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ORGAN OF THE INTERNATIONAL COUNCIL FOR FRIENDSHIP AND SOLIDARITY WITH SOVIET PEOPLE VOL.11 #6 FEB. 2003

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**To build our
New World Order
we must
control the
oil supply!**

ADOLF HITLER
1939

**To fight
terrorism and
build our New
World Order,
we must be
where the
oil is!**

U.S.
Imperialism
2003



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CREDO OF NORTHSTAR COMPASS

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

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

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

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

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**MICHAEL
LUCAS**
Editor



Mankind in real **DANGER!**

Dear readers:

This NSC issue contains articles, analyses and thoughts about the present madness of US leadership and their NATO allies in the planned attack against Iraq, as a first step towards lording it over the oil rich Middle East, and onward towards the under belly of Russia and its future dismemberment into small fiefdoms, all at the mercy of US imperialism and their New World Order.

This February issue was to have contained the very good news for all friends of Soviet People – a report on the establishment, after a long time, of the Russian Society for Friendship with Foreign Countries – a partner and a counterpart to the International Council. But, because of the very real danger of war against Iraq, as a prelude for the US New World Order, we felt that this important issue should contain articles dealing with this war danger.

With the growth of anti-war movement all over the world in numbers and intensity, reminding one of the successful anti-Vietnam war movement... Northstar Compass received many letters, e-mails and telephone calls that in essence want to know why China or Russia do not utilize their Security Council Veto to stop this madness?

As our Credo pointed out in the last NSC issue... "we act as a united front, but are not a forum for ideological debate". Having said that, NSC has the right to express its

opinion, since mankind is in REAL danger. It is only logical that mankind is looking in earnest for some one to stop this madness of going to war! First it was Afghanistan, to hunt for bin Laden. Now that USA cannot find bin Laden as the "evil one" even with their high-tech technology, now the target is Iraq and Saddam Hussein is the target. Afghanistan is forgotten, bin Laden is forgotten...elections in the USA are coming, so another "evil" must be found.

We know where bin Laden could be... maybe having tea and relaxing at the Bush Ranch in Texas!

China and Russia as well as France, Britain and Germany are all making deals behind the scenes with the leadership of Iraq, with or without Saddam Hussein at the helm. These bourgeois imperialists do not care about the devastation they have caused or will cause to Iraq, with the forthcoming war that again will be thrown at the people of Iraq, besides the danger of this war escalating into an inferno in the Middle East. The US economy needs a boost and it is hell-bent on getting the oil reserves, no matter how many millions suffer or die!

We feel that this issue has done the best it can to inform our readers from many points of view, the horrendous suffering that will be inflicted upon humanity, on both sides of the conflict.

Therefore, March issue of NSC will contain the news and statement of the Russian Friendship Society with Foreign Countries and the plans for future expansion of work between our International Council and this new organization, in order to help the Soviet people re-establish the Soviet Union and Socialism, thus serving as a mighty bulwark against future plans of Imperialism and the shock-troops of NATO to try and build a New World Order.

Mankind will not allow history to repeat itself!

FLAWED REPORT: IRAQI WARHEADS FOUND

BY WILLIAM RIVERS PITT,
Author of "War On Iraq"

FIRST: These were not 'chemical warheads', that were found by the UN inspectors. In the Iraqi arsenal, a warhead is a warhead – an empty ordnance space strapped to a missile. What matters is the payload, be it explosive or chemical or nuclear. The item placed in the warhead denotes its destination. These warheads found were stone-cold empty, so by definition they are not 'chemical warheads'. They are, in fact, nothing, because they were loaded with no dangerous payload. Furthermore, the word 'warhead' is in itself misleading, as these were artillery munitions.

SECOND: Iraq is allowed by the UN resolutions to have a variety of weapons, including the Al Samoud missile. The US did not want to pull Iraq's fangs completely after the Gulf War, considering the neighbourhood they live in. We allowed them to keep missiles that fly only a certain distance (1509 km most often). Most people do not know this, and will think the presence of these munitions will represent a breach of UN resolution. This is not the case.

THIRD: Scott Ritter of CNN informed me that these munitions were part of Iraq's declaration last December to the UN. I still am waiting for further confirmation of this, and so should the journalistic world, since the complete document is not available to the press.

FOURTH: This is a vindication of the inspection regime. They found the stuff, and it will be destroyed, and no American soldiers or Iraqi civilians died in this process.

FIFTH: Please recall how the UNSCOM inspections teams were undermined by the constant meddling from the American intelligence community. Understand that this warhead story did not come from Blix, UN inspection head, or through the normal channels, but

through a Japanese (*read: close US ally*) inspector who contacted the news media and let rip before facts were in hand. Why?

FINALLY: I want to address a comment to you, that you made on the CNN show that viewers were writing in and claiming that the whole CNN network wants war, because war is good for the media business. I understand that this idea might offend your professionalism, but I wonder if you have been watching CNN lately?

Your station had referred, over and over again, to these discovered warheads as 'chemical warheads'. The debate has not been centered on what the facts are behind these items - when they were made, whether they were loaded with anything, how long they have been there, whether they were declared - but instead the CNN has focused on whether the White House can use this as a pretext for war. Calling these things 'chemical warheads' is a gross exaggeration, which I have heard on CNN no less than seven times during this short period that I was writing this message to you.

Mull that a bit!

Please take the data I have sent you and air it on CNN for the sake of a reasoned and complete debate. Get these facts to the American people, who desperately need facts and not overheated innuendoes.

COMMENT:

Some US and other capitalist TV networks and media pundits who defend imperialism and US actions in particular, are just like a prostitute. The only difference is that the TV announcers and media pundits sit, while the prostitute takes a different working position - Editor of NSC.

RUSSIAN MILITARY SEE U.S. IRAQ ATTACK THIS MOTH

According to the "Common Dreams News Center" report, Russia's armed forces have obtained information that the USA and its allies have already decided on military action against Iraq by mid-February. The Agency's specialist military news wire AVN, which quoted a high-level source in the Russian General Staff, said that U.S. led operation will be launched once the Over 150,000 attack force is in position, with other many thousand troops ready on the perimeter of Iraq. This information was acquired covertly from reliable NATO headquarters by sources unknown.

"The military operation against Iraq will be conducted by a combination of means - strikes will be from the air, land and sea. The war will be short, lasting about one month." The Russian General Staff sources stated. This source also added that the main aim of the operation was not so much to topple Iraq President Saddam Hussein, but to secure U.S. control over Iraqi oil fields.

Russia now has major oil commercial interests in Iraqi oil and has made it known of its eagerness to exploit Iraqi huge reserves once the UN sanctions are lifted.

COMMENT:

It is evident as to why Russia, China, England, France will not use their Veto power in Security Council. They all want to have a piece of the pie. Who cares about the deaths and destruction!

**EXCLUSIVE
FOR NSC**

FROM POLITICAL PRISONERS IN THE UNITED STATES

To the International Council for Friendship and Solidarity with Soviet People:

Greetings and solidarity from the victims of 9/11, from the heart of the Passaic County jail in Paterson, New Jersey, in which we are victims of the US imperialist administration!

This is the time to remember the positive role the USSR played in the name of the working class and peasants. It is very difficult for a person with principles to forget the beautiful people who were present in the vanguard for justice and equality.

The Great October Socialist revolution has made a reality to the world and a great aspiration to fight against oppression and exploitation.

We believe the Soviet people are steadfast and present with us. We, the detainees held by the INS, support the International Council for Friendship and Solidarity with Soviet People.

***With unity we will defeat
imperialism!
The people united will never be
defeated!***

On behalf of the detainees cell block 4G2 and 4G4, from:

PALESTINE, GUYANA, LEBANON,
ALGERIA, MALI, JAMAICA

HERE ARE THE US CHEMICAL WEAPONS MANUFACTURERS, THAT UN INSPECTORS SHOULD INSPECT IMMEDIATELY!

These UN Inspection teams should have no problem finding chemical weapons, research, manufacturing and storage facilities.

- *Dow Chemical (napalm) Midland, MI.
- *Advanced Polymar Lab, University of New Hampshire
- *M2 Technologies Inc. West Hyannisport, NJ
- *Raytheon, Lexington, Ma.
- *Naval Air Warfare Center, Pivatinny Arsenal, NJ
- *Chemical Weapons Storage, Umatilla, OR
- *Chemical Weapons Storage, Point Bluff, AZ
- *Los Alamos National Laboratory ...plus many, many others

JUST IN:

Before going to press, we learned that two of these US political prisoners are on a hunger strike!

ARE YOU LISTENING, BUSH?

Magazine "TIME Europe" conducted a poll, asking which countries are the biggest threat to the world. Here are the results:

NORTH KOREA	7.9%
IRAQ	9.1%
UNITED STATES	83.0%

ANTI-WAR SENTIMENT GROWING FROM UNEXPECTED SOURCES

PARIS:

The French are strongly opposed to a war in Iraq and three quarters of them want their government to use its veto power in the UN Security Council. Eighty two percent are opposed military actions in Iraq.

VATICAN:

Vatican journal attacked the USA justification for the war on Iraq, saying that it was motivated by economics, and would spark a wave of terrorism and destabilize the Middle East. A 10-page editorial in the Vatican newspaper "Civiltà Cattolica" picked apart the reasons given by the US Administration to justify the war against Iraq and said

that these reasons are contradictory. It also wrote that oil was an ulterior motive.

The Vatican editorial ended with these words: "If every country that feels threatened attacks first, in order to prevent the threat of being attacked first, there would be war without end on the whole planet.

There are worse regimes than Iraq's that are considered very good friends of the USA and enjoy political and economic aid."

COMMENT:

The Vatican has to be careful since Bush might declare them also as a "terrorist state"!



FLAGS By VIC RATSMAN UNLIMITED

"Patriotism is the last refuge of a scoundrel". This is one of the more famous quotes of Voltaire, the 18th century French author and philosopher and, although these words were written a long time ago, they seem to be quite applicable to events in and by the United States of America today. Quite frankly, their flaunting, never-ending and omnipresent patriotism is enough to make one sick. Most prominent in this is the American flag, which seems to have become an unavoidable symbol of American hegemony and dominance wherever one chooses to go or look. The 'holier than thou', and on the heart singing of their national anthem at every possible occasion is beginning to become more than a little bit annoying.

Take a sports event for instance. One can understand that at international meets where players represent their country, the national anthems of competing nations are being played. But why must it be played before every game in regular, day to day competitions? Nowadays

most sports teams consist of players from many different nationalities and their national anthems aren't being played. Professional sport today has as little to do with nationalism or patriotism as does beer, another unavoidable sports attribute. But then, we know sport is all about money, of course.

But let's return to the flags. Turn on the television and go from one American news channel to the next and count how many times you will be confronted by their flag. Take a look at people's clothes and see how many badges of their flag are sown on, how many hats they wear with flags, helmets of their hockey players display flags, swimsuits are worn in the colours and patterns of their flag, houses are draped with flags, cars display stickers with the U.S. flag, and on and on and on. That flag has become, to many people outside of the U.S.A. the symbol of aggression and global dominance, of Yankee arrogance, of their attitude of superiority, strength and wealth and at the same time of their blatant ignorance of the world abroad and the hatred they invoke through their

overbearing attitude of American patriotism. In itself of course, there is nothing wrong with being a patriot of your country. But does that patriotism have to be promoted and drilled into you from the day you were born or went to school and displayed at every opportunity? If other countries behaved like that, the U.S. would be the first to call it indoctrination and brainwashing!

Since the formation of the United States of America in 1776, now 226 year ago, they have fought over 275 wars, always on other people's soil. This is on average more than one war per year. Is it any wonder then that the American flag represents aggression and war to millions around the world? What is it in the American psyche that they always have to meddle in someone else's affairs? Even their national anthem, called 'The Star Spangled Banner' is no more than a warlike tribute to their flag (1). It is not surprising then that people who are upset with American behavior resort to burning the American flag in public, despite repeated efforts by U.S. politicians to pass an amendment to their constitution prohibiting desecration of the flag. I am not a flag-burner, and it is not my intent to insult peaceful Americans about their national symbols and institutions. But they would do well to understand that the excessive patriotism displayed by America around the world does them more harm than good. Patriotism is the last refuge of a scoundrel, said Voltaire. That means that for American scoundrels there is no other place left to hide. The only thing to do is to get rid of the scoundrels.

(1) The Star Spangled banner.

*Oh, say can you see, by the dawn's early light,
What so proudly we hailed at the twilight's last gleaming?
Whose broad stripes and bright stars, through the perilous fight,
O'er the ramparts we watched, were so gallantly streaming?
And the rockets' red glare, the bombs bursting in air,
Gave proof through the night that our flag was still there.
O say, does that star-spangled banner yet wave
O'er the land of the free and the home of the brave?*

WAR IN IRAQ:

What's at stake for Russia?

BY GLOBAL INTELLIGENCE REPORT from STRATFOR

Russia might be too internally fragile to survive a US-led war against Iraq without sliding into a deep crisis. At best, Moscow will be weakened economically, politically and internationally; at worst, the nation could suffer economic collapse and internal instability that severs its status as a US ally.

PROSPECTS FOR ECONOMIC COLLAPSE

Russia has much to lose and little to gain in the events of a US-led war against Iraq. For Moscow, virtually everything is at stake: the nation's economic health, internal stability and its international standing and influence.

Oil is now the blood of the world economy, and this blood would turn bad for Russia in the event of this war. During the course of the military action, global oil prices would jump sharply and then enter a deep and prolonged spiral, should the USA be victorious and establish control over the Iraqi oil industry—which likely would mean soaring production levels. On the surface, it would appear that Russia, a major oil exporter, would benefit during the war and suffer afterward, but in reality the nation likely would suffer both during and after the conflict.

Russian oil production is already at maximum levels, meaning that domestic energy would not be able to boost production significantly enough to take advantage of higher prices. In order to benefit from a temporary wartime price hike, they would need to increase their exports by diminishing sales to Russian customers. Moreover, the prices of Russian gasoline and other refined products would skyrocket with the increased global price.

Therefore, the country could face both an internal supply shortage and cosmic energy prices that would shut many Russian citizens and businesses out of the market. We should not forget that the Russian economy is correctly dubbed a "wild market" in which everything is for sale for a profit. Moscow's attempt to intervene in the market probably would fail. The country does not have strategic petroleum reserves, an idea which is only in the early stages of discussion.

Needless to say, an energy shortage or prohibitive prices, or both, would severely hurt industry and citizens alike. Vast distant regions in Russia such as Siberia and the Russian Far East, which already have experienced energy shortages for several consecutive years, would be hardest hit, possibility leading to the collapse of their regional economies and businesses. However, the national economy as a whole would continue to limp along. Should a war in Iraq continue for several months, however, the concomitant supply shortages and high domestic gasoline prices would knock the crutches out from under even the national economy.

Even the more probable scenario of a fairly rapid US victory, will not allow Moscow to breathe easily. US control over the Iraqi oil industry would be a likely, if unintended, consequence of military victory and would lead to a much higher production levels from Iraq. This is integral to Washington's strategic interest: decreasing global oil prices to levels that would allow a sustained US economic recovery.

During his Nov. 22nd visit to Russia US president George W. Bush said

that Washington would protect Russia's economic interests in Iraq, although Foreign Ministry sources say that he did not elaborate or give any guarantees. To protect Russia's oil interests, Washington would have to agree that Iraq's richest fields would remain under Moscow's control following the overthrow of Hussein, and it would have to block the expansion of US energy majors into the country.

It is important to note, however, that there is more at stake in Iraq than Russia's oil concessions – its oil-dependent economy also would suffer, and Washington certainly will not and cannot protect Moscow from the consequences of a price decline.

According to the Hong Kong-based Asia Times, some US State Department officials said that Washington in seeking a crude oil price of \$13 per barrel. Mikhail Khodorkovsky, the head of Russia's energy giant Yukos (*privatized*) predicts that oil prices following war on Iraq would be \$14-\$16 in the best case scenario for Russia, \$12-\$14 in the worst case.

Washington's oil price strategy is distinctly at odds with that of Moscow, whose federal budget for 2003 is predicated on prices of roughly \$24 to \$25 per barrel.

Speaking in USA, Houston Texas recently, Russian Energy Minister Igor Yusupov said that the nation's economy still would be healthy if oil prices dropped to \$20 to \$25 per barrel, and the budget even could be maintained at current prices if it fell to \$20 to \$21 per barrel. However the Kremlin would have to slash spending plans if prices fell below the \$20 next spring or summer.

Some Russian Finance Ministry officials privately admitted to Stratfor

that nothing – even wring off some Soviet-era debt, which had been discussed with US officials – would save Moscow's 2003 budget if prices fell below \$20, the economy of Russia is already in deep crisis. The Russian weekly newspaper "Argumenty i Fauty, quoting the Russian government experts, wrote that the lowest crude oil price Russia can sustain is \$18 per barrel.

Assuming that Hussein of Iraq does not torch existing oil wells, the country could double current production levels to 2 million barrels per day in a matter of weeks or months – depending on certain political scenarios – and likely could reach 5 million barrels per day within three or four years. If US actions in post-war Iraq take global oil prices down to \$13 per barrel, then the Russian economy will slide into a much deeper and prolonged crisis. Not only would there be no clear prospects for any recovery, but a complete economic collapse could not be excluded either.

IMPACT ON ENERGY COMPANIES

The war in Iraq would have several negative ramifications for the Russian energy sector, particular for the privatized oil companies.

