

# northstar compass

INTERNATIONAL COUNCIL FOR FRIENDSHIP AND SOLIDARITY WITH SOVIET PEOPLE • VOL. 10 #5 JAN. 2002

## RESULT OF MARKET REFORMS IN THE USSR

THANKS TO INTERNAL TRAITORS AND IMPERIALISM!



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## EDITORIAL

# STATEMENT OF THE NSC EDITORIAL COMMITTEE

The hi-jacked USA passenger jets that became the death-dealing bomb of destruction on September 11th, 2001, not surprisingly unleashed world-wide reaction and debate among people everywhere. Occurring only ten days prior to the holding of the World Congress for Friendship and Solidarity with Soviet People, September 21-23 in Toronto, it injected varying, even opposing views into our deliberations. Such differences were brought unto the floor for discussion and were resolved by a majority delegate vote, of those that voted. In the particular debate on the Number # 1 Resolution was narrowly opposed to an amendment that had been introduced by Chairman Harpal Brar. It is not surprising that comrade Harpal Brar continues to hold very strong views that the ferocious history of Imperialist aggression against peoples of the "colonial" world lies at the root of the attack on the United States of America's TNC oil and Governmental exploitation, particularly of the former colonial and Muslim world.

Evidence clearly establishes the truth of such strongly held beliefs. That the understanding of this does not resonate more strongly among the non-Third World peoples is likewise not surprising. Reflected between the two contending views are realities of Imperialist and Colonial worlds of the past four or more centuries. But the remedies for this were not possible at that World Congress.

The concept uttered by Marx in relations to the growth of jingoism, and accepted by the working people of the Imperialist world of the "super exploitation of labour in the colonial world that: " *as long as wage labour under capitalism exists side by side with the slavery of colonial peoples with dark skins and is accepted, no worker in a white skin can be free*", resounds as equally true today and is intensified under the TNC-US-NATO "globalization". The "oil wars" of the past half century and more confirms this and the current wars on the Palestinian and Afghan people are part and parcel of a long historical Imperialist process of aggression and "super" exploitation. No one should for the moment be mistaken about that.

As the moving force that brought together the first World Congress, Northstar Compass and the Canadian Friends of Soviet People in our view, however, must up-hold and adhere to the rule that majority votes by delegates, following open debate, is the sole means whereby decisions can become the guiding law of policy determination and program procedure. Does that mean that by a narrow majority (two votes)- contrary or opposing views are thus swept under the rug and away to be stricken from future amendment or reversal? Such notions would be not only counter-productive but would place a bureaucratic blanket over differences of view and procedures. But it is our firm position that the majority delegate vote on ANY matter properly before the Congress determines the policy before it shall be amended or reversed. To proceed otherwise would bring anarchy to our activities. But no member can be deprived of the right to exercise rights to promote and express such exchanges at any time.

For these reasons, the Editorial Board Editors of Northstar Compass strongly urges those who may harbour such opinions for changes of policy direction to withhold their extreme expressions of differences that can, or will open ongoing splits and divisions among all who strongly support the primary and essential purposes of the "International Council for Friendship and Solidarity with Soviet People". That is how the World Congress was successfully brought together, and why it was successful.

We believe that the multi-faceted World Congress delegates, in unity were limited to some comments whether correctly or not, according to various views, on the assaults of September 11<sup>th</sup>, immense historical differences could not there be resolved. To project more on the pages of Northstar Compass, would only develop opposing positions and disunity in the International Council.

We also reiterate statements from a document that was before the World Congress, but referred to the incoming Executive Committee of the International Council, because there was insufficient time

to adequately deal with it. In draft form it was entitled:

**"FOR INTERNATIONAL FRENDSHIP, SOLIDARITY WITH PEOPLES OF THE DISMANTLED UNION OF SOVIET SOCIALIST REPUBLICS AND AGAINST "GLOBALIZED" CORPORATE WAR, EXPLOITATION AND THE CORPORATE CREATED DISUNITY OF ALL PEOPLE".** In part, this document said:

*"Unjust wars of aggression and plunder are an inherent characteristics of monopoly capitalist development as history has proven repeatedly. These wars of aggression have nothing in common with wars of liberation or the defense of national territory and rights thrust upon peoples by Imperialist monopoly capitalist wars. The right to "self-determination" and its defense is inviolable. The predatory ascendancy of military might and capability now in the hands of the NATO powers, led by the USA, has created an enormous military imbalance and threat against the sovereign rights of nations and peoples throughout the whole world...The imbalance creates the greatest dangers of predatory war and therefore must be confronted and curbed before further suicidal holocausts engulf the world.*

ONLY THE UNITED POWER OF ALL PEOPLE CAN ACHIEVE SUCH AN AIM. AND IS TODAY THE SOLE PROFOUNDLY DEMOCRATIC FORCE THAT CAN CREATE A WORLD OF JUSTICE. GOOD NEIGHBOR RELATIONS AND FREEDOM FROM ALL OF THE SAVAGE CAPITALIST EXPLOITATION AND A NEW "DARK AGES"...

*Since we are not at this World Congress a partisan political body, nor a movement devoted to the strategy concepts of tactics of political revolutionary change, but are instead a movement of holding forth friendship, solidarity and the rejection of all aggressive capitalist war as our central purpose, program and theme, we therefore call most urgently upon all political forces of change to resolve all differences that prevent mutual cooperative action, whether by full agreement, by consensus, or by temporarily setting elements of differences aside that stand in the way of cooperative action.*

*Not to do so, we suggest, opens unlimited opportunities for Imperialist monopoly capitalist aggressions against all the people...."*

As your Editorial Board of Northstar Compass, we commend these thoughts to all of our readers and supporters, and we assure you that are activities in the future, as in the past, will be so guided. The "oil

wars" of the Middle East and upon Afghanistan must be traced to the above conditions and failure of the popular will to curb and reverse the TNC "globalized" thrust for domination and war. Such a burden falls with particular force on the people of the current westernized and militarized world. ■

## IN THE CONSISTENCY OF U.S. DOCTRINE, EVEN JESUS WOULD BE CALLED A TERRORIST!

First of all, in the U.S. doctrine, the terror that US supports is not called "terror" but "counter-terror", but in reality it is much worse that the terror we call "terror", which is of course carried out by the "official" enemies, who were often "official" friends when the terror they were perpetrating was called "counter-terror", for example, Osama bin Laden.

U.S. power and credibility was challenged on Sept. 11<sup>th</sup>, so the US retaliates to demonstrate to the world that the world is ruled by force, U.S. force.

As writer Noam Chomsky points out, U.S. runs the world the way a Mafia Don runs a neighbourhood. Any country that challenges U.S. hegemony and power interests, they are by definition "terrorists" and therefore they must be targeted.

If we look at the history of U.S.A. there are more than enough examples to substantiate this statement. Just look into the history of all invasions that U.S. has perpetrated just since World War Two!

In countries of the world where U.S. monopoly has its tentacles, and the people struggle against U.S. dominated global order that places corporate profits before that of the people, or over the environment and violence over justice...U.S. calls them "rogue states" or "terrorists".

If any government or foreign leader works in the interests of the poor of the country and thus takes away from the rich, who accumulated their riches from the backs of the poor in the first place, this is called "terrorism" and must be stamped out. Countries and their leaders are told, either you are with us, or against us!

Yes, in the consistency of the present U.S. policy and doctrine, even Jesus Christ himself now would be called a terrorist! ■

OPINIONS EXPRESSED BY  
CONTRIBUTORS ARE NOT  
NECESSARILY THOSE OF THE  
EDITORIAL BOARD

# A FRENCH LANGUAGE EDITION OF NORTHSTAR COMPASS IS BORN!



Dr. Adelard Paquin

Montreal, Quebec  
Canada

Fulfilling one of the decisions of the World Congress for Friendship and Solidarity with Soviet People, Dr. Adelard Paquin of Montreal, Quebec, Canada has started publishing a French language edition of NSC. You can see the first number Vo.1.,#1 before you.

It is extremely well edited, produced and many pages in full colour. It is and will be a tremendous addition to the influence of Northstar Compass in French speaking countries. Already in the works is a Spanish Edition, a Slovak Edition and we are in the process of having a Russian language Edition, with the help of our Soviet friends.

Dr. Paquin is not only a professional Dentist, he was the leader of the Quebec-

USSR Friendship Society based in Quebec, Canada, which fully cooperate with the Canada-USSR Association in all of its activities. Dr. Paquin is well known in former Soviet Union, having received medals and many honours for his work. He was in the USSR scores of times as an official guest and also leading delegations and exchanges over the many years. His knowledge of Russian is also very helpful in his work of promoting friendship and understanding between French Canada and the Soviet people.

We congratulate Dr. Paquin for his efforts as a member of the Editorial Board of NSC and also of the Executive Committee of the International Council.

Editorial Board of NSC  
Executive Committee of the International Council

# PUTIN'S TEN BLOWS

By Vyacheslav Tetekin

"Sovietskaya Rossia" newspaper

President Putin's recent visit to the USA finalized a major turn in Russian foreign policy towards full subordination to the West. The symptoms of this major change were evident right from the start of Mr. Putin's term for non-elected office. One might recall the ratification of START-2 treaty, which will deprive Russia of its heavy missiles – the cornerstone of this country. But the presidential decision to support the invasion of Afghanistan, and to close Russian bases in Vietnam and Cuba made a sharp turn in the Kremlin's foreign policy evident.

Is it self evident that the intention to join NATO expressed by Mr. Putin in an offhand manner last year, reflected a long-matured idea of a far deeper (*than in the Gorbachev's or Yeltsin's case*) "integration into the world community". In fact, the intention is to squeeze Russia into the Western economic, political and military system, even as a junior partner. Even at the price of sacrificing Russia's independent policy.

