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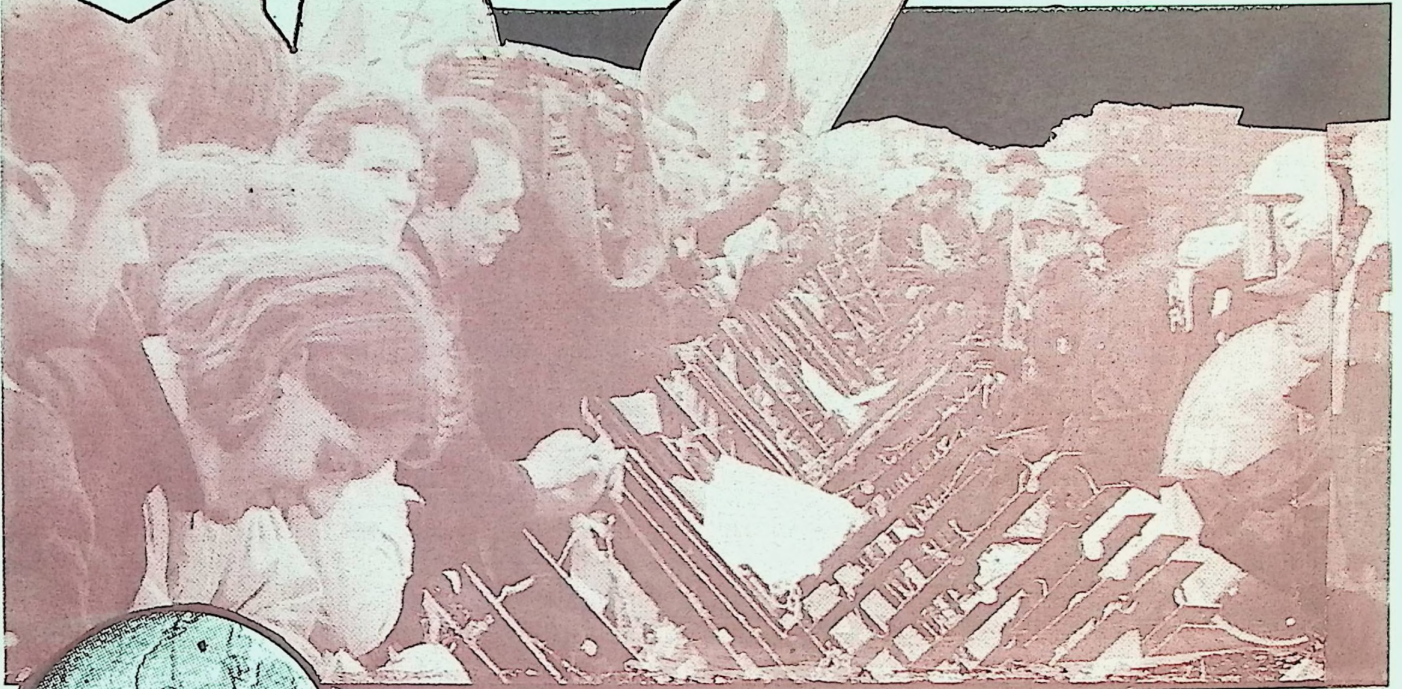
ORGAN OF THE INTERNATIONAL COUNCIL FOR FRIENDSHIP AND SOLIDARITY WITH SOVIET PEOPLE - VOL 11 #9, MAY 2003

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world warn:

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FASCISM
SHALL NOT PASS!**



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

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

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

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

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Destroying "Human Values" _and_ seeking TRUTH In war's Ghastly Rubble_

RAY
STEVENS



Former Captain in the Canadian Armoured Corps - WWII

We frequently see or hear in today's media, the casual, "oh-so-cleverly" but basically correct observation that "truth is war's first casualty". That rather sinister adage, is used by pundits to hide or perhaps resurrect at least a small part of shredded and shriveled bits of humane conduct...even compassion surviving among humans...after it is blown to pieces by those who make war. Perhaps it could assist media workers whose coincidence is damaged by being forced to transmit the ghastly killing sprees and criminal results created by the "coalition of eager and willing" that have saddled war and its crimes on confused by essentially innocent lives of ordinary humans. This remains true whether in Iraq, or any other place where hundreds of millions have died under incoherent violence (*en extremus*) created by the warlords of super-profiteering Imperialism.

As never before media "exposure" has become integral to the "psychological warfare" exercised by the war makers...all too often assuming the proportions of the "Big Lie" of Nazi infamy. Another ancient edict says "he who pays the piper calls the tune". Thus, even a cursory scrutiny of corporate monopoly controls of "public information" in every form of media broadcast and publication...where ever "war"

produced by corporate bosses exists, "public information" is presented in the form of "body-counts", bloody and enormous tragedy, plus depraved depiction of bottom of the heap misery pain and death. Also presented as "colour" exposure are exploits of begrimed and uniformed killers. All are of top "media" priority. The inter-monopoly media competition dictates and ever-descending spiral into the noxious display of the most obscene and the totally inhuman.

As a general rule, respect of dismembered, splattered, burned or evaporated corpses comes last in the litanies of "modern war" while "show-biz" reports show gross mutilations and indignities on fellow humans. Too often such reports are top run priority for the mass media "coverage". "Ghastliness" supersedes all "respect" in ghoulish inverse proportions. Much too rarely are important, or relevant inquiries broadcast or brought on stage. Such "inquiries" would bolster and enhance democratic activity and participation in public affairs. As examples - What inherit quality of war is it that produces and magnifies **loss to the species of cooperative and respectful inter-human relations???** Or again: **why are state trained "killers" in uniform, calmly pressing "bombs away" buttons at altitudes of 30,000 or more feet portrayed as "heroic" or "patriotic" as they send off death to such victims never seen, miles below...or less "heroically"...as a marine...just blast them to eternity with H.E.??**

Even more insistently, other, inexplicable questions arise...**who is really responsible, what possible reason exists for our species cast away while "at war" our humanity, our compassion our human sense of protecting life and dignity???** Illumination of such questions by the mass monopoly "media" for the most

part is heavily biased, blurred and hyped -(or non-existent) in the ongoing Imperialist USA-British oil inspired invasion of a sovereign state of Iraq sans legal endorsement of the United Nations. This predatory "war" is presented as though there was no "history" of Imperial "oil" exploitation and ravages in Iraq or the Middle East...or otherwise is "conveniently forgotten"...

Nevertheless we cannot properly place primary or sole responsibility on "working journalists" for this state of affairs. That rests squarely on **broadcast monopolies and media such as NBC who summarily "fired" Peter Arnett...** of more or less "impeccable" references as a "war correspondent". We are indeed encouraged and satisfied to have received a 14-page dispatch by Mark Francetti of the "Times" (London) that arrived on AOL Canada, mlucas3545@aol.com on March 31, 2003. The headline reads: **"US Marines turn fire on civilians at bridge of death"...** in Nasiriya, Iraq, dated March 30th. We take the liberty of using some quotes because the dispatch rings with truth and authenticity...opening the door to at least some answers in the bedeviled "Imperial oil war"...

"My footsteps felt heavy... as I walked slowly toward the bridge at Nasiriya. A horrific scene lay ahead. Some 15 vehicles...blocked the road. They were riddled with bullet holes. Some had caught fire and turned into piles of black twisted metals. Others were still burning. Amid the wreckage I counted 12 dead civilians, lying on the road or in the nearby ditches. All had been trying to leave...There mistake was trying to flee over a bridge that is crucial to the Coalition's supply lines and to run into a group of shell-shocked young American Marines with orders to shoot anything that moved. One man's body was still in flames. It gave out a hissing sound..."

"Down the road, a little girl, no older than five and dressed in a pretty orange and gold dress lay dead in a ditch next to the body of a man who may be her father, half of his head was missing. Nearby, in a battered old Volga car, peppered with ammunition holes an Iraqi woman, perhaps the girl's mother – was dead...A US Abrams Tank nicknamed Ghetto Fabulous drove past..."

Leaving the scene, Lieutenant Matt Martin came besides the writer. His eyes "filled with tears" as he asked Franchetti:

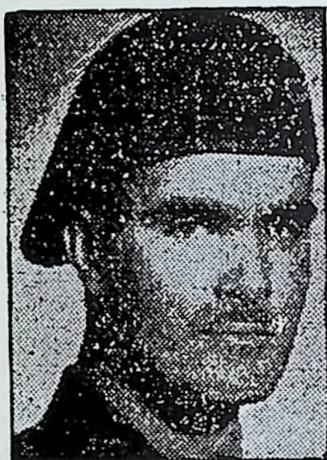
"Did you see that...did you see that little baby girl? I carried her body and buried her as best as I could, but I have no time. It gets me to see children being killed like this, but we had no choice..."

"Martins distress was in contrast to the bitter satisfaction of his fellow Marines, as they surveyed the scene. "The Iraqis are sick people and we are the chemotherapy" said Corporal Ryan Dupre..." Only a few days earlier these had still been the bright eyed, small town US boys with whom I had crossed the Iraqi border..."

To read all fourteen pages of Franchetti's dispatch in like having to eat, sleep and live in a stifled unventilated room with putrefying bodies and the sights, flavors tastes, smells and horrors of Dante's Inferno multiplied and wrapped in the stench and grime of death. Described is an exchange of heavy fire between the Iraqi guns and the US Marines when they "crossed the second bridge to the northeast of the city". He writes in detail of the death of two Americans...2nd Lieutenant Fred Pokorney, 31...from Washington State, and Fitzgerald Jordan, a Staff Sergeant from Texas. His narrative says:

"Now, Pokorney, Jordan and their comrades lay among unspeakable carnage. An older Marine walked by carrying a huge chunk of flesh, so maimed it as impossible to tell which body part it was. With tears in his eyes and blood spattered over his flak jacket, he held the remains of his friend in his arms until someone gave him a poncho to wrap them with..."

"As night fell, two tanks and three AAV's were placed at the north end of the third bridge...and given orders to shoot at any vehicle that drove towards the new American positions...Next morning I saw the result of this order – the dead civilians, the little girl in the orange and gold dress..."



Captain E.L. STEVENSON

"Suddenly, some of these US young Marines who had crossed into Iraq with me reminded me of their fathers generation. The trigger happy grunts of Vietnam...they were drained and very dangerously aggressive...Mike Brooks was one of the commanders who had given the order to shoot at civilian vehicles...he told me he had been writing a diary, partly for his wife Kelly...with their sons Colin, 6, and four year old twins Brian and Evin. When he came to jotting down the incident about the two babies getting killed by his men he couldn't do it. He said that he would tell her when he got home..."

Soldiers and the military, now including women, are trained by Governments to kill...or be killed...by some designated "enemy" usually properly "demonized". That is the legacy of war dating back through centuries of time. The effects or results of the "trained killers"...or those they kill, or seek to kill...have been carefully distorted, hyped, smoke-screened or otherwise hidden under mountains of "official" war making verbiage. The real "killers" of Imperial monopoly economic pomp and circumstance...or in Imperial high political office will sanctimoniously suggest they console themselves in satisfactions

they glean from the lie of "victory"...or "the justice of their cause". For the dead, for the "living dead"...the killers who may (or may not) survive, no such "panaceas", or comforts are likely to come their way. For soldiers of Imperial aggression possibly some phony "glories" will emerge on media such as CNN, but easement of conscience by "forgetting" via sheer longevity is certainly unlikely. The society that embraces and persists in an age-old problems arising from horrors of Imperial war, competitive conquest for territory, resources, or simply the hog's share of "super" profits is a society reeling today in multiple, unresolvable internal crisis. It can only disguise itself in the dirty clothes of "super" lies designed to confuse and confound the people worldwide. For instruction...ask George "Dubya" Bush and his froth-mouthed entourage...

In this day and age, science and modern technology...nuclear, chemical, biological and other...have provided ample, incredibly savage militarized means to assure a virtual suicide for our species...if not a total wipe-out of life on our little "Mother Earth" space ship...

Given the proliferation growth of cynicism, hypocrisy and greed among Imperial-monopoly ruling circles who deem themselves as "all powerful", the human species cannot any longer afford to permit this current and ongoing scenario of vicious de-humanizing war activity. The gangster-like contempt for international law, human life, while forms of total developing violence-based immorality must be expounded from global life and destroyed. Of immediate and particular tolerance and importance is the international requirement arising from the illegal "might is right" projection of war between "oil" monopolies. The most advance in International Law stated in the UN Charter from the many millions of excruciating death rolls resulting from war in the past century, can not be ignored and spat upon by those who today have sent high-tech "killing machines" and superior "fire power" into the desert sands of Iraq and the Middle East, primarily, for the oil corporate monopolies advantage, power and pelf.

War, as the "legalized instrument of state policy" (read: pre-emptive Imperialist war") to resolve inter-state conflict must be made illegal and outlawed. Let that be set down in the clearest terms in an amended United Nations Charter. War, the age-long curse of common people in the "resolution" of conflicts not of any real consequence to them, has now reached levels of inhumanity and immorality that demands forever banning its use in aggression and plunder.

Let all humanity speak now with one voice... "NO MORE WAR!"

P.S. Extended in appreciation and thanks to Mark Franchetti for his integrity and courage in his dispatch "on war". We wish him "success" with all editors and publishers who "accept" his seminal work...

**SPECIAL FOR
NORTHSTAR COMPASS**

SADDAM KEY IN EARLY CIA PLOT

From Independent Media Center

US forces in Baghdad might now be searching high and low for Iraqi dictator Saddam Hussein, but in the past Saddam was seeing US intelligence services as a bulwark of anti-Communism and they used him as their instrument for more than 40 years, according to former CIA intelligence diplomats and sources.

United Press International has interviewed almost a dozen former US diplomats, British scholars and former US intelligence officers to piece together the following account. Of course, as expected, the CIA refused to comment on the report.

While many people have thought that Saddam first became involved with US intelligence agencies at the start of the September 1980 Iran-Iraq war, his first contacts with US officials date back to 1959, he was part of a CIA-authorized six man squad tasked with assassinating then Iraqi Prime Minister General Abdf al-Karim Qasim.

In July of 1958, Qasim had overthrown the Iraqi monarchy in

what one former US diplomat, who asked not to be identified, described as "a horrible orgy of bloodshed".

According to the current and former US officials, who were afraid to be quoted and their names published, Iraq was then regarded as a key buffer and strategic asset in the Cold War with the Soviet Union. For example, in the mid-1950s, Iraq was quick to join the anti-Soviet Baghdad Pact which was to defend the region and whose members included Turkey, Britain, Iran and Pakistan.

Little attention was paid to Qasim's bloody and conspiratorial regime until his sudden decision to withdraw from the pact in 1959, an act that "freaked everybody out" according to a former senior US State department official.

Washington watched in marked dismay as Qasim began to buy arms and cooperate with the Soviet Union and put his own domestic communists into ministry positions of "real power", according to this official. The domestic instability of the country as seen by the US, prompted CIA Director Allan Dulles to say publicly that "Iraq was the most dangerous spot in the world."

In the mid 1980s, Miles Copeland, a veteran CIA operative, told UPI that the CIA had enjoyed "close ties" with Qasim's ruling Baath Party, just as it had close connections with the intelligence service of Egyptian leader Gamel Nassar. In a recent public statement, Roger Morris, a former National Security Council staffer in the 1970s, confirmed this claim. Saying that the CIA had chosen the authoritarian and anti-communist Baath Party "as its instrument."

According to another former senior State Department official, Saadam, while only in his early 20s, became part of a US plot to get rid of Qasim because of his cooperation with the USSR and because he allowed Communists to be part of his government. According to this source, the CIA installed Saadam in an apartment in Baghdad on al-Rashid Street directly opposite Qasim's office in Iraq' Ministry of Defense, to observe Qasim's movements.

Adel Darwish, Middle East expert and author of "Unholy Babylon", said that the move was done "with full

knowledge of the CIA" and that Saadam's CIA handler was an Iraqi dentist working for the CIA and Egyptian intelligence. US officials involved confirmed that this is accurate.

He assassination was set for October 7, 1959, but it was completely botched. Accounts differ. One former CIA official said that the 22-year old Saadam lost his nerve and began firing too soon, killing Qasim's driver and only wounding Qasim in the shoulder and arm. Darwish told UPI that one of the assassins had bullets that did not fit his gun and that another had a hand grenade that got stuck in the lining of his coat.

"It bordered on farce", a former Senior US intelligence official said. But Qasim, hiding on the floor of his car, escaped death, and Saadam, whose calf had been grazed by a fellow assassin, escaped to Tikrit, thanks to the CIA and Egyptian intelligence agents, several US government officials said that this was true.

Saadam had crossed into Syria and was transferred by Egyptian intelligence agents to Beirut, according to Darwish and former CIA officials. While Saadam was in Beirut, the CIA paid for Saadam's apartment and put him through a brief training course, former CIA officials said. The agency then helped him get to Cairo. One former US government official, who knew Saadam at that time, said that even then Saadam "was known as having no class, and a thug."

In Cairo, Saadam was installed in an apartment in the upper class neighborhood of Dukki and spent his time playing dominos in the Indiana Cafe, watched over by the CIA and Egyptian intelligence operatives, according to Darwish and former US intelligence officials.

But during this time Saadam was visiting the American Embassy where CIA specialists such as Miles Copeland and CIA station chief Jim Eichelberger were in residence and knew Saadam.

In February 1963 Qasim was killed in a Baath Party coup. This was sanctioned by the then President Kennedy. But the CIA moved very swiftly and supported the gun-toting Iraqi National Guardsmen and gave

them lists of Communists and suspected communists who were rounded up, interrogated, tortured and gunned down, according to former US intelligence officials who have intimate knowledge of this carnage. These mass killing were presided over by Saadam Hussein.

A former CIA official said: "We were frankly glad to be rid of these communists. You asked whether they got a fair trial? You have to be kidding!. This was serious business."

British scholar Con Coughlin, author of "Saadam, King of Terror" said that this was regarded as " a great victory. I am not sorry to see these commies killed. Hey, we were playing for keeps!" said a long time former CIA operative in the Middle East.

Saadam in the meanwhile became the head of al-Jihaz a-Has, a secret intelligence apparatus of the Baath Party.