First, the war would certainly reduce the value of their assets, in some cases even bankruptcies. Their share prices would drop accordingly. Second, the prospects for selling Russian oil directly to the USA would be diminished. Not only does Russia currently supply very little of US oil needs, but its oil is also more expensive to extract and ship than that from the Middle East, and again, the post-war market eventually could be flush with Iraqi production. Third, any chances that the Russian energy companies could maintain influence in the Iraqi oil sector would be destroyed.

All Russian oil companies recognize a very real threat of losing their market value, should USA and their allies have a victory in Iraq. Their response is to try and sell large portions of stock before the war starts, seeking to accumulate a nest egg to tide them through the rough aftermath of war. Russian major oil company TNK is trying desperately to sell a large portion of its stock to the Western oil tycoons, such as BP,

Shell and ExxonMobil and TotalFinasElf. The BP officials recently had talks with Yukos company in Russia, according to the Wall Street Journal. Sibneft also is considering such a move, Fortune magazine has reported.

However, the Western oil companies are in no hurry to acquire stocks in these Russian energy companies, knowing full well that time is on their side. After the Iraq war, it should be possible to buy shares of Russian oil companies at a fraction of their current prices.

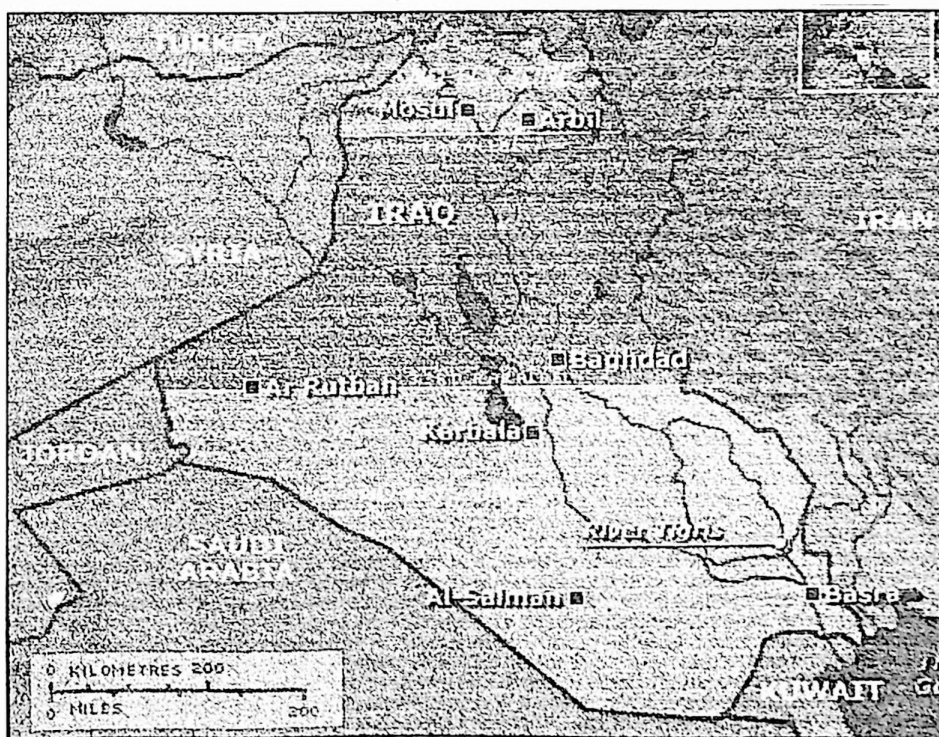
Russian oil sources fear that once the Russian energy companies lose their value, US energy giants will snap them up outright – taking the best ones and leaving others to go bankrupt. The Russians rightly fear that they will lose not only their energy security but also their sovereignty to the United States.

The future of Russian oil companies' concerns in Iraq, also are at stake in the war. Russian major oil companies have lucrative contract in Iraq, all stemming from the special relations that Moscow has maintained with the regime of Saadam Hussein. The biggest of these is the LUKoil contract to develop a giant West Qurma oil field, where the Russian company has a 52.5% stake in the joint venture. They feel that they could make a big profit once the sanctions against Iraq are lifted.

These Russian oil companies fear that when Hussein is toppled, US companies will replace Russian firms who were the dominant players in this market. It would be politically natural for the US oil companies to take precedence in the oil market of a country led by a pro-US or even US appointed government. If the Japanese Army would take over Baghdad, then Japanese oil companies would do the same.

The official statement of the pro-US Iraqi opposition further proves to the Russians and others that the future of Iraqi oil belongs to the United States. For instance, Iraqi National Congress (INC), Iraqi's main opposition group favoured by Washington, recently stated – not for the first time – that a post-Hussein government would review existing oilfield development deals with French and Russian companies and would favour US firms instead, Reuters reported last October.

There is even now evidence that President Bush administration was working for a very long time with the Iraqi opposition to shape the future of Iraq's oil industry, following the ouster of Hussein. The US State Department had a meeting in December 2002 with the Iraqi opposition who would likely oversee the oil industry following the war. The US is planning a 10-12 member oil group to co-operate with the US interests, according to the Financial



Times.

Russian oil companies probably could not compete successfully for whatever bids a post-Hussein government in Baghdad makes available, due to their own financial and technological limitations. Moscow and other governments also fear a pro-US government in Iraq, would favour US companies over those of other countries.

GEOPOLITICAL POSITIONS WORLDWIDE THREATENED

Russia's international influence likely would be strongly diminished as well following a war with Iraq. Most important, the security situation could deteriorate along the Southern Russia's vast borders with Muslim-majority regions. In the likely event of USA victory, Russia could be bombarded with accusations from the Islamic world that it enabled such victory – first, by betraying Moscow's traditional partnership with Iraq and not standing firmly with enough to block the attack, and second, by depriving Iraq of modern weapons capable of repulsing the US offensive.

It is one thing for Russia to support the US war against al Qaeda – something that many Islamic governments also do – but quite another to support, however wholeheartedly, a US military effort against Iraq. The Islamic world's perception of Moscow's stance would alienate not only radicals, but the mainstream Muslims as well. Moreover, it would be easier for Muslims to blame and retaliate against a weakened Russia than the much stronger United States. Iraq's Hussein already appears to have issued a veiled threat to Moscow, telling the Kremlin that it faces consequences unless it "*takes the Chechen cause into account.*"

Russia long had been battling Islamist militants, both Russian and foreign-born, with Chechnya serving as the main battlefield. Moscow's quiet acquiescence to the US war plans, could draw the mainstream Muslims and some of their governments into the radicals' long term offensive against the country. That means that financial, logistical and recruiting support for Islamist militant groups could grow significantly. It also is possible that

the new northern Caucasus fronts in the battle against Russia - in places other than Chechnya - might be opened, and attacks on strategic and civilian targets in Russia proper could increase. The Kremlin's so-called "*betrayal*" of Iraq would not be the only factor at play in such a trend, but it certainly would feed into the trend. On a larger scale, Russia stands to lose whatever international prominence it still has, following the UAS-led war against Iraq.

The present Russia never managed to gain the international standing the Soviet Union shared with the United States during the Cold War. Washington has used Moscow as a diplomatic proxy in mediating the policies of several nation-states that oppose the United States – such as Syria, Iran, Libya, Lebanon and Yemen – until recently. The Arab regimes have also used Russia in the similar capacity concerning US policies in the Middle East. In addition, military-technical assistance given to many middle-Eastern European countries has brought, cold, hard cash to the Kremlin. Both the USA and Arab countries have been content for

Russia to play the role of an intermediary in the Arab-Israeli conflict-something that Washington's close alliance with Israel renders it unable to do.

The US sure victory in Iraq will change all of this overnight, possibly to the point that Russia will be expelled from the Middle East political scene altogether. Not only will the Muslim world see Russia as a tool of the United States and a traitor to the current Iraqi regime – thus destroying the political clout that Russia enjoyed, but Washington's burgeoning influence in the region will also leave Russia without a role to play in the US-Arab relations.

The looming war against Iraq would not be the first conflict in that country to hurt Russia. The 1991 Persian Gulf War, in which Soviet leader Gorbachev sided completely with the United States, signaled the end of the USSR as a superpower. This time though, major world powers (*aside from USA and Britain*) have looked to Moscow to lead the resistance to the US war effort, since Russia's interests will be the most hurt among the global powers – but the Kremlin has offered only passive resistance to Washington. Avoiding a confrontation with the USA might be a wise choice for Moscow, but most other powers see this as a sign that Moscow is ceasing to matter in its own right. Following the war in Iraq, the world's important players are unlikely to take Russia's position into account on any major international issue.

The European Union has already been very frustrated by Russian President Vladimir Putin, since he unexpectedly dropped his objection to Washington's scraping of the Anti-Ballistic Missile Treaty – a measure that the Europeans viewed as very essential for checking Washington's global ambitions. The EU had hoped, since the break up of the Soviet Union, that Russia would take its cues from Brussels rather than from Washington, but that has not happened. The coming victory of US in Iraq and Russia's inability to stop the war or exact any meaningful concessions from Washington will further diminish Russia's worth in the European eyes. The EU will cease to consider Russia as an equal or a reliable partner that could support Europe's international agenda.

IT'S GOOD TO REMEMBER-

When Brezhnev was the General Secretary of the CPSU-USSR from 1964 to 1982 -

- *Three fourths of all physicians were women
- *One third of all engineers were women.
- *52% of all employed college-trained people were women
- *The USSR provided day care or even 24 hour care for all children if desired, plus day care for children of collective farmers during the harvest season.
- *Maternity paid leave was 112 days.
- *425 women were members of the Supreme Soviet of the USSR, much more than all of the capitalist countries combined.
- *47.4% of local candidates elected across the USSR were women.
- *49% of all elected labour union officials were women, thus making Brezhnev the most significant champion of women rights during the 20th century.

China will view Russia as a country that lacks an independent policy, and treat it accordingly.

INTERNAL STABILITY AT RISK

All of these factors – the economic deterioration, security threats and loss of international standing – could have a severe impact on Russia's internal stability. In an event of post-bellum oil price-slump, Russia's citizens might see their last means of survival slipping away- and begin the demand for the resignation of their government and president, they see as unable to improve the situation he was responsible for creating in the first place.

To ensure their own survival, the new Russian business elite could seek alternatives to Putin and, possibly, to his open pro-US course. It is now difficult to guess as to which political forces might benefit from this, but such attempts could be expected both from the right and the left spectrum, from pro-Western liberals to communists or even to his own government forces who want to abandon his ship before it sinks.

At that point, Russia's military role in politics would become vital. Putin's popularity is much lower in the Russian Army than with the general public because some Russian generals and a majority of its officers and soldiers perceive Putin as surrendering the nation's dignity and unable to defeat the Chechen militants. Retired officers might answer the calls from the population and some political forces to take up arms and help to change the present regime.

New Islamist attacks throughout Russia – encouraged by Russia's subservient role to the USA and giving the Muslim world a "bad" reputation, could complicate matters for Moscow after the defeat of Iraq, and there is a clear possibility of a change of government in Russia could or cannot be excluded from the worst-case scenario.

CONCLUSION

It is a fact that Russia now is the weakest of the current US allies and it might be the first one to collapse and seeing this ally become a potential enemy. Putin is desperate to remain in power and is begging for

Washington's understanding, but it remains to be seen what, if anything, Washington would be willing or able to do to shore up Putin's regime.

Putin wants and is willing to become a very junior partner to the USA and its ally, much like France and Germany - or even a much better scenario is asked for by Putin, to be a special ally, just like Israel. But Washington is unwilling and cannot afford – to supply Russia with the same kind of aid it gives to Israel- amounting to \$3 billion in military aid alone, aside from economic aid. Nor could the economically and socially weakened Russia command the kind of respect that Washington shows to Western European powers, despite their many quarrels. ■

CHALK UP ANOTHER SUCCESS FOR CAPITALIST CONVERSION OF RUSSIA

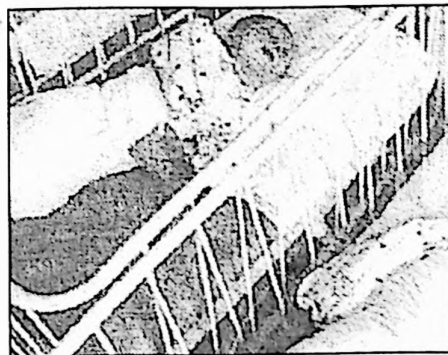
By Steve Eke, BBC's Russian analyst

The latest survey shows that over 60% of all Russian children are unhealthy. They are in poor physical or psychological health, according to the Russian government's very own survey.

Russia's epidemic of ill health and drastic falling off of life expectancies have received much international attention over the recent years, but the health suffered by its children are less well known.

The most common conditions in children are problems of the digestive and motor systems, often coupled with nervous disorders. Most of these problems are also caused by the fact that more than half of the expectant mothers are under-nourished due to lack of food and terrible conditions of their daily life.

Two thirds of Russian babies are subsequently born unhealthy and infant mortality rates in the poorest regions of Russia are higher than in



many parts of the Third World developing countries. Health problems begin at birth and get gradually worse.

By the age of 18, when military service beckons, half of Russia's young men are rejected because they are unhealthy. Russian doctors say that it will take decades for any improvement to take place. Doctors warn that the growing generation might be just as unhealthy as the troubled children in today's Russia. ■

SOROS GUILTY OF INSIDER TRADING

The multi-billionaire financier and philanthropist George Soros has been fined 2.2 million Euros (\$2.3 million) for insider trading. A Paris court found Mr. Soros guilty of profiting from inside knowledge of a 1988 take over bid for Societe Generale, a very large French bank. Mr. Soros who was not in court, denied the allegations. His lawyers argued that, the incident was too far in the past to be able to achieve a fair trial.

Two of his co-defendants, Lebanese financier Samir Traboulsi and Jean-Charles Naouri, an aide to former finance minister Pierre Beregevoy, were acquitted.

George Soros was born in Budapest, Hungary in 1930 and emigrated to the USA in 1956.

NSC has in previous issue written about the shady dealings and his involvement in the dismemberment of the USSR and his psychologically written textbooks that all Russian children-students must study.

Soros's Quantum Fund has made an average 31% annual profit for the past three decades.

His own "Open Charity Institute" operates in 50 countries. He founded the Central European University in 1992. He is notorious for profiting from the collapse of the English sterling currency in 1992.

He is the power behind the schooling textbooks and curricula in the former USSR, setting up countless so-called charities to preach anti-socialism and anti-communism. ■

GIVE A NSC SUB TO A FRIEND!

FREEDOM TO THE POLITICAL PRISONER YURI PETROVSKY
By GALINA SAVCHENKO

Still in jail in the "democratic Ukraine" is a Major of the Soviet Army Yuri A. Petrovsky. All of our requests and demands on his behalf, were thrown out by the Ukrainian anti-Soviet courts.



But we are certain that after many years in the Ukrainian camps, Yuri has the courage and dedication, and he knows as to why the Ukrainian people are living in such devastating conditions.

He was put into solitary confinement cell for 15 days for organizing the inmates in the camp in order to show solidarity with those who demonstrated with red flags on the streets on September 16, 2002 and carried banners that pleaded "Arise You Ukraine!" Again he was held in solitary confinement for 30 days because of "body search" by the guards.

Today, whole of Ukraine is like a JAIL. Jail for those people who love their former Soviet Ukraine and freedom of speech and friendship of peoples. It's a jail for all the children and everything that was Soviet.

"Movement for USSR"-Ukraine ■

WE'RE ASKING OUR READERS TO WRITE YOUR ARTICLES SHORTER!

YOU HAVE AN OPINION ABOUT NSC? WRITE!

FAKE GOODS FLOOD RUSSIA

FROM BBC NEWS

The Russian Interior Ministry has announced that up to 90% of all goods sold on the Russian consumer market are fake goods. This includes goods as varied as household appliances, but this is not going to surprise the Russians since Russia hardly manufactures any goods now. This news is of deep concern to the international companies.

Electrical goods now are illegally imported from South-East Asia, while cosmetics and toys are from cheap labour in China. But Russia which also produces fake goods such as audio systems and medicines, without any signed agreements with the original producing firms...all this is manufactured illegally and black-marketed to the people.

The Mafiosi structures, tied in to the government and police, will never put a dampener on the 90% of the total market which are all fake goods. In any case, as the study shows, most Russians are content to buy fake goods and fake designer clothes, since the economy is in such shambles.

What worries the Russian people is the fake and adulterated food, medicines and drinks that are sold as genuine.

Last week in December of 2002, the Russian TV showed a gang in



Moscow which had been caught putting out tins of caviar which contained contaminated roe and thrown away in the garbage cans by the legal manufacturer.

Every year, according to Russia's own statistics, thousands of Russians die from drinking liquid they take to be genuine vodka, but which is made from deadly

chemicals.

Until the present authorities are seen to be tackling this crime seriously and expose the criminal gangs and all of their governmental connections, Russian people will certainly be very sceptical about how much the police are really concerned about counterfeit goods. ■

NEW POLL:

7 OUT OF 10 RUSSIANS WANT THE USSR BACK

From De Waarheid

MOSCOW: Nearly 7 out of 10 Russians want that the USSR be returned back, according to the new poll released last December, on the 80th Anniversary of the creation of the communist bloc.

Over 69% of those polled said that they regretted the Soviet Union's disappearance, while 25% said that they did not, according to the Vytision Institute poll, which was quoted by the Interfax news agency.