For the time being, Putin (*or is it more properly PUT-IN, Editor*) was just testing the ground. Evidently, he was waiting for a pretext to make a strategic policy turn. The terrorist attack in the USA provided such a pretext. The commitment to join the struggle against "international terrorism" signaled the move to "the other side". Of course the Kremlin will deny even the idea that they have dropped an independent foreign policy. But their actions speak to the contrary.

A recent statement by a group of Russian public and political figures referred to "*Putin's Ten Blows*" against Russia, i.e. destructive reforms of land, labour, education, health, housing, the military, energy, transportation and other systems.

## FIRST BLOW

The main threat to Russia's security originates not from "international terrorism" but from NATO expansion to the East.

\*The November 2002 NATO summit in Prague, Czech Republic will obviously admit

a number of East European countries, including Latvia, Lithuania and Estonia. If this happens, we shall, get NATO air bases close to Moscow, Leningrad and other centers of Russia. This is very dangerous. The sad experience of Yugoslavia confirms this quite convincingly.

But the Kremlin does not even show signs of real opposition to NATO aggression. More than that, Mr. Putin's statements during his recent visit to Helsinki were perceived as a go-ahead for NATO membership not only for the Baltic States, but also for the traditionally neutral Finland and Sweden.

## SECOND BLOW

The threat to Russia's security is increasingly felt from the South. And not from the Muslim world but from NATO which is penetrating the zones of Russia's vital interests in the Balkans – in Transcaucasia and in Central Asia. But instead of reinforcing our southern frontiers, the Kremlin is withdrawing its Russian troops from Abkhazia, Adaria and Transnistria,

despite large protests from the population, which is anxious to retain an alliance with Russia. There is an impression that the recent fighting in Abkhazia was a long awaited pretext for the Kremlin to speed up its departure from that strategically important region.

## THIRD BLOW

Yugoslavia was the only ally of Russia in Europe. Mr. Yeltsin contributed to its defeat by refusing to supply anti-aircraft weapons. Mr. Putin refused Yugoslavia political and economic support by cutting gas supplies right before the 2000 presidential elections. Slobodan Milosevic, committed to friendship with Russia, landed in prison. Power in Belgrade was taken over by persons fully dependent on the West, primarily Germany. The present government of Germany achieved what Hitler failed to achieve, i.e. the conquest of Yugoslavia. And then the Kremlin declared a new stage of relations with Yugoslavia. **Absurd!** It reflects a strategy aimed at Russia's withdrawal from the Balkans.

## FOURTH BLOW

In the Middle East the Kremlin's inconsistent policy in the Arab-Israel conflict pushes further away traditionally friendly Arab countries, allowing Israel to play the "*Russian Card*" against both the Arab and the West, which is no longer prepared to unconditionally support Israel.

## FIFTH BLOW

Opening Russian air space to the US air force and supplying intelligence information, as well as the silent agreement to allow recruitment of mercenaries in Russia,



**TEN BLOWS !**

means that the Kremlin is directly involved in the US war against Afghanistan. The Americans have gotten the Kremlin's backing for a permanent US presence in Central Asia – that is, in the zone of Russia's vital interests. Russia is now completely encircled by US military bases.

The premature and unconditional support by the Russian president of US retaliatory action is a major foreign policy error as he failed to assess even the short-term consequences. It is evident that the Muslim world is angrily protesting the US repressions against their brothers and that the US-Western allies are trying to avoid participation in this "*operation*" by all means. Meanwhile, the main deliveries of drugs into Russia comes not from the Taliban but from the "friendly" Northern Alliance".

## SIXTH AND SEVENTH BLOWS

Another major blunder is Mr. Putin's intention to close the Russian Naval Base in Vietnam and the Electronic Surveillance Center in Cuba. It is impossible to think of a bigger gift to the USA. Russian public opinion is shocked. The damage to Russia's interests is so great that even the pro-presidential newspapers find it quite difficult to explain these decisions.

## EIGHTH BLOW

Let's add Putin's religious desire to get Russia into the World Trade Organization (WTO) which will completely open Russian (Soviet) borders for the expansion of powerful Western capital and will totally eliminate the Russian industry and agriculture, already only half alive as a result of the 'reforms' started by Yeltsin and continued by Mr. Putin.

## NINTH BLOW

There is no doubt that sooner or later the Kremlin will stop resisting 'modification' of the Anti-Ballistic Missile Treaty, i.e. will simply agree to the creation of the US Star Wars System. Naive attempts to get a simultaneous reduction of US nuclear warheads will go nowhere. US leaders are well aware of the pitiful state of the Russian nuclear force. Soon, even without any treaty Russia will not be able to have more than 1.5 thousand warheads. Why should then US reduce its nuclear arsenal if the Russian arsenal will collapse by itself!

## TENTH BLOW

Russian-Chinese relations will inevitably be spoiled as Russia previously promised China to take a firm position on NATO and ABMT. China is obviously watching with deep concern Russia's surrendering of these positions as well as the appearance of the US Air Force close to the borders in Uzbekistan, forgets such things.

Recently Mr. Putin visited Germany and Belgium. We have not seen for a long time such overt desire to please the West. It was a vintage Gorbachev – like 1989 when he surrendered everything to the applause of Mrs. Thatcher of England. The humiliating desire of the current host of the Kremlin to get the acceptance of the West has become completely shameful. It is well to remember that the sacred alliance that was put into effect in 1854 led to the Crimean War of Britain, France and Turkey against Russia.

The West readily accepts this no-lose game. The artificial flattery of the Russian leader by the West and by our homegrown leaders, who staunchly march into a set-up mouse trap, allows the West to solve strategic tasks without spending an extra penny, without endangering the lives of their soldiers.

Furthermore, the flow of money from Russia to the Western and offshore Banks continues non-stop, softening the effects of the economic crisis in the West. What does Russia get in return? Nothing! The Kremlin seems to enjoy demonstrating a very selflessness that confuses even cynical pro-presidential journalists.

But this is not selflessness at all. It smells of a secret agenda that obviously corresponds to Mr. Putin's long-term personal interests. Of course, he has started thinking about the 2004 elections. A favourable attitude by the West will be beneficial....

So, what is behind the radical changes in Russian foreign policy? Nothing special. Mr. Putin has simply thrown away the veil of statements about the protection of Russian national interests. His policy now acquired a clearly expressed class character. Pragmatism, the defense of some "national interests" that Putin likes to talk about at press conferences – this is just for fools. In fact, we are observing a clear shift of policy defined by the interests of the Russian oligarchs, very closely connected with Western transnational corporations and completely dependent on their Western counterparts.

If one can privatize whole branches of industry, why can't one privatize foreign policy? The Land Code allowed the sale of lands to foreigners and the opening of Russian air space to the US air force, are links in the same chain. Having handed the national economy to people like Mr. Chubais, Hodorskovsky, Freidman and Co., one should forget about an independent foreign policy. But the Kremlin hardly thinks about that. The outer expressions of independence (*receiving a red carpet reception, and so on*) are sufficient.

Russian (Soviet) public opinion is reluctant to recognize the West as a friend. But the Kremlin behaves like a girl in a fairy tale who, with wonderful persistence, fails to see the sharp ears and even sharper teeth of the wolf that has just eaten her Grandmother. M. Putin's main principle of running the state is: "If one must not do something, but wants it very much, then he or she can do it". Russians will not travel far on this principle. The president should better recall the plight of his predecessor, Mr. Gorbachev, who at the top of his popularity did what he wanted without any regard for the country's interests. The real hatred that the nation now feels for Mr. Gorbachev should at least make Mr. Putin think a bit!

They say that in his youth, Mr. Putin was an excellent judo expert, but he certainly does not look like one! **He is far more expert in playing into the hands of the other side!**

## COMMENT:

We would like congratulate Vyacheslav Tetekin for his extremely forthright truth that Northstar Compass agrees with and whose ten year history of publishing, always promoted and analyzed the situation in former Soviet Union with the same questions, but, not as explicitly as did Vyacheslav.

There is only one question that remains to be analyzed and answered! That is :

What position and how did Russian Duma members that belong to the CPRF (Communist Party of the Russian Federation who have the biggest block of seats of any party) voted on the powers that Mr. Putin was able to accumulate. Was there a struggle? Did the CPRF members of parliament demand changes? Did they ever vote against the powers that Mr. Putin and the present bourgeoisie now have? Or did some of the CPRF members in the Duma voted with their feet? ■

**This world-famous monument of worker-peasant will again stand proudly in Soviet cities!**



## DECEMBER 21<sup>ST</sup> - STALIN'S BIRTHDAY



Stalin's birthday was marked in his place of birth, Gorki, Georgia on December 21, 2001. It was the 122<sup>nd</sup> anniversary of the birth of former Soviet leader. Over 1000 people gathered, waving Soviet flags and bearing portraits of him as they walked from his birth home, now a museum, to the Stalin monument in the town square.

One banner read: *"Under the banner of Stalin, together with Russia"*

Georgiy Goriashvili, an 86-year old decorated World War II veteran, told the Associated Press: *"Under Joseph V. Stalin we lived so well, we were proud. We together with Allies beat the fascists. We were equal."*

Many of the speakers who addressed the rally called for the removal from office of the Georgian President Shevernadze.

*"What kind of a president is he when children are going hungry and the country is falling apart?"* said Penteleyom Georgadze, the head of the Georgian Communist Party.

Critics accused Shevernadze, a reform orientated Soviet foreign minister, under former Soviet president Gorbachev, of failing to stem the corruption in Georgia or improve Georgia's economy.

Shevernadze is under pressure from the breakaway region of Abkhazia separatists in South Ossetia, and from Russia, which accuses Georgia of harboring rebels fighting Russian troops in neighboring Chechnya.

*"If we do not make peace with Russia, nothing will remain of our country,"* said Vahtang Gogvadze, a former Georgian Parliamentary speaker who now heads the Georgian-Russian Friendship Association.

