvert the thought process of the people. This is exactly what is happening in the USA and other capitalist and imperialist countries. Psychological warfare is a tool for reactionary policy leading to fascism.

"What no one seemed to notice was the widening gap between the government and the people. And it became always wider...the whole process of its coming into being, was above all diverting, it provided an excuse not to think, not to care...for people who did not want us to think gave us some dreadful, fundamental things to think about anyway...They kept us very busy with continuous "changes" and "crisis" and "enemies" and people were so fascinated with the perceived "national enemies" within and outside, that people had no time to think about these dreadful things that were growing, little by little, all around us..."

"Each step taken by the State was so small, so inconsequential, so well explained, or, on some occasion "regretted" that unless one understood what the whole thing was about in principle, and where it was leading, what all these "little measures-laws" that were being put into force... and where some day may lead to, one no more saw this Nazism-fascism developing from day to day than a farmer in his field sees the corn growing...Each act was worse than the last one, but only a little worse. You waited for the next and the next."

"You wait for one great shocking occasion, thinking that others around you, when such a shock comes, will join you in resisting this menace.

(Those that saw through this were the Communists who were done away with quickly, either physically or put away in jail or in concentration camps and never heard from again-Editor). You do not want to talk or act alone... you do not want "to go out of your way to make trouble". But you expect that thousands will join you, but this does not come if you and others do not take a stand against this danger."

"That's the difficulty. These forms are all there as before, everything seems as it was - all untouched, all reassuring - the houses, the shops, the jobs, the mealtimes, the visits to friends, the cinemas, the holidays."

"But the spirit, which you never noticed before, because you made the lifelong mistake of only identifying with all of these forms - now is changed. Now you are living in a world of hate and fear, and the people who hate and fear do not even know it themselves - when everyone is transformed, no one is transformed."

"People have accepted things that they would never have accepted ten or five years ago, a year ago - things that their fathers and mothers would have never accepted or imagined."

CHAVEZ EMPOWERED TO SPEED-UP CHANGE IN VENEZUELA

From GRANMA

President Hugo Chavez was given the power by the country's legislature in February to accelerate the Venezuelan revolution. He was allowed to draft legislation in 11 strategic policy areas for a period of 18 months. These include energy, security and defence, the economy, finances, and social and cultural activity.

President Chavez stated that this will speed-up building of socialism in the South American country.

Roberto Hernandez, the Vice President of the Legislature criticized accusations that Chavez is going to be a dictator. He stated: "No dictator in history of the world has decreed laws that give more power to the people, and this is precisely what Chavez has announced that he will do and is doing - transfer more

power, more influence and greater effectiveness to the people."

The new law will allow Chavez to carry out nationalization in all key sectors, such as electricity and telecommunications, to assure that the country has effective control over the oil and natural gas industries, and to reform the financial system and organize regional territories among other priorities.

US SENT CASH ON WOODEN PALLETS TO BAGHDAD

From REUTERS

The US Federal Reserve sent more than **\$4 BILLION IN CASH** to Baghdad on wooden pallets aboard military planes, the US lawmakers confirmed this last month in Washington.

This paper bills weighed a total of 363 tons. House of Representatives Henry Waxman, Chairman of the Committee said in disgust: "**Who in their right mind would send over 363 tons of cash into the war zone? But that's exactly what the Bush Administration did!**"

SQUANDED BILLIONS IN IRAQ

This is a very shortened version of an article by Eric Margolis in the Toronto Sun newspaper, Canada.

* "US government estimates that Bush's so-called "war on terror" will cost at least \$690 billion dollars by the end of this year. That is more than the total cost of World War 1, Korean war and Vietnam war.

* Defeat looms in Iraq as does defeat in Afghanistan.

* Former Secretary of Defence Paul Wolfowitz said that the war cannot cost more than \$40 billion and this will be gotten back by plundering Iraq's oil. Now, for that statement he is now promoted to be the Head of the World Bank.

* There is, according to the US Treasury Department over \$12.8 billions missing in Iraq – but this is just the tip of an iceberg of the graft that is ongoing, both in Iraq and in Afghanistan.

* The Democrats last month opened

up hearings into the plundering and corruption in Iraq and Afghanistan where billions are missing which was concealed by Bush's White House.

*There are over 100,000 private contractors employed by the US in Iraq and 48,000 of these are outright "mercenaries" hired as private army by these contractors working for hundreds of US military corporations like Blackwater and Vinnell. These heavily armed mercenaries are "soldiers of fortune" since they get paid fabulous wages, are also a law unto themselves. They have a fleet of aircraft, their own command and some White House members are worried since they are outright right-wing and a reactionary force, tied in with US internal fascist movement, that could be dangerous for America itself.

POLAND REJECTS NATO MISSILE BASE

Angus Reid Global Monitor-
Feb.2007-02-06

Most adults in Poland believe that their government should refuse a proposal to join a defence system with the USA, according to a published poll in the Warsaw newspaper Zycze Warszawy.

53 per cent of respondents oppose the installation of a US missile shield on Polish soil. US President Bush wants Poland, the Czech Republic and Hungary as partners in the missile defence system.

The present Polish government has 900 Polish soldiers in Iraq as part of US force – all getting paid in American dollars and not the Polish currency.

VIETNAM BANK CLOSES NORTH KOREAN ACCOUNTS

By IRINA MALENKO

In an UPI press release it was reported that the Vietnamese government ordered the immediate closure of all accounts linked to Pyongyang, North Korea.

This closure was part of the Vietnamese "strategic cooperation" with the "American partners" according to the statement by Deputy Director Nguyen Thi Ngoc

Van. It is clear that the "partners" were the US Treasury seeking to improve US directed sanctions North against North Korea.

Hanoi has increasingly cooperated with Washington's crackdown on North Korea as Vietnam is joining the World Trade Organization, and closer political and economical ties with the United States.

70,000 PROTEST EXPANSION OF US MILITARY BASE

From Radio Netherlands

Tens of thousands of people converged on the northern Italian city of Vicenza in a mass demonstration against the planned expansion of the United States military base there. Italian government has ordered 5,000 police force to be there, while US Embassy has asked the people to avoid this north Italian city. Shops and museums were closed.

The US has currently some 2,800 soldiers there and in the coming year they will be augmented by another 1,800 mostly from US bases in Germany.

US COLD-WAR WARRIOR THROWS A POLITICAL BOMBHELL AT BUSH

By ZBIGNIEW BRZEZINSKI

The ex-national security advisor to former President Carter speaking to the US Senate Foreign Relations Committee, delivered a scathing critique of the Iraq war and told the Bush administration that it was leading the USA to war with Iran and with dire consequences for US imperialism in the Middle East and internationally.

Brzezinski opposed the war in 2003 and has publicly denounced this war as a colossal foreign policy blunder. He said: "This war was undertaken under very false assumptions and it is undermining Americas global legitimacy and is intensifying regional instability. To argue that America is already at war in the region with a wider Islamic threat, of which it is charged that Iran is the epicentre, is to promote a self-fulfilling prophecy."

If Bush's plan is put into reality,

the war will spread right across Iraq, Iran, Afghanistan and Pakistan as a start of this fiasco.

What is noteworthy is that a man such as Brzezinski, with decades of experience in the top echelons of US foreign policy, who has very close links to the military and intelligence agencies should issue such a warning to the Bush administration is grave and significant.

Brzezinski is no "peace dove" by any means. He is in many ways a war criminal. Let us remember that this same cold-warrior in the Carter administration was the architect of drawing up a covert plan at the end of 1970's to organize, train, finance the Islamic fundamentalist mujaheddins to topple the pro-Soviet and progressively elected government of Afghanistan and thus draw the USSR into the conflict as they were fulfilling their joint defence treaty with the Afghan government.

Brzezinski also spilled the beans that President Bush and Prime Minister Blair had a secret meeting with the Defence Staff planning the details of the war, in spite of the facts that no WMD were found and coming out with contingency plans for lying to the American and British people. They discussed several ways to provoke a confrontation in Iraq and in this oil rich region.