The CIA / Defense Intelligence Agency relations with Saadam Hussein intensified after the start of the Iran-Iraq War in September of 1980. During the war, the CIA regularly sent a team to Saadam to deliver battlefield intelligence obtained from the Saudi AWAC surveillance aircraft to aid the effectiveness of Iraq' armed forces, according to a former official in the DIA, an interagency intelligence group.

This former official said that he personally had signed off on a document that shared US intelligence with both Iraq and Iran in

an attempt to produce a military stalemate. "When I signed it, I thought that I was losing my mind" the former official told UPI.

According to Darwish, the CIA and DIA provided military assistance to Saadam's ferocious February 1999 assault on Iranian positions in the al-Fao peninsula by blinding Iranian radars with the help of US supplied technology and on the spot experts for three days.

With the prodding of USA, Saadam invaded Kuwait on August 2, 1990.

"The pioneers of warless world are the young men who refuse military service." **Albert Einstein**

HUNDREDS OF THOUSANDS MARCHED IN ENGLAND, THIS DID NOT STOP BLAIR OR BUSH!



EXPOSÉ

BAGHDAD BATTERED BY U.S. GAS BOMBS!

By HASSAN TAHSIN – Arab News

Even as late as April 14, USA and Britain bombed Baghdad with these Gas Bombs. After more than 215 days of bombing, Brigadier General Vincent Brooks stated at a press conference at Qatar: *"Until to-day, the American forces have not found any banned weapons of mass destruction in Iraq..."*

If Washington and London are honest in the justifications they have presented to the world for launching this attack, then it is neither possible nor acceptable that Baghdad and a number of other cities should be shelled with chemical bombs.

Yes, that is the truth, Baghdad has been battered with chemical bombs carrying highly combustible depleted uranium. The website www.bbcarabic.com presents a detailed account of the type of weapons and ammunition that is being used in the current war.

Aside from these munitions, advanced cluster bombs have also been used. They are called MOABs, or massive ordnance airburst bombs, and they are essentially chemical bombs.

These ethylene bombs work by taking advantage of the effect of exploding fuel in the air. When a mix of fuel and air ignites, it creates a fireball and a wave of explosions that spreads quickly over a much greater area than traditional explosives. The after-effects of the explosion are very similar to those of small nuclear bombs but without radiation.

The American cluster bombs carry ethylene gas, of the kind used in the Second Gulf War, in three barrels. Each of which weighs 100 pounds. Each barrel contains 75 pounds of ethylene oxide, whose industrial usage is the production of other chemical compounds such as glycol ethylene and other highly poisonous compounds.

As for the way in which these bombs work, a fuse ignites the barrel at the height of 30 feet which breaks

and opens the barrel, and the fuel is expelled dispersing in the air to create a cloud with a 60-foot radius and 8-foot depth.

The airburst spreads to areas that are difficult to attack with more traditional bombs. The cloud is poisonous itself, and exposure to ethylene oxide leads to lung cancer, headaches, nausea, vomiting, diarrhea, shortness of breath plus birth defects. The gas is highly combustible and reactive.

After this. The main charge ignites the mix leading to an explosion that spreads at speeds of 3km a second-faster than the speed of sound, and the mix of the fuel and air burns at 2,700 degrees Celsius. It is possible to increase the effect by adding additional warheads.

The degree of pressure created by the airburst is twice that of traditional bombs, where the air pressure would only rise to just above 1kg per sq. cm. With the MOAB the air pressure goes to 30kg per sq. cm.

The danger doesn't end there. The explosive mix of fuel and air traveling at speeds exceeding the speed of sound, leave behind a vacuum that sucks the air and other materials, creating a mushroom cloud. These explosions cause cerebral concussion or blindness, blockage of air passageways and the collapse of lungs, tearing of eardrums, massive internal bleeding and displacement and tearing of internal organs, plus injuries from flying objects. These are aside from the injuries mentioned above, which result from inhalation of this poisonous ethylene oxide cloud.

It is for these reasons the human rights organizations consider these MOABs to be weapons of mass destruction. They don't differentiate between civilian and military targets and their use in populated areas contravenes all of the international agreements relating to war. MOABs are deemed to be internationally outlawed.

So, does the use of this internationally banned weapon conform to the shining principled declaration by the Anglo-American leadership in order to justify the brutal invasion of Iraq?

WILL ANYONE ANSWER?

Dear reader:

We feel that a comment is very necessary and must be spoken about to these unspeakable instruments of war that are being used openly by the US-British imperialist brigands in Iraq! If this is not outright fascism and disregard for humanity, what is it?

This is outright genocide and wanton killing of innocent people for New World Order and profits for these US, British brigands and pirates, who have absolutely no regard for any international treaties, the United Nations or for even their own people.

Not only should these leaders be tried as war criminals in future, the designers, the makers of these unspeakable bombs should also be tried. They cannot hide behind the excuse that **"We were just fulfilling orders!"** They knew the destructive power of their creation, the inhuman suffering that their creation will cause to innocent humans! No, they are as guilty as the leaders who unleashed this War for Oil!

Another Nuremberg trial is awaiting these war criminals!

Michael Lucas, Editor of NSC

IRAQ WAR WAS PLANNED FOR YEARS

West Virginia Gazette

As the carnage of the Iraq war fades, and TV commentators cease to applaud the conflict, thoughtful Americans might finally see that the war had little to do with terrorism – it was carefully planned by George W. Bush's *"neo-conservative"* clique long before the 9/11 tragedy.

"We have been dragged into this war by a president surrounded by super-war hawks, who intended from the beginning to attack", said Senator Robert C. Byrd, D-W, Va. declared.

Back in 2000, long before Bush gained the presidency, his public mentors in the *"Project for the New American Century"* outlined a master plan to use America's colossal

military power to enforce US "interests" around the planet. Part of the plan included removing dictator Saadam Hussein, a mortal enemy of Bush's father.

After Bush II was in the White House, and the PNAC leaders were given top federal posts, the 9/11 attacks provided a reason for waging US military campaigns. The first assault was against Afghanistan, was fully justified, because the nation's Taliban rulers were accused of hiding the al-Qaida terrorists and bin Laden. Then Bush issued a new defense policy, saying that it had the right to unleash "pre-emptive" wars against any nation suspected of posing a danger to America.

Starting in the fall of 2002, Bush made dozens of claims that Iraq possessed horror weapons and was in league with al-Qaida. These dubious accusations were pretexts for a war already planned. Although he repeatedly said during last winter that he had made "no decision" about invading Iraq, it wasn't true. More than a year ago, Bush crudely told the US Senators in the White House: "F--- Saddam. We're taking him out!"

Obviously his attack on Iraq had been envisioned for years - but the Americans were never told what was coming. Only perceptive observers could see that Bush deliberately was starting a war. US diplomat John Brady Kiesling resigned from the US State Department (one of many-Editor) on February 27 with a bitter letter saying:

"We have not seen such systematic distortion of intelligence, such systematic manipulation of American opinion since the war in Vietnam. We spread disproportionate terror and confusion in the public mind, arbitrarily linking unrelated problems of terrorism and Iraq...The policies we are now asked to advance are incompatible not only with American values but also with American interests. When our friends are afraid of us rather than afraid for us, it is time to worry!"

In the March 18 Washington Post, columnist David Broder wrote:

"Looking back, the major landmarks of the past year appear to have been carefully designed to leave no alternative but war with Iraq."

The current Washington Monthly,

the national journal created by Charleston native Charlie Peters, says the Bush's "neo-conservative" clique secretly plans to remove any other Mid-east regime and install White House approved governments. In a cover story titled "Practice to Deceive", the magazine says:

"The great majority of the American people have no concept of what kind of conflict the president is leading them into. The White House has presented this as a war to dispose Saadam Hussein in order to keep him from acquiring weapons of mass destruction - a goal that the majority of Americans support. But the White House really has in mind an enterprise of such a scale, cost and scope that it would be almost impossible to sell to the American public. The White House knows that. So, it hasn't even tried. Instead, it's focused on getting us into Iraq, with the hope of setting off consequences of events that will draw us inexorably toward the agenda they have in mind."

The hidden plan, the magazine says, is to install an elected democracy in Iraq, then spread this transition by military force, if necessary - to all neighboring countries. But this strategy can go haywire, because enraged Muslims in those nations might elect their own, even fanatical Muslim Regimes.

"Citizens of these countries generally hate the United States, and show strong sympathy for Islamic radicals. If free elections were held in Saudi Arabia today, Osama bin Laden would probably win more votes than Crown Prince Abdullah."

Disturbingly, Americans are not being told of the traumatic course chartered by the White House - or the motives impelling the US president. The "Consortium News" founder Robert Parry observed:

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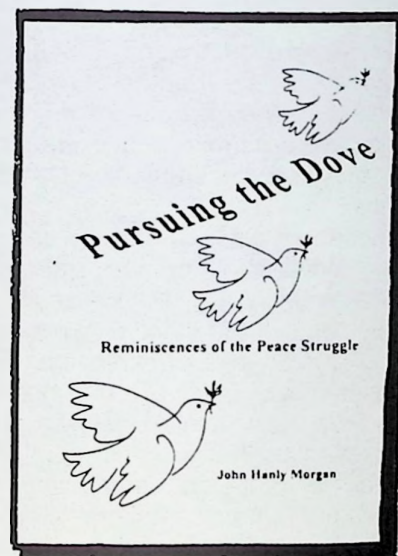
"Bush probably sees this mission in Messianic terms, believing that he is the instrument of God as he strikes at Saadam Hussein and other US adversaries. In a profile of Bush at war, "USA Today" cited Commerce Secretary Don Evans, one of Bush's closest friends, describing Bush's belief that he was called on by God to do what he's doing."

Incredible. No? Bush never told Americans that he has been planning the Iraq war for years - and he didn't reveal his innermost reasons for craving it - namely oil and the above.. If his Mid-east strategy proceeds as The Washington Monthly forecasts - ominous times lie ahead!

BOOK REVIEWS

PURSUING THE DOVE... A lifetime Work

By RAY STEVENSON



The title with the further explanation "Reminiscences of the Peace Struggle" by John Hanly Morgan sums up a lifetime of ardent, fearless and inspired personal commitment by the author to the limit, or where possible to remove war and its horrific tragedies from the human family. The half-tabloid size document of 156 pages, with a multitude of pictured events and people is authoritative and

compelling reading that displays the immense contribution of the Reverend Doctor Morgan whose activities for Peace were national and widely international in scope. As a Unitarian Minister, born in the United States together with his life partner and wife, Jeannette, he came to Toronto in 1959 to minister the city's First Unitarian Congregation. By 1973, as Minister Emeritus side-by-side with Jeanette their volunteer work for the Peace Movement of Canada had been coupled with Canadian citizenship. Their activity for Peace became centered in the Canadian Peace Congress, the nationally developed movement that had been first established in 1949, just prior to the Paris-Warsaw conference that established the World Peace Council. In the early 1950's both bodies had sponsored and organized the world-wide "Ban the Bomb" petition widely credited with giving major pause to the nuclear weapons scourge that threatened the world.

Preface to the book states:

"The century past was one of unparalleled struggle against economic injustice and massive warfare, a massive storm engaging huge populations. Some of us were long in that storm. Now new heavy clouds flash with lightning on the social horizon and in consequence new movements are arising to relate to older ones in fresh effort. The Peace Dove still Flies...It is a Tough Old Bird"!!

The viciously brutal and "high-tech" invasion of Iraq and continuing war in Afghanistan that threatens to engulf even more parts of the world is absolute vindication of the necessity for the worldwide and universal response demanding "No More War!" and rising from billions of people. Morgan's book (and the work of its preparation by Jeanette, who receives his and our gratitude) cannot other than be a major assist to the "tough old bird" of Peace to rise in full flight. It should be widely read and deeply studied. The appreciation and support of Northstar Compass is extended for complete success in the widest possible readership.

It is not possible in this short review to fully explore the manifold and extremely valuable reminiscences that embrace, most

often in high humor, Morgan's world-wide experience at Conferences as Vice President of the World Peace Council. These included meetings on varying issues War vs Peace, issues of the correctly described "struggles" for people of the under-developed world, or for disarmament. Rendered in high praise to Romesh Chandra, President of that body, who led the work of the WPC.

Morgan's cordial and friendly treatment of the role of the Soviet Peace Committee, centered in Moscow is coupled with insightful probing of the growth of counter revolutionary forces during the Gorbachev / Yakovlev years that sundered the WPC, and created the wholesale relinquishing of its "anti-Imperialist" stance and policy. Without naming names, he cites that development as a force that eventually undermined the WPC and fostered growing hostility to President Chandra who stood immovably on the "anti-Imperialist" policy base. The conclusion can be drawn that it was this incipient and inherent "anti-Sovietism" that preceded both the dismantling of the USSR and serious crippling of the World Peace Council.

Space does not permit a totally adequate review of this work. We are sure that in some quarters there may arise disagreement as to the positive and powerful attributes we find in the book's pages, but we strongly urge the widest possible readership. We thank John Hanly and Jeanette Morgan for their fine work. Inquiries to obtain it should go to: Wellesley and Gardens, c/o John Hanly Morgan, R.R.#11, Peterborough, Ontario, K9J 6Y3



MAY 11th
HAPPY
MOTHER'S
DAY!
 From
 Editorial
 Board
 of NSC

JERRY MORSE



AS I SEE IT!

Member of Veterans Against Nuclear Arms - Canada

HUMANITARIAN BOMBS

We protest the use of precision penetration bombs in the war against the Iraqi people and call for them to be classified under the Geneva Convention as "Tactical Atomic Munitions". Functioning as designed, these bombs have nose cones made of depleted uranium. When these bombs are used they not only penetrate the target, the following explosion atomizes the nose cones, producing clouds of deadly depleted uranium dust. Mr. Rumsfeld claimed that these bombs, because of their accuracy, to be just "humanitarian weapons."

We would suggest that Mr. Rumsfeld and all the TV and radio announcers that are mouthing this lie come to Baghdad and be at the spot where these precision "humanitarian weapons" are to explode. Then, they could appear at Radio and TV news conference and claim that these depleted uranium bombs are only "humanitarian".

BRITISH SOLDIERS REFUSE TO KILL

Three British soldiers have been arrested and sent home from Iraq in order to face a court martial for refusing to take part in the war, because it is killing innocent Iraqi civilians. The men are from the 16 Air Assault Brigade based in Colchester.

The first American reservist to defy conscription into this illegal war said: "this war is immoral because of the deception involved by US leaders." He faces a court martial and a military prison for his principled stand. These "refuseniks" said: "We know that we shall be punished, but

we would rather take our punishment now than live with what we would have to do in Iraq for the rest of our lives."

US MILITARY POLICE CENSOR FOREIGN JOURNALISTS

The American troops have put blanket restrictions on all reporters in Iraq who report to newspapers and TV media not agreed to by the Pentagon. These reporters are then shown only what the US wants them to see and are under command of the unit's military commander.

The journalists said that the closer they got to Baghdad the more aggressive the American troops became towards the independent journalists and the more stories were being heard of innocent lives lost.

WESTERN JOURNALISTS BEATEN BY AMERICANS

"Arab News" has learned that Luis Castro and Victor Silva, both reporters for RTP Portuguese television, were held for four days in Iraq, had their equipment, vehicle and video tapes confiscated and were then escorted out of Iraq by the 101st Airborne Division.

"I have covered 10 wars in the past six years - Angola, Afghanistan, Zaire and East Timor, but I have never been subjected to such treatment or been physically beaten before as now at the hands of the Americans" Castro said in an exclusive interview by the Arab News. "We were handcuffed, and the US soldiers took our satellite phones to call their own families back home, but they would not allow us to call our own families over our phones as reporters. When I protested, the US soldiers knocked me down to the ground and kicked me in the ribs and legs. I know why they beat us up, because we are not part of the reporters that Pentagon considers theirs, whom they control, and through them the military feeds its own version of the facts to the world. We as independent journalists and we are looked upon as a threat" said Luis Castro.

**WE DESPERATELY NEED YOUR
FINANCIAL HELP IN ORDER TO
KEEP ON PUBLISHING NSC!**

NEWS FROM SOVIET UNION

FROM PRAVDA.RU

Lingering American Smell in Iraq

When the US marine covered the face of Saadam's statue, with the American flag, while helping the few that gathered there to cheer in bringing down the Saadam's statue in Baghdad, the Al-Jazeera TV commentator said, hereafter everything in Iraq will have an "American smell". Nothing can be more close to the truth than this symbolic gesture and the comment that followed. As the phases of this "liberation of Iraq" emerge day by day, the true picture of the USA global policy is becoming more and more clear. With the recent warnings leveled at Damascus and Teheran, one could not help feeling the "American smell" of the plans that are being "cooked" behind closed doors in Washington.

As part of the orchestrated background preparation, it is now being said that the WMDs (*Weapons of Mass Destruction*) that the USA could no find in Iraq, have been shipped to Syria. Washington also warns Iran of the consequences if they harbor elements of Saadam's regime in Iraq. On the same tone, Washington claims that they have been keeping a close eye on all the members of the countries, that they named as "axis of evil", including Syria and Iran. It has been the style of the US administration to throw "punches of accusations" and "warnings" at any country opposed to their policies. When challenged to prove the "accusations" USA fails to provide "convincing evidence."

This is exactly what happened in the case of war on Iraq. In spite of the many false claims and rejected attempts USA gravely failed to make a convincing case against Iraq in the UNO Security Council. No amount of dossiers, or hues and cries by Bush, Blair, Powell, Rumsfeld managed to

convince the world to justify the war against Iraq. Even after all these days (22 days) of war in Iraq, after hundreds of deaths and injured on both sides the USA still has failed to make their case.

Whether it is the Iraq's threat of WMDs, or Iraq's alleged link to Al Qaida and Bin Laden, or Iraq's direct threat to the US itself, UK or Australia, the coalition has failed on all counts. The war in Iraq has not diminished the threat of terrorism in the world, on the contrary, this war has provided the nourishment to terrorist breeding grounds.

Basking in the "glory" of the "easy" win against the 36 years old dictatorship in Iraq, the USA seems to be very keen on continuing their self-imposed global mission on importing "liberation" into other countries in the region.