Three fourths of the 1,600 Russians polled said that the Soviet Union was better suited for fostering the people's social and economic growth. Over 55% of those polled said that the USSR was a union of voluntary states and over 59% said that the break-up of the USSR in 1991 could have been avoided. ■

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JEFF BOSSUVT



Hostage drama in Moscow: THE BRAIN BEHIND the TERRORISTS

On the 26th of October, at 6 o'clock Russian special troops attacked the theatre DK in Moscow. According to the latest data approximately 800 people were taken into the hospital. According to VRT -news 67 hostages were killed during this operation. The troopers used sleeping gas and killed 34 hostage takers, among them their leader the Chechen fighter Movsar Baraev. The other hostage takers were detained. The vice-mayor of Moscow said that besides the Chechen, also Afghan and Arabian hostage takers participated. In the city of Moscow also 33 accomplices were detained.

Wednesday evening 23rd October the masked and armed terrorists interrupted the musical Nord-Ost. They took hostage hundreds of the spectators, one woman being killed. They carried explosives and announced that they would kill the hostages and blow up the theatre building in a suicide act. Their demand was that the Russian troops must withdraw from Chechnya.

Chechnya. A Russian province.

Already 280 years ago, in 1722, the float of Peter the Great has landed in Dagestan. Since then Chechnya has been a part of Russia. The Western superpowers have always considered this region as a crowbar to attack Russia from the South and to control it. In 1918, after the Bolshevik revolution, general Denikin occupied Chechnya. English and French warships arrived through the Black Sea in the harbour of Novorossisk in order to support him. In 1942 Nazi- Germany occupied a part of Chechnya hoping to open a

second front and attack Russia from her back. In 1989 the American media demanded disintegration of the Soviet Union and opening of this area to their multinationals. The United States are first of all interested in the control of the oil transportation routes from the Caspian Sea and from Baku, which lie on the Chechen territory. In 1991 president Yeltsin committed a coup assisted by a Chechen general Djokhar Dudaev. Yeltsin dismissed the Soviet Union and inspired a number of bloody nationalist civil wars. He called "to take as much independence as you can bear". Dudaev obeyed this summon and proclaimed the independence of Chechnya. Yeltsin left behind in Chechnya the Russian weapons. This resulted into the 1st Chechen war (1994-1996), when Russia demanded control over the oil transports in the region. In 1997 Aslan Maskhadov was elected president, and he concluded a truce with Russian general Lebed. The republic was being ruined by kidnappings, robberies and battles for the oil line. In 1999 the fighters Shamil Basaev and Jordanian Khatab attacked the adjoining republic of Dagestan, and advanced on its capital Makhachkala. They had clear ties with the Al Quaida organization of Osama Ben Laden. They defended the following program: to tear off the South of Russia, and to form a great Islam republic from the Black Sea to the Caspian Sea. President Putin did not eliminate these terrorist bands. He started a bloody front war against the Chechen villages and cities. His ruthless bombardments of the citizens create a deep precipice between the Chechens and the Russians. His politics pushed he Chechens even further into the hands of rightist nationalists and foreign "saviours".

President Maskhadov and NATO

In 1995 the Chechen terrorist Shamil Basaev invaded Russia with two lorries of explosives and 150 armed men. His target was to commit a terrorist act, and to force the Russians to start negotiations. Nevertheless he was stopped in the town Budennovsk. ...where he took hostage 1500 patients. More than hundred were killed during the assault.

The American major Raymond C. Finch gave the following evaluation to this action in the

Military Review of June 1997: "We are moving to the 21st century and the structure of the war game is changing. The war field is no more isolated and the battle is not limited to men wearing uniform. The methods used by Basaev are brutal and violate acknowledged rules of conducting a war. But if we see these actions in the light of the Chechen struggle for independence they seem to be **brave and praiseworthy.**"

On the 7th of October 1999, president Maskhadov called in his letter to the NATO's general secretary George Robertson to "intervene in Chechnya within the frames of the establishing by the NATO of the new world order".

The hostage-taking in the DK theatre was apparently planned by the Chechen president Maskhadov himself. Earlier he resisted to the actions outside border of Chechnya. Nevertheless in his latest TV-address he predicted, that "soon some events will happen that will drastically change the developments in Chechnya". The leader of the terrorists, Movsar Baraev, had admitted to the correspondent of the Sunday Times, that he was in contact with Maskhadov. His telephone calls to Chechnya, Turkey and a number of Arabic countries were eavesdropped. President Maskhadov on his own has little influence among clans and fighters. His power comes from foreign sources, in the first place from Zbigniew Brzezinski.

Zbigniew Brzezinski dictates conditions

Zbigniew Brzezinski, the former advisor of President Carter, described in his book "The big chess-board" the strategy of the USA towards Russia. He now wants to weaken, pre-dominate and dismantle Russia, what was done earlier to the Soviet Union. "A more open Russian confederation, consisting of a European Russia, a Siberian republic, and a republic in the Far East, would speed up its development." Recently, Brzezinski had been incredibly active as a chairman of the American "Committee for democracy in Chechnya". He demands from president Putin to start negotiations about a "political solution" in Chechnya, and anyway with ... president Maskhadov. On 16 August they proceeded already with a meeting of the committee, which is

also called "Committee Brzezinski-Haig", in the principality of Liechtenstein. Besides the American founders there were also present the Chechens Khasboelatov and Aslakhanov, and the representative of president Maskhadov, his "Minister of Culture", Akhmed Zakaev. The plan was discussed of "giving to Chechnya a special status under international supervision of the Organization for Safety and Cooperation in Europe"(2) ■

PRIESTS OUT OF SCHOOLS!

Statement by the Revolutionary Communist Youth League (Bolsheviks) Moscow

Russian Education Minister Vladimir Filipov, who had made his name by conducting reforms to dismantle what remained of the Soviet education system, published Guidelines for all the secondary schools to introduce God's Law as a subject, very carefully code-named "Orthodox Culture". Despite this innocent looking name and reassurances claiming that it would be taught on an extra-curricular basis, the move makes provisions for nothing but a compulsory exposure of youngsters to religious dogmas.

More time is being allocated to teaching "Orthodox Culture" than to Physics, Chemistry or History. Although compulsory religious teaching contradicts Article 14 of the Constitution of the Russian Federation, and although public opinion survey show that just 28 per cent actually support the introduction of "Orthodox Culture" compared to over 55 per cent in opposition, this subject has already been introduced on compulsory basis in a number of areas (Noginsk-Moscow region, Kursk region, Volgograd etc., while an array of political parties – from the openly pro-Putin People's Party to the allegedly opposition party Patriotic People's Union of Russia – headed by Gennady Zyuganov – issue statements and organize public action and support of religious education.

We hereby launch a campaign "Priests out of Schools!" and we call upon all progressive and democratic forces to join the struggle

to save the secular character of the State and Education. Our initial demands are to stop religious propaganda in the media, to put an end to education in state-run establishments, to immediately fire Education Minister Filipov, who has terminally destroyed any signs of public confidence. We are ready to draft a program of studying Scientific Atheism as an extra-curricular subject and will be fighting to make it available to schools.

At the same time, we as Communists understand that it is impossible to root out religious prejudice within the capitalist system. A society based on exploitation is the key that keeps the region going. The necessary condition for total destruction of religious prejudice is a communist society.

But, even within an existing order we will be fighting against the imposition of religious dogma by the State. Fighting to make schools deliver the crux of Science, not the obscurity from the Middle Ages. Capitalists would like the schools to train students in subservience, faith and tolerance. We want to see the schools teach pupils to doubt, to think and to struggle.

There is always a trade-off between faith and knowledge, one comes at the expense of the other.

***Religion is the prison for thought!
Priests, out of school!*** ■

US war drive has to be defied!

Statement by the RCWP-RPC

Leaders of capitalist countries, including Russia, as well as the entire spectrum of bourgeois media, have unleashed a sickening whining campaign concerning the alleged threat by the DPRK Government, who declared its withdrawal from the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons (NPT). The fact that has been completely ignored is that the decision taken by the DPRK Government is a pure necessity and the only possible response to the long series of USA's subversive plots against the socialist state on the Korean peninsula. This is a step taken by the DPRK leadership to

defend their freedom, independence and State sovereignty.

What the world gendarme, the USA hates, is the political system in North Korea. In the attempt to break the endurance of the Korean people in their resistance and consolidation of their socialist achievements, the US administration has branded DPRK a part of the "axis of evil" and has declared that a pre-emptive nuclear attack on the country is possible. USA has turned South Korea into a permanent location by conducting military maneuvers against the DPRK. They used the International Atomic Energy Agency (ISEA) to introduce sanctions against the country they see as unfavourable. The USA is working in every possible way to prevent the program of peaceful unification between Korean North and South. In 2002, the US leadership suppressed oil deliveries to DPRK, having violated the only part of the Korean-American Agreed Framework they have been fulfilling. At the same time, the USA has ignored the proposals by the Korean leadership to sign a non-aggression treaty. In these conditions, it became an urgent necessity for DPRK to take a step to defend the country from the American political, economic and military threats.

Our RCWP-RPC CC pledges its support to the political leadership and brave people of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea.

It is time to stop the aggressors! ■

THE INFLUENCE OF THE SOVIET EXPERIENCE ON WORLD HISTORY

BY ROGER FLETCHER

In writing about this, it is an impossible task, because the debt that the world owes the Soviet Union is too enormous and multi dimensional. I was born in 1937 and our family lived in Gatswick, GB during 1943-44 were bombed out of our house to which we returned after a couple of months. My father was a member of the local Communist

Party and we had a large map of the USSR on our wall, and my father used to put little red flags to mark the advances of the Soviet Red Army. Whenever he put on the radio, he would say: "Now let's listen to the fascist gramophone."

You see, even while the Red Army was doing the work of the so-called democratic nations, these same Western nations were starting to really ratchet up the anti-Soviet propaganda, ready for the end of the war, when Winston Churchill would help swing "us" against the USSR.

During the latter days of the war, there were regular "Aid to Russia" weeks, raising small amounts of money to send to our "Russian allies" and to raise awareness of just how much was really being done to defeat fascism, and where the REAL battles were being fought! Vivid memories remain of portraits of "Uncle Joe" smiling beneficently down on English people buying up little matroshka's, and beautiful lacquered boxes from Kolkhoma. I could not wait going to the dentist since there I could read the Soviet magazine "USSR in Construction", that later became the "Soviet Union".

Those were also the frantic efforts to undo, both here and in the US-GB wide spread appreciation of the Soviet contribution to the destruction (temporary as it now seems) of fascism. These revisionists were even able, as part of that reversal, to distort and diminish the enormous support that the Soviet Union gave to the colonial peoples. Very few people today understand this...they think that Gandhi alone brought about the British retreat from India, in much the same way that they think that the Suffragettes established women's right to vote here in Great Britain.

The example of Soviet women having the right to vote was a big factor in this step forward for British and US women incidentally in 1920's! But there were many other advances that the ordinary working people in the "free and democratic" countries gained as a result of the Soviet example. Things such as the national health care, holidays with pay, universal education up to university level, were all concepts that gained immeasurably from the Soviet Union.

National Service in Britain still existed when I became 18, and I found myself reluctantly, serving the Queen. In 1956 came the Suez "crisis" and I was to be sent with an invasion force to Egypt. But in the same year, the Red Army entered Hungary to quell the counter-revolution and some bearded Cubans were trying to overthrow the brutal US-supported dictator Batista.

Perhaps I should add here that all this took place against a background of US/UK interference in China, a brutal and open war against People's



Korea, and another brutal war by the French in Vietnam/Indo China. In this latter, the French had total support of the US and UK.

I writing this things down because we have many historians who are now very busy re-writing history as some of the present Russian bourgeois historians doing now. I in 1984 did a History degree at the University of North London. One of the lecturers told us that before World War II, Poland had a socialist leader!!! I asked the professor if he was General Pilsudski? He said "Yes". "Surely you must mean 'national socialist'". "Well, yes, That sort of socialist!" he floundered. "You you mean that he was a fascist" I responded, and he remained silent. My fellow students, who were much younger than I, (around 18 to my 34) thoroughly enjoyed this!

With the foregoing, you'll not be surprised to know that I was deeply

saddened at the death of Stalin then very distraught and somehow skeptical at Krushchev's revelations at the 20th CPSU Congress. Perhaps now we can reach now a more balanced appraisal of those times. I can best formulate it like this as a Communist in a capitalist country, so maybe we were wrong about some things in the USSR, but for the right reasons, reasons of international solidarity, the right of former colonial peoples to self-determination, the right to peace enshrined in the new decree of the young Bolshevik government, the right to work, To education, to health and to freedom, from exploitation.

The only thing that the Soviet Union could have done during the Cold War that would have been acceptable to the capitalist countries would have been to totally surrender. Any and all examinations of Soviet history by Western historians totally ignore what precisely the West was doing at that time. The acute hardness of Stalin and of the members of the Soviet government was the result of exactly what the Western capitalist leaders were doing against the USSR.

For many years I have admired the Soviet defense of Cuba at the time of the 1962 missile crisis. But the recent book written from the Cuban perspective, shows that the Cubans were grateful for the defense of Cuba, but Cuban government was sharply critical of the settlement in which the Soviet Union and the USA regarding the Guantanamo Bay. This is not to say that the Cubans were ungrateful for the backing and confrontation that the Soviet Union gave, merely that they thought that the Soviet Union could have taken the Cuban leadership more into their confidence.

Of the wider picture, I must conclude with the following. You might like to recall these words from Shakespeare (who I know was so highly respected in the Soviet Union) as King Lear says "How sharper than a serpent's tooth, it is, to have a thankless child."

The Soviet Union grew out of the most appalling poverty and destitution, and people who criticize should simply read Nekrasov's epic poem "Who can in Russia be Hard and Free?" Further, these same

critics should read of the REAL history of UK, US, Germany, France, Poland etc. were doing at that Very critical time, before, during and after World War III!

How many people realize that in the Red Army, the Soviet Political Commissars would have been in the post-war USSR the seed-corn of the new society, and, almost without exception, they were the ones who were shot when captured by the nazis...because they were true patriots of socialism.

It is also good to remember that it was the Soviet people who broke the mould of "wall-to-wall" capitalism and helped immeasurably in destroying the odious system of colonialism, whilst also setting back by many years the degeneration into fascism of moribund capitalism. This also ensured, by defending that this island in the Caribbean, that a slightly different form of socialism would have a space to grow stronger.

So, the Soviet people have nothing to reproach themselves for. On the contrary, it is we in the "West" (with the exception of Cuba) really should reproach ourselves, for losing the initiative that existed in 1945, for not consolidating the widespread dissatisfaction with capitalism that existed in 1968 (in Paris, etc.)

Post-mortems have only limited value. More and more people are seeing the dangers of instability, and over-aggressiveness that certainly characterizes capitalism, which itself is in the late-imperialist stage. The only thing that is holding the people back at the moment is a massive, all-pervasive mass media of lies, plus some negative images of Socialism that was in its first socialist experiment.

It is now our job to show that Socialism is the **ONLY** solution to the problems that are multiplying so rapidly, and to press the case for the evolution into the scientifically-based socialism. There may still be a few residual images lurking in peoples minds, but there are millions of real examples for us to show to people of what life really is for a socialized humanity, and for what life really is for the alienated capitalist society. ■

WRITE YOUR OPINION TO US!

STORM OVER THE CASPIAN SEA

This is very revealing excerpt from the newspaper "The Sun" published in Moscow in Russian and in Arabic.

The article exposes the plans of Imperialists since the last century for occupying and exploiting the region around the Caspian Sea. So, the present plan of US imperialism is just a modern version of this on-going demand to grab this oil and mineral rich region.

"Let's remember that Winston Churchill in 1919 called the Caspian Sea region *"the soft under belly of Russia, and having it in our hands will not only help us to control Persia (Iran) but also all the territory of Russia bordering the Caspian Sea, besides having the Caucasus in our sphere of influence - which includes part of East Asia"*

The plan of Adolph Hitler in 1940's was to occupy Iran, Iraq plus the oil rich regions around the Caspian Sea. He said: *"Controlling this region in actual fact means controlling its oil resources, and this is the main tactical plan of the German Reich!"*

The French General Weygand, commenting on the British-French-Turkish plan in 1940 (before the Second Front was even considered to help the USSR in the event of the imminent attack by German fascism -Editor) to attack Russia from the south through the Caucasus made this very forthright statement: *"By occupying Batumi, Baku and controlling the Caspian and Black Seas, we would enter Russia as a knife enters butter."*

The Turkish plan in 1942, when the Soviets were in the life and death struggle with German fascism was: *"We must have our army enter the Caspian region after the defeat of the USSR through Azerbaijan and Georgia, or together with the German Army, since we have signed a military cooperation pact with Germany on June 18, 1941."* This was just 4 days before Germany attacked the Soviet Union!

The modern-day version of this "Storm over the Caspian" by US imperialists is a follow-up of the previous imperialist countries that

were not able to accomplish this, due to the heroism of the Soviet people.

We hope that the Soviet people and the peoples of all countries bordering the Caspian Sea region will not allow this plan to be fulfilled! Humanity must not let this modern day fascism pass! ■

TKP YOUTH PROTEST ARREST AND TORTURE OF UKRAINIAN YOUNG COMMUNISTS

As the young communists of a country where the name "communist" was banned for eight decades, the Youth of the Communist Party of Turkey strongly protest the recent arrests and brutal treatment of Ukrainian and Russian comrades by the Ukrainian police and the groundless charges put against them. There should be no doubt that all of the attempts to criminalize communist struggle and undermine its legitimacy will fail.

We express our deepest solidarity with the Leninist Youth League of Ukraine, and demand instant release of our comrades and all charges against them to be dropped!

The Youth of the Communist Party of Turkey

**The Executive Committee of International Council and the Editorial Board of NSC have sent protests to the government of Ukraine against this injustice and brutality.*

WHO SAID THIS?