In countless cities of the former Soviet Union, people laid wreaths and flowers at places where there were monuments to Stalin, but which were dismantled.

Barry Stoller Associated Press ■

FROM CBC NEWS SERVICE

## RUSSIA-US RELATIONS GREAT

The United States and Russia officials stated that they are getting very close to an agreement of reducing Russia's nuclear arsenal. Putin of Russia declared that the final agreement shall happen when Bush visits Moscow next summer.

This news came after US Secretary of State Colin Powell met Russian Prime Minister Igor Ivanov and Putin in Moscow.

In spite of some differences, officials from, both countries said that the fight against terrorism led to an unprecedented co-operation between the two former enemies.

In the fighting in Afghanistan, Russia supplied the US and its Northern Alliance with arms and has also given the US maps of the Tora Bora cave system.

Powell said that as a result of Russia's help, positive relations between the two countries have now accelerated. Ivanov described the new Russian-USA dialogue as proceeding at an "unprecedented intensity at all levels."

Powell is now promoting a closer relationship between the countries of NATO and Russia. Analysts say now that Russia can expect a quicker entry into the World Trade Organization and eventually NATO. ■

## STATEMENTS BY CC RCWP-RPC

### FASCISM UNLIMITED

As the 29<sup>th</sup> of November events have shown, the fact that the murderous dictator Pinochet was made politically redundant, has not at all meant the end of fascist dictatorship in Chile.

The headquarters of the Communist Party of Chile was subjected to a criminal fascist raid, as a result of which scores of communists were attacked, and party property was damaged. The General Secretary of the Central of CP of Chile Gladis Marin and a number of party members were arrested, including those standing as candidates in the forthcoming elections.

This act of outrageous tyranny against a legally acting party, which enjoys a well deserved authority in the international communist and workers movement for its

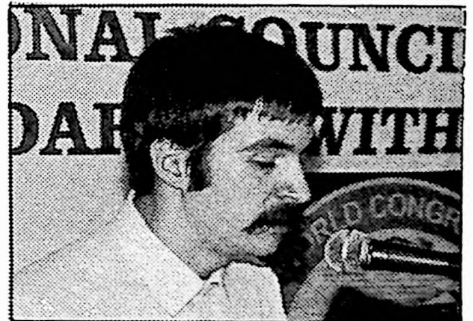
consistent anti-fascist and anti-dictatorial activity, has once again confirmed that all the chattering about democracy is false, since as soon as something poses a real threat or a supposed threat to the bourgeois regime, this culminates in repression against communists and in the offensive of reaction and fascism.

Using force to smash the truth is the usual fascist practice. But it did not or will not defeat the reason.

It is significant that the events in Chile are taking place at the time that the barbarian US "anti terrorist" action in Afghanistan and the brazen invasion of Palestinian territory by the Israeli occupation troops.

From Yugoslavia to Afghanistan, these are links in the same chain of events, the real confirmation of the danger of global fascist onslaught on the rights and freedoms in different countries and continents, which would not reconcile with the diktat of the transnational monopolies and with the establishment of a new world order that is for the global imperialists, the USA.

Communists of Russia express their solidarity with the Communist Party of Chile, and declare a decisive protest against the



Victor Bourerikov, RCWP, translator and member of NSC Editorial Board in G.B.

illegal acts committed by the Chilean authorities and demand that the Chilean president and government stop persecuting the popular Chilean Communist Party immediately, and that those behind the criminal act be punished, and that the damage be reimbursed.

Co-Chairmen of CC of RCWP-RPC  
Victor Tiulkin, Anatoli Kliuchkov  
December 2001 ■

## PUTIN BURIED THE ACHIEVEMENTS OF STALIN ANDS BREZHNEV

USSR was capable of securing peace on the Planet for decades. It could get anti-ballistic-missile treaties signed and obeyed, it could assure that the nuclear arsenal was being cut and that the borders of countries

were respected.

But as we can see today, US and the West's alleged crusade against communism has also included a drive to do away with the principles of the post-war world. US freedom to act is a threat to the whole of mankind.

In the global politics, European and Asian economic "freedom," the WTO trade agreements, financial markets merging to create the "Euro" are all inferior to the cult of force, to the cult of Wild West psychology exercised by the US military, with the support of the TNC's, IMF and other organs of the "new" world order they are creating.

"Never mind if humanity is destroyed in the fire of the world rivalry, but the US must survive to rule the world."

This is what they have expressed by the unilateral withdrawal from the ABM treaty, so is it imaginable to embrace the bearers of such an ideology, visit their ranch and show friendship with them? US intentions are known for a long time. Endless humiliation of Russia is a result of the diplomacy of

Putin, Yeltsin's strategic successor.

There cannot be such a thing as a strong Russia, which would stand as a strong beacon to humanity irreconcilable with US Global Imperialism, while the power belongs to the privatization architects, rejected equally by the Russian people and now by their US ex-partners!

### GLOBAL IMPERIALISM'S ONSLAUGHT ON THE PALESTINIAN PEOPLE

Israel is undergoing full mobilization. Religious fanatics are called up to military service in order to cause religious strife. Jewish settlers are showing off their might in response to Palestinian's hatred.

The hostility grows day after day. And this will not end while the world is dominated by the "system of producing and appropriating products that are based always on class antagonisms, on the exploitation of the many by the few"

Global imperialism is the highest form of

this exploitation, achieved through the technique of total subordination of one group of people to another.

The justified reaction of the exploited is portrayed by the ideologues of imperialism as religious conflicts, terrorism and so on.

The "United Nations" is being gagged by their dependence on investments and on other favours of the world predators like the TNCs, finance groups, the IMF and the IBRD.

The courageous people of Palestine, just like the Serbs, Irish, the Talibs, the Chechens, the Kurds and a number of others are thrown into the jaws of the imperialist Moloch, is effecting every vestige of humanity.

This terrible toll must be ended! "UN peacekeepers" must stop Israel's aggression!

The demands of the Palestinian people must be heard and met by the world community. For Israel's stake to use force is a threat to the whole of humanity! ■

# The "civilized world" of capitalism is the source of terrorism and wars

From "Proletarskaya Gazeta" By Raphael Martinez

The imperialist powers, led by US imperialism, in their propaganda present themselves as the "civilized world". This proclamation of themselves as "civilized" parasites allows them to portray the rest of the world as barbarians and savages.

The kamakaze attack of September 11, 2001 with Boeings into New York and Washington resulted in the destruction of building and thousands of deaths, which provided the bourgeois propaganda with a great excuse to build up the mythical threat to the "civilized world" from "international terrorism". The ruling classes of the USA have declared their intention to strike an unprecedented military blow, in retaliation in order to "destroy bases of terrorists" in various countries and "to liquidate terrorists, as well as those who shelter them."

WHAT IS BEHIND THE PROVOCATION OF SEPTEMBER 11TH?

This provocation in New York and Washington created conditions for the US to secure military control over oil routes and created favourable conditions for the stiffening of political and military pressure on oil-extracting countries to strengthen the

pressure on OPEC and its executive committee.

The price of oil had steadily increased over the past years, something that the US government was not happy about. The US government has increased military pressure and has resorted too carrying out terror in the region of the oil-extracting countries of the world in order to frighten their governments by complementing political and economic pressure with military aggression. The military blackmail and direct military aggression by the imperialists are meant to secure low oil prices.

Additionally, this new aggression further boosts the profits of the military-industrial complex in the US.

Therefore, the provocation of September 11th which has taken the lives of thousands of civilians, serves the economic interests of US imperialism.

It is necessary to note that before the tragic events of September 11th, US economic data clearly pointed to a recession that could lead to a deep global economic crisis. This insanity about an alleged threat to US national security by

"international terrorism" is meant to divert attention from the economic crisis and its consequences for the American people.

The US military aggression against Afghanistan had been planned before the tragic events in New York and Washington. Many documents released by the US government and several government committees bear witness to this. The US capitalists had already calculated the economic benefits of a military occupation of Afghanistan.

The industrially developed West is not expected to increase its oil and gas consumption in the foreseeable future. In order to consume the oil and gas from the region of the Caspian Sea, new emerging markets are required. International oil and gas corporations expect the demand for oil and gas to grow significantly in Asia. Specialists have emphasized that the main regions of oil and gas consumers will be India, Pakistan and China. Due to its geographical location, Afghanistan is the necessary transit point for gas and oil supplies to the countries of the Far East. Afghanistan is located between Turmenistan





## COUNTING THE CIVILIAN DEAD

*Afghans maimed and killed by U.S. bombing around Kandahar tell stories of death and destruction*

and Pakistan, and also near India and also other countries in the region. In order to allow gas and oil supplies from the Caspian Sea and Bashkiria to reach the Far East, it is necessary to build an expensive gas and oil pipelines. Due to the complicated mountain geography of Kyrgyzia and Tadzhikistan, the Afghan route is the best solution for the construction of gas and oil pipelines.

In October of 1997, the governments of Turkmenistan, Afghanistan (the Taliban), Pakistan and an American transnational company created a corporation and signed a memorandum for the construction of the pipelines through all of the territory of Afghanistan.

In particular, the Taliban regime agreed with foreign corporations and governments of Turkmenistan and Pakistan on the construction of a 48-inch diameter pipeline that would run 1,270 kilometers along the Herat-Kandahar road to Pakistan.

However in June of 1998 the American partner (which owned 45.5% of the corporation) pulled out, due to the continuing civil war and the unstable political situation in the country.

During this period the US government refused to recognize the Afghan Taliban government. The US government did not believe that the Taliban would ever be able to establish a stable government in the country and become a stable partner of US imperialism in this region. The ruling Taliban understood this and decided to fight for its own economic interests in a very different way.