It is amazing to see how, any trick, lie and deception can go down well, in a country like the USA. In the most technologically and scientifically advanced country like the USA, a hoax like John Edwards over their TV channels, continues to make millions of dollars by convincing millions of Americans that he has the ability to communicate with the dead. His well-orchestrated TV show "Crossing Over" has enjoyed good ratings in the US. One would wonder as why the Pentagon did not hire him to communicate with "Chemical Ali" to retrieve important information about the Iraq's WMDs. Probably John Edwards does not understand Arabic. This amazing American gullibility is quite evident in the political consciousness of the American society as well. The American propaganda feeds and nourishes on this gullibility and too simplistic world outlook of the society. For most of the Americans there are only two ways of life: "The free American / Western way or Anti-American evil way". "They hate us because we are free, rich and powerful and therefore we have to go and make everybody follow us."

One is amazed at the extent of misinformation and deception that the USA / Pentagon administration have resorted to. In the events leading to the long planned

aggression against Iraq, the people like Colon Powell, degraded himself to incredible level of deceit. He assured the UNO Security Council that he has strong evidence to prove that Iraq has weapons of mass destruction, movable chemical weapons, factories and others. Having waged the war in Iraq for 22 days, the coalition had not yet found or to be able to produce one iota of evidence. It is only logical to think, that instead of suicide bombers, Iraq could easily resort to using WMDs, if they had them. Specially when faced with inevitable defeat and there was nothing left in Iraq for them, they could resort to the desperate last measures of using the WMDs to inflict maximum casualties on the coalition forces.

Political analysts and experts on the USA said all along that this was not a war about WMDs, but about dominance and oil. The concern was always on a regime change to facilitate easy access to oil rich areas in the north and south of Iraq. From now on their task will be to maintain some sort of controlled outbursts of violence and trouble to justify their long-term presence in Iraq to safeguard the USA interests in Iraq.

Long before first references were made regarding possible military action against Iraq, and even before the first introduction of Resolution 1441 in the UNO, US had been busy organizing, financing and training Iraqi exiles in US and Europe, plus in a camp in Hungary to form the so-called FIF forces. The FIF training camp was fully funded by the CIA. Soon after the beginning of the war General Tommy Frank, arranged for the FIF force of 1000 to be dropped into Northern Iraq, with the future leader Ahmad Chalabi. This Chalabi had not been in Iraq since 1950s. He was in Jordan but there he was sentenced for financial fraud. Somehow he managed to escape and settled in the USA and won the "heart and mind" of the CIA to get trained and emerged as the candidate for the presidency of Iraq. Washington does not mind him doing the "dirty work" for them.

The "American smell" has already started to influence the mass movement for a new Iraqi government. Chalabi has a new "competitor" a retired US Army General Garner who has been



Рис. В. Анмекапера



This is how the progressive press in Russia and Ukraine sees President Bush. The photo says: BUSH-HITLER #2!

recently airlifted to the scene of the looming power struggle. Famous for his pro Israeli attitudes, this US General Garner is Bush's most preferred candidate

Despite all these "imported and airlifted" leaders, the Iraqi people have expressed that they will not accept people imposed on them from abroad. The proposed marriage of these "imported strange bedfellows" will lead to failure. It would be prudent to say that there will be attempted assassinations and ugly tricks of the game of power struggles, will soon be staged in the

open. There are already signs that Iraq will be turned into a dangerous battleground of various camps and power brokers of power.

Iraqi people have to overcome their many differences, many obstacles and many wounds to heal. They value and treasure their heritage, dignity and friendship and brotherhood in the region. One thing that they do not need is the "outside" Western power broker, to have their say in the new government of Iraq.

Mithra Fernando

US-TRAINED GEORGIAN COMMANDOS GOING TO IRAQ

By ITAR-TASS

The US's ambassador to Georgia, Richard Miles said that two battalions of Georgian commandos will be sent to Iraq and other countries in the Middle East. He made that announcement on the Rustavi-2 TV last month. The intensive training by United States of

these Georgians, with the approval of President Shevernadze are at the beckon and call of the USA military, ready to be sent to any spot the US deems it necessary.

These US troops that are training the Georgian soldiers as they do others, are not soldiers, defending their country, they are mercenaries, as was and is the French Foreign Legion, nothing more and nothing less.

RUMSFELD COMPARERS STALIN - LENIN TO HITLER

US White House top man Donald Rumsfeld in April proclaimed that Saddam Hussein will join others in the annals of history books as a failed dictator, naming "Hitler, Stalin, Lenin and Causescu".

For Mr. Rumsfeld information, Vladimir Ulyanov (Lenin) came to power on a message of "bread and peace", setting in motion a process which was to bring a Medieval state to the front line of development and give to an oppressed, illiterate population with a zero chance of social mobility every opportunity for a good education, a guaranteed job, house, retirement pension, food, health care and cultural and sports opportunities second to none.

Vladimir Lenin set in motion the mechanism to create the Soviet Union and under Stalin's leadership the USSR heroically defeated the fascist forces of evil. The Soviet Union lost over 20,000,000 of its souls and whose armed forces, under Stalin, whom Rumsfeld also mentions in the same breath, killed 90% of all the German soldiers in Word War II.

To compare Lenin and Stalin to Hitler demonstrates a degree of arrogance and ignorance that is shocking in a person at the US political level which Rumsfeld had somehow attained.

At least Lenin or Stalin did not fount international law and launched a murderous campaign against a sovereign nation, leaving women and children without limbs. Maybe Rumsfeld forgot to add Bush to the list.

If Rumsfeld compares Lenin-Stalin to Hitler, maybe we should compare Bush to Genghis Khan and Rumsfeld to Jabba the Hutt.

FROM NEWSPAPER BOLSHEVIK STAVROPOLYA

IMMIGRANTS FROM ISRAEL TAKING OVER RUSSIAN LAND

In the city of Novoalexandrovsk there now lives over 500 Jewish immigrants from Israel and they have bought and rented thousands of

acres of land, formerly held by the Cossacks for use for fifty years. The collective farms were disbanded and these, the most arable lands were sold and given to them to rent for 50 years by the Russian administration. These new Jewish Israeli settlers are calling these Russian lands, a part of Israel..."New Khazaria".

They immigrated here only one year ago and plan to grow wheat, fruits and sell them or give them away to Israel. These lands are encircled now by high barbwire fence and it is looked after by scores of video cameras. The former Israel secret service personnel guard this property armed with guns and pistols, plus attacking dogs imported from Israel.

These Jewish Israeli settlers seem to have no shortage of money and are constantly buying up grain elevators in this granary black soil of the middle of Russia and they're building homes like the plantation owners in USA and South Africa did before.

When local former collective farmers ask them where is all this money coming from, they readily say from the government of Israel, since most of the produce will be shipped to Israel by these Israeli settlers.

And what is Putin government doing about this?

FROM PROLETARIAN NEWS

In order to protest the looting allowed and encouraged by US troops in Baghdad, Bush Cultural Advisors quit as a sign of protest because "you cannot speak freely as a specially appointed employee" said Martin Sullivan on behalf of the 11-member advisory committee.

"The loss of these priceless objects of history, rare artifacts documenting the early civilizations of ancient Mesopotamia is a loss to all humanity and this looting did not have to have happened and we should not have encouraged it for our political reasons."

"War is the only game in which both sides lose." **Walter Scott**

COMMUNISTS at the CROSSROADS

By Ekaterina Larina
"The Russia Journal"

Knowing that the rightwing in Russia will not become a real counterweight to the Kremlin in the near future, some business people are choosing to support the left as an alternative.

The Russian left wing has found itself at a crossroads in history. It is just like in the fairy tales – the road branches out in three directions. The left could follow the road of opposition to the Kremlin and remain a marginal player in politics. Or it could turn to the right, become subservient to the party of power and lose its identity by adopting a more social-democratic platform. And of course, it could veer further left and take a road of greater confrontation and more vigorous opposition to the Kremlin.

The main proponent (???-Editor) of sticking to the chosen path is the current leader of the Communist Party of the Russian Federation (CPRF), Gennady Zyuganov. He has faced against Boris Yeltsin and Vladimir Putin in the presidential elections already. A right turn is favored by the leading members of its CC Sergei Glazhev and Gennady Semigin, as well as the Duma Speaker Gennady Seleznyov, all members of the higher body of the CPRF. As for the third road, most of its supporters are radical leaders of extreme left-wing parties.

It is dangerous for the Communists not to make a choice now because, as elections for the Russian parliament approach and the traditional Communist parties go into action, the ideological battle could end up causing a schism. It could fragment the Russian voters, resulting in a deluded presence in the Duma.

To complicate matters, there is increased interest from leading Russian businessmen in financing the election of the CPRF. The sponsors in question are members of the elite who believe that a left-wing

opposition is needed to keep a political balance. (Yes, a left wing political party that the businessmen have nothing to fear from- Editor). These new rich capitalists do not thrust the Communists to do it for them, so they now are trying and buying their way into the CPRF and place their representatives in the Duma on the CPRF party ticket.

Offers of support to the CPRF came even from the likes of Boris Berezovsky, the multi millionaire who has a warrant for his arrest even by the present Russian government.

A source within the CPRF said that when Zyuganov was offered huge financial support by one such businessman at a CPRF meeting, he asked point blank how many places on the CPRF parliamentary election list he was expected to provide. Russian political parties get seats in the Duma in proportion to the votes they receive, irrespective of who is on the party list. Many Russian business groups use that catch phrase in the constitution and electoral system to get their own lobbyists on the party lists into the Duma.

Zyuganov knows that there is no such thing as a free lunch. This explains, why as party sources say, he might find it hard to resist these offers.

So, as paradoxical as it seems, it was the business and political elite's attention and willingness to help certain Communists that had led to the current crisis. As long as the struggle for influence within the CPRF remained an internal affair, it would not have posed a problem, or serious threat, as the reins of power remain firmly in the hands of Zyuganov. He has managed to keep a check on the left wing of the party and growing number who believe that the CPRF would benefit from a leadership change. But this lure of massive financial influx, and thus a shift in policy is much different. As new sponsors arrive and finances start flowing into the coffers of CPRF, Zyuganov's influence is starting to crumble.

The question is whether the CPRF will start kicking out its left wing voices and socialism ideologues in order to make way for representatives of big business (and the power that is behind them - Editor). No one should be surprised if

the CPRF benches in the next Duma are filled with such people!

COMMENT:

The writer of the Russian Journal is not a left-winger or the newspaper she writes for. Nevertheless, she outlined the scenario that NSC had predicted for years...we even had a cover dedicated to the CPRF and its leader Zyuganov: "IS THERE A TROJAN HORSE WITHIN THE CPRF?"

IRAQ WAR SPURS RUSSIAN RESPONSES TO US MILITARY THREAT IN FORMER REPUBLICS

By Vladimir Radsyushin
Kominform

The war in Iraq has spurred Russia to strengthen its defense potential and intensify combat training of its armed forces. "We are drawing military and political conclusions from the Iraq war", said Defense Minister Sergei Ivanov.

A week after the US-British forces attacked Iraq, Russia held its biggest war games in the Caucasus mountains in the past ten years. Simultaneously Russia's mobile nuclear forces held exercises that included the test-firing of an intercontinental missile. The Russian Navy has also now began its most massive deployment in the Indian Ocean since the break-up of the USSR.

The Russian military sees the US-led war in Iraq as a potential threat to Russia's security, pointing to the growing US military presence in former Soviet republics and the resumed flights by the American U-2 spy planes along Russia's borders. The Russian Air Force Commander Alexander Milkhailov went as far as to warn the Americans that Russia would shoot down any spy plane that intruded "as little as a mile inside the Russian air space."

Russia is now carrying at full speed the build up of its new space technology, the latest Topol M long-range nuclear missiles and the fourth generation plus anti-missile system, Triumph.

The realization is finally sinking in that Russia needs to urgently upgrade its nuclear and missile shield to protect itself against the likely nuclearisation of countries like North Korea, which sees the acquisition of nuclear arms as the only guarantee against US military intervention.

It is planned to reintroduce basic military training in Russian schools, which stopped in the early 1990s at the height of Russia's romance with the West.

COMMENT:

Is Russia's present leadership waking up only now? When they were selling-out and cooperating with US imperialism, did they not realize into what trap they were being led into?

JUST IN FROM PLYMOUTH, GB

On April 1, the British submarine HMS Turbulent returned to Plymouth, flying the Jolly Roger, the pirates emblem. How appropriate!

This nuclear-powered machine fired some 30 American Tomahawk Cruise Missiles into Iraq. Each missile cost the British taxpayers 700,000 pounds, a total cost of 21,000,000 pounds!

The skull and crossbones - it's official now for Her Majesty's Navy.



RELIGION? NO, IT'S POLITICS!

Anti socialism campaign by religious fundamental groups in USA is not religion at all!

It is a tool promoted by US ruling class to struggle against Socialism all over the world.

I AM A COMMUNIST, THIS SAYS IT ALL!

BY VLADIMIR PRONIN - Ukraine

Q: Dear Nicholas Martinovich, our readers with great sympathy are following your already 9th year in prison in the present bourgeois Lithuania. How did you fall into the hands of the Lithuanian secret service or was there collusion by the Byelorussian authorities?

A: I was taken in by a devious method that was planned in advance. On January 15, 1994 I was to meet a delegation from the Communist parties of Lithuania, Latvia and Estonia and with the participation of a delegate from the Communist Party of Byelorussia and a representative from the Union of Communist Parties-CPSU.

One of our members, Professor Ermolavichus who was going to meet the delegates was arrested on the street. Only one member of the delegation knew my telephone number, phoned me and said that no one was there to meet them. I then went out to greet the delegation, but as I approached them, I saw the presence near a corner the Ambassadors of Byelorussia and Lithuania. I was approached by a security agent in civilian clothes. He told me that since there was coming the visit of President Bush to Minsk, I should be placed under guard and a representative of the Byelorussian Secret Service motioned me into the car, and only then did I realize I was being abducted and was being taken across the border to Minsk, Byelorussia.

On the way, I saw the delegates standing near a telephone booth from which they phoned me, but I was unable to warn them as to what had happened.

Arriving in Minsk, I was taken to the Prosecutor General where I was asked to sign my arrest order and only then I found out that there was collusion between Byelorussian prosecutor and his counterpart in Lithuania. An agent in a tavern where I was having lunch, had a progressive newspaper in his pocket and after a few words between us, he departed and the trap was set. The press told all sorts of lies but I was arrested officially in Minsk and given over to the Lithuanian

authorities.

I must say that the Supreme Soviet of Byelorussia took a principled position and exposed the collusion between the secret services of both countries. Shushkewich knew about this collusion, but did not stop it from being fulfilled.

Q: What kind charges were thrown against you. Did you admit to any of these charges?

A: The prosecutor of Lithuania charged me with 37 points of political acts. I refuted all of these charges, point by point and I pointed out that the illegal separation of Lithuania from USSR was done by the highest organs of power there. I defended the actions of the Communist Party of Lithuania during the Gorbachev traitorous acts and his cronies in Lithuania. I told the court that I am a Communist, a Marxist-Leninist and consider that socialism is the highest form of society and it is not against the law to try and improve the well being of the people.

Q: How many other Lithuanian communists fell into the hands of the bourgeois administration?

A: After the events in 1991 the Lithuanian authorities arrested 19 communists plus other defenders of socialism, unity with other peoples of USSR, veterans and many Soviet members of the Security Service of Lithuania. Practically the whole of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of Lithuania were arrested on fabricated charges.

Q: The present bourgeois Lithuanian government is hell-bent to join NATO and thus they feel that they will be able to save their skins from the people. How are the Lithuanian people looking at this?

A: The Lithuanian people never had the opportunity to voice their opinions or to hold a plebiscite on this question. During a telephone opinion poll done by TV channel LNK, the question was asked as to when was it better to live in Lithuania, out of those that answered, 5,237 people answered that it was better under socialism and the Soviet Union, and only 2,066 replied that it is better now. But if

this opinion poll asked the working class and the farmers, who are suffering now even more economically, they certainly would reply that it was much better under the existence of the Soviet Union and socialism and I feel that Socialism again will come back to Lithuania.

Q: Even though you were sentenced to 15 years in jail, and are serving already 9 years, you were elected as the General Secretary of the Communist Party of Lithuania. Under what kind of conditions are party members working under now?

A: Yes, the XXII Congress of the CP of Lithuania, not looking at the fact that I am in jail, elected me as the General Secretary. Our comrades are working under the most difficult economic and political conditions. As you know, the present Lithuanian government had banned the Communist Party, thus one part of the leadership works underground while the other part works from immigration. The Communist party has very deep roots in the Lithuanian people. There are working people and even capitalism cannot live without the working class. Communist Party is living and will be living, you cannot take that away from the workers...this is the classic situation in this 21st Century. ■

JUST IN BEFORE PRESS TIME!

From Russian Information Agency (Novosti)

Novosti correspondent Pavel Davidov in Baghdad reported that the "National Iraqi Liberation Organization" was formed in Iraq and existing in every region of Iraq and it's dedicated to the struggle against the US/British occupation forces.

The Statement that they issued warns the US appointed governor General Garner that he will be killed before he gets any of the Iraqi oil. It also stated that their underground fighters have already killed scores of US soldiers, destroyed 8 tanks and APCs.