"I'm the commander, I do not have to explain why I say things. That's the interesting thing about being President. Maybe somebody needs to explain to me why they say something, but I don't feel like I owe anybody any explanation..."

G.W.BUSH
Source: "The Independent"

HAVE YOU RENEWED YOUR SUB?

BUSH LIBERATES EUROPE!

By Erik H. Thorenson / Norway

With the publication of President Bush's statement of strategic priorities, a euphoric outburst of gleeful anticipation is sweeping all across Europe. America intends to make our world "not just safer, but better" — an action that will be "sustained by faith in the principles of liberty and the values of a free society". Bush intends "to extend the benefits of liberty and prosperity through the spread of the American values and tangible rewards for good governance." Discussion and speculation abound. What will the new Americanized Europe look like?

No country will feel the effects of Americanization more than Norway, long known for its naïve view of social responsibility and fairness.

American values will liberate Norway from the repressive restrictions of its social-democratic philosophy. While now there are some disagreements over the look of the New Norway, a general consensus on major changes is taking form.

*After more than half a century of high-quality, universal and equal healthcare treatment for us all, Norwegians will adopt the more elegant pay-as-you-go American system. The best medicine will be reserved for those who can afford it. Those who can't, will either join a limited service, for profit HMO or simply go without healthcare. After all, who said that healthcare was a right? It is a privilege for those who

have earned the right to pay for it.

*As part of the same exciting transformation, Europeans will soon be paying 4 to 10 times more for their prescription drugs, bringing pricing in line with the American experience. Americans understand that all of the multinational pharmaceutical corporations have to make strong profit so that they can develop new drugs. The American way is to solve every health problem with a pill, so drug company profits must be protected at all costs.

*To improve the people of Norway and others their safety and allow them to defend their personal property, Europeans will be encouraged to own and always carry handguns, assault rifles and

PRESIDENT BUSH'S VERSION OF 3 WISE MEN



any other weapon they want. There is little doubt that Europe will be a "safer" place as promised by President Bush, once capital punishment returns, offering people the same deterrent protection against the murder of children and other innocents that Americans enjoy.

* Marijuana users will face long-term incarceration, raising public morality while also creating a boom in penal institution construction and also increased employment, not only for building tradesmen, but individuals attracted to the dynamic new profession of prison guard.

* Global fast-food companies will put out of business all small restaurants across Europe, allowing Europeans to enjoy the security of knowing that no matter where they travel, the food will always taste, smell and look identical and be served by minimum wage, uniformed High School kids or pensioners. McDonald's, Burger King, KFC, Subway and other franchises will eliminate the anxiety of restaurant choice. As all European towns and cities will look the same once the franchises and strip malls have been installed, Americans will no longer have to visit six countries in 10 days during their once-in-a-lifetime overseas trip.

* Stand a group of Europeans next to a group of Americans, and it is obvious that the former are nutritionally deprived. Once fast-food restaurants take over, Europeans will grow to their proper size. And the economic benefits will be multiple: Big and Tall shops will open in all countries. A billion-dollar diet industry will spring up. Foul-tasting low-fat foods will be everywhere. No food product will ever again be sold without a package that claims 10 to 99 percent less fat, calories, sodium, etc. etc.

* Food animals will be raised the American way. No longer will chickens, lamb, beef cattle or any food animal will be denied the benefits of growth hormones and antibiotic maxi-doses. Grains will all be biotech and farms will be run by huge multinational corporations, which will benefit everyone. Selfish small-acreage farms will be swallowed up. Enormous food animal facilities will allow neighbors

from miles around to smell the sweet scent of animal waste day and night. The sharing of animal droppings in streams, rivers and lakes will promote new exotic plant growth in unexpected places, greening our dull European world and delighting everyone.

* Europeans will no longer endure the burden of producing their own products. All items needed for good living will be produced in Third World Countries as cheap labour. Even better, each town, large or small and each city, will have at least one Wal-Mart to sell these goods. Wal-Mart will no longer be just "America's store" – it will supply the world with low-priced goods while providing minimum wage, no benefits, jobs for a permanent class of service serfs. As an added benefit, the congestion that has long plagued town centers in Europe will be removed, once Wal-Mart puts most small retail stores out of business.

* When it comes to work, it will be time for lazy Europeans to come to terms with the fact that "*La Dolce Vita*" may have been a great movie, but it's an unprofitable way to live. Four or more weeks of vacations every year as it was prevalent in Europe, will be replaced by two weeks (*after two years of work.*)

* Taxes before levied on the rich will be transferred to the middle class, creating a shortfall. Governments will then be justified in cutting back on public transportation or forcing it to privatize. Once railways and bus systems go on the auction block, automobile corporations will snap them up, as they did in many parts of America, and quickly bankrupt them. This will dramatically increase the need for cars, which will greatly increase employment in low-wage countries around the world. It won't be long before all Europeans either own or dream of the day that they will own and American-made SUV. These gas-guzzling polluters will warm the earth, bringing a smile to all of the freedom-loving Eskimos, Siberians and researchers on Baffin Land.

* Europe's confusing and chaotic political parties will be eliminated, replaced by a one-party system, pretending to be two. Europeans will learn that what they previously considered corruption (*giving huge*

cash donations to politicians to gain access and consideration) is really "free speech". At last they will be permitted to enjoy year-long election campaigns. No more six-week campaigns without TV advertising. All of those weekly forums when the leaders of each party sit together and present their vision to the public – b-o-r-l-n-g. American-style attack ads will bring pizzazz and entertainment back to politics.

* After years of dangerous transparency, Norwegian politicians will no longer be required by "sunshine" laws to turn over all correspondence not related to national security to any citizen who asks to see it. As Vice President of US Dick Cheney and the top oil executives who helped him formulate America's energy policy know, no government becomes great by letting the people in on what it is doing.

* Europe will adopt American accounting rules, allowing CEOs to adjust the profit figures and enrich executives, who are already paid over 500 times the wage of ordinary workers. Golden parachutes and \$1 million a year retirement packages for the CEOs will give European executives the incentive to do a better job for the shareholders. Government oversight of corporate business conduct will be replaced by the American system of self-regulation, which has proven to be so effective.

* For too many years Norwegians and other Europeans have been neglecting their economies - which means their patriotic-responsibilities. "*Living within one's means*" is a fine-sounding phrase, but it does nothing to help the national economy to grow. Consequently, all Europeans will be sent 5 to 20 credit cards, so that they can start to incur a level of debt consistent with American freedom and values.

* "*Whenever I hear the word 'culture' I reach for my revolver,*" Goebbels said, and his far-seeing words will provide the parameters for a bold new market-based approach to the arts and entertainment. The tax-supported public television stations will be sold to the commercial interests. The discredited 20th century notion of airways belonging to the people will be history, as will the limited economic potential of

broadcasting for the public good. Global media companies will decide what news or programs the public will see. Europeans will discover how much better entertainment is when a program is interrupted every 10 minutes to air five commercials.

*A new era of victimhood will lead Norwegians and other Europeans to sue en-masse for punitive damages. Presently the Europeans are expected to watch where they are going; they assume accidents to be at least in part their responsibility. When the America values prevail, this bizarre delusion will vanish, increasing the number of trial lawyers and other underrepresented professionals.

*Sustainable energy schemes like Denmark's electricity-producing windmills will be stopped. People will be encouraged to use energy created by oil and coal. After all, God put it there in the ground for our use; it would be wrong to turn our back on His gift. Europeans will realize that the Kyoto treaty is an insult to man's rightful dominion over nature. No country should ever sign treaties that might cause corporations to spend more money and thereby reduce profits; in the words of President Bush, "I'm not doing anything that will hurt the American economy."

Once American values are in place, no country in Europe will have to care about or cooperate with, any other country in the world. That's freedom!

*Europeans will accept that the best use of historic buildings is as gigantic billboards. If the Coliseum will stay in its present location, its name will be changed to the "Nike Coliseum". The preservation of culture, traditions, history and even language must be justified economically. Ninety Five percent of Norwegians may currently attend the Independence Day parades and celebrations, but no marketing studies have been carried out to determine whether these events generate enough business to make them economically feasible. If they do not, they must be ceased. Global soft-drink corporations will place their vending machines in every school, bending children's minds to assure brand loyalty and create lifelong consumers.

*With American values will come a mass influx of toupees. Unlike in Europe. no American politician, political pundit or TV news analyst appears to have ever lost a single hair. Moreover, research indicates that almost all American politicians who wear toupees avoided military service in their youth. One theory is that toupee wearers are never able to tolerate the heat of the false on their heads since they were never required to wear helmets.

* Finally, American values will enable Europeans to fulfill their real obligations. Instead of wasting their tax payers money on healthcare, social programs, repair of roads, bridges and support of cultural programs, the money will be spent on defense. The European Union will emerge as a potent military force. That will eliminate the endless time and millions of dollars needed to work in harmony with the rest of the world. Europe then can turn all of its efforts inward and not worry about things like world poverty, disease, environment, global warming, world pollution, brutal dictatorship or hunger. If other countries don't like it, tough! Like America, Europe will be a shining city of freedom on the distant hill, needing no one and watching out only for its own interests.

WE CAN HARDLY WAIT!

About the author: Erik H.Thoreson spends six months a year in his native land, Norway. He regularly comments on the state of America. ■

"Non intervention in Afghanistan after the Soviet defeat left the vacuum occupied. Occupied by Al Qaeda and its Taliban hosts. (It might be argued that without the assistance, stability might have been achieved through a Soviet victory, but that line of thought leads to an alternative world history that seems unattractive.)..."

Don't you just love the brackets?! Doesn't Levine deep down realize that the USA is the culprit?

Robert A. Levine, New York Times
With thanks to Eric Walberg-Uzbekistan ■

VIC
RATSMAN



SEPTEMBER 11 REVISITED

The US has used the attacks of September 11, 2001 on New York and the Pentagon, as an excuse for their quest of world domination. But what if Sept. 11 events are based on a lie?

The US Whitehouse has reached a deal with US legislators on a creation of an independent commission to investigate why the government failed to foil the Sept. 11, 2001 attacks. The question arises though, how independent this commission will be, for it is headed by an appointee of US President Bush and 5 of the 10 members are Republicans, while 6 votes are required as a minimum for a subpoena. The commission has an 18-month mandate. By the time the commission starts its work, more than 15 months will already have expired since the attacks, and, with an 18-month mandate, it could be 3 years after the event before we get indication on any conclusions.

The explanations of Sept. 11 events that were given by Bush, Cheney and other members of the Bush administration did not make sense right from the start and raised many suspicions of US government complicity in many quarters. Things just didn't add up. Investigators quickly pointed out major flaws in the explanations of what happened and pointed out that the government had received many warnings prior to Sept. 11 from scores of foreign governments and the intelligence organizations and, that it had plenty of opportunities for prevention that were missed in unexplainable fashion. It appeared as if they did not want to stop the attacks. What

Bush needed to get support for his aggressive plans was some shock treatment for the Americans, to frighten them into accepting what he called "the new reality" and this simplistic "you are either with us or with the terrorists". The major US media failed badly in its investigative task to get to the truth. The US media simply swallowed the government line and they were effectively silenced by the Bush regime. The Canadian media did not do much better. One visit to NORAD headquarters by the Canadian Broadcasting Corporation (CBC) reporter resulted in a TV program basically whitewashing the North American Air Defense. To my knowledge, since then, no further investigation has been undertaken by any major Canadian major media company. Yet, the truth of what allowed the attack to happen is of tremendous importance.

The regime of George W. Bush has used the events of September 11, 2001 as a pretext to set the course of his administration and at the same time the course of world history. He pronounced the War on Terrorism and declared the so-called Bush Doctrine, which, among other things, gives the USA the right at pre-emptive strikes, against any nation, group or organization he declares a danger to America or America's interests. It did not take long before a long list of such nations appeared, at the top of the list is Iraq and the Democratic Republic of Korea, which Bush labeled the Axis of Evil. Afghanistan had been attacked! Iraq appears to be the next in line and we can only guess where it goes from there, Iran? Pakistan? In the meantime, the rest of the world seems frozen to act against this blatant US aggression and Tony Blair of England, to his eternal shame, runs ahead of Bush as the flag waver for America.

In itself, the imperialist actions of the USA are not surprising. For many years they were thwarted in such actions by the Soviet Union, but the plans for control of the massive energy resources of Central Asia have existed for a long time. Economic, cultural, social and military domination of the world has been the goal of successive US administrations. These plans are

now documented in the Bush Doctrine (*The National Security Strategy of the USA, September 2002*) as well as in the document "Rebuilding America's Defenses, Strategy, Forces and Resources for a New Century, September 2000).

These documents leave absolutely no doubt about America's objectives, calling for enormous increases in US military spending, establishing bases everywhere in the world as well as in space, suppressing the potential rise of any competitor nation (*Russia, China, European Union take note!*) and speaking arrogantly of the American Century.

These objectives were all set in motion by accusing Arab terrorists (*operating under the name of al Qaeda and under the leadership of Osama bin Laden*) for the attacks of September 11, 2001. From what we know, it appears that this organization may well have carried out the attacks. The real question however, is: Did they do this with the consent and knowledge or even participation of the Bush regime? For if they did, all the actions by the US that followed the Sept. 11 events are based on a false premise, one that appears to have been swallowed lock, stock and



barrel by the world's politicians and major mass media. Only the independent media organizations* found on the Internet appear to have made a major effort to connect all the available pieces of information and draw any conclusions from them. Most people however, still receive their news from the major daily newspapers, radio and TV broadcasts. And so, the potential lie of Sept. 11 is being buried and the official line accepted by far too many without serious questioning. I now watch the news mainly to see what they leave out and what line they follow.

The foregoing is not to say that terrorism is not an issue that should be addressed, although it should not be confused with the legitimate struggles of the peoples for their freedom and their independence. Terrorism takes on many forms and not all acts are without foundation. State terrorism for instance invites retaliation by those who are being terrorized. It is the media's task to explain the difference. In the case of the September 11, 2001 attacks on New York and the Pentagon, there are far too many loose ends, which the media has chosen to ignore (*or been forced*) to ignore. It sets in motion a fast track program of re-colonization of the word by the USA through the use of superior military force and also to kick-start their imperialist ambitions for the American Century. The world's governments too, as seen in the United Nations, seem to cowardly tow the USA's line, providing only token opposition and collapsing in the end when the US tightens the screws. Our so-called "democracy" sure goes through some strange twists.

*From the Wilderness

(www.copvicia.com)

The Emperor's New Clothes

(www.tenv.net)

CROCODILE TEARS

BY VIC RATSMA

For more than 50 years, Radio Free Europe / Radio Liberty have been broadcasting into the countries of Eastern Europe. They are still doing it today. As the mouthpiece of US foreign policy, they strained

themselves to undermine the socialist system of the Soviet Union and its allies, and to this day they celebrate its downfall. So, how real can be their tears about the poverty they created?

Radio Free Europe and Radio Liberty (RFE/RL) were an American cold war creation. They commenced broadcasting in 1950, aiming their propaganda primarily at the Soviet Union and its socialist allies for the purpose of creating and encouraging dissatisfaction with the Soviet government, supporting all the dissident elements and undermining the credibility of the socialist system, all the while hailing the American values of capitalist democracy, freedom and liberty. The subject of so-called human rights violations in the USSR was one of their favorite topics.

Of course, we have long since learned – if we didn't know it before - what American democracy, freedom, liberty and human rights policies really represent. Without falling prey to a long list of US statistics, it perhaps suffices to mention that 40 million people in the USA live below the poverty level line, many are without medical insurance and all sort of guns are everywhere. The restrictions placed on personal liberty since September 11, 2001 through the enactment of the US Patriotic Act and the Homeland Security Act, make a complete mockery out of the American people's freedom. Innocent people are being arrested, jailed and kept incommunicado; the treatment of Afghan prisoners held in Guantanamo, Cuba is internationally condemned, international treaties are being revoked, ignored and violated etc. etc.

As the result of all this, the image of America abroad has suffered considerably since the days of the Cold War, but this has not affected the folks at Radio Free Europe/Radio Liberty, who are as enthusiastic about capitalism and opposed to socialism as ever. You have to wonder then what hypocrisy now causes them to decry the poverty and misery that has befallen many of the people in the former Soviet Union.

One recent article (1) bemoans the living conditions of pensioners, who once were productive, well educated Soviet citizens with a

secure future in old-age, but who now try to survive on an average pension of \$45 US (1,417 rubles) per month while the minimum required to live is \$180 per month. Among others RFE/RL spoke to Nina Matveeva who for 40 years worked as a geologist, 19 of which were in the Far North of Russia. Now 70 years old, she lives without savings on a miserly pension in a run-down Moscow apartment with 30- year old furniture, a 30 - year old fridge and, except for her television, without any modern appliances. She has to travel 3 hours to and from a local market where the food is cheapest, buys virtually no meat, and has to count every kopec she spends. Many seniors have to try and earn some extra rubles doing menial tasks for some better off people in order to make ends meet.

In another story (2) RFE/RL talks about the lot of homeless during the Russian winter. Even though winter has barely started (December 6) already 133 people have died from exposure on Moscow streets. Alexei Nikiforov, a cardiologist with Doctors Without Borders, says that over 3000 people suffer due to exposure in Moscow during the winter months and about 400 of them die on the streets each year. Even worse, says Nikiforov, the general public in Moscow and other cities does not seem to care and walks right by someone who has collapsed on the street. Such are just some of the consequences of the collapse of socialism and the Soviet Union.