In April of 1999 the governments of Turkmenistan, Afghanistan and Pakistan resumed talks and revived this pipeline consortium by inviting a very major Saudi Arabian oil company for talks. It is no coincidence that a number of high US officials attending conceived of the possibility of carrying out "retaliatory" strikes on the territory of Saudi Arabia. The US imperialism faced the possibility of losing control over the transit of oil and gas to the Far East through Afghan territory, as a new potential source of profit.

The construction of a pipeline with local resources would boost the economic independence of the countries in the area. The US imperialists are adamantly opposed to this development, as it would prevent US

Corporations from controlling the new emerging markets. US imperialism is aiming to establish political and military control of Afghanistan in order to impose its conditions on the countries of the Far East and the countries that produce oil and gas in the region of the Caspian Sea. The control of this pipeline would give US companies the opportunity to impose high tariff prices. This then would give US the role of influencing any development in this important region. This development would also influence the price of Russian gas and oil supplies to Europe. This way, US imperialism would be able to influence the economy of the European Community.

The governments of the European Community have tried to get the US government to show restraint in its campaign of retaliation in general, and its campaign against Afghanistan in particular. Shortly after the defeat of the Taliban, several West European countries showed readiness to send ground troops to Afghanistan in order to secure some of the profit from the "Afghan deal."

The provocation on September 11<sup>th</sup> triggered an unambiguous reaction from the

Russian bourgeoisie. The mass media all of a sudden was filled with vicious anti-Islamic propaganda. All of a sudden the mass media recalled the bombing of houses in Russia and the deaths of innocent civilians. President Putin was quick to declare that the Russian authorities were right in declaring a crusade against the terrorist evil. At the same time, the Russian authorities are trying to justify the atrocities committed by the Russian military in Chechnya, leading to the deaths of thousands of innocent civilians.

After a short period of relative stability, the Russian economy is likely to go into a deep depression again. Even the present government does not conceal this fact that the economic situation is unstable and may significantly worsen very soon. The impending new crisis will be reinforced by the dependence of the Russian bombing of Russian houses again and it serves the same way as the provocation of September 11<sup>th</sup> and the aggression against Afghanistan serves the interests of US imperialism. At the same time, with this aggression US imperialism wants to teach a lesson to those who serve US in other parts of the world. It is relevant to note that, at the time of the aggression, the US did not have a clear and Solid replacement for the Taliban government to further safeguard its interests in the area. As a result, US imperialism is not interested in creating a stable central government in Afghanistan. At this time they prefer a weak and divided power, as is now the Northern Alliance, that is easier to control by military means.

The Russian bourgeoisie is avoiding a direct intervention in Afghanistan by cunningly arguing that the defeat of the Soviet "social-imperialist" created an negative conditions for any future military intervention by the Russian Army. However, the ruling capitalist class in Russia, have never refused to gain a new source of profit. The tactics used by the Russian bourgeoisie in this respect are different from those used by US imperialism. It is interesting to touch upon two main factors that have influenced the tactics of the Russian bourgeoisie.

FIRST: the Russian Army is weak and is unable to cope with the colonial war in Chechnya, let alone to intervene in Afghanistan. As of today, the Russian bourgeoisie, and especially the troops of the Ministry of Internal Affairs, is only capable to crush unarmed demonstrators or to humiliate citizens in the street.

SECONDLY: due to the weakness of the Russian bourgeoisie, a military action would objectively serve the interests of US imperialism. A Russian military force would

not be in a position to withstand the heavy pressure from other competitors.

Therefore, the Russian bourgeoisie is trying to reach Kabul through the back door, cunningly avoiding the Northern Alliance. It is influencing political developments in that country, to serve its economic interests. The Russian bourgeoisie is bidding for the creation of a very strong centralized government power in Afghanistan that would be friendly to the present Russian government.

The statement of the Russian bourgeoisie supporting the war against "international terrorism" is no more than a cunning propaganda trick. The Russian bourgeoisie is trying to secure an additional source of profits in Afghanistan, i.e. it is pursuing its own economic interests.

An analyses of the causes of the

aggression: by US, Russia and their accomplices against Afghanistan bears witness of the fact that in the territory of Afghanistan, the imperialist predatory interests of many various countries are overlapping. The struggle over the control of the transit of oil and gas will last for a long time. In any case, it is the Afghan people who will suffer the most. The Afghan people have no choice!

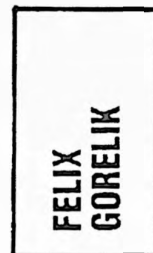
In the 80's of the XIX century, the heroic Afghan people defeated many times the expansionism of the British Empire and imperialism in its quest for world domination and blocked its advance towards Central Asia and Russia.

Today, the Afghan people should take up arms and lead the national liberation of their homeland to a real victory!

## When will the Giant Wake Up?

The present generation of former "Soviet People" do not resemble the former people in any way, not their forefathers who were victorious in the Great October Revolution, which shook the whole imperialist world or the people that laid the foundations of socialism or who broke the back of German fascism! Being sold out by the top echelons of traitors, the present population somehow gave up the gains of their older generation, fooled by the "Western picture of life" and it seems that they resolved to persevere and work as serfs, working without getting paid for many months, not allowing themselves to protest and cry out against this exploitation, just so as not to lose their jobs. Unfortunately most of the present workers do not feel themselves yet as belonging to the working class. Everyone just thinks about themselves and how to save their job, willing to serve and fulfill the wishes of the owners.

Most of the workers now do not believe in the promises of most of the present Communist parties, which call upon the workers to fight against the present ruling class. "This was all done by the Communists!" they say. "This was done by these traitors!" The rhetorical question is "Why is it you picked or elected so many traitors?" It seems that the will to struggle has gone from the workers, just the urge to fit into the present situation, to live out the



days, maybe tomorrow the situation will be better! They say that: "It cannot be like this forever!" The present workers do not yet constitute a class in itself. This is a "class" that needs to understand that the demands for a better life, is a class struggle of all the workers. This is a fact to be taught the youth, who are now disorientated and have gone into the black market, robbery, all narcotics and also servitude.

The above shows only one side of this present terrible situation. "Life itself teaches understanding"! The capitalist exploitation, no rights for the workers objectively give rise to protests and class struggle. The first storms of protests are already being felt. From amongst the masses of workers there came forth people, capable of organizing and leading these stormy protests, future Spartaks and Pugachevs!

Who are these present Burevestniks? In Kharkov, Ukraine, in one of the largest industrial centers of Ukraine, I met up with Anatoly Seredov, chairman of the Union of Worker Committees. With a great physique, middle aged and good-looking man, it seems electrical energy flows from his eyes and mannerism. He is a fantastic and

influential speaker and authority' which the workers willingly listen to and obey. In the newspaper "*Workers-Peasants Pravda*" very often his articles are published, impregnated with Bolshevik and Leninist thoughts. He is a former champion of competitions in Ukraine as the top Lathe Operator and he was forever studying after work at schools.

He was one of the first in the industrial complex that in 1991 already understood the counterrevolution that took place all over former USSR. He immediately started to organize the lathe operators in Kharkov, and inside of four years the workers were on strike, picketed and in 1994 the workers of the enterprise "*Hammer and Sickle*" and other enterprises he organized work stoppages, pickets and took by assault the industrial complex, demanding that the workers get paid their months overdue wages. The owners were forced immediately to pay the workers their wages. At the enterprise "*Hammer and Sickle*" the Red Flag was raised over the whole industrial complex. This very bold demonstration was joined by many other enterprises. The workers now not only demanded that their back pay be paid, but their demands stated that they want the reestablishment of the Soviet State. In all of these demonstrations and events, Sereda was the sparkplug and leader

The authorities started a vicious campaign against Sereda amongst the workers and the population, the result of which was that Sereda was expelled from the industrial complex by the administration.

But Sereda did not just give up and fold his hands. Four times he called upon the workers to go on strike, which they did. He organized workers meetings inside the enterprise. Although the Communist Party inside the "*Hammer and Sickle*" enterprise gave up and went to the side of the management, Sereda reorganized the party clubs and became its First Secretary in one of the top regions of Kharkov and was the delegate to the reorganized Communist Party of Ukraine. He protested against the slowness and opportunism of the CPU and therefore joined the AUCPB, where he became an active member of its Central Committee. In a very important and long article entitled "*There is no beginning or end to a Revolution*" he called for a new Socialist Revolution and the dictatorship of the proletariat. Regarding the prevalent illusion of parliamentary struggle, Sereda was a candidate and it proved what he stated that you cannot beat the bourgeoisie with their capital since he was offered \$50,000 to take his name off as a candidate in the election. The whole city of Kharkov was



Anatoly Sereda



A. Bondarchuk

covered with millions of leaflets by the bourgeoisie, urging people not to vote for Sereda.

The propaganda against communists is that it is impossible for "*a housewife cook to govern the state*".

The most important role in organizing the class struggles in Ukraine belongs to the "*All Union of Workers of Ukraine*". From 1995 this union has set up its branches all over Ukraine. In Kiev, I met the head of All Union of Ukrainian Workers, A. Bondarchuk forthright, honest and down to earth in his attitude. His biography speaks for itself. As a worker, he then went to Aviation Academy and became an airplane engineer. He was aware of the counterrevolution right from the start and he immediately got to work inside the former Communist party to reorganize it. As a member of the Communist Party of Ukraine, he leads the left wing of that party and he is active as organizer of the working class. His energy and talent have made the newspaper "*Working Class*" now a weekly newspaper. It is distributed in all of the enterprises, but only to about 3% of the workers. The goal is to reach at least 10% of the workers in each enterprise in Ukraine. In some enterprises like the textile industry, the Ukrainian Union of Workers has a great influence over the enterprise. The

administration keeps a very close watch over this newspaper and Bondarchuk.

This union of workers organized many marches of workers into Kiev, pickets of the Supreme Ukrainian Parliament and organized many meetings across Ukraine and demonstrations.

In Kharkov, I attended the meeting of the "*Workers Kharkivschina*" – member of the trade union of Ukraine. The auditorium was filled to capacity.