SEPTEMBER 11, 2004

BY VIC RATSMA

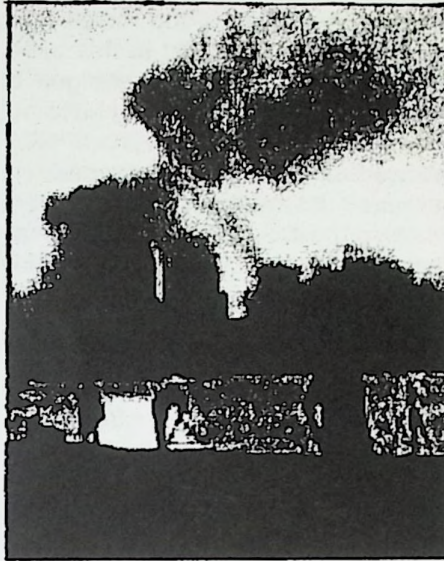
The United States is in crisis. The federal government of George Bush is racking up the largest budgetary deficit in the history of the nation and the State governments are all but bankrupt. Tens of thousands of workers are being dismissed from their jobs, education funds cut, lights are being turned off, tens of thousands of poor people are losing access to healthcare, Ohio alone is planning to cut 50,000 people from their healthcare coverage, and on and on it goes. (1)

None of this appears to bother President Bush too much, as he steadfastly continues to provide huge tax cuts for the wealthy and awards Iraq reconstruction contracts to his corporate friends. In fact, after all of the hullabaloo about security and implementation of the Patriot Act and the Homeland Security Act, said to be needed to safeguard the nation from future terrorist attacks, Bush appears to have done nothing to implement even the faintest measures to improve safety in the country. In an article in "The Nation" on April 17, 2003, Eric Alterman points out Bush and Vice President Cheney **have not merely ignored "homeland" protection, they have sabotaged it.** (2) Alterman provided ample evidence to prove his point:

**A January Brookings Institute report explains: "President Bush vetoed several specific (and relatively cost-effective) measures proposed by the US Congress that would have addressed critical national vulnerabilities. As a result, the country remains more vulnerable than it should be today."*

**Power plants constitute obvious terrorist targets but they are frequent operated by private or semi-private corporations who are unwilling to pay to protect them. According to Brookings, the Administration has done nothing- repeat, nothing- to help or encourage "private sector firms- even ones that handle dangerous materials - toward improving their own security."*

**Last year (2002), the Pittsburgh Tribune-Review discovered a*



frightening series of security lapses at three separate chemical plants in Houston and Chicago, which, if attacked, could endanger over 1 million people each.

**The New York Daily News found one plant in East Rutherford, New Jersey, where an attack could threaten the lives of more than 7 million people. And it employed virtually no security at all.*

**Spencer Abraham, Bush's Energy Secretary, worried in a March 2002 letter to OMB director Mitch Daniels that "firms are storing vast amounts of materials that remain highly volatile are subject to unthinkable consequences if placed in wrong hands." However, he added, due to insufficient funding, "the Department now is unable to meet the next round of critical security mission requirements... Failure to support these urgent security requirements," he concluded, "is a risk that would be unwise." Nevertheless, The New Republic's Jonathan Chait reports, Bush agreed to propose a mere 7 per cent of what Abraham said would be needed just to get started.*

**Chait has more: Bush refused to compensate healthcare workers injured or killed by the smallpox inoculation program. His budget is squeezing the Coast Guard, in charge of port security. He is starving "first responders"---the very heroes of the 9/11 to whom he dishonestly promised so much. And the Customs Service got not a single penny in*

new funding in the Administration's budget. With everyone losing sleep over "loose nukes" falling into terrorist hands, Bush even tried to cut overseas nuclear security funding by 5 per cent.

None of the foregoing information has been given much attention in the major media in the USA, as they faithfully continue their gloating over the president's quick victory in the war against Iraq. But you can't help but wonder what's going on here. During the past 18 months since September 11, 2001, Internet news sources have been full of reports about the Bush administration foreknowledge - if not complicity - in the attacks of that date. No serious investigation into these events has been undertaken and any attempts to do so have been frustrated by the regime. There can be little doubt that President Bush has used Sept. 11 to his full advantage, first as a justification for attacking Afghanistan and later his war against Iraq, whom he accused of harboring and aiding terrorists.

However, the fact that Bush now not only ignores but even frustrates his own so-called security measures seems just too much like **"leaving the door open for the next September 11 to occur."** This has great similarities to what happened before September 11, 2001, when all warnings (and there were many) also were thrown into the wind. Bush, in order to win the next election, or, if not "win" to find some way of remaining president for at least another term, may need the assistance of another "terrorist" attack in order to remain as the head of State. If, as suspected, Bush is indeed implicated in the attacks on New York and the Pentagon, is it then so farfetched to assume that he would use these tactics again? The nation, once again feeling threatened and vulnerable will mass to the president's support to defend the country and hunt down the culprits. In such a scenario, September 11, 2004, just before the presidential election of November 2004 seems like such perfect timing.

Could it be?

(1)Published on Thursday, April 24, 2003 by the Times/UK-<http://www.timesonline.co.uk>

(2)<http://www.truthout.org/docs-03/042503G.shtml>

US ADMITS OF HOLDING CHILD TERROR SUSPECTS

From PROLETARIAN NEWS

GUATANAMO BAY- The US is holding suspected terrorist under the age of 16 at the Guantanamo Bay in Cuba, US military official admitted. These teenagers are held in cells and they are considered as enemy combatants from Afghanistan, Iraq, Syria and 42 other countries of the world. This fact alone was admitted by Lieutenant Colonel Barry Johnson, the chief spokesman for the Guantanamo Bay concentration camp.

All the teenagers were "captured as active combatants against US forces and had been brought to Guantanamo Bay after January 1, 2002." The Colonel had to admit

this after a report was made by the Australian's ABC television which broke the story.

The Human Rights Watch said that there are some 660 males from 42 countries being held at this base, all suspected that they belonged to the al-Qaeda network. They have not even been charged and are NOT allowed any contact or access to lawyers. International lawyers are blaming the US Administration for an increase in suicides and suicide attempts, according to Guantanamo Bay officials themselves. There were over 25 suicide attempts by these teenagers, according the US Guantanamo Bay military official. ■

"Older men declare war. But it is the youth that must fight and die."

Herbert Hoover

WEAKNESSES IN THE TRADE UNION MOVEMENTS IN THE CAPITALIST COUNTRIES AND IN FORMER SOVIET REPUBLICS

BY ALEXANDER PENIN

There are two reasons for this: objective and subjective. The objective reasons for the weakness in the capitalist countries is that, the workers in these countries live not too badly if you measure this to other countries that are less developed. Imperialists, grabbing resources and cheap labour in the Third World countries, give some small gifts to their workers in order to stop any unrest. This is not done because the capitalist class wants to share their huge profits with the workers, and since these workers are more aware of the economic situation and how the system works, they are more tuned to the problems than the workers in less developed countries. Workers in capitalist developed countries for close to 200 years are fighting for a better life and wages. They know that they have to struggle for a better life, working conditions and cost of living. Therefore the bourgeois from time to time goes on giving small monetary gifts in order

to placate any unrest.

But let us agree that even a strike situation has its negative aspects. Majority of the workers take advantage of these hard won gains from capitalists, thus putting a screen of inactivity on the workers and in many respects paralyzes further actions of the workers, since they only are thinking about the economic benefits. The question then arises as to how do we get these workers to be more active in the social-political struggle?

The second weakness is that the leadership of these workers get used to struggle for only economic gains, that it is enough to just organize a strike, demonstration - and their situation will be solved if only in a small way.

After a few of these strikes and demonstrations, it is very hard to bring them into a revolutionary struggle to overthrow the bourgeois system. Because, in this

revolutionary struggle it is also easy to lose ones life, and why should they do it? Therefore a second question arises: can we in this present situation uplift the working class to struggle for the elimination of the dictatorship of the bourgeois and replace it with dictatorship of the working class?

The objective weakness of the left trade unions in former republics of former Soviet Union is that they do not know what is needed to struggle and how it is to struggle. The Soviet State supplied the working class with all the necessities of life, study, leisure and economic benefits, thus the workers and farmers did not have to strike or protest. In the 70 years of Socialism there grew up many generations, who do not know what class struggle means. Therefore we must be even more aggressive and teach them to rise up even if only for the economic gains, if not for political gains.

In many former Soviet enterprises and industries the workers still hold on to the image that there should not be any ongoing struggles between management and the workers. The middle rank trade union leaders do try to argue with top trade union leaders that there should be struggles, not only economic but political. There must be discipline in the workplace with no drunkenness and production discipline. This situation goes towards the scheme of the private owners to nullify any potential gains that might have been achieved.

It is also a problem that the present private Russian administration allows drunkenness on the job and in some enterprises there are still guaranteed sick leave...therefore it is hard to convince some workers to struggle harder, not only for economic gains but also for political gains. It is sometimes hard to convince some workers that the bourgeois are to blame for this state of affairs, and that their main efforts are to exploit the workers, even by allowing some drunkenness on the job...thus making some workers think that they have it good...so why should they struggle against the owners?

Russian bourgeoisie as Western capitalist class try with all of their means to keep the workers away from any class struggles. For this they use three methods: by

trumpeting to the world the ills of Socialism and of former USSR, negating the successes of the CPSU and building of socialism and stop the working class from any kind of political activity.

The daily mass media, which is in private hands, do everything in their power to present the Great October Socialist Revolution as nothing but a wild orgy of drunken sailors. Collectivization is presented as drunken peasants grabbing some one else's property and not knowing what to do or how to take care of agriculture. Of the thousands of heroes of the Soviet Union, dedicated communists and workers, they only speak about those elements that were "repressed" for crimes against the State, and traitors cooperating with German fascism. The ongoing, forever in the daily media, is the so-called Stalin Repressions. The present mass

media even goes so far as to degrade the results of the Great Patriotic War. The Red Army is presented as a dumb, drunken bunch of hooligans and bandits. They state on and on that we won the war because we drowned the Germans in waves of our dead Red Army men! They try to convince the young generations that we won the war because we agreed to lose five Soviet soldiers for every German we killed.

(Remember, that these falsehoods in one form or another were ongoing since the late 1950s - Editor)

Such a struggle is also continuing in the present communist movement and trade union struggle. This is used to nullify the voices of the trade unions and the left opposition. And when these voices cannot be silenced or hidden, the lies are then put forward in the daily media and facts are turned upside

down. Many of the ongoing strikes are presented as a bunch of demagogues that are trying to solve their own personal problems and put them on the shoulders of the whole society. When the strikes are for more working wage, the mass media try to influence the general public by publishing inflated wage figures that these workers were supposed to be getting. This method was used when there was the strike of the railroad workers in Leningrad in 1998. Sometimes they even show demonstrations organized by the communists, but they purposely have close-ups of faces of the pensioners only, eliminating other strata of population taking part in these demonstrations. In this way they silence other elements that are also demonstrating.

Subjective reasons in the present communist movement I shall try to do in another article. ■

INTERNATIONAL NEWS

LIBERATION?

By Rina Zomerberg

So, Baghdad has been liberated and the people of this ancient city tore down the statue of the butcher Hussein as the US Marines look down from their tanks.

Liberation! What a word of beauty. Yet, where is the liberation? Who is liberated? What is liberated? What is liberation?

Liberation was on the tongues of the media and the politicians not too long ago when the Taliban was shooed out of Kabul, Afghanistan. The war was also proclaimed as the liberation of the Afghan people. Freedom for women! Freedom from the burgas! Freedom from fear! The US has liberated the people of Afghanistan? Vietnam what? Memories of the Vietnam War have vanished. My Lai was forgotten. The US Army was heroic. The people were saved. And yet, what now is Afghanistan? Where is the liberation? What became of those liberated souls? The Burgas remain! Warlords roam wild. Yet the US says that liberation has arrived. Former

UNOCAL official Hamid Karzai is in power. Oil pipelines will arrive soon. Liberation has arrived. And yet where is this liberation for the people?

Where is the liberation for women hidden behind the burgas? Where is the liberation for students protesting for food and being attacked by the liberated Afghan police forces that are not being paid? The cries of the Afghans have not stopped, but they are not heard. They have receded into the garbage pails of our minds, never to be heard from again. And yet they were to be heard. They were trotted out by the cynical US politicians as evidence that the military is good and after the pictures were taken of an Afghan man having his beard cut, they were tossed back into non-existence. Oil pipelines for multinationals is liberation. And where is the liberation for the people?

We had liberated the Afghans. And yet, they die still and are tortured and abused by US-backed warlords. And this is called liberation?

What is this liberation as spoken by Rumsfelds and Wolfowitzs? It is the smoothing of the path for capitalism. Why is liberation brought

by Hugo Chavez frowned upon? Why are threats being made against Evo Morales? Why are the repressive regimes in Egypt, Saudi Arabia, Jordan, Colombia, Israel and Uzbekistan supported? Why is liberation not backed there?

The Iraqis might cheer the fall of Hussein but do they know what is coming? Do they not see that liberation, is American-style and is arriving?

My Iraqi brothers, the Americans are not bringing you liberation. They are going to liberate your oil so that this oil can be enslaved by their companies.

Slavery has arrived cloaked in the army-issued garb of liberation. The Arab world is being murdered as the US tanks rolled through Baghdad. The Arab peoples are now being defiled by the forces of liberation. Liberation has not come. Liberation does not come from a superpower.

Months from now when nobody cares about Iraq, where will US liberation spread to? Syria? Iran? Venezuela? North Korea? Palestine?

Liberation must be seized upon by the people of the world before it is stolen by these evil forces. ■

COULD THIS BE TRUE?

DICTATORS' COLLUSION

From TEHRAN TIMES
By Parviz Esmarli

APRIL 10, 2003 –TEHRAN, IRAN

Almost 10 days ago, there was a halt in US-UK operations in Iraq. However, US Defense Secretary Donald Rumsfeld and the chief of the US Central Command, General Franks, in their interviews with the media never elaborated on this issue but instead tried to mislead world public opinion in order to hide a greater secret decision from them.

Suspensions rose on the same day when US troops, that had been stopped at the Euphrates, immediately were able to advance towards the heart of Baghdad without any significant resistance by Iraqi forces. Nobody asked why Tikrit city, that was once called the ideological heart of Saddam's government and the last possible trench of Iraqi army, was never even targeted by the US and British bombs or missiles. Or when the elite Iraqi forces arrived in eastern Iraq from Tikrit, the pace of the invaders advancing toward central Baghdad immediately increased. Also, it has been reported that a plane was allowed to leave Baghdad for Russia. Who was aboard this plane?

All of these ambiguities, the contradictory reports about Saddam's situation, and the fact that the highest ranking Iraqi officials were all represented by a single individual – Iraqi Information Minister Mohammed al-Sahhaf – and the extremely easy fall of Baghdad shows that the center of collusion had been Tikrit, where Saddam, his aides, and lieutenants from the Baath Party had been waiting for al-Sahhaf to join them so that they

MY CALVARY

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could receive the required guarantees from US government to leave the country in a secret compromise with the coalition forces.

This possibility was confirmed by the Al-Jazeera network, which quoted a Russian intelligence official as saying that the Iraqi forces and the invaders had made a deal. The Russian official told Al-Jazeera that the Iraqi leaders had agreed to show no serious resistance against the US-UK troops in return for a guarantee that Saddam and his close relatives could leave Iraq unharmed.

The question now is whether the US would prefer Iraqi president dead or wants him alive to be tried. There may even be a third alternative that the White House is looking further ahead. It seems that the US officials would welcome a solution where Saddam is found, either dead or alive.

First of all, the White House hawks and President George W. Bush would definitely not be saddened to hear the reports claiming that Saddam was killed, which were highlighted by the US media, after a missile attack on an underground restaurant in Baghdad, have been verified.

This is because US does not want the Iraqi people to ever find out about the secrets of the clandestine political cooperation between the USA and Iraq. On the other hand, Saddam's death would mean that the weak Iraqi regime has been completely defeated, and this may to some extent satisfy Washington's feeling of militarism.

However, an inactive, defeated and exiled dictator can definitely be beneficial to the White House, provided that he is under Washington's control. Look what happened to Mullah Muhammad Omar and Osama bin Laden in Afghanistan. Is there any sign that the USA is interested in finding them and wiping them out? One should know that these two, as US henchmen the past decade, provided enough pretexts for the White House to dominate Afghanistan, even though they are still at large. This automatically justifies the US presence in Afghanistan.

Therefore Washington benefits from its inability to find the Taleban

and Al-Qaeda leaders. The same holds true for Saddam, and the US failure to find Saddam Hussein, or Washington's efforts to withhold news of his death, provide the best pretext to stay in Iraq.

Secondly, in the event that Saddam survives the US-UK attacks on Iraq, the White House will have to devise new policies and approaches to make the best use of this. There is no doubt that Saddam knows many of the secrets of the US strategy in the region over the past three decades. If he were put on trial in an international and open court, he might reveal much evil about the US that would expose the real image of the White House hawks to the world. This is the reason why the US Fox news network has taken the lead in reminding the world that an international tribunal would not back authority to put the Iraqi president on trial, given that neither Iraq nor the US have joined the International Criminal Court. Fox network (*which is the mouthpiece of the Pentagon-Editor*) had thus proposed three alternatives to deal with Saddam in case he saves his skin in the US-led attacks: living underground, changing his identity, or traveling to the beautiful beaches of Guantanamo Bay in Cuba!!! Needless to say, these alternatives will make Saddam harmless for the White House, even if he is not of any use to the US.

These stances clarify the fact that the rumor of the possibility of Saddam seeking political asylum in Syria is only a red herring, because any attempt by the Iraqi president to flee the country without coordinating it with the USA is absolutely impossible. Therefore, if there had been any kind of compromise between the US and Saddam, the Iraqi president would take refuge wherever the White House ordered him to.

Even dictators have to respect a hierarchy. A minor dictator like Saddam is like a puppet that has danced for a lifetime to the tune of a certain major dictator like the US and cannot act on his own. Saddam did whatever the White House wanted him to do for years. Therefore, the simple answer to the question "*Where is Saddam?*" is nothing but "*Wherever the US desires.*" ■

IS WAR REALLY WORTH IT?

BY STAN PENNER

It is said that the pen is mightier than the sword. And, somehow, even with all the problems we have on this planet of ours, I still believe that. It is my hope the writings, below, can be of some help somewhere, somehow.

The following poem was written by a woman who walked over 25,000 miles for peace in the United States and Canada and who preferred to be simply called "Peace Pilgrim".

GREED – *A story of Men and Nations*

There were two men who had a dispute
Over a boundary line.
One said: "This land belongs to me!"
The other said: "It is mine!"

So they fought like two wild beasts,
And oh, the blood that was shed.
Till one of the men was crippled for life
And the other man was dead!

Then the cripple lived in misery,
And he cried in his despair,
"What fools we were so greedy to be!
There was plenty for both to share!" ■

"We Christians teach against the great vices of the world; but sad to say, we almost overlook the greatest vice of them all – war."

Theodore Epp ■

The Man Who Would be King of Iraq

By Ian Williams

While US is basking in its "glory" of "liberating" Iraq, Bush's man to lead a post-war Iraq government is a man who is an arms-dealer "Star Wars" guru General Jay Garner. Typical of US action, Bush announced this appointment without even consulting its trusty ally, Britain.