In a country where the political system was once designed to look after all of its citizens and did so within its means of possibilities, these stories reflect the decay in economic, social, human and moral terms in the change from socialism to capitalism. Radio Free Europe / Radio Liberty, as the ongoing aggressive participants in the downfall of the Soviet Union, funded since 1950 by the West, have indeed a lot to be proud of. **Crocodile tears out of hypocrisy.**

(1) <http://www.rferl.org>

DID YOU DONATE TO
SUSTAINING FUND?

DR./PROFESSOR
MIRKO SVOBODA



NATO in PRAGUE

Last November there was a NATO Summit in Prague. The aggressive character of NATO was again confirmed, when this alliance decided to accept seven more European states to its fold, to take action against Iraq, to increase its military capacity and to modernize its rapid deployment force. President Bush used this forum to put in motion the eminent attack against Iraq even though Germany and France showed some reservations.

Czech President Havel showed lavish agreement, at the end of his term as president, to support in total the policy of NATO and US imperialism as expressed by Bush at this summit: doubts about international jurisdiction, state sovereignty, the meaning of the UN Charter and the importance of the United Nations in preserving world peace. Havel, in lavish praise of Bush guaranteed that he will send 700 Czech soldiers to the NATO rapid deployment military units.

This NATO summit confirmed that it has aggressive intentions against "Enemy #1-Iraq" and the "global terrorism". It is evident that UN is not the voice that will decide when it should act, it will be NATO which desires that the US be the "world policeman" which will decide when and where it wants to attack any given country. It is the USA through NATO that will re-divide the world on behalf of the multinational corporations and the end results will be to suppress the role of the United Nations – this was made very clear at the Prague summit.

This summit obviously did not discuss why people in some states resort to terror as a form of struggle. But the discussion was about the re-division of the world. There was of course no discussion about the

unbearable poverty of the Third World countries, or about the consequences of the global exploitation, or the harmful political intrigues in the many international organizations that serve the multinational corporations. What was clear was the monstrosity of the imperialist aspirations, especially the present American administration.

The Prague Summit encountered large-scale demonstrations, not as numerous as the 2000 WB financial institutions held in Prague.

Prague organized 12,000 full armed police and the financial expenditures is estimated at one billion crowns, and this, in the year that the Czech Republic was devastated by the biggest floods of the century and devastation of gigantic proportions.

There are a number of questions in front of humanity about the future and existence of NATO and the total aims humanity is facing of this aggressive pact...global wars, violence and terror, multiplied by the abuse of weapons of mass destruction. NATO is opening the door to the most reactionary forces, which want to suppress the work and authority of the United Nations Organization. This policy is spreading hatred amongst nations, giving impetus to nationalism and bigotry.

But, international justice will prevail and justice will be legally accomplished, the same as it was done in 1945 at Nuremberg. The new war criminals will be punished! ■

WAR IS GOOD BUSINESS

BY CONN HALLINAN

War, the expression goes, is a bad business. It's certainly not a good idea if you're a soldier or a civilian, caught in the middle of one, and it tends to raise havoc with things like domestic spending. But if you are Lockheed Martin, Northrop Grumman or former Joint Chiefs of Staff chair, Admiral (ret) William Crowe Jr., these are salad days.

For those who make war instruments, war is a very good

business indeed, and, while the rest of the economy may be tanking, things that go "*bang or boom*" and kill people are on a roll.

Boeing, for instance, doubled its production of JDAM kits (\$25,000 a pop), which make dumb bombs smart. Raytheon added an extra shift to produce its Pathway laser guided bombs (\$55,600 apiece), while Alliant Techsystems is churning out 265 million rounds of small arms ammunition (\$92 million.)

This is the era of high tech war, which is good news for General Atomics Aeronautical Systems and its unmanned surveillance and attack aircraft, the Predator. The going rate is \$25 million for four. So, too, for Northrop Grumman, with its' over \$20 million Global Hawk, the Cadillac of robot aircraft. Northrop, which recently swallowed TRW for \$7.8 billion, is projected to earn \$26 billion in revenues this year alone.

To keep all of these machines talking to their operators, Boeing is pitching its Wideband Gap satellite (\$1.3 billion per unit) and Lockheed Martin, Hughes and TRW are pushing their EHG Advanced Wideband satellite for \$2.7 billion a shot.

And if you're Admiral Crowe Jr., you are cashing in on a real smart investment. Back in 1998 the State of Michigan sold the vaccine company, Bioport, to a group of private investors. At that time, the company was under fire from the Federal Drug Administration for poor quality control of its smallpox vaccine. Crowe Jr. and company bought the place for a song and, shortly thereafter, landed a \$60 million contract from the US Department of Defense.

You don't have to kill people to make money. Take Kellogg Brown & Root, owned by Vice President Dick Cheney's old company, Halliburton. The construction company has been building bases since World War II and had a virtual lock on military construction during the Vietnam War. It made \$2,5 billion from the DOD during the 1990's and is presently building bases in Afghanistan (*but all of these costs are classified information*).

Other war bases are now being constructed in Yemen, Pakistan, Turkey, Georgia, Uzbekistan, Kyrgyzstan, India and the

Philippines. No need to go to uncomfortable places to make money from all this. The Homeland Security budget in the USA is now \$37.7 billion, and the military industrial business types are already thundering towards the trough.

USA spends in excess of \$465 billion each year, or over \$1.2 billion every single day.

BUSH, JESUS and the CIA

By RB Ham here comes the new improved American



Gun and bible firmly in hand
Grateful to be raped by the CEO
Head firmly planted in the sand
There will come a reckoning
To those who stand in the way
You'd better get on board
Or there'll be hell to pay.

Bush, Jesus and the CIA
Saddam and Osama working hard
for their pay
Gonna terrify you into giving up all
your rights
So they can protect you when you
turn out the lights.

Bush, Jesus and the CIA
Orwell had it right and its happening
today
Ashcroft has a plan for those who
dissent
Soon they'll be wondering where the
Constitution went.

Here comes the New World Order
They've worked it out to a T
They own the message and the
messenger
The people only know what they see.

Homeland insecurity, constant hype
of fear

Freedom and Liberty-unrequired
luxury

Operation Northwoods updated
Nazi Reichstag Fire – when will you
see?

Bush, Jesus and the CIA

Saddam and Osama working hard
for their pay

Gonna terrify you into giving up all
your rights

So they can protect you when you
turn out the lights.

Here comes a force fed Armageddon

Extremists steal your faith that way

Abandon hope, all ye who enter

The end times seem to be here to
stay.

Fascist reality has intruded

Eclipsing any dreams of peace

Better get used to endless wars

Your children's future is on lease.

Bush, Jesus and the CIA

Orwell* had it right and it's

happening today

Ashcroft has a plan for those who

dissent

Soon you'll be wondering where the

Constitution went.

*"George Orwell: "If liberty means
anything at all, it means the right to tell
the people what they do not want to
hear."*

Canada: Ready for the 'Anschluss'?

By Vic Ratsma

Some years ago I knew
someone who had started his own
small business. He specialized in
the repair of transistor radios and
related electronic products for
general consumer use. His
customers were primarily the
general public and some small
stores selling radio equipment but
not wanting to do their own repairs.
The business did reasonably well
and earned enough to make a living
for its owners.

One day, a large department
store chain came along and

requested the firm start repairing
their radios under contract. It was an
enticing offer, one that ensured a lot
of extra work for the firm and so a
deal was made.

It was not long however before
the large firm started to demand
priority service for its repairs, which
caused delays for the original
regular customers who became
fewer in number. Thus, after a while,
the firm became totally dependent
on the department store chain and
thereby lost its independence. One
day the contract was terminated and
the firm went bankrupt.

In a somewhat similar vein, in
the past two decades or so, Canada
has lost a good deal of its
independence to the U.S.A. Before
signing the Free Trade Agreement
(FTA) with the United States,
Canada prided itself for its
independent role in foreign affairs,
which consisted primarily in
peacekeeping operations through
the United Nations, championing of
human rights and standing up for
the underdeveloped world through
development projects and foreign
aid.

Canada also followed a different
social policy path than the United
States, patterning itself more on the
Western European model than that
of the U.S.A. Government played an
active role in the development of the
nation and supported and assisted
in the development of a typical
Canadian culture.

The signing of the FTA and later
the North American Free Trade
Agreement (NAFTA) which also
includes Mexico changed all that.

Today, Canada is in danger of being
completely dominated by its
neighbour to the south, a situation
that is further aggravated by the
security paranoia following the
events of September 11, 2001. To
get some idea, the free trade
agreements have had the following
effect on Canada's economy:

1) Lost total ownership and control
over its energy resources, primarily
oil and gas.

2) Lost the ability to pass
independent environmental
legislation, which are subject to the
provisions of NAFTA.

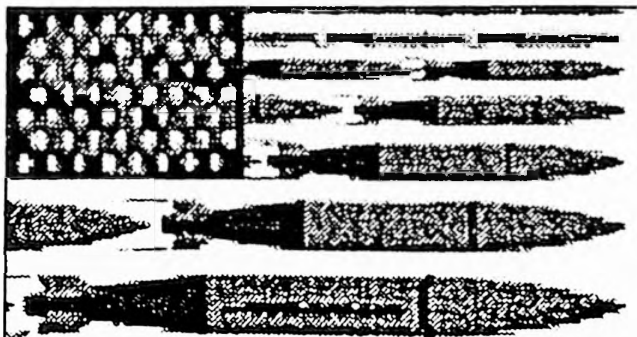
3) Threatens Canada's water
resources, which under NAFTA are
defined as a 'commodity' and thus
subject to trade. The U.S. is looking
to solve its water shortages by
obtaining access to Canada's
resources.

4) Canada's social policy - which is
under public control - is in danger of
being privatized and opened up to
American corporations for profit.

5) Canada's industrial development
agency (CIDA), which once played a
progressive role in supporting
projects in underdeveloped nations,
has been transformed into a
promoter of Canadian industry.

6) Foreign direct investment in
Canada between 1985 and 1997
consists on average of 93.4% take-
over of Canadian companies, a rate
which has accelerated since then.
Consequently, more and more
decisions affecting Canada are
made in the boardrooms of
American corporations.

**WILL THIS
BE THE
NEW FLAG
OF THE
USA?**



We Come in Peace

7) Recently, suggestions have been made by business-funded think-tanks that Canada should adopt the U.S. dollar as its currency, thereby handing monetary control over to Washington.

8) Canada's trade with the U.S. now represent 85% of total exports (*up from 74% in 1989*).

Additionally, Canada has ceased to be the peace-making nation it once was and now willingly participates in U.S. instigated aggressive warfare, such as in the Balkans and Afghanistan.

It is not difficult to see that under these conditions Canada's total integration into the North American economy (*read USA's economy*) is almost a fait-accomplis. Successive Canadian governments have buckled under to U.S. pressures and threats of economic sanctions during trade disputes and even when disputes are won, punishing penalties are applied by the U.S. to Canadian industries. A 1985 U.S. Congressional report even stated that: **"Access to Canadian gas supplies was a point of national security"**. In fact, there is a provision in NAFTA that is called *'proportional sharing'*, in which Canada must guarantee to the U.S. market the same percentage of Canadian production regardless of Canadian needs, in perpetuity.

As if all this was not enough, new proposed trade agreements seem to pop up like mushrooms, namely the General Agreement on Trade in Services (GATS) and the Free Trade Area of the Americas (FTAA), which will place even more restrictions on independent policy making and extend the area to include all of the Americas (North, Central and South). All these so-called agreements are part of the American objective of total domination of the world and the New World Order forcibly being implemented by the Bush regime. So far only token resistance has been in evidence around the world. Apparently, no one is yet prepared to stand up against the U.S. bully for fear of economic and/or military reprisals. Only international solidarity on the grandest scale can halt this process, which requires the collective will of many governments.

I have stated the case of Canada because I am most familiar with it,

but it is applicable anywhere. It will not require military force to subject Canada to the will of the U.S.A. That is already very effectively being done by economic and social pressure. Canadians may yet resist a formal **"Anschluss"** with the U.S.A. but in practical terms it has lost most of its independence. A phrase in Canada's national anthem states: "O Canada, We Stand on Guard for Thee". I think the guard (*i.e. the government*) has proved to

be a traitor, not unlike those who sold out the Soviet Union.

So while the focus today is very much on U.S. aggression in the Middle East and the so-called War on Terrorism, we should not lose sight of America's other methods of *"liberating"* us from ourselves through trade agreements that undermine our independence and subject us to American dominance and control.

THE SECRET WAR ON IRAQ

By JOHN PILGER – THE MIRROR

The American and British attack on Iraq has already begun, even without the declaration of war. While the British Blair government continues to claim in Parliament that *"no final decision has been taken"* the Royal Air Force and US fighter bombers have secretly changed tactics and escalated their *"patrols"* over Iraq to an all-out assault on both military and civilian targets.

American and British bombing of Iraq has increased by 300 per cent. Between March and November of 2002, according to the British Ministry of Defense replies to MPs, the Royal Air Force has dropped more than 124 tones of bombs on Iraq.

From August to December of 2003, there were 62 attacks by American F-16 aircraft and RAF Tornados – an average of bombing raid every two days. These raids, are said to have been aimed only at Iraqi *"air defenses"*, but many have fallen on mostly populated areas, where civilian deaths are unavoidable.

Under the United Nations Charter and the conventions of war and international law, these attacks amount to acts of piracy: no different in principle, from the German fascist Luftwaffe's bombing in Spain in 1930s as precursor to its invasion of all of Europe.

This bombing of Iraq is a *"secret war"* that has seldom been news. Since 1991, and especially in the last four years, it has been unrelenting and is now deemed the longest Anglo-American campaign of aerial bombardment since the Second World War.

The US and also British governments justify it by claiming they have a UN Security Council resolution. To be sure about this, I asked Dr. Boutro Boutro-Ghali, who was Secretary General of the United Nations in 1992 when the Resolution 688 was passed. *"The issue of no fly zones was not raised and therefore not debated: not a word,"* he said. *"They offer no legitimacy to countries sending their aircraft to attack Iraq."*

In 1999, Tony Blair claimed the no fly zones allowed the US and Britain to perform *"a vital humanitarian task"* in protecting the Kurds in the north of Iraq and the ethnic Marsh Arabs in the south. In fact, British and American aircraft have actually provided cover for neighbouring Turkey's repeated invasions of northern Kurdish Iraq.

Turkey is critical to the American *"new world order"*. Overseeing the oilfields of the Middle East and Central Asia, it is a member of NATO and the recipient of billion of dollars' worth of American weapons and military equipment. Turkey is where the British and American bombers are based.

A long-running insurrection by Turkey's Kurdish population is regarded by Washington as a threat to the *"stability"* of Turkey's *"democracy"* that is a front for its military, which is among the world's worst violators of human rights. Hundreds of thousands of Turkish Kurds have been displaced and an estimated 30,000 killed. Turkey, unlike Iraq, is *"our friend."*

In 1995 and 1997, as many as 50,000 Turkish troops, backed by tanks and fighter aircraft, occupied what the West called "Kurdish safe havens."

They terrorized Kurdish villages and murdered civilians. In December of 2000 they were back, committing the atrocities that the Turkish military commits with immunity against its own Kurdish population.

For joining the US "coalition" against Iraq, the Turkish regime is to be rewarded with a bribe worth \$5 billion. Turkey's invasions are rarely reported in Britain. So great is the collusion of the Blair government that, virtually unknown to the British Parliament and the British public, the RAF and the Americans have, from time to time, deliberately suspended their "humanitarian" patrols in order to allow the Turks to get on with killing of the Kurds in Iraq.

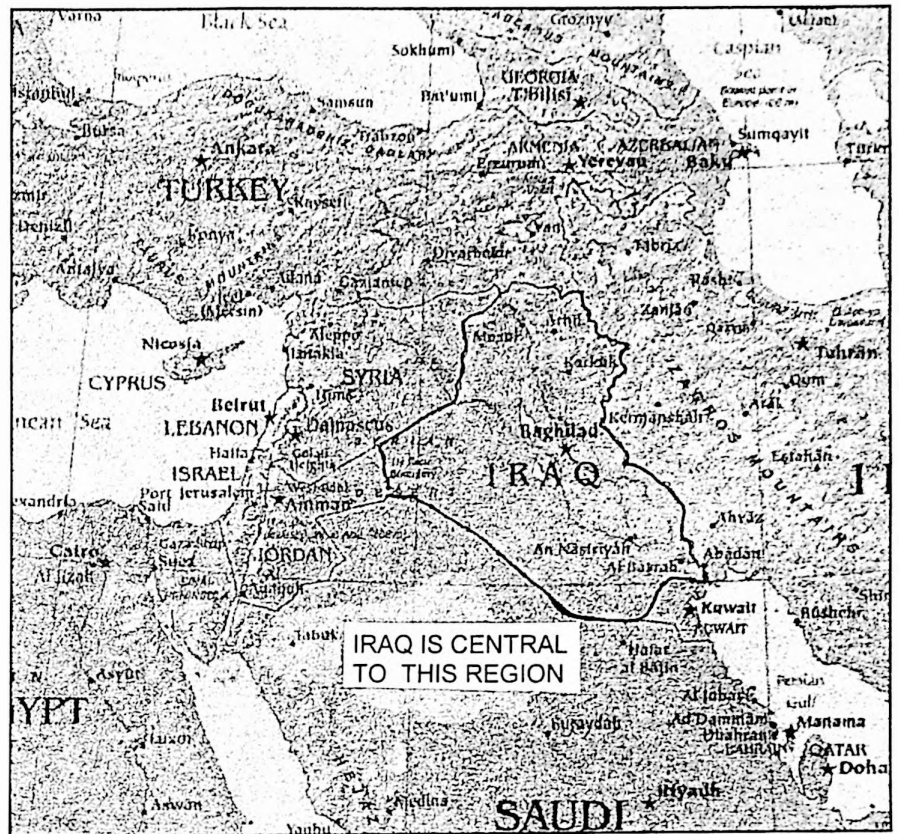
In March of 2001, the RAF pilots patrolling the "no fly zones" in Kurdish Iraq publicly protested for the first time about their enforced duplicity in the Turkish campaign. The pilots complained that they were frequently ordered to return to their base in Turkey in order to allow the Turkish air force to bomb the very people they were meant to be "protecting".