The leaders for workers rights such as Sereda and Bondarchuk, fought from their youth for workers rights. These are exactly the kind of people that feel they are Soviets and an army of workers will be formed and they will lead to another Socialist Revolution. These present leaders bring to mind the fairy tale of the giant Gulliver, although being tied with ropes, but when danger comes, this giant (*the working class*) awakes and brings order to the chaos that is now existing in all of the former Soviet Republics!

## PRIVATIZATION OF RAILWAYS – ACTION OF INTERNATIONAL TERRORISM

By Alexander Penin  
Committee Against Privatization of Railways

In November 2001 in Russia, in the village of Ryapino, near the city of Leningrad, an International Conference was held against privatization of railways. That conference was a reply to the privatization of the steel main lines, which are being constructed in Western Europe, according to the Directive N92/440, issued by the European Parliament. During the last ten years, the privatization of railway transport has clearly demonstrated the dangerous and the criminal character of this shady enterprise, so pernicious for the economy of the country and also for the security of the passengers. These are being closed down throughout the country. In Germany, during 7 years of privatization, more than half of all the work force employed in this section of the economy were laid off, and it is planned to lay off an additional 100,000 people. Privatization as such always leads to the decrease of paid wages. People who were hired after privatization receive 8% less than their co-workers with longer work experience, without any possibility of an increase in wages.

In Brazil, the duration of the working day is

being increased from 8 to 14 hours per day. In Great Britain, the harmful consequences of privatization went so far that 80% of the population wants the railways to be nationalized. After privatization, the number of accidents and catastrophes has sharply risen. Practically all railway workers have emphasized that the profits for the private owners is now more important than the security of transportation. The owners of the railways now prefer to pay penalties rather than repair wagons, the railway lines and various facilities, which would make transportation more secure. Passengers and railway workers have to pay with their lives and blood for the desire of capitalists to receive their enormous profits. Therefore, the conference had put forward the following slogan: "**Privatization kills!**"

The privatization of railways has become one of the forms of the reformation of railways. A reform of the railways of Russia will bring the same sad results and destructive tendencies, which are being observed in the mentioned countries. But for our country, due to its huge size, those reforms will bring even greater harm, actually they will bring our country to a division into the separate regions. How, for instance, will the supplies reach the Far East and how will the coal be transported from the Kuzbass, if the Transiberian main line will be divided among different proprietors, and each one of these proprietors will start dictating his own conditions?

At the Conference there were representatives from Russia, Germany, Great Britain. Letters of solidarity were received from railway workers in Pakistan and also Brazil. The conference received greetings also from a number of individuals. In particular, the widow of Vladimir Visotsky (*famous singer of the 60s and 70s in the USSR*) wrote: "*I have already expressed the pain in my heart that I feel, just by looking at the fate of elderly people and children, who are now in the so-called society of "New Russians". In my opinion, they are not "new". These are the same people who had power during 1980's, having changed their colours, have now privatized for themselves the best sources of profit. That is why I'm against the privatization of railways!*"

The representatives from Germany said that they had succeeded in suspending the privatization for now and in making equalizing the wages between the former East Germany and West Germany. In Great Britain, thanks to the struggle that was waged by the railway workers, a Bill in Parliament is being prepared on the

nationalization of railways, that has already been supported by 100 deputies of the Parliament, and one company, called – "*Railtrack*" has already been nationalized.

This kind of privatization creates favourable conditions for the transnational

corporations to swallow up – in this case railway transportation – entire economic regions and to secure the economic enslavement of the economy of dependent countries, with all of the fatal consequences for the working people. ■

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## WHO WERE MEMBERS OF THE "WOMEN'S CLUB" IN RUSSIA?

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FROM NEWSPAPER  
"BOLSHEVIK OF STAVROPOL"

These members were enemies of the USSR and they will be judged by our grandchildren for their traitorous work in the process of dismantling of the Soviet Union and Socialism. For now, let the readers judge as to the guilt of these women, who, together with their husbands, lovers or friends were instrumental in hidden and open struggle against the USSR.

This organization was set up in 1986, under the aegis of the "*Fund of Gorbachev*", by Raisa Gorbachev, while her husband's Fund was the brainchild of the CIA as facts and expose of its finances are now well known. The purpose of this "*Club*" was to help in the liquidation of the Soviet Union, through the "*non-political and cultural Women's Club*"

Members of this exclusive club were the wife's or sweethearts of the bourgeois leadership, which took over the USSR after the counterrevolution. The leader of this club was non-other than Raisa Gorbachev, who, as the documents show now, was the *power* behind Gorbachev as was the case with Tatiana Yeltsin, daughter, who in fact ran the apparatus in the Kremlin.

It is interesting to note that many of the leaders of this club had dual citizenship – Russian and Israeli.

Let us just mention the backgrounds of only three women, who were just as much to blame for the downfall of the USSR as were their husbands. Gorbachev, Yeltsin and Sakharov were putty in their hands – as the saying goes.

**ELENA BONER** – wife of Sakharov, who won the Noble Peace Prize, was a member of the Soviet Academy of Sciences. During her lifetime she led a life of debauchery, only made friends with rich people, married three times, lived with 4 men and finally got married with Sakharov. When her daughter was born, she sued two husbands at the same time for support and lived also as a

married woman with two husbands for nine years. Sakharov was sentenced for his anti-Soviet activities by Brezhnev, and when Gorbachev came to power he brought Sakharov and his wife to Moscow and gave them both top positions in the Kremlin. It is proven now, that Sakharov and Boner were instrumental in pushing through the government the elimination of the 6<sup>th</sup> Item of the Soviet Constitution, which thus eliminated the role of the CPSU in government and this was the beginning of the end for socialism in the USSR. Thus, Sakharov and Boner were part of the process to ban the CPSU.

**NATALIA SOLZHENITSYN** – she was the vicious anti-Soviet instigator with her husband, gathering around them the hidden enemies of socialism. It was her idea that Solzhenitsyn write the book "*Archpelego-Gulag*" and spent years getting archival materials, which were then doctored-up for the book. Being supported by the West, her three sons were schooled in top private schools in USA and now live there. Money was no object for her and her husband, who gathered millions for his books, published in the West.

**RAISA GORBACHEV** – was the head of the "*Women's Club*" and a member of the CPSU and a Professor. Her thesis for her professorship was "*Life in the village under Communism*." She met Gorbachev while studying in the University in Moscow and under her persistence, she urged Gorbachev to live in Moscow instead of Stavropol where Gorbachev was to have taught and also Raisa, as was requested by them when they entered University in Moscow. When they applied for permission to teach in Moscow, the Soviet Security refused them permission, since they had already a dossier on their activities while at the Moscow University.

They took then the road of joining the CPSU and through those ranks to gain entry into Moscow. What urged Raisa on was the

hate against the Soviet state organs that prevented her ambitions to flower in Moscow. In order to circumvent the refusal of the security organs, her professorship thesis was thus very cleverly chosen. How can anyone refuse to grant this Professor Raisa the chance to be in Moscow after her Doctorate Thesis of "Life in the Village under Communism"! Pulling strings in Moscow with their anti-Soviet hidden friends, they were allowed to live in Moscow.

It is always good to remember that the Soviet law at that time was to bring up the sons and daughters of workers and peasants into the government, not the sons of former landowners, which Gorbachev's grandparents were like latifundists.

Thanks to his wife Raisa, Gorbachev became the General Secretary of the CPSU, but, he was always led by Raisa. This is attested to by photographs, close friends who told how Raisa browbeat her husband, even in public receptions, much to the dismay of his staff. Her friends nicknamed her the "uncrowned princess".

**NAINA YELTSIN** – was the wife of Boris Yeltsin while his oldest daughter Tatiana Diachenko had an official position in the government as an "Assistant to the

President". Her job was to pick, hire and fire the staff in the Kremlin. She made sure that no honest and dedicated Soviet was hired or even allowed into the minor ranks in any of the Russian ministries. In 1998, Yeltsin appointed her as part of the Directorate of the top TV station ORT in Moscow.

In actuality, Tatiana was the eyes and ears of Yeltsin, since he was almost drunk everyday. Regarding the wife of Boris Yeltsin, she was always pushed into the shadows. Her job was to make sure that Boris was able to stand upright, and she was by his side, holding him up on many occasions. She was also a member of the CPSU in the city of Sverdlovsk. Yeltsin's grandchildren were schooled in the most expensive private schools in England. Grandfather of Yeltsin, Moiseyev Yelkin, in 1934 was sentenced to jail for anti-Soviet activities.

There are many others, too numerous to mention – but – all were cut from the same cloth. Even Putin has promoted Alexandra Burataeva into top position in the Russian Duma. She heads Putin's White Guard Youth Section. She proposed in the Duma that the word "Russian" should not be used, only "Rossijsky". Her family, the Kalmik ethnic nationality during 1943, in the death struggle against Fascism were fighting the

Soviet Red Army and helping German fascists. Her family was sentenced to 13 years in jail for their fascist activities.

## STOP THE PRESS!

FROM  
**ZWEVEGEM**  
BELGIUM

Dear friends:

I wish all of NSC NSC readers in 2002 happiness, health, success, peace, joy and fulfillment of your wishes for our common struggles.

While in Moscow I met the leaders of different communist parties and passed on to them the copies of discussions in Russian and report on the World Congress that I attended on behalf of the Workers' Party of Belgium.

On our WPB Web Site, we promote the International Council for Friendship and Solidarity with Soviet People. Enclosed please find a copy of our Web promotion in English and Dutch. Our web side can be found in English [WWW.WPB.BE](http://WWW.WPB.BE) and [WWW.PTB.BE](http://WWW.PTB.BE) for French readers.

The Web Site for NSC is great and George Gruenthal is doing a great job in promoting Northstar Compass and the International Council.