Bush picked a man with a dubious past and ideological credentials worthy of a Bush appointee.

He is a unilateral war hawk, the retired General is the ideological soul mate of Dick Cheney and Paul Wolfowitz, his main collaborators in developing the "axis of evil" approach of US foreign policy. But when it comes to the Middle East, his track record is even more alarming.

In year 2000, General Garner and 26 other US officers signed a statement released by the right-wing Jewish Institute for National Security Affairs (JINSA) praising the Israel Defense Forces for its "remarkable restraint in the face of lethal violence orchestrated by the leadership of the Palestinian Authority". Indeed, the choice of Garner seems designed to enflame the local and regional resistance. This is the man who after one JINSA junket to Israel declared, "A strong Israel is an asset that American military planners and political leaders can rely on."

The "Fortune" magazine burred that "Garner's civilian status is a big plus". But, although his official title in Iraq is "Coordinator of Civilian Administration", Garner has always been a die-hard advocate of all things military-sometimes at the expense of the facts. During the first Gulf War he went to the US Congress and touted the success of the US Patriot missiles during the Iraqi attack on Israel. He did not issue a retraction when it was revealed the Patriot missiles caused more damage to Israel than the Iraqi's Scuds that they were supposed to bring down.

Garner's so-called civilian career was also closely related to the Pentagon. In a classic example of the military-industrial complex at work, Garner retired from the military in 1997 and became president of the SY Technology, a defense contractor specializing in missile defense systems. The company soon landed a non-competitive contract as part of the Star Wars program that the Pentagon whistle blower, former Lt. Colonel Biff Baker charged were procured through Garner's influence. SY Technology sued Baker for defamation and for "causing loss of privacy" for Garner.

Garner settled out of court, but, very soon after his company was awarded again a \$1.5 billion contract

to provide logistics services to the US Special Forces. The US administration was busy spinning Garner's record to make him appear perfect, sensitive and a team player that Iraq needs to rebuilt. But, in order to save Garner, the UN will have to supply the money which in turn will go into the SY Technology coffers of which corporation Garner is still in charge.

At the heart of Washington's contradictory and constantly shifting position is the desire to monopolize the control of Iraq, its oil, and to persuade the rest of the world to split the reconstruction bill. The US attitude is best epitomized by a junior US diplomat who turned up at the United Nations in the first week of the Iraq war and asked that the UN officials hand over all the money they had allocated for relief and humanitarian Aid – money that the White House sorely needed since the US Congress had failed to appropriate any money for the worthy effort.

But so far, there are few signs that the White House is willing to change its greedy ways. Even the British were not impressed when the White House appointed the infamous union-busting company Stevedoring Services of America, to run the newly "liberated" port of Umm Qasar. Aiming General Garner at the innocent Iraqi civilians in post-war Iraq will be yet another ham-handed, arrogant decision that guarantees an aftermath as messy and potentially disastrous as its initiation of the attack on Iraq. ■

A CALL TO OUR ARAB AND ISLAMIC PEOPLE: FEE IRAQ, FREE PALESTINE

THE ARAB EUROPEAN LEAGUE – ANTWERP

After 21 days of fierce fighting and heroic resistance by our people in Iraq against the invading aggressors, the city of Baghdad has fallen. Baghdad the capitol of Abbadids and one of the most important cities of the Arab homeland is now under

foreign occupation.

The relief of our people for the ousting of the dictator cannot compensate for the humiliation and grief they feel for the establishing of another illegitimate and oppressing authority. The American flag that was put on the face of the statue of the old oppressor that was pulled by an American bulldozer, says it all, the oppression is still there, it just has an American face now. Baghdad is not free; it just changed hands from one local corrupted oppressor to a foreign and much more corrupted oppressor, but also an enemy of god and the nation. Except for a few hundred that were on the streets in an orchestrated scene of fake jubilation, plus the thugs, the impoverished people, took advantage of the situation and urged on by the US occupation forces, went on a looting campaign, the majority of its 6,000,000 inhabitants stayed at home with mixed feelings of much bitterness, anxiety and anticipation.

Before taking any political stand, we should not forget that thousands of our young men and women are still shooting at the pockets of American-British occupiers in many parts of Iraq and sacrificing their lives, not for Saadam, but for Allah and the dignity and freedom of our Arab nation. Our hearts and prayers should be with these men and women who are still perishing under the American cluster bombs, among them not only our brave warriors of the resistance, but also innocent men, women and children. The blood of these people is on the hands of the American - British aggressors. Nevertheless the Americans do not realize the size of the quagmire they have worked themselves into. Their intention is to establish direct occupation and control of the Arab soil, and eliminating all of the obstacles from the way of their Imperialist-Zionist project.

There is no doubt in our mind that our people of Iraq are aware of this dimension of the conflict and of the real agenda of the occupation. However our people need time to lick their wounds and silence their hunger, and, once the intentions of the occupiers are revealed to all Iraqis who might as yet not know the full scope of this occupation, and once this happens, popular

resistance will break out. Any government established by the occupation forces will be looked upon as an extension of the occupation. Iraqis who cooperate with the invasion troops are no more or less than collaborators and traitors to the Arab Nation and the Muslim Umma, and will be dealt with as such.

We also reject any UN mandate for Iraq and we look upon this as a step backwards to colonial times. The whole of the Iraqi territory should be and will be liberated by popular resistance. All Iraqis, Kurds, Arabs, Shiites and Sunnis should join forces in fighting against the occupation and any extension of it, whether it's a local puppet regime or a UN mandate. No democracy can come through the bayonet of the enemy of god and nation.

No one wants a return to the Saadam regime; we want a free Iraq, liberated from the enemies within and without. We want Iraq that is an

integral part of the Arab nation, with a federated but not a separatist Kurdish entity in the North, and a clear Arab-Islamic government in Baghdad, based on democracy and progress. This Iraq will come, after the American-Zionist invaders are thrown out of our sacred land. The Intifada is coming to Baghdad.

Our Arab European League will keep on organizing the struggle for freedom in Iraq and to end the occupation. Our slogan is not **NO WAR** anymore, it is now **FREE IRAQ!** We call upon our local branches and sympathizers and friends to start mobilizing under the **FREE IRAQ** slogan immediately and to undertake such actions to defend the positions that we outlined.

This war is not over, it did not start in Iraq but in Palestine in 1948, and it will not be over but in Palestine with the liberation of Al Quds by the hands of our Arab people under the flag of Islam, Free Iraq, Free Palestine!

U.S. "HUMANITARIAN" TREATMENT OF IRAQI PRISONERS!

Below is a photo in a USA prison camp of an Iraqi soldier captured near Baghdad with his child. US troops put a hood over his head and incarcerated his child into the camp behind a barbed wire fence. Here you see the father trying to console his crying son. *Reuters*



VIC
RATSMAN



GEORGE W(ARNINGS) BUSH

George W. Bush seems to be getting more edgy every day, as the war against Iraq gets worse with every day and more than he expected. He issues warnings all over the world to try and scare people and governments with his "Shock and Awe" methods. Only it seems that President Bush himself has been shocked by the resistance, not only in Iraq, but all over the world!

-Bush warns Turkey not to cross the Iraq border.

-Bush warns Turkey on consequences for not allowing US troops to enter their territory.

-Bush warns Americans that the war will take longer and be more bloody, with more American casualties.

-Bush warns France and Germany not to veto his UN resolution.

-Bush warns Arab nations not to get involved in the war against Iraq.

-Bush warns Israel to stay out of the war with Iraq.

-Bush warns Iraq to treat prisoners in accordance with the Geneva Conventions or face trials for war crimes.

-Bush warns Russia about supplying weapons to Iraq.

-Bush warns Iraqi soldiers to surrender or be killed.

-Bush warns Saddam Hussein to leave within 48 hours or face war and death.

-Bush warns the European Union of consequences for non-support of the American war effort.

-Bush warns NATO allies of consequences of not aiding the war.

-Bush warns North Korea about nuclear ambitions.

-Bush warns Al Qaeda that they will be hunted down and destroyed.

-Bush warns the CIA and FBI : they must provide him with evidence that does not exist.

-Bush warns Venezuelan president Chavez to resign.

-Bush warns Chile, Mexico, and Canada of economic consequences if they do not support USA in the United Nations.

-Bush warns the news media not to show pictures of American prisoners of war.

-Bush warns the world: You're with me or with the terrorists. Take your pick.

-Bush warns, Bush warns, Bush warns...

-The World warns Bush that he's out of control. ■

GOD BLESS / HELP AMERICA

Dedicated to George W. Bush

God Bless America

By Irving Berlin

While the storm clouds gather far across the sea,

Let us swear allegiance to a land that's free,

Let us all be grateful for a land so far
As we raise our voices in a solemn prayer.

God Bless America.

Land that I love.

Stand beside her, and guide her
Thru the night with a light from above.

From the mountains, to the prairies,
To the oceans, white with foam
God Bless America, my home sweet home

"War is the blackest villainy of which human nature is capable." *Erasmus*

"I emptied the whole clip into him; then I cried." *Vietnam War veteran*

"If you want revenge on somebody, you better dig two graves."

Chinese proverb

"The more I study the history of the world the more I am convinced of the inability of brute force to create anything durable.

Napoleon, on St. Helena ■

God Help America

By Vic Ratsma

Now the storm clouds you created
far across the sea,
Are coming home to roost in a land
no longer free,
Let us all be hopeful for a land so
wrong,
As we raise our voices in a solemn
song.

God Help America,
Chart a new course,
To use power, not cower
Or imposing her will using force.
No more empires, no more armies,
For a world of peace and health
Gold help America, so share her
wealth. ■

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

Belgian parliament guts "genocide law" to appease Bush

By Richard Tyler

The Belgian parliament has effectively gutted the country's 1993 "genocide law", allowing the government to dismiss a series of cases against foreign political leaders including Ariel Sharon and George Bush Sr.

The law of "universal jurisdiction" had enabled the Belgian courts to hear cases involving genocide, war crimes and crimes against humanity regardless of where they were committed or whether the suspects or victims were Belgian. The only successful cases brought under the law of "universal jurisdiction" was against four Rwandans, who were jailed up to 15 years in 2001 for their part in the genocide, when Hutu militias massacred up to one million people, mainly of the minority Tutsis.

Last April 1, the Lower House voted 53 to 48 to support an amendment brought by Prime Minister Guy Verhofstadt's Flemish Liberals and Democrats (VLD). This was followed by a Senate approval on April 5 in a special sitting before the closure of parliament ahead of

the May general election. The support of the Flemish Bloc in introducing this is what the Belgian press called a "diplomatic filter". This amendment was opposed by the Socialist Party.

Following this amendment, the judiciary can now reject cases where there are no victims of Belgian nationality or the plaintiffs have not resided in Belgium, for more than three years. The government is also given power to intervene directly to squash any case if the accused comes from a "democratic country."

The US based Human Rights Watch said that the amended law has created "political and diplomatic hurdles to the prosecution of many human rights crimes."

The 1993 law had a case against Israeli Prime Minister Ariel Sharon which relates to the 1982 massacre at Sabra and Shattila (*Palestinian refugee camps in Lebanon*), and had been deemed admissible in a February Supreme Court hearing. The charges against Sharon led to very heavy lobbying behind the scenes by Israel for the law to be scrapped.

According to the BBC, "The use of the law has embarrassed the Belgian government" and "caused major tensions in the Belgian-Israeli relationship."

On March 19 of this year, a case was filed against President George Bush senior and Secretary of State Colin Powell for the bombing of a civilian shelter in the 1991 Gulf War that killed over 400 people. The case was brought forward by several Iraqi families who had lost relatives in the bombing of the shelter in Baghdad. When named in this case, Powell called the law a "serious problem" and warned Belgium that it jeopardized its status as the world's international hub.

These cases are now going to be dropped. The American and British politicians and generals prosecuting the present invasion of Iraq can now visit Brussels without fearing a subpoena from the Belgian courts, calling them to account for their actions in Baghdad, Basra and elsewhere.

Now, don't you really admire this "democracy" that the US is trying to impose on the world? ■

AMERICA WANTS TO ESTABLISH AIR BASES IN INDIA

JOSY Joseph in New Delhi

A classified report commissioned by the US Department of National Defense, a copy which is available on redigg.com, states that the US wants access to Indian bases and military infrastructure with US Air Force, specifically desiring the establishment of many air bases in India. The future of US-Indian military relations, was distributed to the small number of decision-making officials of the US and Indian governments. This document also speaks of the US Air Force desire for "having access closer to areas of instability" since India's strategic position in Central Asia, astride frequently traveled Sea Lanes and Communication (SLOC), linking Middle East and East Asia.

This report is the most comprehensive picture of American perspectives on its military relations with India and its future aspirations. It also uncovers India's military thinking, vis-a-vis the US. It quotes a US lieutenant general as saying that access to India's bases would enable US military "to be able to touch the rest of the world" and to "act quickly to regional crisis."

It is very significant that during the Gulf War in 1991, India provided refueling facilities to US warplanes. And during Operation Enduring Freedom, several US warships used Indian facilities for rest and recuperation. Indian warships provided escort service in the most active cooperation between US and India to date. In fact, it is in naval cooperation that America sees the immediate future of Indo-US military relations. It is also the training facilities that India is providing and will provide.

THE LIE OF THE "LENIN TESTAMENT"

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US also sees India as partner to act together in any regional crisis that effects US interests.

This might set off unrest and demonstrations, since India was always known as practicing non-alignment. But the ruling class of India and USA sees India becoming USA's most trusted ally in Asia, as that continent goes through a historic political churning period.

The question is what does India's Military Industrial complex want in return for this ass-kissing of Uncle Sam?

First newspaper to hit Baghdad's streets is Red!

Salam Ali

It would not be Washington's choice, but the long-banned Iraq Communist Party on April 20 won the race and published the first newspaper in Baghdad since the fall of Saadam Hussein. The eight-page "People's Path" was handed out for free under the hammer and sickle on the front page, and it was snapped up eagerly by passers-by hungry for any kind of news after the US invasion stopped all the media.

Angry citizens yearn for order and advice, but the last written US information came in a form of airdropped leaflets, urging people to stay indoors. Others have moved in to fill the void, with influential religious leaders setting up community services, but the Communists were first into print.

In Fridos Square in the center of Baghdad, Iraqis stopped in their tracks to read the paper, amazed to see criticism of their former leader in writing. It was not clear where the newspaper was printed, but it was in praise of Kurdish leaders in North Iraq, which was free from Saddam's control for a decade and where a small Communist party cell operated. All parties and their media were banned, and leaders of the once the most powerful Communist movement in the Middle East had long fled into exile in Britain and elsewhere. ■

IRINA
MALENKOV



WAR IN IRAQ POINTS OUT RACIAL DIVIDE IN THE USA

The war in Iraq is illuminating a racial divide in America, a rift that is very noticeable between blacks and whites. Among American blacks, just 29 per cent support the war, while 78 per cent of whites do, according to March 28 Gallop poll.

Many blacks see wrongs in the conflict that white Americans often cannot discern, African scholars and analysts say. For one thing, many black people say that their history makes them especially sensitive to a spectacle of a dominant white entity asserting its own will over a weaker minority.

Many US blacks find themselves in a quandary – opposing the Iraq war in which a disproportionate number of those in the military are black, many for economic reasons. Though they are 12 per cent of the general US population, blacks make up 21 per cent of the USA military. This has created a conflict for black families who want to support their dear ones in the killing zone, but cannot condone the war.

Another complication, what National Public Radio's Tavis Smiley calls the "tricky conversation" regarding the black Secretary of State Colin Powell and the National Security Advisor Condoleezza Rice, who are Bush's most vocal war hawks.

Blacks vocalize that "Nobody minds us fighting and dying, but everyone is up in arms about our people going to College", said William Spriggs, executive director of the National Urban League Institute for Opportunity and Equality in Washington.

The American decision to attack Iraq, without any proof that Saddam Hussein possesses weapons of mass destruction, reminds most US black people of US police hostile behavior. "It rings of the experience of US white cops saying: 'I though I

saw a gun' to justify shooting of an unarmed black suspect", says the Urban League's Spriggs.

US FORCES BLOW UP IRAQI PIPELINE TO SYRIA

Syria, which is now a member of the UN Security Council, but the US does not care. The Americans are on a global rampage and the Israelis are whipping up things about Syria these days. Ariel Sharon not too long ago threatened Syria, Iran, Palestinians, who are going to be next on the list.

But because most of the Arab leadership is in the pockets of US imperialism, they are not likely to insist on an immediate emergency session of the General assembly of the UN, as should be demanded by France, Germany, Russia and even China. The clock is ticking fast now. In Washington the same forces that have brought on this war, from Zionists, to those religious Christian fundamentalists, to flag-waving American nationalist zealots and the huge war corporations, are stroking the fires up of hate and self-righteous justification against Syria, Iran, North Korea.

The American people are being pre-conditioned to these plans, as soon as USA devastates Iraq and then opens up the country to multinational corporations to again make money in building up Iraq that they made money on when they were destroying the infrastructure of Iraq in the first place.

ISRAELI BULLDOZERS USED IN ATTACKING BAGHDAD

Foreign reports in the media state that Israel transferred to the US bases in the Middle East, hundreds of giant bullet proofed D-9 bulldozers that Israelis used and are using against the Palestinians.

ARAB COMMUNIST PARTIES COMMUNIQUE

From Lebanese Communist Party

Representatives of the Jordanian Communist Party, The Sudanese Communist Party, the Syrian Communist Party, the Palestinian People's Party, the Lebanese Communist Party and the Egyptian Communist Party held an emergency meeting in order to discuss

coordination among the parties for the struggle against the Anglo-American aggression on Iraq and to define common action for future confrontation.

The participants at this meeting reiterated their condemnation of the barbaric and destructive invasion that the fraternal Iraqi people are facing and expressed their solidarity and pride over the Iraqi steadfastness and courageous resistance against the US unprecedented killing machine and destruction in defense of their homeland.

The US administration and the British government have defied the will of the international community and peoples worldwide by launching global war against the whole world, using Iraq as the immediate battlefield and the Iraqi civilians as the first fuel.