IT'S ALL ABOUT OIL !

SCORES INJURED AS KOSOVO POGROMISTS GO ON RAMPAGE

UN police in Kosovo last month fired teargas and rubber bullets during clashes with ethnic Albanians protesting against United Nations and demanding full independence from Serbia. More than 70 people were injured. The Albanians were hurling stones at the UN police.

Russia threatened to use its veto against the separation of Kosovo from Serbia.

US policy as always, after dismembering Yugoslavia, is on the road to dismember and break-up Serbia.

DID YOU ORDER YOUR VIDEOS, CD's, DVD's & SOVIET BOOKS FROM YOUR CATALOGUES?

WILL U.S. NUKE IRAN?

In a very interesting analyses in February of this year, former Chief of Staff of the Russian Army, General Leonid Ivashov predicted a U.S. nuclear strike on Iran by April of this year. "*Within weeks from now,*" he wrote, "*we will see a very intensive information warfare against Iran. The US public opinion is already under heavy propaganda pressure. This will be followed in quick succession daily by anti-Iranian military hysteria, new disinformation leaks, new accusations and accusing Iran of provocations in Iraq and elsewhere.*"

FOUR-SQUARE MILES IN BAGHDAD

The painful reality is that the current US puppet regime in Iraq, being told to the world by President Bush that this regime represents the will of the people of Iraq, it largely defines itself by its physical location in Baghdad: 4-square miles US fortress within Baghdad that is protected by a high wall and 15 feet thick in places and manned by heavily armed US military. This is what is called the Green Zone – a 4-square mile of Baghdad that US controls and ventures out and then scurries back to its protection from the wrath of the Iraqi people.



A Statement of the CPBM to the opened bargain of US and Czech governments about establishing of a radar military base on our territory

The Communists have been the only parliamentary political power in Czech Republic which, even before parliamentary elections - when other parties, including those in government, smoke-screened their true positions - highlighted the real danger of a US military base or US radar station being set up on our territory. The Communist Party of Bohemia and Moravia specifically warned of these developments in its election manifesto.

The CPBM demands that this

important issue should be decided by a Referendum!

Even last year, the CPBM presented a proposal of a Constitutional Law about the Referendum in case US anti-missile systems were deployed in the territory of the Czech Republic: **and it shall present this proposal again.** The holding of a Referendum on this issue is vital, as it is a matter of the greatest importance for the sovereignty and independence of the Czech Republic.

It is also necessary to underline that **new missile bases do not provide jobs for local people.**

This has been proved by past experience right across the world. The propaganda of both right-wing parties and the Social Democrats has reassured some of our citizens: those who are willing to accept that a radar station is 'less dangerous' or even a positive 'benefit' for our country.

The opposite is true!

We would draw the attention of the citizens of the Czech Republic to the fact: that a radar station is just as dangerous as an anti-missile base, because radar represents the eyes and ears of the missile systems.

The Czech Republic is bound by its alliance obligations; and thus it is **incongruous to make any bilateral agreements with the USA.**

It is typical of the Czech right-wing - which has attained a parliamentary majority only through the betrayal of two Social Democrat deputies - that it betrays both Czech citizens and the sovereignty of our country!

The CPBM is still gathering a petition against establishing both a foreign military base and a radar station for anti-missile defence on our territory. It calls upon all citizens to add their names to the 55,000 signatures that have already been collected for the petition.

Monika Horeni, the spokeswoman of the CPBM

CHAVEZ DEMANDS SOCIALISM

In a meeting on February 18th in Caracas with the workers, Chavez declared, by quoting Karl Marx words: "*The workers cannot be turned into slaves of work, into slaves of capital. Capital must be*

subordinated to the workers."

President Chavez also ordered a review of the 8-hour working day and told the workers that the working day must be reduced to allow workers time for education. He said: "I ask the full support of the working class and of the genuine revolutionary trade unions."

EXPOSE

ITALIAN JUDGE SENTENCES 26 CIA AGENTS FOR KIDNAPPING

From the Associated Press,
February 126, 2007

MILAN-ITALY: A judge indicted 26 American CIA Agents and 5 Italians in an abduction of an Egyptian "terror" suspect. The Italian judge set the trial for June 8 of this year, but the 26 American CIA agents left the country and Italy will try to extradite them, but it is hopeless.

Osama Moustafa Hassan Nasr was taken to Germany and then to Egypt where he was held for four years, tortured, with CIA agents present. The Egyptian government freed him and stated that his four years in jail and torture were "**unfounded and based on CIA false testimony and he is absolutely innocent.**"

The CIA refused to be interviewed or comment on these Italian charges, and the Egyptian diplomatic protest.

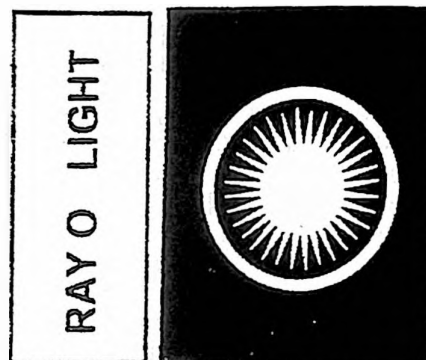
Italian prosecutors are seeking and demanding that the Italian government demand the extradition of these CIA agents. Previous Italian government of Berlusconi refused, but the present government is now under pressure to comply.

Prosecutors in some other European countries (*Germany and Switzerland*) are moving ahead with cases aimed at the CIA program.

COMMENT:

How come that the Western capitalist media is mum on all of these charges and others that are happening all the time in the world and performed by the CIA? Can you imagine if the former Soviet Union did the same thing - what a

tremendous propaganda campaign would be on daily in all of the media? And we are told that we have a "free press and media" to tell us the news! No friends, ours is the most controlled media in the world!



RAY O LIGHT GROUP HOLDS SUCCESSFUL CONFERENCE

FROM THE BELLY OF THE BEAST

In the late fall of 2006, the Ray O Light group, our small US proletarian revolutionary group sponsored a Marxist-Leninist Conference in the northeaster USA on the theme: "*Broadening and Deepening Resistance to the Bush-led US Imperialist War at Home and Abroad.*" A greater number of invited anti-imperialist activists participated than were expected. And these participants were more serious, militant, enthusiastic and selfless in their involvement in the Conference than in years past. Given these facts, the Conference, with all its limitations, was a fine success.

Several factors contributed to this modest success:

1. The Conference took place in the aftermath of the 2006 US congressional elections in which the Bush regime was clearly repudiated. The fact that this chief representative of the World's Number #1 Terrorist and the World's Number #1 Exploiter suffered an electoral blow served as encouragement to those of us actively committed to broadening and deepening the resistance within the US to the Bush-led US imperialist war at home and abroad. It was pointed out in the Conference that the principal reason for the Bushites' electoral defeat was the heroic Iraqi

Resistance that is inflicting significant military blows on the US imperialist military occupiers of their country. Also pointed out was the fact that, unfortunately, the Democratic Party stooges of US imperialism, and not the working class and oppressed people within the US multinational state and/or the Iraqi people were the chief beneficiaries of the Bush-Republican election defeat. Nevertheless, despite the superficial character of the blow to USA imperialism, the Conference participants came in greater numbers and were more spirited because this election defeat was a glimpse of better and more substantial changes to come.

2. We invited militant workers and anti-imperialists, some of whom were not convinced Marxists, but most of or all of whom have a hatred for injustice, for exploitation, for discrimination, for imperialist war. We welcomed representatives from a few other self-proclaimed Marxist-Leninist organizations that we feel are doing some positive anti-imperialist work. And we also invited decent individual fighters against imperialism from many left-wing organizations about which we have more substantial questions or criticisms. A number of these people were given the opportunity to share their experiences as panellists in one or more of the eight sessions of the Conference. Finally, we provided all of the participants with ample opportunity to express their views in an atmosphere of mutual respect. This condition provided a healthy setting in which communists "*disdained to conceal their views*" and carried out their unceasing responsibility to raise mass forces to the level of the vanguard. Hence, the points of view expressed in the sessions were not empty rhetoric but meaningful, educational, and somewhat controversial.