American pilots, who fly in tandem with the British, are also ordered to turn their planes around and turn back to Turkey in order to allow the Turks to devastate the Kurdish "safe havens".

The Turks do no more than the American and British aircraft in their humanitarian guise. The sheer scale of the Anglo-American bombing is astonishing, with Britain as a junior partner. During the 18 months to January 1999, American aircraft flew 36,000 sorties over Iraq, including 24,000 combat missions.

The term "combat" is highly deceptive. Iraq has virtually no air force and no modern defenses. Thus, "combat" means dropping bombs or firing missiles at the infrastructure that has been laid waste by a 12-year old embargo.

The US Wall Street Journal, the authentic voice of the American establishment, described this eloquently when it reported that the US faced "a genuine dilemma" in Iraq. After eight years of enforcing the no fly zone in the north and in the



south of Iraq, few targets remain. *"We're down to the last outhouse."* one US official protested.

I have seen the results of these attacks. When I drove from the northern city of Mosul three years ago, I saw the remains of an agricultural water tanker and truck, riddled with bullet holes, shrapnel from a missile, a shoe and the wool and skeletons of about 150 sheep.

A family of six, a shepherd, his father and his wife and four children, were blown to pieces here. The landscape here was treeless, open country: a sheer moonscape. The shepherd, his family and his sheep would have been clearly visible from the air by the pilots.

It was not known as to who, was it British or American planes that produced this carnage. When the details of the attack was put to the British Ministry of defense in London, the official reply was: "We reserve the right to take robust action when threatened." This attack was significant, because it was clearly investigated and verified by senior United Nations official in Iraq, at that time, Hans Von Sponeck, who drove there especially to investigate.

He confirmed that there were no installations of any kind, not alone military.

Mr. Sponeck recorded his findings in a confidential memo to the UN Security Section. He also confirmed dozens of such attacks. So regular were such attacks that Von Sponeck ordered UN relief convoys suspended that very afternoon.

For this, Von Sponeck, a senior and well-respected UN civil servant, made extremely powerful enemies in Washington and London.

The Americans demanded that Mr. Kofi Annan, the UN Secretary General fire him and were surprised when Annan stood by his chief representative in Iraq. However, within a few months, Von Sponeck felt that he could no longer run the humanitarian program under such heavy pressure from US and Britain, her resigned in protest, just as his successor Dennis Halliday, a Deputy Under Secretary of the UN, had done. Halliday called the US and British-driven embargo against Iraq "genocide".

US and Britain are preparing to use cluster bombs, deep penetration "bunker" bombs and also depleted uranium will almost certainly be used. Depleted uranium is a weapon of mass destruction. Coated on missiles, and tank shells, its explosive force spreads radiation over a wide area, especially in the

desert dust.

The most devastating weapon of mass destruction was briefly in the news when UNICEF, the United Nation's Children's Fund, released its annual State of the World's Children report.

The human cost of the American-driven embargo of Iraq is spelled out in statistics that require no comment.

*Iraq's child mortality rate has nearly tripled since 1990 to levels in some of the world's most underdeveloped countries.

*The country's regression over the past decade is by far the most severe of the 193 countries that were surveyed. UNICEF said that more than a quarter of Iraqi babies were now underweight and that more than one fifth were stunted from severe malnutrition.

Under the US inspired rules of the embargo, Iraqis are allowed less than \$100 per person to sustain life fore an entire year.

To date, the cost of the current "secret" and illegal British bombing of Iraq is over a billion English pounds. ■

BRATISLAVA – SLOVAKIA THOUSANDS OF UNIONISTS PROTEST AGAINST PRESENT CONDITIONS

BY OLEG KOSHEVOY

About 25,000 protestors marched in Bratislava, Slovakia, and since the November putsch of 1989 was there such number of people seen on the streets. This was a protest against the Czech counter-revolutionary Vaclav Havel's administration that dismembered Czechoslovakia. The number of demonstrators would have probably been much higher, but the Slovak and foreign employers prohibited all of their employees marching on pain of being fired.

The protest gave a clear signal what this counter-revolution can expect this coming spring. Drastic increases in energy costs, will affect all the population that now stands at 18% unemployed. We can expect social unrest and violent reaction by the new greedy bourgeois. The question of the number of protestors should be looked at as to the contents and slogans of the



protestors. The union leader Ivan Saktor said that the protestors blocked all cross streets and roads in the capital city of Bratislava. The protestors carried signs about the upcoming budget, which is geared to restrict the power of the workers and of their unions. If this stage budget is approved, the number of those living under the poverty line will increase by about 30%, which means about 1,500,000 people.

According to the trade union leader Ivan Saktor, this protest was the test for the upcoming planned spring demonstrations, if the Slovak government will not take this trade union warning seriously.

This protest demonstration was supported by some politicians, such as Robert Fico of the right opposition, who said that the present Slovak government cannot ignore the number of protestors and that his

party will not support the government legislation which are anti social.

The representative of the Communist Party of Slovakia Karol Faynor, said that the demonstrators were there to warn the government that it cannot ignore the terrible state of affairs and that it cannot throw all of the ongoing problems unto the shoulders of the working people.

Now, ten years later, after the counter-revolution, the sobering effects are being understood and felt. The catchwords of democracy, solidarity, freedom, well being of all people that was being fed daily to the people by Radio Free Europe, the Voice of America and all other saboteurs and criminal elements inside NATO, have lost of their meaning and values. People are beginning to wake up!

Here is just one photo of the demonstrations held against the



present Slovak government.

On previous page (top) a photo of German nationalist movement in Slovakia to change the names of cities, towns and villages from Slovak into German. This policy is being supported indirectly by the present regime and Germany. ■

THE ROAD FORWARD IS THE MARXIST-LENINIST SCIENCE

From newspaper *Dialog*

M. Ransdorf of the CC of the Communist Party of the Czech Republic is committing a very deceitful act.

It is not an accident that Marxist-Leninist science is a decisive working class weapon in its struggle to liberate itself from the capitalist exploitative system and it is still the target of attacks by the world reactionary forces. When the Communist Manifesto was published in 1848, all powers of Europe – the Pope, the Tsar, French and German officials joined in the vicious attacks. The same is still going on today.

In resistance against socialism and communism, there joined together the American, British, French ruling class, plus NATO, IMF, World Bank plus the European Union and others.

These attacks are more frantic, because the Marxist-Leninist course and socialism after the Great October Socialist Revolution showed the road ahead, instead of the bourgeois society with its classes and anti-classes, and socialism will succeed in which each individual is free from exploitation. (*Marx-Engels, Communist Manifesto, page 47*)

Therefore, every Communist and honest person is very worried about Ransdorf's "New Reading of Marx", because he is trying to subvert the revolutionary science and class solution to social problems. He, as a leading member of the CC of the Communist Party of Bohemia and Moravia is trying to actually subvert Marxism. His writing in the newspaper "Halo Noviny" about the role of Stalin is in complete conflict

with historical facts. He writes: "Stalin in 1920's tried to suppress the "left opposition" and carried out a speeded-up program of accumulation and of industrialization that resulted in confusion and failure in food supplies and deaths of millions of people."

At the same time this member of CC tries to conceal the fact that the economic disruption was caused by the counter-revolutionary White Guards and all their foreign friends and interventionists.

It was the industrialization and collectivization that raised the economy, culture level of the entire society and decided the outcome of the Great Patriotic War.

COMMENT:

Maybe Mr. Ransdorf and the CC of the Czech Party should be very thankful that they are alive, all due to the thousands of Red Army heroes who died liberating Czechoslovakia and that stopped fascism in its tracks. There were thousands of others that tried and are trying to subvert Marxism as does Ransdorf, but they are all pigmies in relation to Marx, Engels, Lenin and yes, Stalin. Editor of NSC. ■

SPAIN'S ANTI-TERRORISM JUDGE SLAMS PRESIDENT BUSH

From *DeWaarheid*

Spain's top anti-terrorism judge accused President George W. Bush of supporting international crime by rejecting the International Criminal Court and curtailing legal rights of people accused of terrorism.

"Bush says no to the International Criminal Court but says yes to international crime." Baltasar Garzon said in an interview published the last Sunday of December, 2002 in the Madrid daily. The Spanish judge has complained that Bush has curtailed the rights of detainees held at the US base at Guantanamo Bay in Cuba. About 600 men there have not been formerly charged and have no access to lawyers or the courts.

The United States has renounced the newly-formed International Criminal Court over concerns of politically motivated prosecutions of US military and US citizens.

Garson gained international fame in 1998 for trying to prosecute former

Chilean dictator Augusto Pinochet on human grounds. He also accused the Israeli government of committing terrorism, against the Palestinians.

Garson said: "When the Israeli government attacks the Palestinian population with missiles and destroys houses in villages, because a suicide bomber is from that district, it is also acting with terrorist methods!" ■

IS CHINA STILL A PUZZLE?

From Red Flag News / Nov. 2002

In the UN and the Security Council, members like China and non-permanent members like Syria bowed to US imperialism's aggressive designs.

The Security Council of UN shows that China is no longer a "puzzle", it has reduced itself to a junior or a bit more than a junior partner of US imperialism, ready to support US hegemonism for its own share of the loot. The "Non Aligned" movement that China supported before has now disappeared forever and the underdeveloped countries, including India are kow-towing to US orders.

If China for some readers is still a "puzzle", the deliberation of the 16th Congress of the CPC show that whatever some may interpret, the CPC leadership is preparing the party and the Chinese people to go ahead with its capitalist plans. After pursuing 13 years of "Market Socialism" Jiang Zemin is preparing to step down by leaving his own "theoretical contribution" labeled "Jian Zemin's Three Representative Theories". He wants the CPC to represent three forces in Chinese society: the advanced productive forces (that is now the new capitalist class who have come up through market socialism), the advanced cultural forces (meaning the representation of the working class) and the rest of the overwhelming Chinese people.

This is nothing more than a new-furnished theory of Krushchov's theory of the "party of the whole people" that the CPC before condemned in their "Great Debate" as a surrender of the party to the capitalist class. Continuing with red flags and hammer and sickle and

red stars, is nothing but "waving the red flag to destroy the red flag" as Chairman Mao said. This 16th Congress shows that China is pushing towards a full-fledged capitalist country, moving according to the laws of motion of capital and market system. ■

ANTI-DEMOCRATIC DEVELOPMENTS ON THE ISRAELI PARLIAMENTARY SCENE

From Central Committee
Communist Party of Israel

Dear friends:

It is our sad duty to bring to your attention a set of very serious and dangerous developments on the Israel parliamentary scene.

The present ruling coalition, headed by the Likud Party and the Labor Party, has given support to a draconian set of measures. These new laws are cynically aimed at canceling the representation of our Communist faction in parliament, the Democratic Front for Peace and Equality and that of the Arab lists, which together hold ten seats in the 120-member Israeli Knesset. It will come as no surprise to our friends and the enlightened public opinion abroad the sordid method adopted by the ruling coalition and its right-wing allies to this end, which is to redefine legitimate political positions and arguments as acts of terror or acts condoning or assisting terror.

Israel already has on the books a very wide ranging set of laws pertaining to terror, most of which have been adopted with little or no change from the period of the British Colonial Mandate. This previous Israel legislation, has been described by distinguished jurists and civil rights organizations as a blot on Israel democracy. Now, in the wake of new crisis and contradictions in the Israeli political arena, further dangerous steps have been taken by the Sharon-Peres Government, in order to eliminate any parliamentary representation of the large number of Israel's Palestinian Arab peoples representation, which is a fifth of Israeli population, and of peace activists and Communists.

This is the result of the four anti-democratic laws adopted on May 15, 2002 by the Knesset

These laws are part of an attempt of the political establishment to impose anti-democratic restrictions on public debate and on the criticism of the current Israeli policies. This attempt is implemented by now criminalizing the perfectly open, valid and also legitimate views, including views widely held among a large majority of the Israeli public, that the occupation of Palestinian lands is detrimental to the Israeli interests. These new laws convert these views into a criminal act under the new Israeli law. During the debate of these laws, the right-wing legislators openly asserted that the laws are aimed at the Arab and Jewish left-wing members of the Knesset.

Dear friends:

We, the members of the Parliamentary faction in the Knesset, are also members of the leadership of the Communist Party of Israel, request that you alert all democratic forces and the media in your countries, to the dire consequences of this new anti-democratic legislation.

It is our firm belief that protests and criticism from abroad can be very effective in either repealing these acts or neutralizing their effect. We are, of course, willing to answer any questions or comments that you might have.

Central Committee
Communist Party of Israel

BULGARIANS FEEL SWINDELED AFTER 13 YEARS OF CAPITALISM

From De WAARHEID

Bulgarians, who gave up socialism in 1989, feel swindled by capitalism and remain one of the poorest European Union candidate countries.

"Bulgarians remember a time not so long ago when they could rely on their health and education systems, and when their holidays were guaranteed," said a political analyst Kolio Kolev of the Mediana Institute in Sofia.

"Thirteen years after the fall of communism this is no longer the case, and Bulgarians have become angry, radical and unhappy with their lot," he added.

In a recent study by the US Pew Research Center, less than 8 per cent of Bulgarians said that they were content with their lot – this is the lowest rate in continental Europe and equivalent to the rate in Tanzania, Africa's most discontent country. The study was based on 38,000 individual interviews taken in 44 countries all across all five continents.

"The eight per cent who are satisfied in Bulgaria are the 8% that are well off," said political analyst Miroslava Yanova.

Bulgarian people have become demoralized and very small minority have benefited from the transition to market economy.

According to Jivka Georgiev of the Gallup Institute, less than 5% of Bulgarians have seen their standard of living improve since the fall of socialism, while 68% have dropped down the social scale.

According to the Bulgarian Statistical Institute, 40% of the country's population has to live on a monthly income of less than 100 leva (49 Euro dollars). A recent report by UNICEF said that 33% of Bulgarian children and adolescence want to live abroad and that 78% want a higher standard of living.

"Nearly 40% of children, who used to get yearly state sponsored holidays and that were born after 1989 have never been on a holiday. One in five Bulgarian children have rotten teeth because their parents cannot afford to pay a dentist. The nation's quality of life is collapsing", said Kolev. ■

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SOMETIMES EVEN BOURGEOIS COLUMNISTS TELL THE TRUTH!

From
Toronto
Star,
Canada

*Simply put, the USA lives by the sword and will die by the sword.

*US said that it must punish Iraq for non-compliance of UN Resolutions. This is very widely mocked by those who point out that Israel has been in constant violation of many UN resolutions.

*It's a UN issue, not a US issue: Most UN members condemned and disapproved of US bombing of Iraq. *Iraqis are suffering, but that is Saddam's fault, not ours: This cavalier attitude is immoral and over 5,000 children in Iraq die every month and a million early deaths due to bombings and nine years of economic sanctions.

*CIA Agents spill the beans: John Stockwell CIA Director for 12 years helped to destabilize and change governments in Angola, South Vietnam, etc, etc. He now said: I want to do everything I can to stop this Agency, it's my patriotic duty. I certainly considered killing myself after I saw children burn alive in Vietnam due to the napalm bombs. Former CIA and FBI agents have death wish for these two inhuman organizations.

*In the aftermath of World War II : US and British governments gave immunity to the Japanese and German fascist scientists in exchange for their research data into terrible toxic chemicals. One of these war criminals Lt. General Ishii Shiro head of secret Japanese chemical experimenting agency was allowed to breed mosquito's in the USA and which in 1956 US planes and helicopters released many millions of them over Florida. These mosquitoes carried yellow fever. Thousands of victims and deaths were never reported.

* In 1983 George Bush, president of US cast the turning vote in the US Congress which had USA resume production of chemical weapons, against the wishes of the UN Security Council.

*Pope John has beautified 233 Roman Catholics who fought on the side of fascist Franco in Spain during the bitter 1936 civil war. These priests and nuns defended the fascist regime of Franco

THE BUSH DYNASTY AND THE CUBAN CRIMINALS

FROM DE WAARHEID

The brother of President George W. Bush, the Florida Governor, Jeb Bush, has been instrumental in securing the release from prison of militant Cuban exiles convicted of terrorist offences, according to a new book. The Bush family has also accommodated the demands of Cuban exile hardliners in exchange for electoral and financial support, the book suggests.



Last year, after the September 11, while the justice department announced a sweep of terrorist suspects, Cubans convicted of terrorist offences were being released from US jails with the consent of the Bush administration, according to the book: *"Cuba Confidential: Love and Vengeance in Miami and Havana"*, by Ann Louise Bardach, the US award-winning investigative journalist who has covered Cuban and Miami politics for the New York Times and Vanity Fair.

The Bush family connections go

back to 1984 when Jeb Bush began a close association with Camilo Padreda, a former intelligence officer with the Batista dictatorship Fidel Castro.

Jeb Bush was then the chairman of the Dade county Republican Party and Padreda was its finance chairman. Padreda had earlier been indicted on a US \$500,000 embezzlement charge along with a fellow Cuban exile, Hernandez Cartaya, but the charges were dropped, reportedly after the CIA stated that Cartaya had worked for them.

Padreda later pleaded guilty of defrauding the housing and urban development department of millions of dollars during 1980s.