Iraq and the region have been chosen because of their important strategic position and their oil resources to assist in the implementation of the US global plans. The US has utilized the several weak points in the structure of the existing Arab system, especially the presence of differences and weaknesses and the absence of democracy and of the people's participation.

One of the major weak points in facing this aggression against Iraq and on resisting the US global plans of world domination. The stand of some Arab countries who unfortunately are supporting this aggression gives courage to US imperialism. Such a stand stimulates the US administration to threaten Syria for its opposition to this aggression and for its call to stop the war and withdraw the invading troops. The signing parties consider themselves in an emergency and constant alert. They call upon their comrades, partisans and friends to be in the first ranks of the Arab popular movement in supporting the Iraqi people.

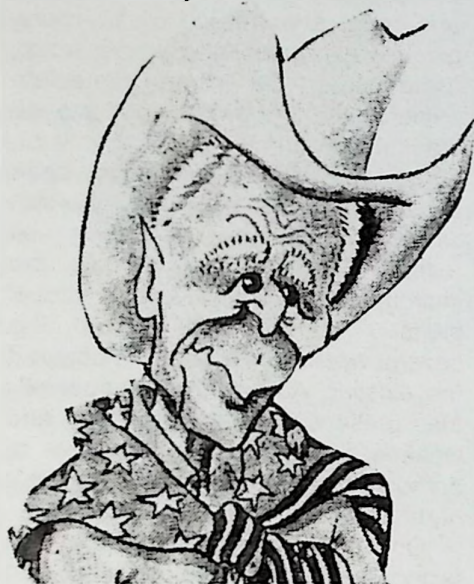
We declare our readiness to undertake joint actions with all the patriotic and national forces, in spite of any differences in thinking and policies in order to face this big battle imposed by the Anglo-American aggression against our peoples and against our Arab nation.

U.S. TROOPS ARE ASKED TO PRAY FOR BUSH & CO.

Online Journal Contributing Editor

Incredible as it seems, US soldiers in the Persian Gulf have been asked to pray for Bush and his advisors.

They are also asked to fill in a postcard-like form that declares their commitment to pray for Bush, and to mail it to the White House. Further, they are given specific prayers to recite each day of the week;



MONDAY'S prayer reads: "Pray that the President and his advisors will be strong and courageous to do what is right, regardless of critics." As you'll see, the wording gets worse as the week progresses.

This is the bright idea of In Touch Ministries, an Evangelical Christian media giant that broadcast "the word" in 30 languages across the world. They thought up the idea, they wrote the prayers, and they're the ones that are passing out leaflets to US soldiers, telling them of "A Christian Duty in Time of War". The USA President, the White House and Pentagon have officially given their full permission and fully concurred that this should be done.

Never mind that it is the soldiers themselves who are in need of prayers (not to mention the Iraqi people), after all, they're the ones who face mortal danger and lasting illness. In Touch Ministries think that it's Bush, Wolfowitz and their like

who need prayers for their safety and health, and they think that these prayers should also be coming from the US soldiers.

The following is the remainder of the week's prescribed prayers. I leave you to read them, and to think about them. They are indicative of the times we live in, and of the powers under which we live in these times.

TUESDAY: Pray that the President and his advisors have the unified support of the American people as well as of other countries around the world.

WEDNESDAY: Pray that the President and his advisors and their families will be safe, healthy, well-rested, and free from fear.

THURSDAY: Pray that the President and his advisors will be successful in their mission and that world peace will be realized.

FRIDAY: Pray that the President and his advisors will recognize their divine appointment, and will govern accordingly to compassion, mercy, and truth.

SATURDAY: Pray that the President and his advisors will remember to keep their eyes on the Almighty God and be mindful that He is in control.

SUNDAY: Pray that the President and his advisors will seek God And His wisdom daily and not rely on their own understanding. ■

A HUGE NO TO BUSH IN LATIN AMERICA

By Walter Lippmann

No question about it, US plans for Iraq are not welcomed by people in Central and South America. The massive protests in the capitals of all Latin American countries last month encouraged region's leaders to adopt a common position on the international scene.

According to reports from Brazil, President Lula has the intention of calling a Foreign Ministers summit with the participation of Argentina, Chile, Uruguay and Brazil, among others. According to organizers, the people's response was more positive than expected. Tens of thousands marched in Rio de Janeiro, Sao Paulo, Buenos Aires, Mexico DC, Montevideo, just to mention the

largest protests.

In Buenos Aires, over 25,000 demonstrators gathered at the US Embassy singing defiant slogans against US President Bush. "Bush, fascist, you are the terrorist!" was the most popular slogan among the demonstrators. The relevant Islamic community in Buenos Aires, artists, human rights activists led the crowd. There were many flags representing Iraq, Iran Lebanon and Syria. Others chanted for peace and carried French, German and even Soviet flags.

Mexico, DC also saw a huge multitude in the center of the city, which then marched to the US Embassy to show its dislike for US foreign policy. This image was repeated in very Latin American city as voices against the war. The people realize that what is happening in Iraq they saw it repeated always by US troops in the last two centuries. US troops invaded Cuba, Nicaragua, Guatemala, El Salvador, Haiti, Colombia, Grenada, Panama, took over half of Mexico and toppled Presidents of Chile, Uruguay and Argentina. ■

From THE BEACON -Australia

GLOBAL POLITICAL QUIZ

1. Which is the only country in the world to have dropped bombs on over 20 different countries since 1945?
2. Which is the only country to have used nuclear weapons to take lives of thousands of civilian women and children? (*Hiroshima and Nagasaki*)
3. Which country was responsible for a car bomb which killed 80 civilians in Beirut in 1985 in a botched assassination attempt, thereby making it the most lethal terrorist bombing in modern Middle East history?
4. Which country's illegal bombing of Libya in 1986, was described by the United Nations, Legal Committee as "a classic case" of terrorism?
5. Which country rejected the order of the International Court of Justice to terminate the "unjust use of force" against Nicaragua in 1986, and then proceeded to veto a UN Security Council resolution calling of all states to observe international law?

6. Which country was accused by the UN-sponsored truth commission of providing "direct and indirect support" for "acts of genocide" against the Mayan Indians in Guatemala during the 1980s?

7. Which country unilaterally withdrew from the Anti-Ballistic Missile (ABM) Treaty in December 2001?

8. Which country renounced the efforts to negotiate a verification process for Biological Weapons Convention and brought an international conference on that matter to a halt in July of 2001?

9. Which country prevented the United Nations from curbing the gun

trade at a Small Arms Conference in July of 2001?

10. Aside from Somalia, which is the only country in the world to have refused to ratify the UN Convention of the Rights of Child?

11. Which is the only Western country that allows the death penalty to be applied to children?

12. Which is the only G7 country to have refused to sign the 1997 Mine Ban Treaty, forbidding the use of land mines?

13. Which is the only G7 country to have voted against the creation of the International Criminal Court in 1998?

14. Which is the only country to join with Israel in opposing the 1987 General Assembly resolution that was condemning international terrorism?

15. Which country refuses to fully pay up its debts to the United Nations, yet reserves the right to veto United Nations resolutions?

**Answer to all 15 questions:
United States of America**

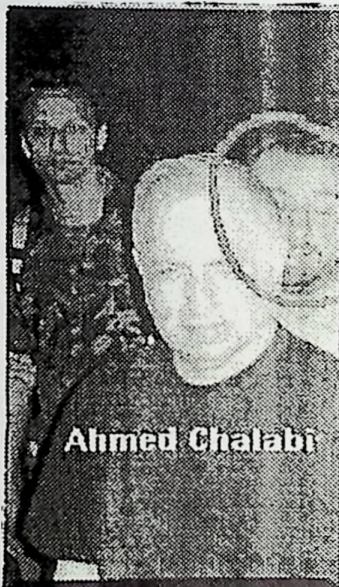
We could add a 16th question:
Which country is on the verge of sinking into a fascist ideology? ■

FAKE "DANCING IN THE STREETS" OF BAGHDAD

By IRINA MALENKO

On April 6 the USA sponsored Iraqi National Congress founder, Ahmed Chalabi was flown into the Iraq's southern city of Nasiriyah by the Pentagon. Chalabi, along with the US recruited 700 fighters of his "Free Iraqi Forces" were airlifted aboard four massive C17 US military transport planes. This is the puppet government that will be out into place by USA.

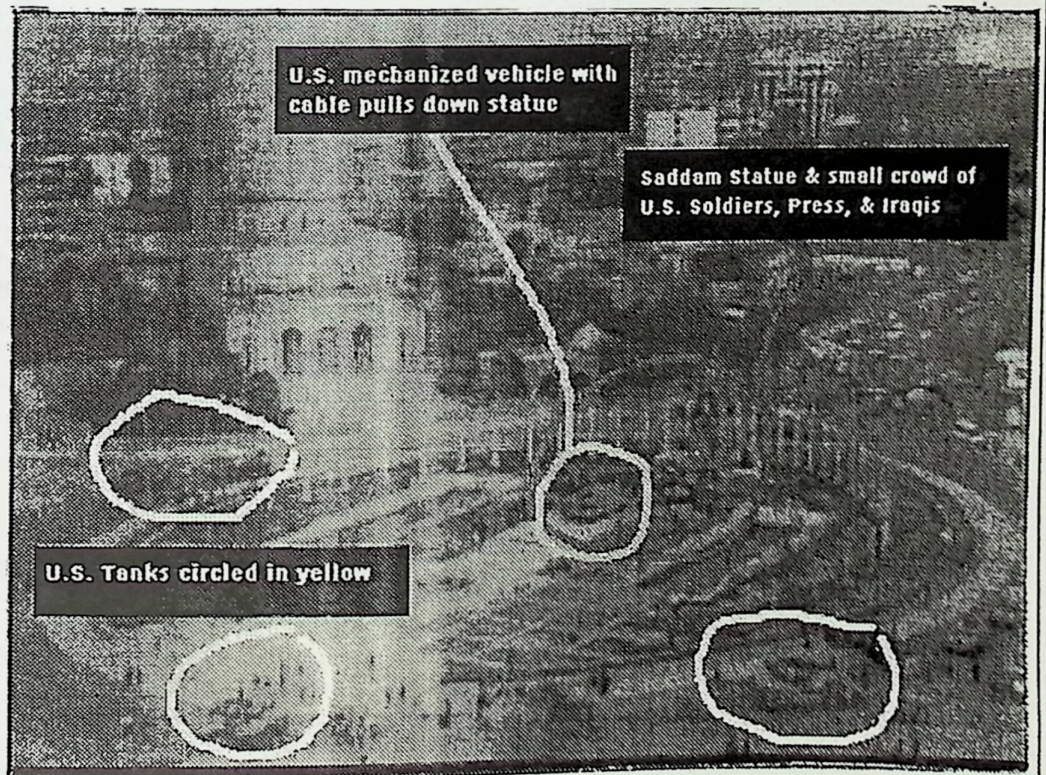
This photo was not published or widely promoted over the US media...it's evident why not!



On April 9, one of the "most memorable images of the war" was staged and created by the US troops and broadcast on all news TV channels over the world, when in a staged scenario they pulled down the statue of Saddam Hussein in Fardus Square. Oddly enough, a photograph is taken by a photographer who is a member of Chalabi's militia members...he is already in position near Fardus Square to welcome US Marines. How many actual Iraqis were there and supposedly "dancing in the streets" as the statue was torn down?

The up-close video of the statue being destroyed is broadcast all over

the world as proof of a massive uprising of the Iraqi people. Still photographs grabbed off a Reuters network show a long-shot view of Fardus Square...it's empty, save for the US Marines, press and a small handful of Iraqis. There could be no more than 200 people at best in the square. The US Marines had the square sealed off with tanks. A US mechanized vehicle is used to pull the statue off its base. The entire event was being hailed as an equivalent of the Berlin Wall falling...but even a quick glance of the long-shot photo shows something akin to a carefully constructed media event, tailored for the television cameras. ■



MILITARY VICTORY IN IRAQ WILL NOT BE A POLITICAL VICTORY!

AMMAN –RIA Novosti's
Pavel Davydov

As the war continues in Iraq, the Arabs' hope that America will be defeated in this war is growing. But even if the US armed forces, superior in weapons and equipment break the Iraqis' will to resist, it will not necessarily entail Washington's political victory. Moreover, it has already been defeated politically in the Arab world, and America is beginning to realize this.

While addressing the US Congress recently, Colin Powell, the State Secretary said that Washington had to boost its image in the Arab world at all costs. He realizes that the main cause of anti-American sentiments in the region is the war against Iraq. However, he does not propose to change America's policy, he spoke about the need to do everything so that the world can perceive what America is doing. But Powell is wrong, if he believes that another American-sponsored radio station or TV channel broadcasting in Arabic will change the Arab's attitude towards the US.

The White House took \$75 billion from the American taxpayer's pocket to rouse greater hatred to America and its foreign policy in the Arab world, wrote The Jordan Times. This is the price of the war in Iraq. How much will it cost to recover from the effects of this war?

America and Europe in the main has a different viewing of the war than the Middle East. In reality, this

war has made Saddam Hussein the most popular figure of both the Arab street and the Arab intellectuals, although only yesterday this was not so. But now the ranks are closed. Now the Arab world meets the news about even the minor failures of the anti-Iraqi alliance with great sarcasm and exultation.

For those who do not understand this, I'll refer you to an American colleague, a journalist working currently in Amman, Jordan. He said: "I've never been a fan of George Bush and of what he is doing. But if the Iraqis would invade Texas or Nevada, I would be the first to side with him." No further comments necessary.

So, Washington will not have a political victory even if Iraq falls. The military victory is also not imminent. But one thing is evident: as the Anglo-American troops approach Baghdad, "smart" missiles and bombs will become increasingly useless. Either the city will have to be wiped out together with its six million residents, or the Americans will have to fight hand to hand with the Iraqis for each street. In this case, the American technological superiority will be of no use. Those who know for what they die for will win. The Iraqis seem to know this and are ready to die for their land.

Two of them sacrificed their lives in the first few days of the war. One Iraqi gave his life to destroy an American tank and the other killed 5 American soldiers on a checkpoint near the town of Najef. Of course, these Iraqis will be called terrorists, but does it change anything? It is difficult to fight against those who do not spare their lives, while you don't know what you're fighting for.

But suppose that American soldiers managed to capture Baghdad. With the current balance of power, this will not come as a surprise. Who will take over Hussein? So far, this figure is not seen. And if America has "an Iraqi Karzai in its pocket", it will have to be backed by the US army, as there will not be any other army in Iraq. Neither Kurds, nor Shiites are fit for this. So, it will become clear to everyone that America brought occupation, not freedom, to Iraqi people. Therefore, American soldiers will be treated as occupants. Instead of a "clear" operation, America will

get a nightmare of which it will be unable to get rid of.

"By their actions in Iraq, American and British troops have engendered thousands of bin Ladens," says a young Jordanian programmer Mohammed Abdallah. "Everyone now wants to be like Osama bin Laden. They don't know what they can expect from the future." Of course, Mohammad's words are not based on opinion polls and are purely emotional. But they are worth being heard.

While planning the Iraqi invasion, the American strategists relied on the internal opposition to Hussein's regime, ethnic and religious dissociation in the country (Arabs-Kurds-Shiites-Sunnites). But foreign invasion is the best way to consolidate society. There is a lot of evidence for that. For instance, the struggles of the Palestinians show that no military preponderance can break the people's will and pride.

Of course US might split Iraq into Kurds in the North, Shiites in the South, Sunnites in the center. But this will, not solve any problems. The separation of Kurdistan will lead to clashes or even war with Turkey, which can also involve Iran and Syria, where a lot of Kurds live. The emergence of a Shiite state in the south of Iraq and its possible alliance with Shiite Iran, is out of the plans of America and its allies in the Persian Gulf.

The latter are scared yet by another thing. Arab nationalists have profited from the war in Iraq, but it also enhanced the anti-American sentiments in the Arab world. The Arabs now see which countries offer their territories for the war on the "fraternal Muslim Iraqi people". Every Arab government has to notice this and must think well, when choosing between loyalty to the USA and the anti-Americanism of their nations.

The cut-and-paste American propaganda is unable to conceal from the Arabs the true objective of the war on Iraq. No one in the region believes that Iraq possesses and hides weapons of mass destruction. The Arabs are convinced that the US came to Iraq to get its oil and the oil of the entire Persian Gulf under its control and later on, redraw the region's political map.

The recent threats by US Defense Secretary Donald Rumsfeld and

other members of the American administration to Syria and Iran only enhance these suspicions and anti-American sentiments. Needless to say, no American will soon be able to go out and walk in any Arab city without guards. No political victory can be spoken about.

This was written March 31, 2003 ■

From "THE INDEPENDENT"
London, England

US GENERAL TO BE GOVERNOR OF OCCUPIED IRAQ

The retired US General Jay Garner was named as civilian Governor of occupied Iraq by Washington, but he has very strong ties to hard line Israeli government officials. This retired Lieutenant General has recently visited Israel on a trip, paid for by a right-wing group that strongly backs a strong American military presence in the Middle East. In his statement, this General blames the Palestinians for the outbreak of the Israeli-Palestinian violence and said that a strong Israel was an important security asset to the United States.

The statement was made at a reception sponsored by the Jewish Institute for National Security Affairs (JINSA) that pays for all the trips to Israel by retired US army officers to get familiar with security briefings. Richard Perle, one of the architects of the invasion of Iraq is a member of this Institute, as was Vice President Dick Cheney before he took office in 2001.

After General Garner and other 42 US retired army officers went on the trip to Israel, they made a statement: *"We are appalled by the Palestinian political and military leadership that teaches children the mechanics of war while filling their heads with hate. The security of the State of Israel is a matter of great importance to the US policy in the Middle East and Eastern Mediterranean, as well as around the world. A strong Israel is an asset that American military planners and political leaders can rely on!"* ■

HUMAN SHIELD BUSES HIT BY US WARPLANES

Reuters, April 1, 2003

US warplanes attacked two busses bringing American and European peace activists to Baghdad from neighbouring Jordan, Iraq Minister told the press on April 1st, 2003.