3. The Ray O Light Conference was guided by these two fundamental precepts: (a) "Theory is the experience of the working-class movement in all countries taken in its general aspects." (*Stalin, Foundations of Leninism*) (b) "Philosophers have interpreted the world in various ways; the point, however, is to change it". (*Karl Marx*). Thus, the strength of the

NEWS, DIGEST, COMMENTS

Conference was due mainly to two factors: (a) The participants had already engaged in real practical work among the masses in the struggle against the Bush-led US Imperialist War at Home and Abroad. (b) The participants desired to learn from their own and each other's experience so as to do more effective revolutionary work in this cause in the future.

The topics addresses at the Conference were:

"Economic Motives for Bush's War at Home and Abroad and the Need for Proletarian Revolution"; "Solidarity with the Iraqi Resistance: A Vital Task for Revolutionaries in the USA and the World"; "The Struggle for an Anti-Imperialist War Movement"; "Tactical Approaches to the US Anti-War Movement"; "Organizing Against Military Recruitment of US Youth"; "Katrina and the Intensified Oppression of the Afro-American People in the Bush Years"; and "The Struggle to build an Anti-Imperialist Immigrant Organization in the USA."

In light of the thorough discussion of the previous topics, and the political experience of the participants in the struggle against the Bush-led US imperialist war at home and abroad over the past five years, there was much agreement on the need for a vanguard organization in the USA. The Conference closed with a spirited singing of the International in several languages.

AS I SEE IT! Jerry Morse

With Tony Blair talking of removing British troops from Iraq, as is Denmark, as the Baltic countries are backing off and Italy is going for a swim at the Lignano Beach, it is apparent that US will withdraw from Iraq, before Bush withdraws from his golden Presidency. The military in the US is hinting at withdrawal since the Iraq oil is now in their hands, so why continue to promote the Iraq war?

The most dangerous situation now is for US to egg on Israel to invade Iran and then force the US to swallow the pill – which will cause unstoppable diarrhoea.

FIGHT AGAINST IRAN TOO FAMILIAR

By Eric Margolis –Toronto Sun

Again we reprint in a condensed form this article by a writer who cannot be called a communist, or even a progressive or not even a "faded pinko", but sometimes he tells it like it is!

"Just like with Iraq, US is using a torrent of unproven allegations to zero in on its next target, which is Iran. But it seems that Americans are more alarmed by the dangers of global warming.

While the icebergs melt the US-Iran confrontation is becoming dangerous. The heaviest build-up ever seen of the US Naval strike force since the 2003 war against Iraq is being concentrated off Iran. The US and British drones and air force bombers are over-flying Iran and probing its nuclear and military installations. CIA and British MI6 are stirring unrest amongst the Kurds and Azerbaijanis, and even arming Iranian Marxists and Royal exiles for inter-ethnic strife in order to have a so-called reason to invade Iran.

The belligerent President Bush even ordered the US forces in Iraq to "kill Iranian agents or diplomats who appear threatening." US troops in Northern Iraq were ordered from the top (Pentagon) to break into the Iranian Embassy's office in Iraq and arrest its staff. Then Bush "unblushingly warned Iran not to meddle in neighbouring Iraq".

Pentagon accused Iran of smuggling weapons to Iraq and the 21,000 additional US troops are going to be stationed on the border with Iran. while US air force planes and supplies are arriving at airbases in Bulgaria and Romania and Pakistan which is on the war path already. Turkey is being pressured to allow US and Israeli strike aircraft to use Turkish air space to attack Northern Iran. Britain has charged Iran that it poses a threat to the whole world. Israel leaders are threatening Iran that they will attack. They charge that Iran is a new Nazi State.

Though the United Nations inspectors that are in Iran state as they stated that Iraq has no Weapons of Mass Destruction, Iran is being told to prove an impossible negative – that it has no nuclear weapons."

COMMENT-

With the world near a brink of another war that can escalate far beyond the Middle East region, where is the stand of the Russian government? Don't they realize that all of this at the end is aimed at Russia disappearing as a country, which then will be divided into small regions in order to serve Imperialism. US imperialism will then throw little bits left over to the local traitors like to dogs!

Have we got the right to make this observation? Yes we do! That is what dedicated friends of Soviet people did and do since our inception in 1918!

By the way, why doesn't Russia, China and India, the three important powers, not bring a motion in the UN to condemn and censure the USA?

CONGRESS OF WOMEN'S INTERNATIONAL DEMOCRATIC FEDERATION

The WIDF is having its 14th World Congress on April 10-15, 2007 in Venezuela. The Presidium of the WIDF met in Venezuela as a preparatory meeting for the upcoming Congress.

During this meeting the preparatory work was on the agenda in an effort to have the best conditions for the 1,500 delegates and guests that are expected in Venezuela from all over the world.

President Chavez is going to address the Congress and 10 workshops on special subjects are going to assist the implementation of a full and in-depth analysis of the issues that affect women's life.

The theme of the Congress is: "Women of the World – a vital force against neo-liberal globalization, state terrorism, and imperialist wars – For Equality, Economy and Social Justice and Peace."

JUST IN BEFORE NORTHSTAR COMPASS WENT TO PRESS...

FIDEL IS WELL MET HUGO CHAVEZ OF VENEZUELA

GRANMA: With emotion and joy the Cuban people saw footage of the encounter between Hugo Chavez and Fidel Castro on January 29 and broadcast on January 30 over of Cuban television



WHAT'S BEHIND THESE NEWS ITEMS?

Moscow's independent newspaper "Nezavisimaya Gazeta" reported that Valentin Falin, former Secretary of CC CPSU and former Ambassador to Germany, plus retired Lt. General Gennady Yevstafyev, former top foreign intelligence official, have written a policy paper alleging that the United States will attempt in 2007-2008 "to initiate a covert regrouping of forces within the top echelons of the Russian leadership as well as of the political and business elites that will pave the way for a "quiet version" of the Orange Revolution".

SECOND THOUGHTS IN PRAGUE ?

Bush is still determined to have the Czech Republic agree to have the US missile bases based there and using all of the US influence and pressure to make this so. The present regime in Prague seems worried because of the opposition by the people and the results that more than 60% of the people are opposed to this NATO plan.

But is this worry genuine or just a ploy to hoodwink the people that the Czech government has now second thoughts?

US SOLDIERS ON RAPING SPREE IN IRAQ

In a news item that did not see the light of day, since it was just a tiny item on page 18 of the Canadian newspaper, The Globe & Mail, here is how US soldiers are bringing "democracy" to Afghanistan and Iraq. The heading was: "US SOLDIER SENTENCED TO 100 YEARS FOR RAPE-MURDER IN IRAQ."

Fort Campbell, KY: A US soldier was sentenced to 100 years in prison for gang-rape and murder of an Iraqi girl and killing all of her 6 family members last year. Sgt. Paul Cortez, 24 years old was also given a dishonourable discharge, but will be paroled within 10 years and he will get his soldiers pay as well.

Estudio Revolucionario

ON THE FASCIST FRACTION IN THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT

From *Solidaire* of Workers' Party of Belgium

Since January 15, 2007 extreme right-wing parties formed a fascist fraction in the European Parliament (EP). We asked Thanasis Pafilis, member of the European Parliament and a member of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of Greece (KKE) and Secretary General of the World Peace Council, for his opinion.

SOLIDAIRE: What is the significance of the arrival of a fascist fraction in the European Parliament?

PAFILIS: The revival and the appearance of fascist parties and groups in European countries stem from a more general anti-popular policy of the European Union (EU) and the national governments. Fascism has always been a true-born child of capitalism. This is not something new. The brutal capitalist policy in combination with anti-communism paves the way for fascist views to grow and spread amongst the poorest layers of the working class. The alleged "worry" of the conservatives and social-democratic parties for the rise of fascism is hypocritical. After 1990-1991 they attempted to forge history by identifying fascism with communism.