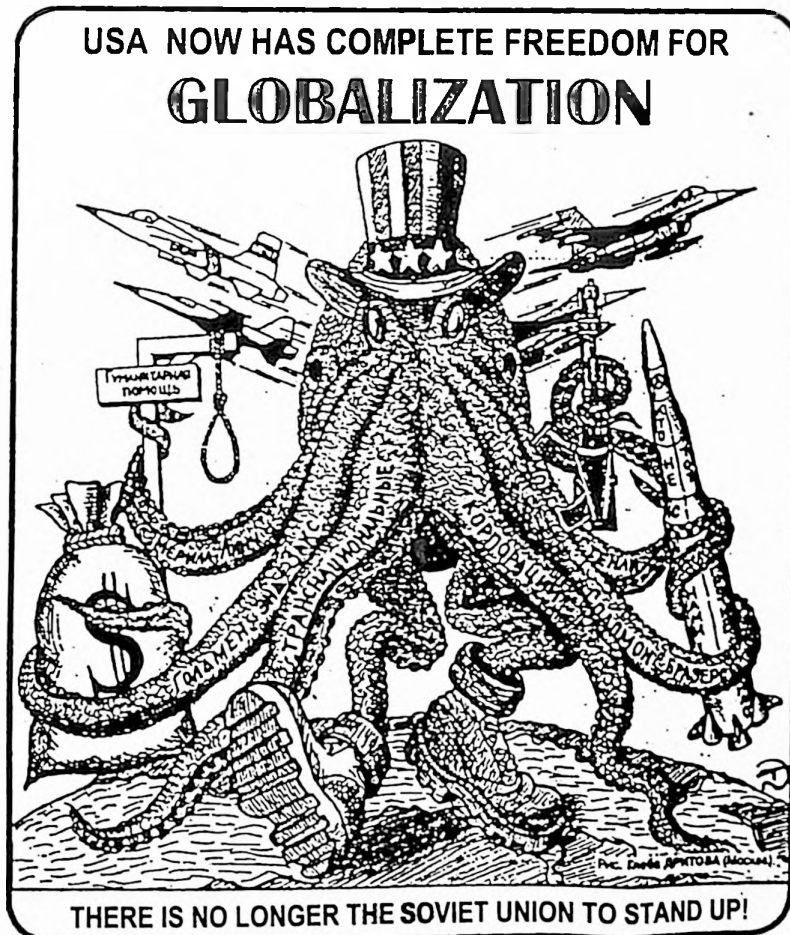
Very soon NSC shall receive an article about the dangers of Bush withdrawing from the ABM-Treaty.

Many sincere thanks for the very warm and sincere reception during the World Congress and the trip to Niagara Falls.

Jef Bossuyt  
Workers' Party of Belgium

FROM  
**DURNHAM, NC**  
USA

I am writing in response to the position that the Sept. 11<sup>th</sup> events especially hurt American imperialism. Thus far the effects of the Sept. 11<sup>th</sup> have been mostly positive for imperialism, especially in the West where the threat of terrorism has been used to curtail freedoms, especially those of immigrants and minority ethnicities, where access to government institutions and information, national borders, and strategic assets is being reduced, and where a mentality of war is being promoted. The attacks have provided the rationale and excuse for much of the Bush agenda while



From the newspaper "Sovetskaya Rossia"

reducing the possibility of any successful opposition. Since Sept. 11<sup>th</sup>, the **Patriot Act** has passed in the US Congress, President Bush has been given fast-track trading authority and power to have prisoners tried by a military tribunal, racial profiling and government intimidation has become more overt, and the administration is pursuing an NMD. The war footing in the USA and other countries has dealt a set back to anti-globalization movement and others. The struggle in Middle-Eastern or Third World countries may be aided by the Sept. 11<sup>th</sup>, but so far it has gone as in the West. Afghanistan has been successfully invaded, with daily bombing, even throughout Ramadan Holy Days. Israel has escalated its aggression against Palestinians and Colombia's government and others are using alleged terrorism to try and encourage further American support. Further bombings is now possible in other countries with the success of the Afghan campaign. It appears to me that the September 11<sup>th</sup> has strengthened Imperialism, at least in the short run if not for the foreseeable future.

September 11<sup>th</sup> might have resulted in Imperialism showing more of its true nature, but how can we in the USA take full advantage of that very fact? In the USA, "America's New War" can only be opposed by showing decisively that the essence of the government's acts, does not reduce terrorism and is maliciously threatening and attacking other nations and by pushing for a convincing alternative based on the full evidence. As things stand now, it seems it will be very hard to fully oppose the war because the general public may not be at all ready to see the attacks as understandable and even less ready to see them as beneficial. Maybe a lot more attacks on

civilians will make it easier to criticize policies, but is unlikely and there should be better ways.

Given the doubt of the sources of the attacks, it is possible to say that they were intended to produce the very results in Imperialism's favour - and clear evidence is lacking to prove than bin Laden and his compatriots are responsible. The official description of the way the events played out on September 11 has very suspicious holes in it and there is a real possibility of some kinds of domestic or even Israeli foreknowledge of, even participation in the attacks. Even if bin Laden was closely involved, there are questions as to the supposedly coincidental timing of the attack and the possible contacts between CIA employees and bin Laden.

Michael Pollock

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FROM  
**ANCHORAGE, ALASKA**  
USA

Dear Editor:

I can conceive of the World Congress and Northstar Compass as a means for global unification of a just world system!

Enclosed is a \$200 donation towards the work of the International Council.

Congratulations and best wishes.

**BILL STIVERS**

*We shall strive to fulfill your expectations and we hope that other readers will support the cause that we are all dedicated to.*

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## The US War in Afghanistan and the Grab for Central Asian Oil

Behind the claims of US President George W. Bush to smash the so-called Al Qaeda network led by Osama bin Laden in the name of "freedom and civilization" lies a deeper and far-reaching reason: Central Asia's oil and gas reserves and other natural resources.

BY LEANDRO NATIVIDAD  
Bulatlat.com

The war in Afghanistan led by the

United States is more than just a war against "terrorism." Beneath the rhetorics of US President George W. Bush to smash the so-called Al Qaeda network led by Osama bin Laden in the name of "freedom and civilization" lies a deeper and far-reaching reason: Central Asia's oil and gas reserves and other natural resources. Bush, Vice President Dick Cheney and some of his Cabinet men — who themselves have corporate ties with giant power corporations — are not just fighting "terrorism." They're

fighting for something else.

Oil politics

The region of Central Asia — encompassing the "newly-independent" states of Azerbaijan, Turkmenistan, Uzbekistan, Tajikistan, Kyrgyzstan and Kazakhstan — holds about 10 percent of the world's known reserves of oil and gas, which today is worth \$5 trillion. According to the Union Oil Company of California ("Unocal 76"), a giant US petroleum company that has shown interest in exploiting the reserves: "The Caspian region contains tremendous untapped hydrocarbon reserves, much of them located in the Caspian Sea basin itself. Proven natural gas reserves within Azerbaijan, Uzbekistan, Turkmenistan and Kazakhstan equal more than 236 trillion cubic feet. The region's total oil reserves may reach more than 60 billion barrels of oil — enough to service Europe's oil needs for 11 years. Some estimates are as high as 200 billion barrel."

Turkmenistan alone, which shares a common border with Afghanistan's north, has a natural gas resource base as high as 535 trillion cubic feet, the world's third largest (or fifth, according to the Central Intelligence Agency's 2000 "The World Factbook"). While it already markets this gas to Ukraine and other countries in the former Soviet Union using a Russian pipeline, non-payment of arrears by these cash-strapped republics and the constraints imposed by the Moscow government for the use of the conduit has forced the Niyazov regime in Turkmenistan to look for alternative markets outside the Russian grid, most notably in East Asia.

One obstacle to exploiting these vast resources is transit. Most of Central Asia is landlocked. Turkmenistan, for instance, has a coast in the Caspian Sea — the locus of the region's fossil fuel deposits — but this body of water is actually a huge lake, providing no access to the sea. Only three options are open, all of them involving the laying out of transnational multiple pipelines, to any entity wishing to tap and market this oil and gas bonanza (in particular Turkmenistan's): a line to the Black Sea, in which case it will have to pass through Iran (whose Islamic state is regarded by the US government as "rogue"); an underwater line across the Caspian Sea and thence to the Black Sea (which will require huge infrastructural outlays — very expensive); or one through Afghanistan and Pakistan, and thence to the Arabian Sea and by tanker to waiting lucrative markets in East Asia.

In the eyes of oil interests, the third option is by far the most practicable in terms

of infrastructural and transportation cost and access to markets. Said Unocal, citing a World Bank study: "The proposed pipeline from Central Asia across Afghanistan and Pakistan to the Arabian Sea would provide more favorable netbacks to oil producers through access to higher value markets than those currently being accessed through the traditional Baltic and Black Sea export routes."

#### Afghan oil reserves

While there seems to be a well-established view among petroleum players (notably the US government's Energy Information Administration or EIA) that Afghanistan's significance from an energy standpoint lies in its potential to provide transit, its own oil and gas reserves are nothing to sneeze at. Its proven and probable natural gas reserves are estimated at up to 5 trillion cubic feet (Tcf) in the 1970s, while its oil and condensate reserves have been estimated at 95 million barrels. These resources are largely untapped.

In the era of Soviet social-imperialism from Khrushchev to Gorbachev, Russian state-capitalists were of the same opinion as the World Bank. Hoping to use the potential revenues from oil and gas exports to the Far East to revive their collapsing economy, Kremlin launched the disastrous 1979 invasion of Afghanistan. After 10 years of trying to suppress the CIA-backed Afghan resistance, the Soviet forces withdrew in defeat.