Information Minister Mohammed al-Sahaf told a new conference the injured were being treated in a hospital near the Jordanian border. *"There were human shields who were coming to Baghdad to be deployed."* He said. *"The brave Americans in the warplanes are shooting other civilian Americans on the ground."*

Hundreds of Western activists poured into Baghdad before the war started in order to show their support for the Iraqi people in the weeks leading up to the US-led invasion of the country.

Some of them set up camp in power stations and water plants around the Iraqi capital of Baghdad, clearly marked as Human Shields and US military authorities being informed of their locations, in a bid to dissuade the American military commanders from targeting the facilities. The two busses were clearly marked as to who was inside. ■

DID YOU DONATE TO SUSTAINING FUND?

BUSH PUTS A MUZZLE ON U.S. MEDIA REPORTING

By PATRICK MARTIN

The firing of a long-time US correspondent Peter Arnett is intended to send a message to all American journalists that the Bush administration and the corporate media will not tolerate any reporting that deviates from the official presentation of the invasion of Iraq as a war of liberation.

NBC announced in April that it

was severing relations with Arnett who had been hired to provide on-the-spot reporting from Baghdad for a news magazine program that is a joint venture of the network's MSNBV cable subsidiary and the magazine National Geographic.

Arnett's offense was that he gave an interview to Iraqi state TV where he called Bush's state policy a failure since *"I was here many times, including in 1991 and reported the events as they happened, truthfully about civilian casualties, about Iraq's people's determination to fight for every inch of their land."*

Arnett's comments were picked up by CNN and posted on the network's web site, in what amounted as a deliberate effort to stir trouble for the correspondent, whose live reports of the bombing of Iraq in 1991 brought him international attention.

Extreme right-wing elements in the US media and the Republican Party immediately began a hue and cry against Arnett, charging him with support of the Iraq regime. The lead part in this attack, was taken by the Fox News network, the semi-official network of the Bush administration. Then this network got two US Senators who were called to open up a vilification campaign against Arnett and to get him fired.

NBC initially supported Arnett against these unfounded attacks, but their position was reversed a few hours later, after pressure was received from the Bush administration, because pressure was put on by the giant corporation General Electric, who own NBC.

Arnett's record as a war correspondent goes back to the 1960's, when he won a Pulitzer Prize in 1961 for his reporting on the Vietnam War. Within days of his being fired, Arnett was hired by the Daily Mirror newspaper in London that campaigns aggressively against UK participation in the Iraq invasion.

This episode is clearly intended to have a chilling effect on any US independent reporting by its journalists about the Iraq war. If Peter Arnett, one of the best and respected war correspondents, can be eliminated on such a pretext, it can happen to anyone. As it is, there is little enough truthful coverage of the war. The American media is aligned to an unprecedented degree with the requirements of the US Pentagon, symbolized by the embedding of hundreds of US journalists in the military units that are waging war on the Iraqi people. ■

DID BUSH READ THIS?

*Excerpts from a speech made by
US Major General Smedley Butler in
1933.*

"War is just a racket. A racket is best described, I believe as something that is not what it seems to the majority of the people. Only a small inside group knows what it is about. It is conducted for the benefit of the very few at the expense of the masses.

I believe in adequate defense of the USA coastline and nothing else. If a nation comes over here to fight, then we'll fight. The trouble with America now is when a dollar only earns 6 per cent over here, it gets restless and goes overseas to get 100 per cent. Then the flag follows the dollar and the soldiers follow the flag.

I wouldn't go to war again as I have done before to protect some lousy investment of the bankers. There are only two things we should fight for. One is the defense of our homes and the other is the Bill of Rights. War for any other reason is simply a racket.

There isn't a trick in the military racketeering bag that the military gang is blind to. It has its "*finger men*" to point out enemies, its "*muscle men*" to destroy enemies, its "*brain men*" to plan war preparations, and a "*Big Boss*" Super-Nationalistic Capitalism.

It may seem odd for me, a military man to adopt such a comparison. Truthfulness compels me to. I spent thirty-three years and four months in active military service as a member of the USA's most agile military force, the Marine Corps. I served in all the commissioned ranks from Second Lieutenant to Major General. And during that period, I spent most of my time being a high-class

Dear readers:

If you have a friend who would like to receive a complimentary copy of NSC, send us the address and we shall send him or her a copy.
Editorial Board of NSC

muscleman for Big Business, for Wall Street and for the US Bankers. I in short, was a racketeer, a gangster for capitalism.

I suspected that I was just part of a racket at that time. Now I am sure of it. Like all members of the military profession, I never had a thought of my own until I left the service. My mental faculties remained in suspended animation while I obeyed the orders of the higher-ups. This is typical of everyone in the military service.

I helped make Mexico, especially Tampico, safe for the American oil interests in 1914. I helped make Haiti and Cuba a decent place for the National City Bank boys to collect revenues in. I helped in the raping of a half a dozen Central and South American republics for the benefit of Wall Street. The record of

racketeering is long. I helped purify Nicaragua for the international banking house of Brown Brothers in 1909-1912. I brought light to the Dominican Republic for the American sugar interests in 1916. In China I helped to see to it that Standard Oil went its way unmolested.

During these years, I had, as the boys in the back room would say, a swell racket. Looking back on it, I felt that I could have given Al Capone a few hints. The best he could do was to operate his racket in three districts. I operated on three continents.

Add to this the US imperialist attacks, subversion and instigated civil wars in scores of countries around world since 1945, you'll see the face of US Imperialism in all its greedy, gory detail.

WHY THE U.S. SUPPORTS ISRAEL

By STEPHEN ZUNES

In the United States and around the world, many are questioning why, despite some very mild rebukes, as to why Washington has maintained its large-scale military, financial, and diplomatic support for the Israeli occupation, in the face of all the unprecedented constant violations of international law and human rights standards by the Israeli occupation forces. Why is there such a string bipartisan support for Israel's right-wing minister Ariel Sharon's principles in the occupied Palestinian territories?

The close relations between the US and Israel has been one of the most salient features in US foreign policy for nearly three and a half decades. The well over \$3 billion in military and economic aid sent annually to Israel by Washington, is rarely questioned in the US Congress, even by liberals who normally challenge US aid to governments that engage in wide spread violations of human rights – or even by conservatives who

usually oppose foreign aid in general. Virtually all Western countries share the United States' support for Israel's legitimate right to exist in peace and security, yet these same nations have refused to provide arms and aid while the occupation of lands seized in the 1967 war continues. None come close to offering the level of diplomatic support provided by Washington – with the United States often standing alone with Israel at the United Nations and other international forums, when objections are raised over ongoing Israeli violations of international law and all related concerns.

Although the US backing of all successive Israeli governments, like most foreign policy decisions, is often rationalized on moral grounds, there is little evidence that moral imperatives play more of a determining role in guiding US policy in the Middle East, than in any other part of the world. Most Americans do share a moral commitment to Israel's survival as a Jewish state, but this would not account for the level of

financial, military and diplomatic support provided. American aid to Israel goes well beyond protecting Israel's security needs within its internationally recognized borders. US assistance includes support for policies in military occupied territories that often violate well-established legal and ethical standards of international behavior.

Were Israel's security interests paramount in the eyes of American policy-makers, US aid to Israel would have been highest in the early years of its existence as a Jewish state, when its democratic institutions were strongest and its strategic situation most vulnerable, and would have declined as its military power grew dramatically and, its repression against Palestinians in the occupied territories increased. Instead, the

Pentagon designing new weapons against protesters

By ERIC WALBERG, Tashkent

The mobility denial system is a slippery gel designed to make it impossible for vehicles or people to move on concrete, asphalt, or wood without falling down or becoming immobile. These MDS can be most useful, in, say, keeping crowds immobile on any street. Pentagon is working on getting this new weapon small enough for a single person to carry. But it should be ready within a year, promised Captain Sean Turner, spokesman for the Pentagon's Joint Non-Lethal Weapons Directorate in Quantico, VA.

This slippery stuff replaces a sticky foam that glues rabble-rousers in place.

Prominent US politicians who have decried violence in movies- the "Blame Hollywooders" if you will - recently voted to give President Bush the power to unleash real violence in Iraq and any other place the President deems necessary.

These same people who tolerate real violence of war, don't want to see the result of it on nightly TV news. Unlike the rest of the world, the US TV news is sanitized, without a glimpse of blood and gore. ■

trend has been in just the opposite direction: major US military and economic assistance to Israel since its establishment came only after Israel proved itself to be far stronger than any combination of Arab armies and after Israeli occupation forces became the rulers of a very large Palestinian population.

Similarly, US aid to Israel is higher now, than it was twenty-five years ago, This was at a time when Egypt's massive and well equipped armed forces threatened war; today, Israel has a long standing peace treaty with Egypt and a large demilitarized and internationally monitored buffer zone, keeping its army at a distance. At that time, Syria's military was expanding rapidly with the advanced Soviet weaponry; today, Syria has made clear its willingness to live in peace with Israel, in return for the occupied Golan Heights - and Syria's military capabilities have been declining, weakened by the collapse of the Soviet Union.

Also in the mid-1970's, Jordan still claimed the West Bank and stationed a large number of troops along its border and the demarcation line with Israel; today, Jordan has signed a peace treaty and has established fully normalized relations. At that time, Iraq was embarking upon its vast program of militarization. Iraq's armed forces have since been devastated as a result of the Gulf War and subsequent international sanctions and monitoring. **This raises very serious questions as to why the US aid has either remained steady or in fact has actually increased each year since.**

In the hypothetical event that all of the US aid to Israel were immediately cut off, it would be many years before Israel would be under significantly greater military threat than it is today. Israel has both a major domestic arms industry and an existing military force far more capable and powerful than any conceivable combination of opposing forces. There would be no question of Israel's survival being at risk

militarily in the foreseeable future. When Israel was less dominant militarily, there was no such consensus for the US backing of Israel. Though the recent escalation of terrorist attacks inside Israel has raised widespread concerns about the safety of Israeli public, the vast majority of US military aid has no correlation to the counter-terrorism efforts.

In short, the growing US support for the Israeli government, like the US support for allies elsewhere in the world, is not motivated primarily by objective security needs or even a strong moral commitment to the country. Rather, as elsewhere, US foreign policy is motivated primarily to advance its own perceived strategic interests.

STRATEGIC REASONS FOR CONTINUING US SUPPORT

There is a broad bipartisan consensus among policy makers in Washington that Israel has advanced US interests in the Middle East and beyond.

*Israel has kept Syria, for many years as an ally of the Soviet Union, in check.

*Israel's air force is predominant throughout the region.

*Israel's frequent wars have provided battlefield testing for American arms, often against Soviet weapons.

*It has served as a conduit for US armed regimes and movements too unpopular in the United States for openly granting direct military assistance, such as was apartheid in South Africa, the Islamic Republic in Iran, the military junta in Guatemala, and the Nicaraguan Contras, the Salvadoran junta, and foreign occupation forces in Namibia and Western Sahara.

*Israel's intelligence service has assisted the US in intelligence gathering and covert operations.

*Israel has missiles capable of reaching as far as the former Soviet Union, it also possesses a nuclear arsenal of hundreds of weapons, and it has cooperated with the US military-industrial complex with top research and development for new jet fighters and anti-missile defense systems.

US AID INCREASES AS ISRAEL GROWS STRONGER

DID YOU DONATE TO SUSTAINING FUND?

The pattern of US aid to Israel is revealing. Immediately after Israel's spectacular victory in the 1967 war, when it demonstrated its superiority in the region, US aid shot up by 450%. Part of this increase, according to New York Times, was apparently related to Israel's willingness to provide the US with examples of new Soviet weapons captured during the war. Following the 1970-71 civil war in Jordan, when Israel's potential to curb all revolutionary movements inside its borders, became apparent, US aid increased another sevenfold. After attacking Arab armies in the 1973 war were successfully countered by the largest US airlift in history, with Israel demonstrating its power to defeat suprisingly strong forces, military aid increased by another 800%. These increases paralleled the British decision to withdraw its forces from "East of Suez", which also led to the massive arms sales and logistical cooperation with the Shah's Iran, a key component of the US Nixon Doctrine.

Aid quadrupled again in 1979 after the fall of the Shah, the election of the right-wing Israel government, and the ratification of the Camp David Treaty, which included provisions for increased military assistance that made it more like a tripartite military pact than a traditional peace agreement. *(It is noteworthy that the additional aid provided to Israel in the treaty continued despite the Begin government's refusal to abide by the provisions relating to Palestinian autonomy.)* Aid increased yet again soon after the 1982 Israeli invasion of Lebanon. In 1983 and 1984, when the United States and Israel signed a memoranda of understanding on strategic cooperation and military planning and conducted their first joint naval, air military exercises, Israel was awarded by an additional \$1.5 billion in economic aid. It also received another half a million dollars for the development of a new jet fighter.

During and immediately after the Gulf War, US aid increased an additional \$650 million. When Israel dramatically increased its repression in the occupied territories – including incursions into the autonomous Palestinian territories provided in the

treaties guaranteed by the US government – US aid increased still further and shot up again following the September 11 terrorist attacks against the United States.

The correlation is clear: the stronger and more willing to cooperate with US interests that Israel becomes, the stronger the support.

INSURING ISRAEL'S MILITARY SUPERIORITY

Therefore, the continued high levels of US aid to Israel comes not of concern for Israel's survival, but a result of the US desire for Israel to continue its political dominance of the Palestinians and its military dominance of the region. Indeed, leaders of both American parties have called not for the US help to maintain a military balance between Israel and its neighbors, but for ensuring Israeli military superiority.

Since the terrorist attacks against United States on September 11, there has again been some internal debate regarding how far the United States should back Israeli policies, now under the control of the right-wing political leader Ariel Sharon.

Some of the more pragmatic conservatives from the senior Bush administration, such as Secretary of State Powell, have cautioned that unconditional backing of Sharon's government during a period of unprecedented repression in the occupied territories, would make it more difficult to get the full cooperation of Arab governments in prosecuting the campaign against terrorist cells affiliated with the al Qaeda network. Some of the more right-wing elements, such as Paul Wolfowitz of the Defense Department, have been arguing that Sharon was

an indispensable ally in the war against terrorism and that the ongoing Palestinian resistance was essentially part of an international terrorist conspiracy against all democratic societies.

OTHER CONTRIBUTING FACTORS

Support for Israel's ongoing occupation is not unlike US support for Indonesia's 14-year occupation and the repression in East Timor or Morocco's ongoing occupation of and repression in Western Sahara. If seen to be in the strategic interests of the United States, Washington is quite willing to support the most flagrant violations of international law and human rights by its allies and block the United Nations or any other party from challenging it. No ethnic lobby or ideological affinity is necessary to motivate policy makers to do otherwise. As long as the amoral imperatives of realpolitik remain unchallenged. US foreign policy in the Middle East and elsewhere will not reflect the American public's long standing belief that US international relations should be guided by humanitarian principles and ethics.

Some of the worst cases of US support for repression have not remained unchallenged, leading to a reversal of US policy on Vietnam, Central America, South Africa and East Timor. In these cases, grass roots movements supportive of peace and justice grew to a point where liberal members of US Congress, in the media and elsewhere, joined in the call to stop US complicity in the repression. In other cases, such as US support for Morocco's invasion and occupation of Western Sahara, too few Americans are even aware of the situation to mount a serious challenge, so it remains off the radar screen of law makers and pundits.

The case of Israel and Palestine is different, however. There are significant sectors of the population that question US policy, yet there is a widespread consensus among elite sectors of the media and government in support of US backing of the Israeli occupation. Indeed, many of the same liberal Democrats in the US Congress who supported progressive movements on other foreign policy issues, agree with

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



President George W. Bush – or, in some cases, are even further to the right – on the issue of Palestine and Israel. Therefore, while the perceived strategic imperative is at the root of US support for Israel, there are additional factors that have made this issue more difficult for peace and human rights activists than most others. These include the following:

*This sentimental attachment of many liberals – particularly among the post-war generation in leadership positions in government and the US media – have for Israel. Many Americans identify with Israel's internal democracy, progressive social institutions (*such as the kibbutzim*). Relatively high level of social equality, and its important role in the sanctuary for an oppressed minority group that spent centuries in diaspora. Through a mixture of guilt regarding Western anti-Semitism, personal friendships with Jewish Americans who identify strongly with Israel, and fear of inadvertently encouraging anti-Semitism, by criticizing Israel, there is enormous reluctance to acknowledge the seriousness of Israeli violations of human rights and international law.

The US Christian Right, with tens of millions of followers and a very major base of support for the Republican Party, has thrown its immense media and political clout in support of Ariel Sharon and other right-wing Israeli leaders. Based in part on a messianic theology that sees the gathering of Jews to the Holy Land as precursor for the second coming of Christ, the battle between Israelis and Palestinians is, in their eyes, simply a continuation of the battle between Israelites and the Phillistines, with God in the role of a cosmic real estate agent who has deemed that the land belongs to Israel alone – secular notions regarding international law and the right of self-determination of people notwithstanding.

*Mainstream and conservative Jewish organizations have mobilized considerable lobbying resources, financial contributions from the Jewish community, and citizen pressure on the news media and other forums of public discourse in support of the Israeli government. Although the role of the pro-Israel lobby is often greatly exaggerated –

its role has been important in certain tight congressional races and it helps to create a climate of intimidation among those who seek to moderate the US policy, including the growing number of progressive Jews.

*The US arms industry, which contributes five times more money to US congressional campaigns and lobbying efforts than the AIPAC and other pro-Israel groups, has considerable stake in supporting massive arms shipments to Israel and other Middle Eastern allies of the United States. It is far easier, for example, for a member of the US Congress to challenge a \$60 million arms deal to Indonesia, for example, than the more than \$2 billion of arms to Israel, particularly when so many US congressional districts include factories that produce such military hardware.

*The widespread racism towards Arab and Muslim so prevalent in American society, often is perpetuated in the media. This is compounded by the identification many Americans have with Zionism in the Middle East as a reflection of the US historic experience as pioneers in North America, building a nation based upon noble, idealistic values while simultaneously suppressing and expelling the indigenous population.