In a series of countries like the Baltic states, Germany and Poland, fascist criminals have already been rehabilitated in public. In Latvia, for example, where NATO summit took place in November of 2006, the Waffen-SS "legionaries" are now called fighters for freedom. Those that struggled against fascism are persecuted. The heroes and liberators of the Soviet Red Army are called "an occupation army". In Hungary, the former General who fought on the side of the fascist army was appointed by the Hungarian government to lead the celebration for the 50th anniversary of the Hungarian counter-revolutionary actions.

SOLIDAIRE: In October 2006, for the anniversary of the Hungarian counter-revolution, the European

Parliament voted a motion condemning the idea of communism. What is the relation between the fascist fraction and the anti-communist assault in the EP?

PAFILIS: The European Parliament itself adopted a resolution that states that the occupation of Central and Eastern Europe went on after the destruction of fascism. Those political parties in the EP that voted for this resolution are calling upon

the people to condemn the communist ideology and to give in to imperialism. At the same time, under the pretext of the fascist "menace" they push the people to give in to capitalist barbarity.

May I remind you that the Communist ideology has given birth to the greatest social revolutions, and is giving birth to even greater ones, because it fights for a society liberated from human exploitation.

FEATURE ANALYSES

RESOURCES WARS

By WILLIAM K. TABB

The very close relations between war and natural resources is of long standing. What else was the **Colonial Conquest** about? The vast estates that were held by the Dutch East India Company came under direct control of the Crown as did the lands conquered by the British East India Company. What was demanded in Europe dictated the commodities produced and the natural resources that were ripped from the earth. The European violence set the terms under which resource extraction occurred. There was no free trade for mutual benefit based on comparative advantage. There were very few constraints on violence in the extraction of resources, starting with the "shock and awe" of bombardment and fire, storms of wars of conquest and followed by the pitiless subjugation of the peoples of colour. Having defeated the locals in battle, the invaders enticed local elites and customs to extract resources from those that they had conquered.

The form of exploitative relationship with particular colonial overlords depended in a very large measure on the local traditions and social structures the invaders found. The Spanish used the Inca Mita system of requisitioned labour for the mines where the subjugated people died in their thousands from brutality and, as is the case of the vast silver mines in Potosi, by mercury poisoning. The crushed ore was

mixed with mercury and trodden by the native slaves with their bare feet and when heated, this produced poisonous vapours. King Leopold of Belgium murdered millions in the Congo by employing slavery, terror, maiming, and massive killings because it was his stated view that "the colonies should be exploited, not by the operation of a market economy, but by the imperial state intervention and compulsory cultivation of cash crops to be sold to and distributed by the Crown State."

The Belgian imperialists ruled through the Tutsi chiefs, promoting them to superior status over the Hutus and imposed compulsory cash crops demands through their Tutsi intermediaries. After independence the Tutsi military dictators were left to rule by cooperating with their Belgian masters. The Belgians created animosities which provided the fear and hatred that led to genocide decades after independence.

In the struggles that broke out after independence and the Cold War, it was very often the most violent and ruthless elements that were willing to do whatever necessary to gain control, who came out on top with foreign money and arms – especially where the natural riches of the land could be exploited for their foreign masters. The new nation's economy remained entwined with Belgian economy as one entity. The more progressive indigenous leaders could be coerced or assassinated or civil wars could be started, or military coups arranged in order to maintain access to the rich mineral resources.

When we speak of wars in the last third of the XX Century, we are talking about civil wars. Between

1965 and 1999 if we look at these wars in which over one thousand people were killed per year, there were seventy three civil wars, almost all driven by greed to control the national resources- oil, diamonds, copper, cacao, coca, and even bananas. In these foreign inspired civil wars more than 90 per cent of the casualties are civilians. It's the "resource wars" that cause untold number of casualties.

Congo is one of the richest countries in the world in mineral resources, and half a dozen countries have their army there, plus countless rebel groups who are hired, paid for and do also the bloodshed. Congo has gold, diamonds, timber, copper and valuable cobalt.

Global Witness reported that despite being the fourth largest producer of oil, Congo-Brazzaville has an overseas debt of over \$6.4 billions as the result of Elf Aquitaine, the French state oil company's strategy of influence peddling and bribery.

In Angola over a million people died because of the civil war, one child in five does not live to its fifth birthday while 40% of Congo's population has been displaced. Practically none of the oil revenue from the Congo finds its way back into Angola, but instead is diverted to overseas banks. It was the wholesale looting of Angola's natural resource and oil revenues that fuelled the country's vicious civil war.

Africa is bleeding because it is fabulously rich with its abundant natural resources. What a tragic paradox!

The touchiness and affront that the Bush administration feels when the charge is made that the US is in Iraq for oil and not for the Weapons of Mass Destruction, is unreal and a lie, since the policy of the US State Department is: **"Keeping oil flowing out of the Persian Gulf and through the Strait of Hirmuz has been the bedrock of American foreign policy for more than 50 years."**

There are now other players in the oil patch and US is trying to intimidate China, India, Russia and even Britain, even though they are in the same bed together.

The most effective resistance to this imperialist pattern is coming from

Latin America and President Hugo Chavez in the first place.

The unbridled consumption, the unbridled environment pollution of the earth comes from America, unless it is stopped.

It is a known fact that over 40% of the people of the world by 2030 will face a very acute water shortage and if the pollution does not drop drastically, humanity is in great peril.

COMMENT:

We have drastically shortened this excellent expose article due to space reasons. Only Socialism for all of mankind will overcome this great danger. Capitalism - Imperialism is not capable to stop its head-long dash for profits

DID YOU KNOW?

EX-CIA AGENT SUING THE CIA

A US Federal Judge has ruled that the former CIA agent identified only as "Doe", who was fired by the CIA after he gathered pre-war intelligence showing that Iraq was not developing or had Weapons of Mass Destruction - has the right to sue the CIA for wrong dismissal.

BUSH AND CHENEY PLAYING ROLE FOR ISRAEL

President Bush and Vice President Cheney are unwittingly helping the state of Israel commit suicide. For this is the inevitable consequence of the planned air and missile strike against Iran. The pockmarked, littered landscape of Iraq, Lebanon and Afghanistan, and the endless applicant queues at the al-Qaeda and other anti-American recruiting stations, testify eloquently to the unintended consequences of myopic policymakers in Washington and in Tel Aviv.

THE ANGLO-AMERICAN DIRTY WAR IN IRAQ

With Anglo-American coalition so deeply embedded in a dirty war - such as infiltrating terrorist groups - stimulating them into action - protecting their "double-agents" no matter what the cost, riding with the bad boys and green-lighting the

MAY DAY GREETINGS!

We are asking our readers to send May Day Greetings to our Soviet friends on your behalf, Your greeting will be published in the April issue of NSC.

Minimum is \$20 that will go towards the \$30,000 NSC Financial Campaign.

We must receive your greetings by April 10 2007

"Salvador Option" - it is almost impossible now to determine the genuine origin of almost any particular so-called terrorist outrage or death squad atrocities in Iraq

THANK YOU CINDY!

Americans are subjected to having their email, telephone conversations and even postal mail monitored by a government that claims that it wants to bring Democracy to the world. Americans can now be arrested and held without any charges indefinitely.

People all over the US are being arrested and harassed for protesting government's actions.

Last December 28, 2006 Cindy Sheehan and four others were arrested and held in Waco, Texas, for seven hours before McLennan County Law Enforcement would charge them and book them, making certain that they spent the time in jail. These 5 men and women, most of them in their 50's and 60's, were subjected to delousing and anal exams.

They moved around from cell to cell, and the air conditioning was turned on them full blast, although it was freezing outside the jail. When they asked for blankets they were refused and had to lie down on the cold cement floor. Keep in mind that

three were mothers of killed Iraq war veteran troops.

Some Americans say that they do deserve it - they're not patriotic. I say that it is an attempt to frighten those who are protesting the Iraq war, and set an example for the public that they may decide to follow them.