After the full restoration of capitalism in Russia and the secession of Central Asian nations from the defunct USSR, it was the turn of imperialism to ponder the complexities of turning that potential petroleum bonanza into actual megabucks, and make it serve as a pawn to advance its geo-political agenda. Since the US controls most major sources of petroleum and sell them at high prices to the Europe Union and Japan, the latter saw Central Asia as a possible way out of this bind. But the US-led war of aggression in Kosovo scuttled initial European efforts towards this end.

"Russia and German companies had been trying to establish a pipeline from the Caspian Sea through Eastern Europe, but U.S. bombing of Yugoslavia blocked this plan...The U.S. has its own oil reserves, and does not need to rely on oil from abroad. However, Europe, Japan and Asia are dependent on oil from the Middle East (oil that is controlled by U.S. and British companies) and they are eager for alternative and cheaper sources," opined the Philadelphia International Action Center (IACenter), an independent US think-tank.

Having temporarily stumped its rivals, the US government then sought an American oil giant that will help it achieve its two-fold objective of exploiting Central Asia's black gold while maintaining a tactical oil blockade against its economic rivals. It found one in Unocal.

#### Unocal and the Taliban

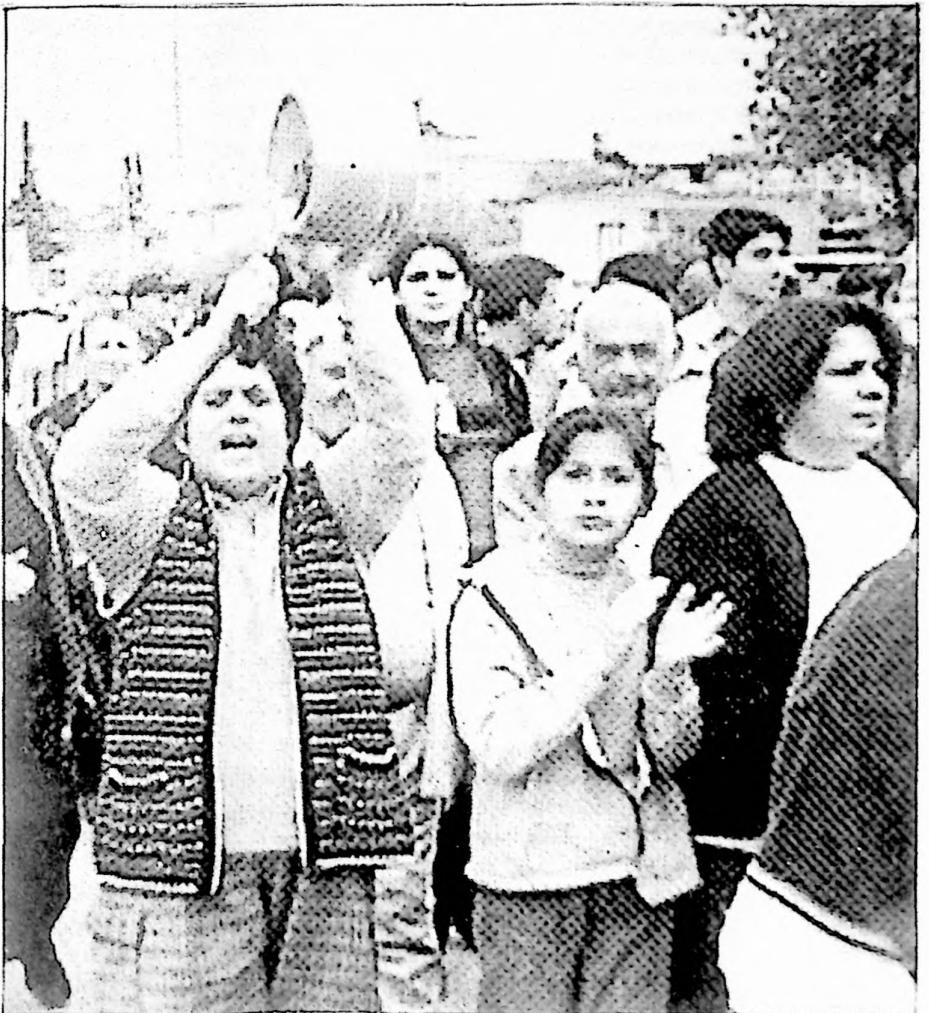
Based in El Segundo, California, Unocal was founded in 1890 and is one of the oldest and largest oil companies in the United States. Today, it is engaged in the exploration and production of crude oil and natural gas and project development in 14 countries around the world. Its oil and gas productions are split half-and-half between operations in North America as well as in Thailand, Indonesia, Bangladesh, Myanmar, Canada, The Netherlands, Azerbaijan, Congo and Brazil. In 2000, the company produced 175,000 barrels of petroleum liquids and 2,008 million cubic feet of gas per day — mainly from United States' Gulf of Mexico region, Thailand, and Indonesia.

Unocal is constantly at the center of public criticism and litigation for its

unscrupulous business practices, such as expanding its operations in countries ruled by repressive regimes (Suharto in Indonesia and the SLORC in Myanmar), violating indigenous people's rights (the Kareni in Myanmar and the Salish and Kootenai tribes in Pablo, Montana) and engendering environmental destruction (clearing rainforests in Myanmar and pouring poisonous wastewater in San Francisco Bay).

Encouraged by the Clinton administration to grab the opportunity being offered by the government in Turkmenistan, which since 1995 had been shopping around for a partner to build an envisioned oil and gas pipeline to the Arabian Sea, Unocal signed an agreement with the Turkmen regime in 1997 to lay the line that would span the gap between the country's old Dauletabad gas field (containing 708 billion cubic meters in reserves) to Pakistan through Afghanistan. It formed a consortium of all interested parties in October 1997, the Central Asia Gas Pipeline Consortium (CentGas). This included: Unocal (U.S., with 46.5%); Delta Oil Company Limited (Saudi

*Demonstrations are held all over the world, as shown here in Greece.*



Arabia, 15%); Turkmenistan government (7%); Indonesia Petroleum, Ltd. or INPEX (Japan, 6.5%); ITOCHU Oil Exploration Co., Ltd. or CIECO (Japan, 6.5%); Hyundai Engineering & Construction Co., Ltd. (Korea, 5%); and The Crescent Group (Pakistan, 3.5%).

Unocal intended to use CentGas as a vehicle "to evaluate and, if appropriate, to participate in the future construction of a gas pipeline from Turkmenistan through Afghanistan to natural gas markets in Pakistan and, potentially, India." Aside from this, Unocal by itself clinched another deal with the Turkmen regime for an even more ambitious project, the Central Asian Oil Pipeline Project (CAOPP).

#### Regional pipeline

"The pipeline," according to Unocal Vice President John J. Maresca, "would become an integral part of a regional oil pipeline system that will utilize and gather oil from existing pipeline infrastructure in Turkmenistan, Uzbekistan, Kazakhstan and Russia. The 1,040-mile-long oil pipeline would begin near the town of Chardzhou, in northern Turkmenistan, and extend southeasterly through Afghanistan to an export terminal that would be constructed on the Pakistan coast on the Arabian Sea. Only about 440 miles of the pipeline would be in Afghanistan. This 42-inch-diameter pipeline will have a shipping capacity of one million barrels of oil per day. Estimated cost of the project — which is similar in scope to the Trans Alaska Pipeline — is about \$2.5 billion."

The fact that Afghanistan was then already ruled by the Islamic fundamentalist Taliban, which the US government and the United Nations (UN) did not recognize as the legitimate regime in the war-torn country, was perceived merely as a slight inconvenience that could be overcome. With the all-out backdoor support of the Clinton administration, and being the moving-spirit behind CentGas, Unocal proceeded in earnest to court the new Afghan government's cooperation in the venture.

Said Pakistani journalist-academic Ishfaq Ahmad: "The Clinton administration ignored the rise of the Taliban from October 1994 onwards, with the active backing of its allies Pakistan and Saudi Arabia. For political reasons as well, Washington did not object to the emergence of an inherently anti-Iran Sunni force in Afghanistan...For the next three years, between 1995 and 1998, especially after the fall of Kabul in September 1996, Clinton administration officials openly lobbied for the Unocal before Taliban authorities."

Taliban leaders already favoured the project even before they came to power in 1996. Their only precondition to Unocal was that it also assist in the reconstruction of Afghanistan's war-damaged infrastructure, and that the pipeline should be open for local consumption at some points within Afghanistan.

"The Taliban were not just interested in receiving rent for the pipeline route, which could be \$100 million a year, but also to involve the oil companies in building roads, water supplies, telephone lines, and electricity power lines," added Ahmad.

Although Unocal had already inked the deal with the Taliban, Turkmenistan and Pakistan in May 1997, it failed to meet these two demands. (Ironically, Argentine oil company Bidas — Unocal's losing rival in the bid for the project — had proposed to build an "open" line, which could also meet the local needs for natural gas; whereas Unocal had proposed to build a "closed" pipeline pumping gas for export only.) From then on, the Taliban increasingly cast a jaundiced eye on the leadership of Unocal in the project.

#### Biggest obstacle

For its part, Unocal began to regard the Taliban as the biggest stumbling-block in the whole plan. Speaking before a committee of US Congress on February 12, 1998, Maresca declared: "The territory across which the pipeline would extend is controlled by the Taliban, an Islamic movement that is not recognized as a government by most other nations...From the outset, we have made it clear that construction of our proposed pipeline can not begin until a recognized government is in place that has the confidence of governments, lenders and our company."

In the same breath, however, Maresca reiterated the indispensability of an Afghan transit: "In spite of this, a route through Afghanistan appears to be the best option with the fewest technical obstacles. It is the shortest route to the sea and has relatively favorable terrain for a pipeline. The route through Afghanistan is the one that would bring Central Asian oil closest to Asian markets and thus would be the cheapest in terms of transporting the oil."