The president's younger brother was also on the payroll in 1980s of the prominent Cuban exile Miguel Recarey, who had earlier assisted the CIA in attempts to assassinate President Castro.

Recarey who ran the International Medical Centres (IMC), employed Jeb Bush as a real estate consultant and paid him \$75,000 fee for finding the company a new location, although the move never took place, which raised questions at the time. Jeb Bush did, however, lobby the Reagan/Bush US administration vigorously and successfully on behalf of Recarey and IMC.

"I want to be very wealthy," Jeb Bush told the Miami News when questioned during that period.

In 1985, Jeb Bush acted as a conduit on behalf of the supporters of the Nicaraguan Contras with his father, then the vice-president, and helped to arrange for the IMC to provide free medical treatment for the Contras. Recarey was later charged with massive medicare fraud but fled the US and is now a fugitive.

Jeb Bush sealed his popularity with the Cuban exile community by acting as the campaign manager for another prominent Cuban-American, Ileana Ros-Lehtinen, when she ran successfully for the US Congress.

George Bush Sr. famously appeared with her during her campaign in Miami, declaring: "I am certain in my heart I will be the first American president to step foot on the soil of a free and independent Cuba."

She has since then lobbied successfully for the release of several Cuban exiles convicted of terrorist offences and held in US jails, but now lives free in Miami.

Most controversially, at the request of Jeb. Mr. Bush Sr. intervened to release the convicted Cuban terrorist Orlando Bosch from prison and then granted him US residency.

According to the US Justice Department in George Bush's senior administration Orlando Bosch had participated in more than 30 terrorist acts. He was convicted of firing a rocket into a Polish ship that was on a passage to Cuba. He was also implicated in the 1976 blowing up of a Cubana plane flying to Havana from Venezuela in which all 73 civilians on board were killed.

CIA memorandums strongly suggest, according to Bardach's book, that Bosch was one of the conspirators, and quotes then the Secretary of State Kissinger, as writing that the "US government had been planning to suggest Bosch's deportation before the Cubana airlines crash took place for his suspected involvement in other terrorist acts and violation of his parole."

Bosch's release, often referred to in US media as a pardon, was the result of pressure brought by hardline Cubans in Miami, with Jeb Bush serving as their point man. Bosch now lives in Miami and remains unrepentant about his militant activities, according to the writer Bardach.

In July on 2002, Jeb Bush nominated Raoul Cantero, the grandson of Batista, as the Florida Supreme Judge despite his lack of experience. Mr. Cantero had previously represented Bosch and acted as his spokesman, once describing Bosch on a Miami radio station as the "Great Cuban patriot."

Other Cuban exiles involved in terrorist acts, Jose Dionisio Suarez and Virgilio Paz Romero, who carried out the 1976 assassination of the Chilean diplomat Orlando Letelier in Washington, have also been released by the current Bush administration.

The current administration also maintains a hard line on the continuing Cuban embargo, despite the urgings of many of Mr. Bush's own party to end it. The president's

advisor, Karl Rove, "has urged him to fully accommodate hardliners in return for electoral victories for both his brother and himself," Bardach's book says.

For their help, many hard-line Cuban-Americans have received plum jobs in the current administration: Mel Martinez, the Orlando Republican who arranged for the shipwrecked Cuban boy, Elian Gonzalez, to visit Disney World, was made the Housing Secretary, while Otto Reich was awarded a one year recess appointment for the Western Hemisphere in the US State Department.

Night is darkest just before dawn

By Ana Lucia Gelabert
4th Primary 227

Gosh, it was a "landslide," said to legitimize a de facto dastardly regime product of a coup. With Texas state as an example, since "our own" Fuhrer's prestige was at stake, 15.6% out of the 28.32% of voting age Texans who voted, avowing their "right" to bully, step on, bomb, exploit, murder, or invade at will, anyone else in the world. So as to keep on dilapidating the scarce resources, even if the waste turns this earth uninhabitable within decades. "The people have spoken".

Reality check: Less than 16% is not a landslide but a minority. The 6% of Texans (about one million) disenfranchised for being either jointed or just disjointed, more than supply the US Republicans less Demoblicans vote deficit. And a "landslide", even if legitimate, can't right a wrong. If all that were present at the palace door had shouted "Crucify him!", which is far from the case, the crucifixion would still be unjust: whether in Kabul, Guernica, Baghdad or Jerusalem. Randomly slaughtering the innocent children of Kandahar, so "we Americans" may beer float and tostito pack our bellies while watching TV in the backseat of our SUV's is still wrong, had 100% of "us" voted for it.

These numbers cited in the US election are only important because,

on the one hand, the bawling of the nearby sheep comforts the spineless hedonist and on the other, as record that so many of us Americans protested: "**Not In Our Name!**"

The less than 15% of voting age Americans who sung "America Uber Alles"! *Gott mit uns!*~, *Amerika kick ass!*", "Nuke 'em!", only amount to 0.7% of Earth's population. Will monopoly on WMD's be enough to deter the other 99.3% of the human race and warrant their remaining not only pliant but content in this new "*Pax est bellum Americana*" **Never!**

For one, the absolute overwhelming superiority in weapons - America spends \$450 billion on that, 10 times what the number two spends-never has determined who wins in war. If best weaponry and overwhelming might meant victory, Goliath would have beaten David, the Persians would have conquered Greece, Hannibal and his elephants would have taken Rome, Rome would have beaten back the Visigoths, the Visigoths would have licked the Arabs - let's us shorten the immense list: Hitler would have taken Stalingrad, Chiang would have beaten Mao, Batista would have gotten Fidel, and America would have won in Korea and Vietnam (both of which America lost).

Be patient: it shall happen again. When things look most gloomy, be hopeful: night at its darkest only announces the nearness of dawn.

While no one can predict exactly how or when the present bubble will burst, you can bank-in its implosion. To fulfill this prophesy of our first US Republican president: "*that the government of the people, for the people, by the people shall not perish from earth.*" Elsewhere that great American said:

"*Labour is prior to and independent of capital. Capital is only the fruit of labour, and could never have existed if labour had not first existed. Labour is the superior of capital, and deserves much the higher consideration.*"

Clearly, in our days neither the T'dees nor the T'dums may genuinely claim to be "*the party of President Lincoln.*" But the "*two half-parties of the US rich*"; or "*the party of Hitler*" - are just as doomed to failure and extinction.

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
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AFP-AMERICA'S SURROGATE ARMY

Ever wondered why, despite mounting political opposition, the U.S. military is here to stay and its training missions will increase in the coming years? It's not just a matter of building the Philippine armed forces' fighting capability – it's also a matter of building America's capability to train and ultimately rely on surrogate armies to fight its own dirty wars here and elsewhere.

By BOBBY TUAZON Bulatlat.com

Some 4,000 U.S. troops did arrive in the Philippines this October in what could be the biggest foreign military deployment since the Americans left their Clark and Subic bases in 1991. Their participation in the new round of Balikatan ("shoulder-to-shoulder") war exercises to be held in Luzon and Mindanao until June next year will be the latest chip in the U.S. geo-strategy for a permanent military presence in the Philippines.

But the joint training and the expected arrival of more U.S. troops in the next few years aim not only to build a permanent U.S. military presence but is also part of a new Pentagon strategy to train the Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP) as a surrogate army of the United States. The plan to train the AFP as a "junior army" will bolster U.S. prospects of ending what Washington and local defense authorities consider as its main security threat in the country – the New People's Army (NPA) – but also strengthen America's military hegemony in the region.

Even as the first Balikatan exercise (02-1) ended on July 31 this year, a total of 400 U.S. Army troops, Marines and Special Operations Forces (SOFs) including Green Berets remained in Basilan and Zamboanga peninsula in Mindanao supposedly for "humanitarian and engineering missions." And, since July, U.S. military aircraft been actively conducting secret intelligence

missions, entering and exiting Philippine air space without the Visiting Forces Agreement (VFA) monitoring commission being told about it.

In the country's northernmost island, Batanes, several U.S. aircraft have been sighted on its airfield for re-fuelling and other purposes. At the Edwin Andrews air base in Zamboanga City, more aircraft including an anti-submarine warfare (ASW) one have been on a regular transit. A Gulf News report says that the \$36 million-worth U.S. navy aircraft, P-3C Orion, is apparently part of the U.S. military's 1,400-strong combat air force in the Pacific. Robert Karniol of the Janes' information group also reveals that U.S. aircraft from bases in Japan have been using Philippine bases for re-fuelling while in transit to trouble spots in West Asia.

Biggest and longest

Meanwhile, the new 9-month Balikatan exercises involving eight battalions of U.S. troops aside from their Filipino counter-parts, will be the biggest and longest to be held ever. Army and Marine light reaction companies (LRCs) will train for four months while battalions will conduct exercises for three months. A commando course for highly-specialized anti-terrorism units will also train for night-flying operations. Maneuvers will be conducted in Philippine Army camps in Luzon.

While preparations for the new war games are underway, Philippine and U.S. defense officials are reportedly rushing the approval of the controversial Mutual Logistics and Support Agreement (MLSA) during the annual Logistics Support Conference in the United States. The agreement would allow the U.S. military to ship all types of munitions and other war materiel and services to the Philippines. In fact, even if the MLSA had not been signed, military equipment and supplies were transferred to the country during previous war exercises.

The MLSA is crucial to the operability of the 5-year defense cooperation plan forged between Defense Secretary Angelo Reyes and U.S. defense chief Donald Rumsfeld a few months back under the 1951 Mutual Defense Pact. The deal lays down the blueprint for longer and sustained joint war training, deployments, military missions and other "cooperative" activities between the two countries – a plan that would require even more the acquisition of military logistics. The Arroyo administration is bound to approve the MLSA in order to expedite the release of large amounts of military aid that had been pledged by the Bush administration.

Training a proxy army

But the continuing joint war exercises and special military training activities are also being held with the equally bigger objective of turning the AFP into America's surrogate army not only in the Philippines but in the region as a whole. The training program, held in the guise of combating terrorism, actually serves to reinforce the U.S. strategy of expanding its military presence without necessarily deploying its own forces, of deputizing proxy armies to fight its own interventionist wars and reducing actual American casualties that would likely ensue during such conflicts.

In a special report for the Foreign Policy in Focus published in May this year, Lora Lumpe reveals that U.S. regular and reserve military forces are training foreign troops in about 180 countries – the Philippines included – around the world. Special trainings such as the International Military Education and Training (IMET) alone grew from 96 countries participating in 1990 to 133 countries today.

U.S.-led training, Lumpe says in "U.S. Foreign Military Training: Global Reach, Global Power and Oversight Issues," includes visits of small mobile training teams, joint combined exercises, deployments and military unit exchanges. At any time, more than 100,000 foreign military and police forces from all over the world receive such training.

The Philippines, along with Yemen and Georgia, is one country

that has received a dramatic increase in U.S. military training programs recently, Lumpe also reveals. Since Sept. 11, 2001, U.S. training efforts have concentrated on counter-terrorism operations directed against the Abu Sayyaf in southern Philippines. But "*Balance Piston*" exercises which are under the US Pentagon-funded Joint Combined Exchange Training (JCET) are being targeted against the New People's Army since training is taking place in known NPA guerrilla zones. Both Philippine and U.S. military officials have confirmed that local forces trained by the U.S. program will be assigned to NPA turfs.

Unconventional tactics

The most controversial module of the U.S. training program is unconventional tactics where Philippine SOFs are also involved. Here, military instruction is provided by U.S. SOFs – which include Navy SEALs, Army Rangers, Army Special Forces (*Green Berets*), Civil Affairs and Psychological Operations Forces and Air Force special tactics teams.

The U.S. SOF training, which is also backed by the CIA, has been used for clandestine operations involving regular armed forces and paramilitary groups. Training tactics, Lumpe says, include "*black propaganda operations and assassinations, torture, kidnappings and hit-and-run commando raids against non-combatants intended to end public support for the enemy.*"

Especially since the end of the Cold War, the training and assistance to armed forces around the world have been seen as major instruments of the U.S. National Security Strategy. Taking the lead in these military "*engagement activities*" with foreign militaries are America's four regional unified military commands (Central Command, Southern Command, Pacific Command and European Command). "*The scope and frequency of these contacts have given the commanders-in-chief (of the regional commands) greater political influence in some countries than the U.S. ambassadors posted there,*" Lumpe also says.

Training programs, in the long run, are cost-effective compared to

deploying actual U.S. combat forces, which could also invite political controversy in some foreign countries. Under the Clinton administration, the training of regional or global forces was viewed as an alternative to deploying U.S. combat forces "*to contain ethnic conflicts, civil wars, and state collapses.*" And under George W. Bush, training programs have been boosted through bigger training budgets, the increase in the number of foreign armed forces participating in U.S. training missions and their deployment in armed conflicts where U.S. security interests are at stake, such as in the Philippines.

As U.S. training missions in the Philippines are being stepped up, the country's defense department has proposed an increase in the military budget for 2003. Parts of the budget will be used to support the participation of AFP forces in training, the repair and maintenance of military equipment donated to the AFP and the recruitment and training of more regular and paramilitary units for counter-insurgency purposes.

An old U.S. deputy

The training of the AFP as America's surrogate army today may not be surprising at all. The AFP was formed and trained by the U.S. government since colonial days. It also fought America's major wars – including the Korean War and the Indochina War. Its 3-decade old counter-insurgency campaign has been waged with the advice, training, logistical support and sometimes actual combat engagement of U.S. military advisors. And now, it remains in the frontline of Bush's war on terrorism, which has also included the war against the armed Left.

Seen from another angle, the AFP has also been maintained as a power broker of sorts always at the beck and call of the U.S. military. In past people power revolts, coup attempts and intra-elite factional struggles, the AFP hierarchy provided the crucial support at decisive moments to whomever the U.S. government would back. It would not be unreasonable to say that the AFP chief and the defense secretary look to the U.S. commander-in-chief in the Pacific as

their chief instead of the republic's president.

The deepening of U.S. military presence and training missions are not necessarily in the interest of the country. America expects to reap bigger benefits precisely because its current military operations in the country address its geo-strategic objectives.

In the AFP, America's interests are amply protected.

Bulatlat.com

IT'S TIME TO TAKE RISKS

FROM DE WAARHEID

A little more than 30 years ago, the leaking of 7,000 pages of Pentagon's documents, which exposed and extraordinary catalogue of lies and duplicity on the part of the US government, helped to bring an end to the war in Vietnam.

Daniel Ellsberg, a former US Marine Commander, who has served in Vietnam, leaked the documents, risking a lifetime jail sentence to do so.

Ellsberg, now 71, living in Berkley, California is on a cross-country tour to promote his memoirs "Secrets". He sees many parallels between then and now, with the country on the brink of another war.

"One of the key differences is that the military now are clearly against this, which was not the case with Vietnam. The military hated the way President Johnson conducted the war, but they wanted to get into it. Today's military clearly do not want the war, so they have leaked information. The reasons that President Bush has given are ridiculous - democracy, give me a break!"

Daniel Ellsberg lists "oil, oil, and more oil" as the main reason for the present war plans against Iraq.

He also anticipates an incident that will be used as a rationale for the first strike, just as in Vietnam the Gulf of Tonkin incident...a supposed attack on a United States destroyer...precipitated deeper US military action in Vietnam.

President Bush will want to claim, just as Johnson did, that he was immediately protecting US troops. He will state that: "I'm bombing

because I have intelligence that Americans are in immediate danger. They are putting chemical warheads on missiles, we think. I cannot take a chance that the UN inspectors did not make a mistake."

"I believe," said Ellsberg, "that Rumsfeld, Cheney and Wolfowitz are using our own troops as bait. There will be deaths and they know that."

"There is a great dissent and that is clearly the major reason for all these military leaks. It is clear that the US administration is filled with people who believe this to be a reckless, unnecessary and foolish war against Iraq."

"I am using every opportunity to say to the people in the government who are in a position that I was then, and who know that their president is lying us into a wrongful and reckless war, to do what I wish I had done in 1964-65: to go to then US Congress and to the press with documents and tell the truth."

"That would be a risk, but there are times when big risks are worth to save a lot of lives." ■

AMERICA, THE FREE ?

From TRUTHOUT* ISSUES

An amateur photographer named Mike Maginnis who photographs everything and always has his camera with him, was arrested in December 2002 in his home in Denver, Colorado - for simply tasking tourist snapshots of buildings in an area where US vice president Cheney was residing. Maginnis told this story to the edition of "Off The Hook".

Maginnis morning commute took him past the Adams Mark Hotel on Court Plaza where he took photographs of the interesting architectural buildings. Maginnis, who works in information technology frequently photographs such objects as the corporate buildings and communications equipment.

As he was putting his camera away, Maginnis found himself confronted by a Denver police officer who, demanded that he hand over his camera. When he refused to give up his expensive Nikon F2, the Officer pushed him to the ground and arrested him.

After being brought to the District #1 police station on Decatur St.,

Maginnis was made to wait alone in an interrogation room. Two hours later, a Secret Service agent arrived, who identified himself as Special Agent "Willse".

The agent told Maginnis that "his suspicious activities" made him a threat to the national security, and that he would be charged as a terrorist under the USA-PATRIOT ACT. The Secret Service agent tried to make Maginnis admit that he was taking the photographs to analyze weaknesses in the Vice President's security entourage and "cause terror and mayhem".

When Maginnis refused to admit of being any sort of terrorist, the Secret Service agent called him a "raghead collaborator" and a "dirty pinko faggot."