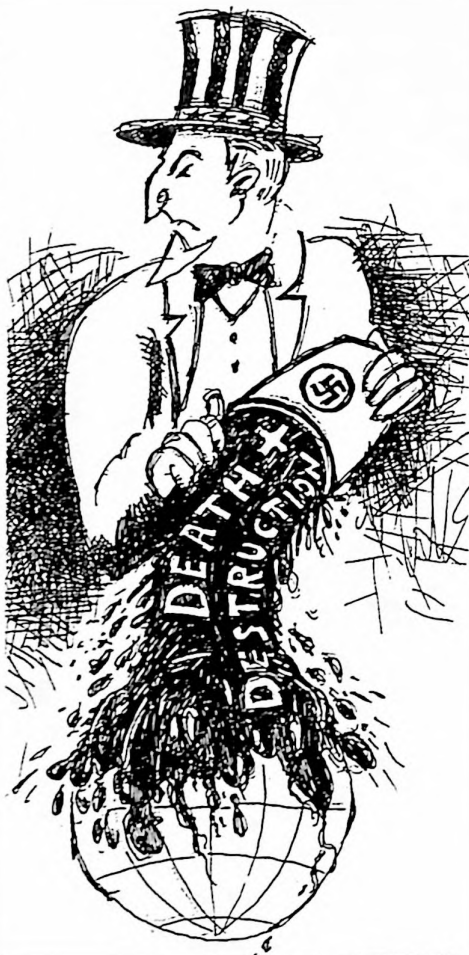
When we went to the jail to pay the fine that was levied on them, the jail clerk said that they were not there. Then we asked the officer in charge as to where they were, he also told us that he did not know. What a feeling as we realized that if they chose not to tell us where the prisoners are, we'd have no recourse legally. We agreed that we shall not leave the jail until we could get them out.

Cindy and others are arrested for all of us.

Thank you Cindy!

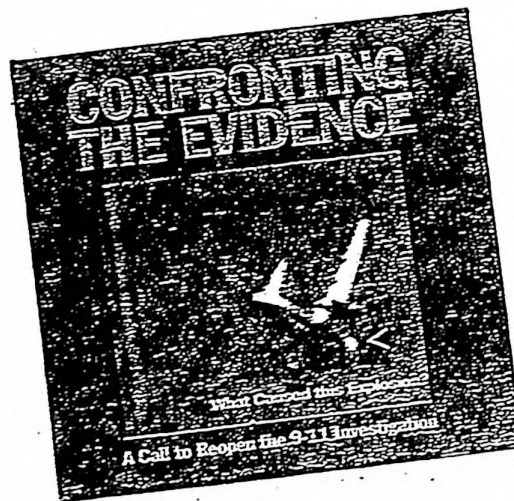
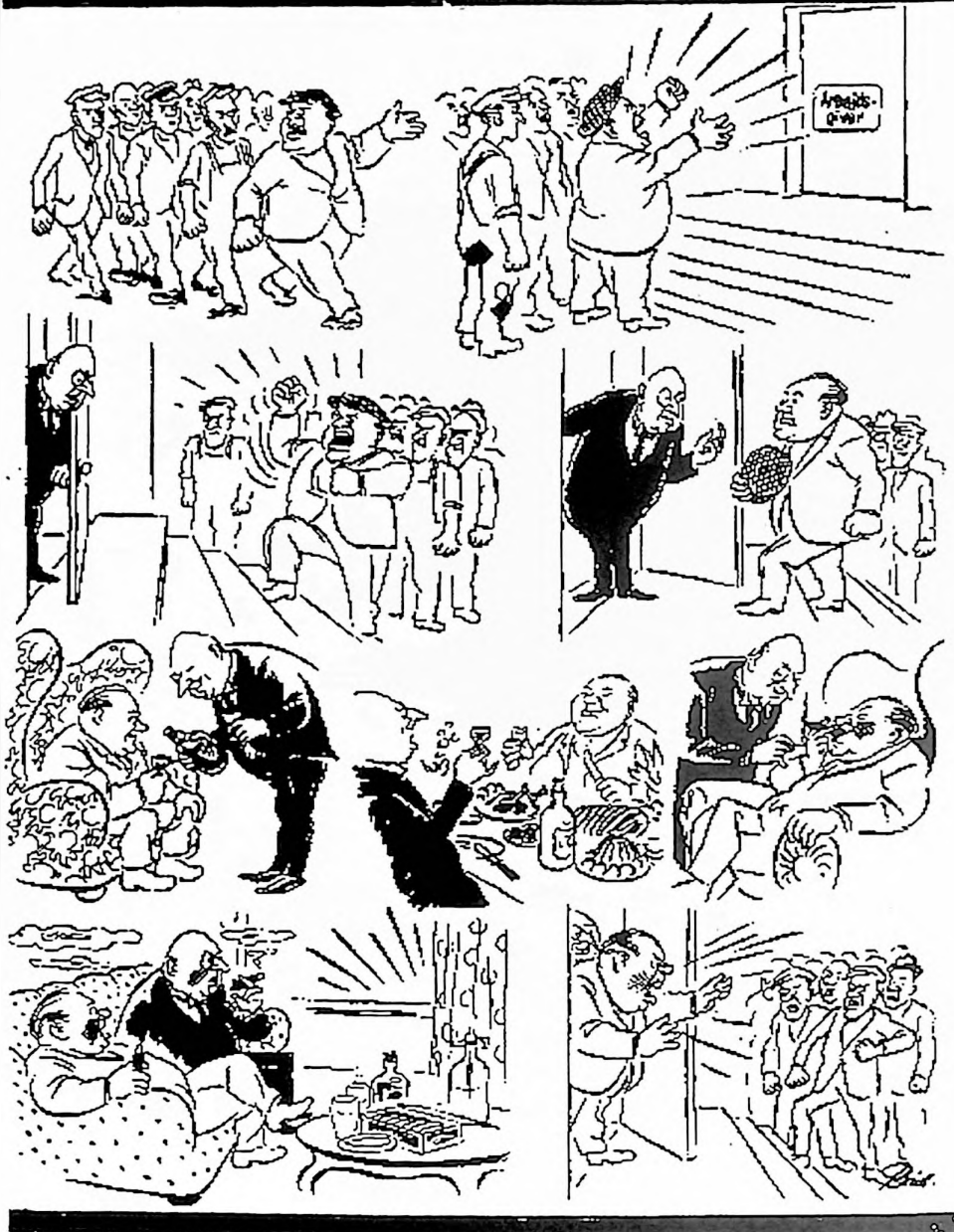
Mikal Hutto
Houston, Texas, USA

The Editorial Board of NSC thanks the Australian-Soviet Friendship Society for all their financial help and cartoons!



CARTOONS SPEAK MUCH LOUDER THAN WORDS

Many Trade Union Leaders are exactly as this cartoon depicts.



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HERE, THERE, EVERYWHERE

FIFTY WAYS TO IDENTIFY DEMOCRACY

There is absolutely no doubt that DEMOCRACY is a very popular and often used term, but very little time is spent to really define its true meaning. Some people like it that way, but we at Northstar Compass want you to be educated about it. Democracy is an ancient Greek word and it meant the rule by the people, "demos" (people) and "kratia" (rule) should have the right to define its own vision of democracy. Yes, they would have this right if there was no Imperialism!

Today, the Americans are committing genocides in Iraq in order to manufacture a new Arab "democracy" in their own image, disregarding what democracy means to the indigenous Iraqi people. They are prepared to slaughter untold millions of Iraqis until the few remaining will surrender and decide it is better to live and accept the foreign yoke that the foreigners call "democracy."

Here we have one of the most ancient continuous civilization of Iraq under the American nazi boot, a country like America that was invented barely 200 hundred years ago. This America is a country that was created by steady bloody ethnic cleansing of the native Indian population, and was built by the hard labour of Black slaves from Africa and, which is the only country in the world that used nuclear bombs on human beings, and then, accusing Iraq of hiding their Weapons of Mass Destruction!