*The failure of progressive movements in the United States to challenge this US policy towards Israel and Palestine in an effective manner. For many years, most mainstream peace and human right groups avoided this issue, not wanting to alienate many of their Jewish and other liberal constituents supporters of the Israeli government and also fearing that criticism of Israeli policies might inadvertently encourage anti-Semitism. As a result, without any countervailing pressure, liberal members of the US Congress had little incentive not to cave in to pressure from supporters of the Israeli government. Meanwhile, many groups on the far-left and others took a stridently anti-Israel position that did not just challenge Israeli policies, but also questioned Israel's very right to exist,

thus severely damaging their credibility. In some cases, particularly among the more conservative individuals and groups critical of Israel, a latent anti-Semitism would come to the fore in widely exaggerated statements, further alienating potential critics of US policy.

CONCLUSION:

While US support for Israel occupation policies, like US support for its allies elsewhere, is primarily based upon the US support for perceived security interests, there are other factors complicating efforts by peace and human rights groups to challenge US imperialist policies. Despite these obstacles, the need to challenge US support of the Israeli occupation is more important than ever. Not only has it led to enormous suffering amongst the Palestinians and other Arabs, ultimately it hurts the long-term interests of both Israel and the United States of America, as increasingly militant and extremist elements arise out of the Arab and Islamic world in reaction.

Ultimately there is no contradiction between support for Israel and support for Palestine, for Israel security and Palestinian rights are not mutually exclusive but mutually dependent on each other. US support or the Israeli government has repeatedly sabotaged the peace activists in Israel to change Israeli policy, which the late Israeli General and Ksennet member, Metti Peled, referred to as pushing Israel "toward a posture of extremely callused intransigence". Perhaps, the best kind of support the United States can give Israel is that of "tough-love" – unconditional support for Israel's right to live in peace and security within its internationally recognized borders, but an equally clear determination to end the occupation of all Palestinian territories. This is the challenge for those who take seriously such basic values as freedom, democracy, and the rule of law.

Stephen Zunes,
*Associate professor of Politics and
Chair of the Peace & Justice Studies
Program at the University of San
Francisco.*

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

RESULTS OF US CLUSTER BOMBS IN IRAQ!

Issa Del, 10, burned by US cluster bomb in late April, weeps on a bed in Saadam Hospital in Tikrit. (AP) This is Bush's "humanitarian" liberation! What would the US media say if this was a US child? This photo of course doesn't find its place in the US daily media! ■



Us moves 21,000 pound MOAB Bomb to Iraq Region

From KOMINFORM – CNN

The USA has moved its newest- and biggest- conventional bomb to the Persian Gulf region, Pentagon officials admitted late April. The bomb, nicknamed "Mother of all bombs" is officially known as the Massive Ordnance Air Blast.

This bomb contains over 18,000 pounds of conventional explosives. It replaces the Vietnam-era "Daisy Cutter" a 15,000-pound bomb that played such havoc and mayhem in Vietnam. This bomb is meant to be used on large formation of troops or deeply buried targets.

Now that the Iraqis have surrendered, where is the US planning to use this weapon? ■

WHO SAID THIS?

"Our business is business. We are producers, manufacturers and traders. Year after year it becomes increasingly plain that the markets of the world must be kept open to American industries. The rivalries that began in commerce wind up on the battlefields. We must expand our markets, territories and trade, by whatever means we can. America must rule the economy of the world and defend it against all others."

Dean Acheson, then Undersecretary of State before US Congress in November of 1944.

Remember that this was before the end of World War Two, when US joined the anti-fascist struggle, only at the time they realized that the USSR was going to defeat Hitler Germany practically by themselves,

Remarkable impact of Belgian Medical Team In Baghdad

By Bert De Belder,
Workers' Party of Belgium

A Medical Team of four volunteer doctors is currently in Baghdad on a mission for Belgian solidarity organization Medical Aid for the Third World. They testify about the atrocities of the US-British war of aggression against Iraq, disseminate the stories of resistance of the Iraqi people, render medical services to the many wounded civilians and give moral support to the Iraqi professionals. Of the four doctors, three are members of the Workers' Party of Belgium while the other is an activist in the coalition StopUSA.

The war in Iraq is today's major confrontation between, on the one hand, the most brutal and fascist expression of imperialism and, on the other hand, the resistance of the people and the workers of the world. We found it necessary, and we feel privileged and proud, to have internationalist comrades in the heart of this important battle, confronting US imperialism at the side of Iraqi people and the Arab masses.

Many other doctors from our party and from many other organizations volunteered from Belgium, France, Sweden, Morocco, India and even United States. It's reminiscent of the days when international brigades went to fight fascism and defend the Republic of Spain in 1936. Indeed, a hopeful sign of resurging proletarian internationalism in the face of intensifying imperialist aggression.

Every day since they arrived in Baghdad on March 16, our comrades have told us horrifying stories about

**2ND WORLD CONGRESS
WILL BE HELD IN
SEPTEMBER 2004 in
EUROPE!**

the US-British war of aggression, in which countless civilians are being slaughtered. They heard how US troops left wounded Iraqi soldiers to die alongside the roads. They saw the dreadful wounds caused by the US and British cluster bombs, which are prohibited by international law. They saw how US tanks shot at ambulances and civilian cars at will – yet another violation of international humanitarian law.

With the entry of imperialist troops to Baghdad, our comrades stood face to face with American GIs, showing off their colonial arrogance in full battle gear. The doctors stood firm at a US military checkpoint and insisted on continuing their mission, against "strong" advise of the US troopers. These direct confrontations

intensified our comrades' hatred for imperialism even more. On the other hand, they acquired enormous respect and admiration for the Iraqi health workers, whom they found to be most competent, motivated and hard working. Above all, our comrades were met with much sympathy and friendship from the common people.

The diaries of the Belgian Medical Team in Baghdad have been circulated, published and read throughout the world, in French, English, Spanish, Portuguese, Arabic and Dutch translations. They have been met with great interest in the international communist movement, in the world wide anti-war movement and in the international people's health movement. They have been

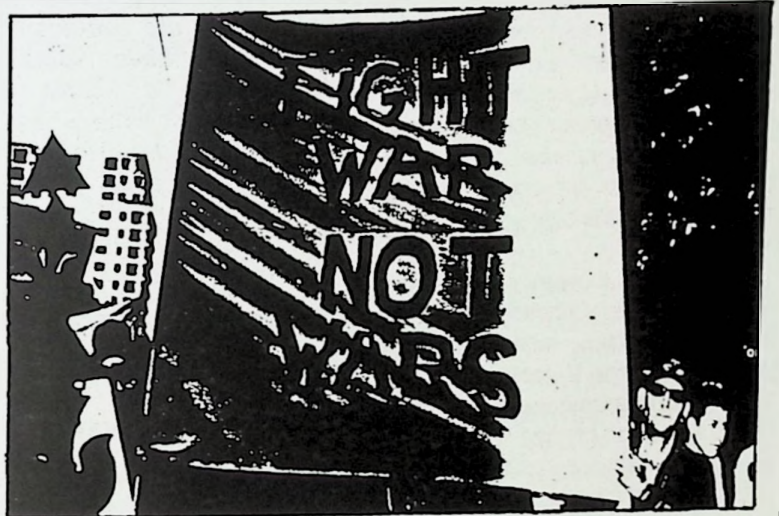
published on several websites, circulated on dozens of mail groups, found their way to trade unionists, students and the academe and also landed in bourgeois newspapers, radio and TV stations around the world. The doctors have received hundreds of messages of support and solidarity.

The medical team in Baghdad has inspired and strengthened the anti-war movement in Belgium. There are demands to stop war shipments through Belgium. Groups are eager to file in court cases against Bush, Rumsfeld, Powell, Blair and their ilk for war crimes.

The example of our doctors can inspire all of us to continue and intensify our work against imperialist wars. ■

We received this graphic drawing and the photograph from our Australian friends, who are readers of NSC and members of the Australian-Soviet Friendship Society. Our comrades in Australia are very active in the struggle against American imperialism and the invasion of Iraq. They also demonstrate against the present Australian Government that is supporting US and Britain in this imperialist venture for oil.

This graphic illustration says it all very effectively. ■



US SEES THE LIGHTS GO OUT AS STATES SCRIMP AND SAVE

By ROLAND WATSON in Washington – Published April 24 by the Times / UK

In Missouri State they are unscrewing every third light bulb. Prisons in Illinois are splitting prescription drugs in half. The Governor of South Carolina is urging others to follow his practice of reusing Post-it notes and saving paper clips.

Across the United States the worst budget crisis in half a century has forced states to scrimp for savings in a style reminiscent of the 1930s Great Depression. Together, the 50 US State governments are facing deficits of \$30 billion this year and \$82 billion next year.

Tax rises would be able to ease some of the burden, but in many states moves to increase taxes have been defeated by the voters, leaving drastic cuts as the only way to make ends meet.

The Kansas Governor has asked agencies to drop printing the gold-embossed state seal from all stationery, saving 2 cents per page. Agencies in Kansas are banned from doing any colour printing.

Such measures, although eye-catching are largely symbolic. Jail chiefs in Illinois are trying to cut their prescription drug bill by ordering double-strength drugs and splitting them in half. In Virginia prisoners are going to get only two meals per day. Kentucky is releasing prisoners out early in order to save money.

In Oklahoma teachers are forced to mopping up floors, driving school busses and teaching, plus cooking meals, because all the support staff were laid off due to budget cuts and teachers were forced to work free for two weeks because there was no money. Some schools in Colorado are only functioning for four-day week and holding bake sales in order to cover teachers salaries.

Across the USA, tens of thousands of poorer families are losing access to healthcare as capitals cut back on Medicaid program. In Texas State alone, 275,000 fewer children will receive healthcare.

California faces a \$30 billion deficit, 30 per cent of its budget, will have to start writing IOUs by the summer unless it finds a way of raising money.

This turmoil has yet to threaten President Bush, riding high of "victory over Iraq" The White House has tried to keep this issue at arm's length, refusing to help out, but US voters tend to take out their frustrations on State legislators instead of the US President. Ohio is planning to cut 50,000 families from health coverage, the largest cut ever recorded.

If voters go in the presidential year of 2004 with their education and healthcare system in tatters, it may present the Democrats with a chance for the Presidency.

That will make no difference at all and, if any left wing political party will still support the Democrats...they certainly will have some screws missing. Just a simple question would be to ask as to where are the billions coming from for the war on Iraq? Who is making these billions? This US "patriotism" is not going to bring back healthcare, jobs or schooling! – Editor.

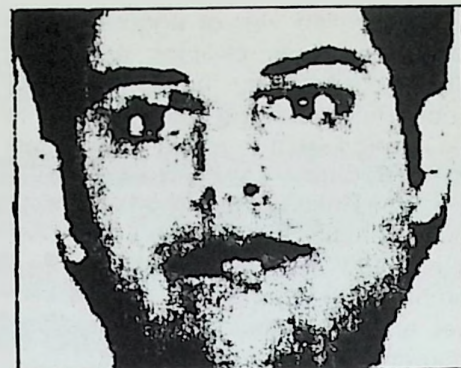
HIJACK "SUSPECTS" ALIVE AND WELL

From DeWaarheid

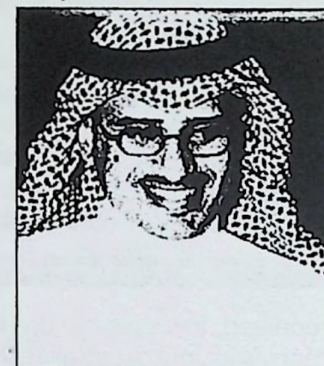
Another three of the men named by the FBI as hijackers in the suicide attacks against New York and the Pentagon have turned up alive and well. The identities of others are now also in doubt. Saudi Arabian pilot Wakeed Al Shehri was one of the five men that the FBI said deliberately crashed the American Airlines flight 11 into the World Trade Center on September 11, 2001.

His photograph was released and since appeared in newspapers all over the world and also on television. He is protesting his innocence from where he lives in Casablanca, Morocco. He was in Morocco at the time of the September 11th attacks. He is a pilot with the Saudi Arabian Airlines.

Another man Abdulaziz Al Omari suspected of hijacking, has been working as an engineer with the Saudi Telecoms, and he lost his



Waleed Al Shehri



Abdelaziz Al Omari



Khalid Al-Midhar

passport when he was studying in Denver, an arrangement between Saudi Arabia and the USA He was also listed in the FBI's list of supposed hijackers. Another Khalid Al Midhar is reported to be alive in the Middle East.

After being prodded by the media, the FBI Director Robert Mueller acknowledged that the identity of several suicide suspects is in question.

It is interesting to know that immediately after the crashes of the airlines, while the buildings were still on fire, the FBI immediately published a list of the hijackers...as if the list was already ready to be told to the world media! And now, Bush is barring any official or independent commission to look into this tragedy.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

From
OTTAWA
Canada

Dear comrades.

I like to point out that in the April issue of NSC, the article on page 22-23 was written by K.Thavapalan, not by S. Veerasingam. Also on page 23 George Soros handed over \$10 million not \$100 billion dollars in the article about Sri Lanka.

When the American invasion took place on Iraq, the leader of USA and Iraq had this to say:

BUSH: God is with us

HUSSEIN: Allahu Akbhar, Allahu Akbhar - *which means that god is the greatest.*

At that time we all understood that that both of these leaders did not represent the people and it is obvious that god usually supports the mightiest... George Bush represents Imperialist America and Saadam Hussein is a dictator.

If it was a war between Imperialism and the people, then we can predict the results. It will be victory for the people just like it was in Vietnam, Cambodia and Cuba.

K.Thavapalan

From
SPIJKENISSE
The Netherlands

Dear comrades:

As a Dutch communist, I like to send my congratulations to all those who founded the International Council for Friendship and Solidarity with Soviet People. May this important contribution in the struggle for a fast restoration of the USSR produce quick results. Please convey my greetings to all of them.

Arie van Kooten

FROM
WINNIPEG
CANADA

I would like to congratulate all of you on the fine monthly journal NSC. Enclosed please find a donation of \$100. Keep up the great work.

David Mackling

FROM
WINFORD CHESHIRE
ENGLAND

Dear Friends:

At this particular time in our history, when thousands of poor Iraqi women and children are being butchered by British and US imperialism, NSC is a welcome friend.

Clifford R. Roe

THIS WAS SAID IN 1939! DOES IT SOUND FAMILIAR IN 2003?

"We have no interest in oppressing other people. We are not moved by hatred of any other nation. I know how grave a thing like war is. I wanted to spare our people such evil. It is not so much the country like Czechoslovakia, it is rather its leader, Edward Benes.

He has led a reign of terror. He has hurled countless people into misery. Through his continuous terrorism, he has succeeded in reducing millions of his people to silence. The Czech maintains a tremendous military arsenal that can only be regarded as a focus of danger. We have displayed a truly unexampled patience, but I am no longer willing to remain inactive while this mad-man ill-treats millions of human beings."

Adolph Hitler, April 14, 1939

FROM
MIAMI
USA

Dear friends:

Please do not use my full name, just the initials, since in this "free" country I do not consider myself free. It's getting to be just like Nazi Germany before the Second World War. I should know, I lived through it and being a prisoner of war of the Soviet Army I realized how duped our German people were. The same is happening here in the US. NSC is so important that in the near future I will send a donation. Don't give up!

H.O.

IN WHAT COUNTRIES IS NORTHSTAR COMPASS READ?

*CANADA*USA*MEXICO*CUBA
*BRAZIL*COLOMBIA*CHILE
*ECUADOR *GUYANA
ENGLAND SCOTLAND
*NORTHERN IRELAND
FRANCE BELGIUM
*THE NETHERLANDS
SWEDEN NORWAY
*FINLAND * FRANCE
*LICHTENSHEIN
*SPAIN * PORTUGAL
*HUNGARY * CZECH REP.
*SLOVAKIA * ITALY
*POLAND * RUSSIA
*UKRAINE * GEORGIA
*TADJIKISTAN *GREECE
*BYELORUSSIA * ARMENIA
*AZERBAIJAN * SYRIA
*UZBEKISTAN * ROMANIA
*BULGARIA * YUGOSLAVIA
*LEBANON * ISRAEL
*PALESTINE * CONGO
*INDIA * PAKISTAN
*BANGLADESH * JAPAN
*SRI LANKA *AUSTRALIA
*PHILIPPINES * BURMA
*NEPAL * HAWAII (USA)
*ALGERIA * NICARAGUA
*SWITZERLAND
*ARGENTINA
*DOMINICAN REPUBLIC
*TURKEY
*MARTINIQUE * LITHUANIA
*SINGAPORE * MOROCCO
*LUXEMBURG
*GUINEA-BISSAU
*SOUTH AFRICA
*NEW ZEALAND

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Spring
came
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bloom!**

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thanks to
Czech
Slav
Committee

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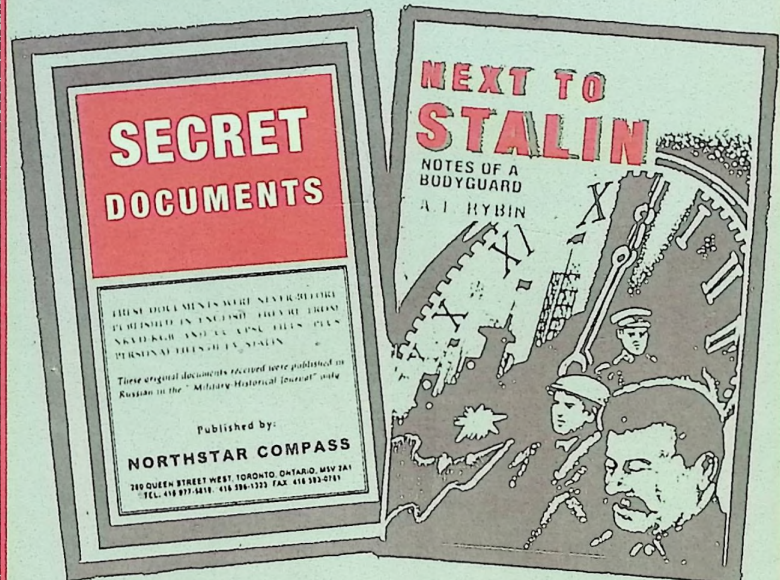
Dear readers:

I'm appealing to all those that send in numerous articles and letters to be short and brief and write legibly. It is impossible to print all the correspondence now, plus a flood of e-mails during these dangerous times when news is changing daily. We are only a monthly journal.

The Editor of NSC

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