After approximately an hour of interrogation, Maginnis was allowed to make a telephone call. Rather than contacting a lawyer, he called the newspaper the "Denver Post" and asked for the News Desk. This telephone conversation was immediately overheard by the desk sergeant, who then very quickly hung-up the phone and placed Maginnis in a holding cell.

Three hours later, Maginnis was finally released, but with no explanation. He received no copy of an arrest report, and no receipt for his confiscated possessions. He was told that he would probably not get his camera back, as it was being held as evidence.

Maginnis lawyer contacted the Denver Police Department for an explanation of the day's events, but the Denver police denied of ever having Maginnis - or anyone matching his description- in custody. At press time, the Denver's Police Department's Press Information Officer did not return the many telephone messages left by many callers.

The new police powers introduced by the USA-PATRIOT ACT, in the name of fighting terrorism, have been frightening in their apparent potential for abuse. Mike Maginnis' experience is poignant example of how this abuse is beginning to occur. It suggests that a wide range of activities that might be considered "suspicious" could be suddenly labeled a prelude to terrorism, and be grounds for arrest. ■

**DEDICATED TO THE IRAQI CHILDREN THAT
CERTAINLY WILL BE KILLED
BY US IMPERIALISM IN ITS ATTACK ON IRAQ**

TO THE PEOPLE OF THE WORLD!

THE AUTHOR IS UNKNOWN

This is a story that must be told
Of an Iraqi baby not very old.
Lying in her crib one starlit night
How could she know of those planes
in flight?
She lay their quietly touching her
nose
Watching the mobile, wriggling her
toes.
Ooing and cooing, so sweet is she.
Talking to someone –who could that
be?
An angel is standing with her in the
room,
The baby is smiling, unaware of her
doom.

The crib starts to shake and the
mobile goes round,
And suddenly comes the most
beautiful deafening sound.
The ceiling drops in, in a second or
two,

On top of her crib so she ceases to
coo...
No one knows how long she lies
there.
Who thought about it? Does anyone
care?
Is she alive? Is she dead? Is she in
pain?
Now, that you mention it, who knows
her name?

Her name is Amal. In English we say
Hope.
Crushed between the rubble, her tiny
fingers start to grope.
Where is my mommy? I loved her so
dear,
Come, get me mummy! It's dark in
here!
I'm scared and I'm hungry and I can't
see my feet.
There's blood in my mouth! Give me
something to eat!

Where is my daddy? Where is my
big brother?
It hurts me when I breathe! Where is
my mother?
How long have I been here? Is this
just a dream?
I open my mouth but I can't even
scream.

The angel appears once again by my
side,
And this time with a tear I plead: Why
have I died?
Am I alone in my suffering? No, there
are many others.
In our grief and our misery we are all
sisters and brothers.
Who are we? I ask you "for what
crime did we die?"
They're throwing a party! Doesn't
anyone cry?

Is it true? Am I nothing? How could
that be?
Don't they also have babies just like
me?
It is war, they say, of which death is
a part.
How blind they've become, how
hardened of heart!
Did someone say Hero? To whom do
they speak?
A victory claimed, for killing the
weak?

Why are they happy? Why are they
proud?
Don't they know that I'm cold in my
burial shroud?
No war has been won: no ifs, buts or
maybes
They have killed mainly babies! ■



AS I SEE IT!

BY JERRY MORSE

ENGLAND – Brian Stewart, a British journalist on December 16, 2002 did a documentary on the Bush Doctrine and I would like to comment on this CBC-TV documentary.

Mr. Stewart, when you say that Bush's doctrine is a showdown, you mean not backing down, but you should have said that their aim is digging down. The drive is to get control of Iraq oil and nothing else. Not one senior member of Bush's executives will see any active service on the front lie in Iraq! Why? They ain't hankering for a fight where they would have to do the fighting. And they of course are not going to get themselves killed for oil, in spite that the US economy is punking...others will do the fighting and dying.

They think that through the UN they have Russia in their camp, while listening to Russia's oil companies quarrel with Iraq in canceling big oil contracts, so the time is ripe for digging down. They have now close to 550,000 US soldiers in the region, and have the Turks ready with Kurds to be the immediate dirty work. But the policy of US they feel will prevail.

US also knows that Russia has cooperation with Iran, places Iran also next on the list of a "terror state". Under this definition, with Canada being very hazy about committing itself, places Canada also becoming close to an enemy.

These US leaders are very sick indeed. With weapons of mass destruction in readiness, these men set aside negotiations by these industrial corporations powers, the US Constitution should be brought forward and these members of the executive of USA should be removed. They are unfit to govern! The Bush doctrine is paranoid. Mr. Stewart, you have covered their side of this doctrine in this CBC-TV documentary. Now, how about doing another documentary on the side of peace?

PYONGYANG, NORTH KOREA:

In the previous issue of NSC we wrote about the substitution of

the Euro for the Ruble. We thought that the Euro currency would spread throughout the ex USSR and hence into China and Asia. We had a wrong road map as to the spread of this currency. Now it is a fact that the currency in North Korea will be the Euro.

This fact gives the USA a kick right in its financial bags. Effective as of December 1, 2002 the currency of business in North Korea become the Euro.

President Bush thought that North Korea would shake in their boots, after being declared one of the "axis of evil"...which in effect tells every country that "We (the USA) can manufacture, improve test and use nuclear missiles, but you cannot do this!"

President Bush. Who had just received his dividends from all his oil and gas shares, and had his pockets filled with newly-printed US dollar bills, was not that worried about currencies, he was worried about his soon to be US elections.

Oh yes, my I suggest that the UN send its inspection team to look for weapons of mass destruction to the United States, France, Britain, Russia, China, India, Pakistan etc.

Another question: With US attack on Iraq a sure thing, I wonder why China or even Russia, having the power of a veto in the UN Security Council, do not VETO this coming attack?

THE PENTAGON:

Defense Secretary Rumsfeld put into effect the psychological influencing program in countries friendly to the USA, in order to discredit or undermine the influence of mosques and religious schools that might become breeding grounds for Islamic militancy and anti-Americanism in Middle East, Asia and Europe. This is an order for the US military to take psychological aim at the US allies. A spokesman for the Pentagon said that "We will do it and get away with it!"

**WE NEED
YOUR
FINANCIAL
SUPPORT!**

IS THIS POSSIBLE?

By Michael Opperskalski

RUMSFELD'S "EVIDENCE" DISSAPEARS

Think back to early October of 2002, when the US House and Senate were debating the resolution granting President Bush the authority to attack Iraq.

Do you remember when top US administration officials were claiming that Iraq not only possessed weapons of mass destruction but identified even specific sites where biological weapons and other prohibited military goods were allegedly being produced and where long-range missiles were being tested? Secretary of Defense Donald Rumsfeld even produced satellite photographs as evidence.

Well, according to former UN chief weapons inspector Scott Ritter, now a whistle-blower par excellence, such "evidence" does not seem to exist.

One of the first tasks that the present inspectors accomplished upon returning to Iraq was to scrutinize those particular sites.

"They inspected everyone of these sites and did not find a thing," Ritter told an audience at Michigan's Oakland University last December 2, 2002. "The inspectors did not find anything, since the bombing was going on for the last four years. If Rumsfeld has information about where Iraq is hiding weapons", Ritter continued, "why wasn't he sharing this information with the UN inspectors on the ground?"

According to the National Geographic 2002 Global Geographic Literacy Survey, released in November of 2002, only 15% of this US age group successfully identified Iraq on the map. Only 17% located Afghanistan, a country invaded and occupied by the US for over a year. We suspect that the great majority of the US GIs deployed to Iraq or Afghanistan now have even less comprehension of the real reasons they were sent to war than they have of geography, but this was not one of the survey questions.

NOT IN MY NAME

donaloc@peterquinn.com

Before I start this poem, I'd like to ask you to join me in a moment of silence in honor of those who died in the World Trade Center and the Pentagon - September 11th.

I would also like you to offer up a moment of silence for all those who have been harassed, imprisoned, disappeared, tortured, raped, or killed in retaliation for those strikes, for the victims in both Afghanistan and the US.

And I would just add one more thing, A full day of silence for the tens of thousands of Palestinians who have died at the hands of US-backed Israel forces over decades of occupation.

Six months of silence for the million and-a-half Iraqi people, mostly children, who have died of malnourishment or starvation as a results of a 11-year US embargo against the country.

Before I begin this poem, two months of silence for the Blacks under Apartheid in South Africa, where homeland security made them aliens in their own country.

Nine months of silence for the dead in Hiroshima and Nagasaki, where death rained down a peeled back every layer of concrete, steel, earth and skin and survivors went on as if alive.

A year of silence for the millions of dead in Vietnam - a people, not a war - for those who know a thing or two about the scent of burning fuel, their relatives' bones buried in it, their babies born of it.

A year of silence for the dead in Cambodia and Laos, victims of a secret war...ssssshhhh...Say nothing...we don't want them to learn that they're dead.

Two months of silence for the decades of dead in Colombia, whose names, like the corpses they once represented, have piled up and slipped off our tongues.

Before I begin this poem,
An hour of silence for El Salvador...
An afternoon of silence for Nicaragua...
Two days of silence for Guetmaltecos...
None of them ever knew a moment of peace in their living years.

45 seconds of silence for the 45-dead at Acteal, Chiapas,
25 years of silence for the millions of Africans who found their graves far deeper in the ocean than any building could poke into the sky. There will be no DNA testing or dental records to identify their remains.

And for those who were strung and swung from the heights of the sycamore trees
In the South, the North, the East, the West...100 years of silence.

For the hundred of millions of indigenous peoples from this half of right here
Whose lives and land were stolen,
In post-card perfect plots like Pine Ridge, Wounded

Knee, Sand Creek, Fallen Timbers, or the Trail of Tears.

Names now reduced to innocuous magnetic poetry on the refrigerator of our consciousness...

So, you want a moment of silence?

And we are left speechless

Our tongues snatched from our mouths

Our eyes stapled shut.

A moment of silence

And the poets have all been laid to rest

The drums disintegrating into dust.

Before I begin this poem,

You want a moment of silence

You mourn now as if the world will never be the same.

And the rest of us hope to hell it won't be.

Not like it always has been.

Because this is not a 9-11 poem

This is a 9-10 poem,

It is a 9-9 poem,

A 9-8 poem,

A 9-7 poem.

This is a 1492 poem.

This is a poem about what causes poems like this to be written.

And if this is a 9/11 poem, then

This is a September-11th poem for Chile, 1972

This is a September 12th poem for Steven Biko in South Africa, 1977

This is a September 13th poem, for the bothers at Attica Prison, New York 1971.

This is a September 11th poem for Somalia, 1992.

This is a poem for every date that falls to the ground in ashes

This is a poem for the 110 stories that were never told

The 110 stories that history chose not to write in textbooks

The 110 stories that the CNN, BBC, The New York Times, and Newsweek ignored

This is a poem for interrupting this program.

And still you want a moment of silence for your dead?

We could give you lifetimes of empty:

The unmarked graves

The lost languages

The uprooted trees and histories

The dead stares on the faces of nameless children.

Before I start this poem we could be silent forever
Or just long enough to hunger,

Before this poem begins.

Here, in the echo of my voice,

In the pause between goosesteps of the second hand

In the space between bodies to embrace.

Here is your silence

Take it.

But take it all

Don't cut in line.

Let your silence begin at the beginning of crime.

But we,

Tonight we will keep right on singing

For our dead.

Emmanuel Ortiz 9.11-02

**MICHAEL
LUCAS**
Editor



HOW THE CAPITALIST MEDIA INFLUENCES THE PEOPLE!

The capitalist parties fight for time on the six o'clock radio and TV news. Their press of course always follows the line, with small variations. Whoever gets their sound bites heard first, wins. You can't rebut a day later. That's too late to fix the damage done already. The point is to make the people believe what you say and disbelieve what your opponent says. He are just some ways that the capitalist media and their masters do it.

***The end justifies the means:** The bourgeois media have absolutely no moral qualms about this at all. Their philosophy is that the end justifies the means.

***Unfacts:** Some statements sound like facts when they're really just opinions or at best half-truths. An unfact is a statement that sounds like a fact but it isn't. Most people can't recognize an unfact when they hear it. A few examples would be; *"There is a growing threat of terrorism"*, *"SUV's are safer than lighter vehicles"*, *"family values are on a decline"*. If challenged on these points, you can easily defend them, because they're not real facts. Simply back up an unfact with another unfact! This can go on and on infinitum. Capitalist media in most cases never use a fact if an unfact will do the job just as well.

***Everything he or (they) just said is untrue or incorrect**". In a debate with your opposition - start off by claiming that nothing he or she or they said is correct. If you can condemn everything in a blanket statement, then even if some things are successfully refuted, some of the mud you cast still sticks. Also, always question the motifs of the opposition. If the crowd or listeners lose faith in the opponent, he can say anything afterwards but the people will not believe him or her.

***Disarm your opponent:** In a debate or in a press release, a well

placed lie or unfact can disarm the opponent, reader or listener, or colour the way the audience interprets the rest of the debate, story or interview. If a statement can't be refuted immediately or is allowed to pass without comment, everything said afterwards will be interpreted differently. Even if the statement or slander is refuted at a later date or in a different place, you have won this today.

***Misguided science or ideology:** If a given ideology of a progressive nature is put forth, the bourgeoisie will find a scientist or a Marxist to cast doubt on it. Even if a thousand scientists agreed on a certain scientific fact or economic science, the capitalist media will find someone to be put on TV, radio or quoted in the press at length. Thus one quoted scientist or economist who is given time in the media will come across as the voice, even though he is opposed by thousands of his or her peers.

On the TV news at 6 p.m. he or she is given as much voice and weight as the other thousands who oppose his views. Capitalist media, on behalf of their owners will always find a person that they say is an expert to refute any ideas that capitalism and ruling class see as detrimental to them.

***Speaking to a crowd:** Speak to the emotions, the publicity advertising agencies coach the ruling circles, and thus have less need to prove facts. Speak fewer facts and more unfacts. Make your opinions sound like facts.

***Crowds or TV listeners are manipulated:** Radio and also TV talk hosts can say whatever they want. In fact that's their job. What they say can be a bare lie, it doesn't matter. The listeners in most cases believe and repeat what they hear. When these people make statements of extreme opinion (*unfacts*), these unfacts are repeated as facts, next

day in millions of conversations. In this way the ruling class can spread all sorts of misinformation and yet disavow it if necessary. Since the unfacts are very mean spirited, misleading and one sided, the radio and TV talk show host wins merely by saying them only once.

***Everyone knows that Ads lie:**

Advertising is the capitalist way of life. You expect advertisers to lie or pretend that they are telling the truth. Imperialism and their media are selling their position and ideas, as advertisers sell their products. People expect this, but they still buy and they still listen.

***Say it again and again:** In its effect on the listener, repetition is like proof of a statements' validity. It helps if more and more people repeat the statement, but even if one person (*or a commercial*) repeats something over and over, people believe it more each time they hear it or see it. This is of course true if they do not see or hear a rebuttal.

***Capitalist media uses celebrities:** Capitalist media promotes many different versions of the truth, using celebrities from TV, film, sports. These news pundits add their spin to the stories, thus confusing the public as to what is really the truth. There is only one true version...but...if you repeat a lie often enough, people will start to believe that it is the truth.

The above is just a short list of what the people endure day in day out at the hands of the capitalist media. These reporters, news networks, think tanks, columnists, radio and TV talk show hosts, as well as politicians of all sorts who support capitalism, bombard the public with lies and constant barrage of untruths, so that it is hard to get the truth from all these untruths.

That is why we need progressive newspapers, journals that are not afraid to stand up or go against the current, or worse still, sitting on the fence, like many are doing, while imperialism and the New World Order are subjugating the world.

**OUR PATH IS
CORRECT! WE
SHALL BE
VICTORIOUS!**



WHO IS IT THAT INTERCEPTED IRAQ'S REPORT TO THE UNITED NATIONS ?

How can the USA go before the UN Security Council holding in one hand an accusation against Iraq of deception for failure for disclosing arms build-up of mass destruction, even though the UN inspectors have utterly failed to find any in over 30 days of daily inspections, while on the other hand a report edited by US itself to protect itself, shows that there are scores of US corporations that were constantly dealing in arms shipments to Iraq?

How can the US hope to retain

any credibility? Why is the White House protecting these US corporations? How can the American people support the coming war on these terms?

On December 18th, 2002 the Geneva-based reporter Andreas Zumach broke this story in the German widely-read newspaper "*Die Tageszeitung*" and plans to publish the complete list of US and German corporations who were and are supporting Iraq.

Zumach obtained the top-secret portions of Iraq's 12,000-page weapons declaration that the US had edited from the original version that was given to the non-permanent members of the UN. It is proven that US gave Iraq non-fissile materials for construction of nuclear bombs.

The names of these corporations were supposed to be secret. If you will remember, the news media in December had this as top news that Iraq provided two copies of its full 12,000-page report, one to the

International Atomic Energy Agency in Geneva, and one to the United Nations Organization in New York. Zumach charges that the US broke the agreement of the UN Security Council and blackballed Colombia, which at that time was presiding over the Security Council, to take possession of the UN's only copy. The US then proceeded to make copies of the report for the other four permanent members of the Security Council, nations like Russia, Britain, China and France. Any reference to the US and German and British corporations supplying Iraq with arms were eliminated. According to Zumach, only Germany had more business ties to Iraq than the USA and continued to do business with Iraq until the end of 2002.

The list shows scores of US-German multinational corporations that are household names, like Honeywell, Dupont, Eastman-Kodak, Bechtel, Electronic Computer and Hewlett-Packard, just to name a few.

**BUSH: " I SAID WAR, NOT PEACE!
SCRAM! GOD IS WITH US!"**