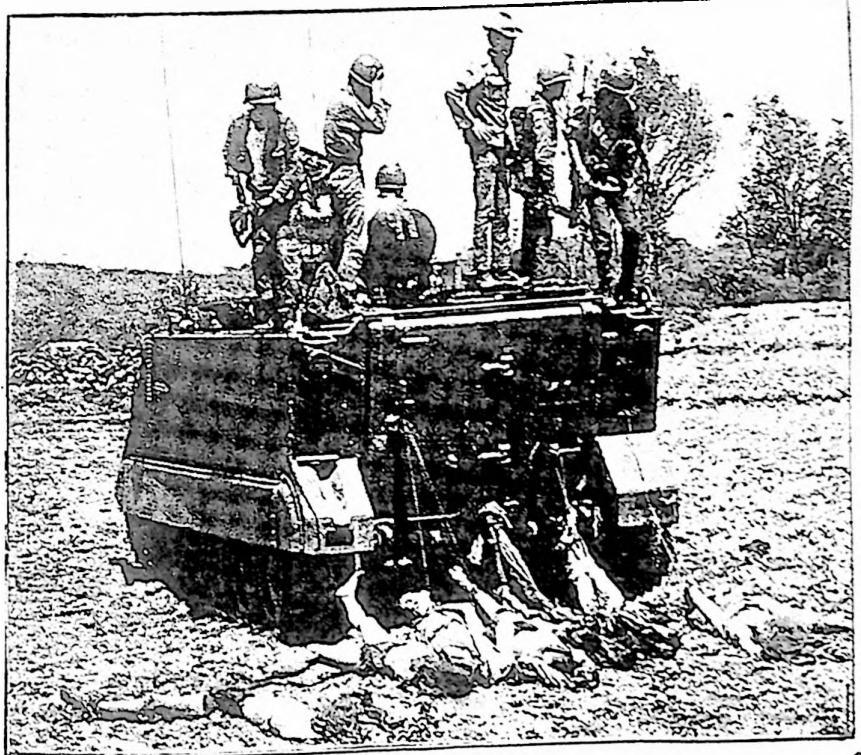
The word "democracy" today is a code word for imperialism and a license to murder and exploit others natural resources, and exterminate all those who do not submit to these imperialist occupiers. US Imperialism has set its goal to be the only legitimate patent holder of "democracy" and only the USA can confer that franchise on others - but to qualify to be called a "democracy" you must have all of the following attributes :

YOU ARE DEMOCRATIC WHEN:

1. When the United States and NATO declare your country is democratic.
2. When foreigners take over your natural resources and means of production and your whole government must supply domestic slave labour to them.
3. When your government preaches the inevitability of globalization.
4. When human rights in your country are defined by the imperialists and your opinions do not matter.
5. When your armed forces depend solely on weapons bought from the imperialists.
6. When your government shares your personal data and national secrets with the CIA.
7. When you have to pay global prices and earn Third World income.
8. When Hollywood films and publicity brainwashes your children.

9. When neon lights in your cities promote only foreign films
10. When your country should drop down on its Olympic Medal List.
11. When foreign pharmaceutical companies secretly experiment of your population.
12. When your government has to secretly import American genetically modified foods.
13. When Imperialist "allies" secretly build military bases in your country.
14. When your own soldiers have to go abroad to serve imperialism and die.
15. When your own officer corps are trained and indoctrinated by the Imperialist states.
16. When your government wants to, or has joined NATO and the European Union.
17. When Imperialism dictates to your government how to run your own country.
18. When your country loses its identity and becomes just a pawn in the imperialist's geopolitical considerations.
19. When you elect your government to listen to the people, but it only listens to its foreign masters.
20. When you government signs foreign agreements harming your country's interests and only benefiting your foreign bosses.

Below we print just one photograph that shows how US soldiers on behalf of their Imperialist masters practiced "democracy" in Vietnam - dragging Vietnamese fighters behind their vehicles



21. When animal rights supersede human rights.

22. When minority rights are elevated to the status of majority.

23. When homosexuality is promoted in schools and protected by law.

24. When Zionists can deny your nations holocaust but you cannot question any available historical data.

25. When foreign values replace domestic values.

26. When Jewish people are made to believe by Zionism that they are the chosen people.

27. When your government taxes you for everything imaginable.

28. When you are forced to consume and use foreign products every day and your own people are unemployed.

29. When foreign religious cults descend on your country like locusts, converted by dollars and also confused, and start brainwashing your people. freedom of speech but the capitalists have the freedom of the press and the daily media.

31. When you are so hopeless that you think that only God can save you and God does not care.

32. When your children or you have to go abroad to get a job, but "democracies" start putting barriers up and will not let you into the country.

33. When your own language and culture are threatened in your own country.

34. When many families are threatened with extinction.

35. When meaningful employment is not your right in your own country.

36. When the rich get richer and the poor get poorer every day.

37. When the education is reserved for the rich and not for the smart.

38. When all major institutions are owned by the rich and your government lets them prey on the poor and the working people.

39. When all religious institutions who own land, buildings, castles, spas and industries, pay no taxes, the rich avoid them while the working class must pay them.

40. When your government takes bribes from the rich and works against the working people.

41. When you are told constantly by the rich and their daily media, that if you don't like being poor, you have the right to get rich if you so desire.

42. When you have no right to free medical care or medicines.

43. When old age represents poverty and loneliness.

44. When the only "democracy" you experience is voting one day every four years.

45. When narcotics replace social support networks.

46. When your government does not see prostitution or slave trade in your own country.

47. When you elect government for its promises and not for its performance.

48. When your government fears Socialism and the popular will of the people.

49. When patriots are hunted down while traitors are rewarded.

50. When you cannot do anything about the above, you can be sure that you are living in a bourgeois "democratic" state. You might even give your life to protect this order!

We publish here just some horrific photos of what kind of "democracy" the US New World Order tried to bring to Vietnamese People by this genocide. Did you know that US had dropped more bombs on small Vietnam than all of the Allie did on Germany for four years!

OPEN FORUM

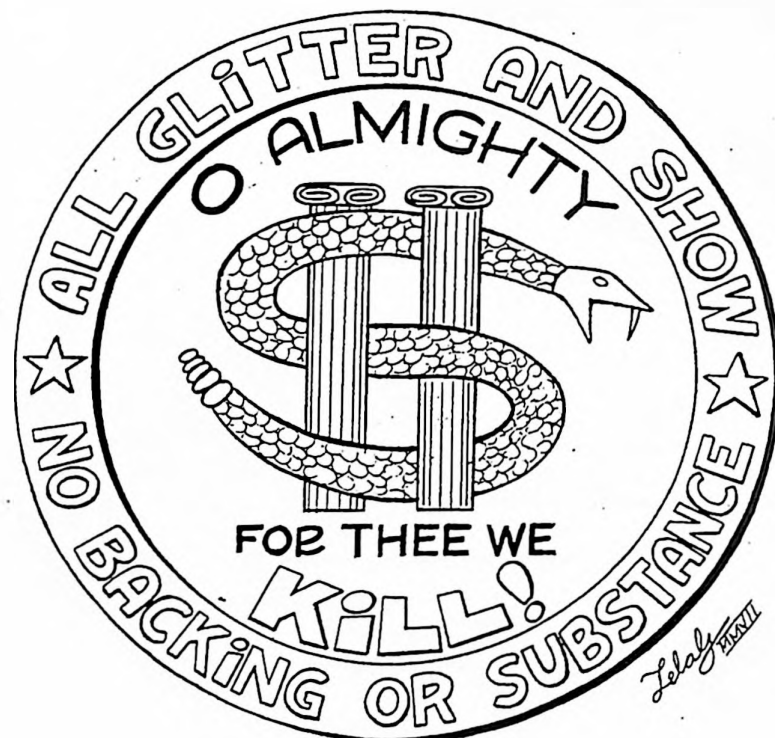
THE OVERBLOWN COINS OF THE EMPIRE

By ANA LUCIA GELABERT

What is the greatest US American invention ever? To the mind comes hot dogs, baseball, apple pie, the cheeseburger and coke, shop by mail catalogues, model-T Ford, nuclear piles and the A-bomb, beauty contests and Hollywood, aircraft carriers, TV dinners. Yes, all of them are superb gadgets. Yet, the answer goes to "none of the above". As the most earth shattering,

incredible, preposterous and astounding USA invention of all times is "the worthless US Dollar."

A currency that at the same time is thoroughly devalued yet grossly overblown, no backing whatsoever in gold, silver, precious stones or even stocked valuable moneys from other lands. Nonetheless the rest of the world is forced at cannon point to have as "preferred international exchange money". Lest they be bombed to smithereens like Hiroshima, Vietnam or Iraq should they dare to trade in, say Euros or Yens, instead of the Almighty USA Dollar: otherwise known as (take



your pick) the Ruling God or the Apocalyptic Beast.

How things stand, matters naught how astronomic the USA foreign trade imbalance gets, nor how the pantagruelian the gargantuan fiscal deficits are at each governmental level in the USA – Federal, State or local – all bankrupt beyond hope, especially after Bush, but really since the insane Reganite arms race. All the US treasury needs, is to start rolling the printing presses and, given enough paper and ink, print trillions or quadrillions of brand new US dollars to meet the task, which are only backed by lead, but must be accepted as gold.

Poor Al Capone spent his lifetime endeavouring, in various enterprises, some legal and others of dubious legality, to accumulate more and more genuine US dollars. While honest, law abiding Uncle Sam, of the paradise of democracy, outwitted Capone simply by printing fake money ad infinitum. (Al Capone was the notorious Mafia figure in the USA –Editor)

Comes to mind: how long would today's unipolar world and USA hegemony last, USA – should most other nations – or a majority of nations exporting oil to the USA demand to be paid in Euros or Yens instead of dollars?

Be it those, or cocoa brands like our Aztec ancestors, how long could the USA pay for imperialist adventures like Iraq, or afford the over-bloated living standard of its population, once it is compelled to earn real money, backed by real gold, to pay all of its debt?

IS CAPITALISM SECURE FOR YEARS TO COME?

Very far from it. With globalized capitalism over the last two decades come new threats to its very future. These are precisely the famous contradictions that Karl Marx identified...but they are eve bigger. The history of capitalism in the last 100 years does not support that it is an automatically self-correcting system. As George Soros, the biggest manipulator of capital that there is, stated that..."*global markets are now more than ever constantly out of equilibrium – and teetering now on the edge of a much larger disequilibrium.*"

ACCORDING TO MISHKA

OPEN LETTER TO GEORGE BUSH

"To oppose everything while proposing nothing is irresponsible," President Bush said.

Dear George:

Here is a reply from a certified "war sceptic".

Go to Iraq yourself George, get out of the Green Zone, and see what life is like for people in Iraq and for the US soldiers you've sent there. Stay a few days George – no quick photo-ops and then back home again. Be sure that you drink their water.

Then go to Walter Reed Hospital and visit the Ortho ward. Not just a quick peek into the ward, but stay there for a week. You can do it. Or better still - go to the burn unit at a military hospital. Don't just do the hand-shaking politician bull. Go around the unit and empty the urine bags off the wounded soldiers. Learn how to check their IV's. See if their pain medicine is enough. Hear their moans. See the disgusting sights. Smell the smell.

Then when you've done, go to the VCA hospital and ask to visit the "black ward". No photo-ops please, here either Mr. President. Spend another week here. See the guys from the Vietnam and Gulf War I, and where else that the US Government has sent them. No photos, no talking, just listen!

Tend to them and turn them from side to side in their beds so that they do not get bedsores. Check their feeding tubes and don't forget to empty their colostomy bags!



Then George, come back to the USA and say that this Iraq war is worth one more person's life or health or family. Come back and tell us that if you can!

If you can't, then get the hell out of here!

Based on a letter written by US Navy Hospital Corpsman from 1969-1973

NORTH KOREA FORCED TO NUCLEAR DISARMAMENT

North Korea agreed last month to shut down its main nuclear reactor in talks with the US and four regional powers. It has to dismantle its atomic weapons program.

WHY? Why did China and Russia put extreme pressure on North Korea? They're all nuclear powers also. No amount of arguments that this was high "diplomacy" hold water! This is sheer buckling under US pressure for future gifts from US imperialism in trade and other favours. North Korea stood up, practically alone to US imperialism, not buckling under. History will long remember their heroic stand, and will condemn the stand of China and Russia!

**FOR THERE TO BE A FUTURE,
IT MUST BE SOCIALISM!**

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

FROM TORONTO
CANADA

Dear friends of Northstar Compass and of the International Council for Friendship and Solidarity with Soviet People:

Cooperating together for many, many years with you and letting you share the premises called the Friendship House with us, of course we found out that you are starting a Financial Campaign to raise \$30,000 in order to help keep on publishing NSC in the English, French and Russian editions.

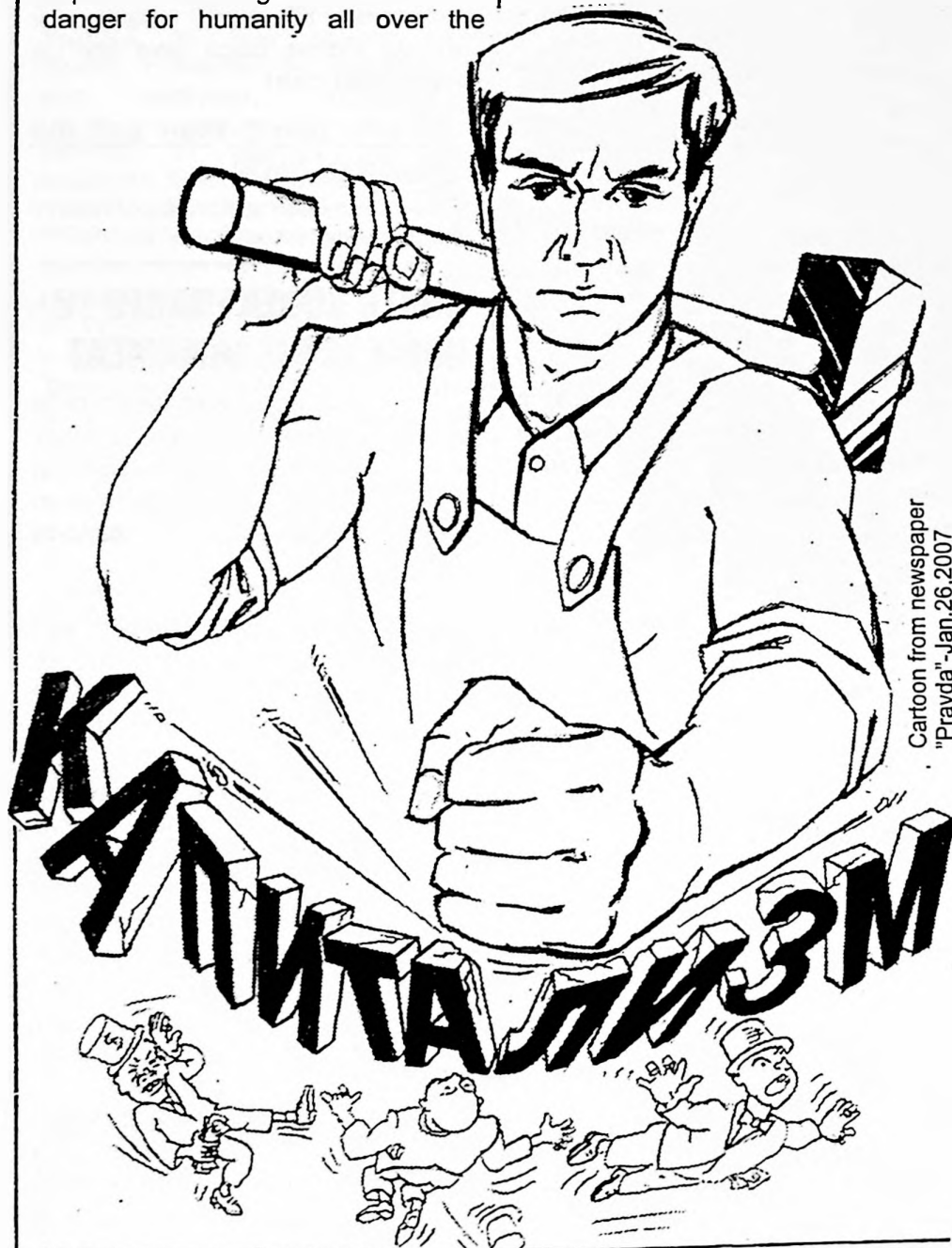
We feel that NSC is of outmost importance during these times of danger for humanity all over the

world, as well as for the progressive movement in particular. And, as supporters of NSC from the very beginning and of the Canadian Friends of Soviet People, we want to be the first to kick off this \$30,000 Financial Campaign by donating \$1,000.

We call upon all readers, all friends, comrades, who hold dear the work of NSC to make certain that we fulfill the \$30,000 quota and go over the top!

Let's **SMASH** capitalism!

Helen Lucas, Financial Secretary
Society of Carpatho-Russian
Canadians



Cartoon from newspaper
"Pravda"-Jan.26,2007

FROM MISSISSAUGA
CANADA

To Northstar Compass readers:

I am a citizen of Canada and living in Canada for the last 14 years, but I was born in Sri Lanka. I have 4 brothers and 5 sisters. I am writing this letter and seeking your help to secure the release of my niece Pathmaseeli Kanagarajah who was forcibly taken away by the LTTE on February 9, 2007 from her home in Kalinochichi.

I am stating that recently the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE) took a census in the Kilinochchi district and took note of all the children living in all of the households. One of the daughters of my sister had been forcibly removed from her home around the noon hour. Some LTTE men came to my sister's house and demanded the release of my sister's youngest daughter Thenuga who was 23 years old and she was taken by the LTTE to be given military training but my sister heard that the LTTE is rounding up young people, her daughter went into hiding.

The LTTE men became very angry and the parents were kicked violently and when they found out where she was hiding they took her forcibly, even though she never wanted to join the Tamil Tigers or any other militant group.

I have sent letters to the Amnesty International, Red Cross, the UNHCR and various diplomatic missions and to the Canadian government, asking them to help get the release of my niece and other hundreds of kidnapped young people by the LTTE.

I am asking the readers of NSC to protest to your government and ask that they intervene in these kidnappings of young people in Sri Lanka by the LTTE.

Yours truly
Gajan Kanagarajash

FROM BUCAREST
ROMANIA

Dear comrades:

We have the pleasure to inform you that on February 23 the Romanian Communist Party celebrated the important date when

In 1943 the Nazi-fascist army surrendered in front of the glorious Soviet Red Army in Stalingrad.

Communist Party of Romania pays its homage to the brave Soviet Army which was headed by the greatest commander ever, J.V. Stalin and that brought freedom to many countries in Europe, getting rid of the fascist yoke.

Long live the brave Soviet Red Army which was and is still the symbol of the struggle against imperialism!

Long live the Stalin ideas and goals which are leading Communism to its final victory!

Pantazi Alexandru
General Secretary of the
Central Committee
Communist Party of Romania

President Putin's speech in Munich, Germany last month is closer to the truth internationally than anything that has come out president Bush's mouth since he was first elected as President of the USA. There are boatloads articles in the world media about Putin's speech. But I feel that Putin is speaking also on behalf of the Shanghai Cooperation organization, and that includes China and other big countries.

The policies of Bush are being criticized all over because of its Imperialist designs to encircle Russia all around its borders. It looks as if American policy is losing ground, but this is also a signal that the international proletariat must unite and arise against this New World Order!

Jerry Morse
Canada

FROM BENDERY
MOLDOVA

Dear comrades:

I am receiving NSC regularly but I still did not get the January issue yet. I am surprised that you did not publish my articles regarding my arrest in November of 2006.

I also sent you much material regarding the court proceedings for Sveljana Borisova and the present situation of some people that are protesting this situation. Although there was much published about the

court case and charges against Borisova, but nothing has been published about this case in the Russian press in Moscow.

I still did not receive any copies of NSC in the Russian Edition yet. What is happening? Please publish the materials I keep sending you!

N. Garmash

A letter of explanation was sent to comrade Garmash as to the reasons, since his material of the court case amounted to 18 typewritten pages which is impossible to put everything in NSC. We wish we could publish more articles but that is impossible.

FROM FLORIDA
USA

Dear Editor:

I thoroughly enjoyed the last issue where there was an article about religion. Any religion is best which is nearest the revolutionary true Communism. This planet of ours is truly on a cross and living in darkness. We can be assured that the universe will be truly a Communist society and then can go after we have done our work here.

Jon Corlett

FROM OREL
RUSSIA

I am sending you the brochure "Globalization and Political Idiotism" explaining what transpired in the USSR and why we are where we are now - going into detail as to what happened with the traitorous policies of the former CPSU leaders. Some of the present Communist leaders are just as Marx wrote: "Sheep calling themselves wolves". As long as such communists exist in this world, capitalist class can sleep peacefully.

NSC has printed some excerpts before from the text and I hope that you will be able to publish it in full in English.

I. Komarov

If our \$30,000 NSC campaign gets good results, there are brochures that we shall definitely publish.

COMMUNIST YOUTH UNION (KSM)

Dear Comrades:

We are sending you an English translation of the decision of the Czech Ministry of the Interior of the official dissolution of the Communist Youth Union (KSM). We have filed an action against this ban because this is part of a huge anti-communist campaign in the Czech Republic. The conflict will continue in the court and you shall be informed.

Comrades - we also want to inform you that the KSM, in spite of the witch-hunt that is being exerted against this youth organization which is continuing its activities. The KSM is an active party of a growing movement against the plan by the present regime to place US-NATO military base in the Czech Republic. We were the first organization that started this struggle against this plan and we were later joined by other organizations. We are establishing new local organizations in the country.

The situation in the Czech Republic is very complicated and it will deteriorate even more. After 7 months of political crisis without a government backed by a majority of parliament, a new majority rightwing government led by a right-wing party - the Civic Democratic Party (ODS) has now been installed. This government will bring even more attacks on the social and economic positions of the working people and of the unemployed people.

The development in our country has a tendency to political and social polarization and the KSM will continue to play its active role in the class struggle amongst the people oppressed by capitalist system.

Comrades, we want to express to you again our gratitude for your support.

Comradely yours

Radim Gonda
Vice Chairman of the KSM
Czech Republic

**WE WOULD LIKE TO HEAR
FROM
YOU AND YOUR OPINIONS.**

\$30,000 FINANCIAL CAMPAIGN FOR NORTHSTAR COMPASS

Dear comrades and friends:

We have celebrated the 15th Anniversary of Northstar Compass in 2006 at the Mini Conference in Toronto, Canada where many decisions were made and plans formulated in the ongoing need to keep on publishing this important printed organ of the International Council for Friendship and Solidarity with Soviet People.

Although the Third World Congress was cancelled this year and postponed until 2008, the need for NSC to keep on publishing is greater than ever before. The situation in the world due to US imperialism and the uncertainty and hardships in former USSR are such that there is a desperate need for us to tell the truth and as well to show our solidarity with the Soviet people in their heroic struggle to resurrect the Soviet Union and Socialism as we were doing since 1918 when the "Hands off Russia Committee" was formed.

We now have an English, French and Russian editions of NSC going all over the world.

WE NEED \$30,000 IN ORDER TO HELP THE ENGLISH, FRENCH AND RUSSIAN EDITIONS TO KEEP ON BEING PUBLISHED!

Northstar Compass is being published on a voluntarily bases with so all the finances raised are going fully for printing, envelopes and mailing costs. -

LET'S MAKE THIS BAROMETER GO QUICKLY UP TO REACH THAT NUMNBER OF \$30.000!

Comradely yours
International Council for Friendship and
Solidarity with Soviet People
Editorial Board of Northstar Compass