The trillion-dollar deal eventually crashed in 1998 due to additional political pressures. In August 1998 Afghanistan's Osama Bin Laden and his Al-Qaeda militants were implicated in the bombing of US embassies in Kenya and Tanzania, as well as American warship USS Cole in Yemen, giving the US an excuse to bomb selected areas within Afghanistan. Coupled with a snowballing protest

movement of feminists who decried the Taliban's anti-women policies and the oil company's implied support of such discrimination, Unocal finally withdrew from CentGas in December 1998. Since it held the largest percentage of shares, this led to the de facto collapse of the Consortium and the grounding of the pipeline projects.

For everyone interested in exploiting the Central Asian bonanza, most especially the US, the policy direction is clear: remove the Taliban and subjugate Afghanistan.

#### War of conquest

To say that the Bush administration welcomed the chance presented by the WTC/Pentagon bombings might even turn out to be an understatement. Given the high stakes involved in Central Asia, some quarters are wont to explore the "remote" possibility — remote because of its grossness, not because of lack of precedence — that Washington (or at least a cynical inner circle such as the CIA) knew of the impending bombing but still let it happen.

Whatever the case, Bush and his associates in the military-industrial complex lost no time in declaring war against Afghanistan triggering widespread skepticism that it is really all about stamping out "terrorism."

"If Bush has the 'evidence' he claims, why not bring Bin Laden before the World Court? Are they really just interested in bringing down the Taliban and Osama Bin Laden?" asked IACenter.

The war's scale and avowed tactical objective themselves cast further doubt on Washington's "anti-terrorism" hype. Precipitately scotching the option of acute diplomacy to subject Bin Laden and other September 11 suspects to proper trial, the US government opted to bring to bear its entire conventional war machinery against the backward and impoverished Afghan nation. Furthermore, the often-stressed objective of the war was not to bring the "terrorists" to justice, but to dislodge the Taliban government (packaged in the fallacious syllogism that crushing the Taliban would result in the capture of Bin Laden and the ending of Pan-Islamist attacks against the US).

As an alternative to the Taliban, Washington envisions a "broad-based" government of all opposition groups that is friendly to US interests. Once a "stable" Afghanistan is created under the stewardship of the US, NATO or the UN, the aborted pipeline project may then be revived. ■



**MISHA ASKS...**  
**COULD THIS BE**  
**THE REAL TRUTH?**



# THE CONVERSE CONNECTION

By JUSTIN  
RAIMONDO

*"This third part of the Fox series shows how the Israelis had access, not only to telephone records, but also to wiretaps being conducted by US law enforcement agencies. Their access could have easily provided, Cameron points out, by yet another hi-tech Israeli communications company "Converse", which operates as practically an official branch of the Israeli government, and enjoys near monopolistic status in the United States."*

When is American policy going to start putting America first? The US had nothing to gain, and everything to lose, by vetoing a UN resolution condemning violence of all sides in the Israeli-Palestinian conflict. The UN resolution condemned terrorism, no matter what the source, called for a creation of a "monitoring mechanism" to prevent violence, denounced executions without trial, and said that the destruction of property must cease. You gotta problem with that?

## NEGROPONTE'S VETO

The United States Ambassador, John Negroponte to the United Nations, justified the US veto in the UN by averting that the resolution was aimed to "isolate politically one of the parties to the conflict through an attempt to have the weight of the UN Council behind the other party." The resolution, said Negroponte, was "unsatisfactory because it did not specifically mention recent acts of terrorism, against Israelis." Naturally the US veto scuttled the whole thing, as it was meant to be.

For this argument to go, if carried on long enough, would lead to an infinite regression of victimological examples that the world press is full of from time immemorial.

The at US veto undermines the war effort, and makes the Americans seem as if they are waging a war not only on Islam. but

against the entire world of behalf of Israel. After decades of trying to prove its bona fides as an honest broker of peace in the region, it is the US that is effectively isolated. The UN resolution was co-sponsored (or amended) by France and the Security Council vote was 12-1, with Britain and Norway abstaining. Whatever credibility the US had in the Arab world – very little, I'm afraid – was lost with that one arrogant gesture. So much for the "grand coalition" that Colin Powell has been building: the Israeli lobby in the United States has demolished it with a single blow.

Is that the demonic laughter of the Mad Sheik I hear, chortling to himself wherever he is at this act of American self-sabotage? It may be that Osama bin Laden is not long for this world. Yet he will die happy in the knowing that the US is sowing the seeds of his future warrior army, who will spring like Muslim Myemidons out of Palestine's blood-soaked earth.

## BATTLEGROUND AMERICA

Speaking of sabotage, the story of Israeli gigantic spy operations in the US – and its mysterious operations in the weeks prior to September 11<sup>th</sup> – continues to amaze and shock even me. When I wrote, a few weeks ago, that the detention of some 60 Israelis in connection with the 9/11<sup>th</sup> was "ominous", little did I know that would turn out to be. It is often said that, post 9/11, the US is going through what the Israelis have had to endure for decades. The series of Fox special news reports on Israeli penetration of US intelligence assets put this insight in an entirely new light. For it appears, from what we are learning, that the struggle between the two desert tribes in a far away land has truly been brought home to the USA: America, we are discovering to our horror, has become a battleground for both sides in that ancient conflict.

As I related last time in my article, the first

party of this astonishing four-part series by Fox News Reporter Carl Cameron presents credible evidence suggesting Israeli intelligence had foreknowledge of the 9/11 attacks. The second and third parts show that they had the means to acquire this knowledge. According to Cameron:

"Fox News has learned that some American terrorist investigators fear certain suspects in the September 11 attacks may have managed to stay ahead of them, by knowing who and when investigators are calling on the telephone!"

## ALL ROADS LEAD TO AMDOCS

Cameron takes us through an explanation of how and why virtually all telephone calls in the US are billed by a single company, Amdocs Ltd., which just happens to be headquartered in Israel. Chances are that when you make a call, the record of the call and the billings is done through Amdocs. With as virtual monopoly in the US, and tentacles worldwide, Cameron reports that "it is virtually impossible to make a call on normal phones without generating an Amdocs record if it." Amdocs denies any wrongdoing, but reliable sources tell Fox that, in 1999:

*"The super secret National Security Agency, headquartered in northern Maryland, issued what's called a Top Secret sensitive compartmentalized information report, TD/DCI, warning that records of calls in the United States were getting into foreign hands- in Israel, in particular."*

## SPIES IN THE WOODWORK

It's not that anyone is listening to all the calls going on, but that these methods are a way to know who is calling whom, when, and for how long-vital information in and of itself. Cameron assures us that the White House and the Pentagon are immune from such surveillance, but an article in "Insight" the magazine put out by the "Washington Times" showed how Israeli intelligence had thoroughly penetrated the communications system at the Clinton White House. According to the co-authors J. Michael Waller and Paul M. Rodriguez, writing in May of 2000, the FBI was:

*"Probing an explosive foreign-espionage operation that could dwarf the other spy scandals plaguing the US government. "Insight" has also learned that the FBI counterintelligence is tracking a daring operation to spy on high-level US officials by hacking into supposedly secure telephone networks. The espionage was facilitated by, Federal officials say, lax telephone-security procedures at the White House, State Department and other high-level*

government offices and by a Justice Department unwillingness to seek an indictment against suspects."

The espionage operation may have serious ramifications," wrote Walter and Rodriguez, "because the FBI has identified Israel as the culprit."

#### MONICA TELLS ALL

Dozens of US Government officials confirmed the story, telling the authors of this fascinating piece how the Israelis had managed to penetrate not only the State Department telephone lines, but also those in the White House, the Defense Department and the Justice Department. That former President Clinton knew this at the time is beyond doubt, it came out, you'll remember during the "affair Lewinsky" when Monica testified that, on March 19, 1997, when she and Clinton were desecrating the Oval Office and Monica under oath, specifically remembered it because, as the Starr report put it:

"He (Clinton) suspected that a foreign embassy was tapping his telephones, and he proposed to me cover stories, if ever questioned...that the two of them were just friends. If anyone ever asked about their phone sex, she should say that they knew their calls were being monitored all along, and the phone sex talk was just a put on!"

That foreign embassy "was the Israelis!" It is spooky, in retrospect, to read the comments of the American intelligence and law enforcement officials who soured this pioneering insight piece (which for some reason, is no longer available on their own Website, but is still available, thanks to the miracle of Google). "It's a huge security nightmare," said one senior US official. "The implications are severe", another unnamed official said. "We're not even sure we know the extent of it," said a high-ranking intelligence official. "All I can tell you is that we think we know how it was done. That alone is serious enough, but it's the unknown that has such deep consequences and who is it that is trying to hush this up??"

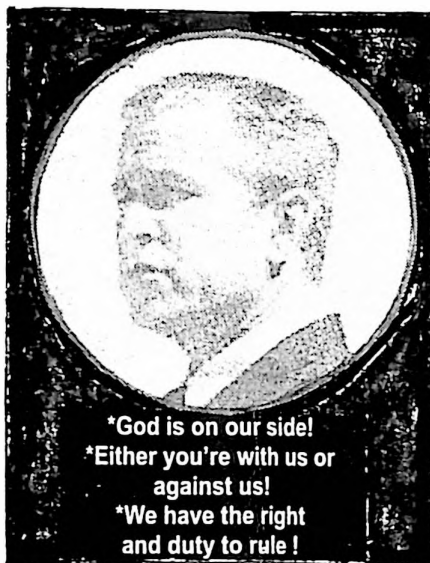
#### OUT OF THE MURK

Ah, but the deepness of these consequences is just beginning to be known. As the Fox News revelations make it all too clear, they are a lot deeper than anyone, including Rodriguez and Walter could possibly have imagined last year. The picture that is beginning to emerge out of the murk is this: the Israelis were watching the hijackers and/or their associates, and they possibly had access to the content of their conversations and telephone records. In the months prior to the attacks, the Israelis did INDEED issue a warning of

"massive" terrorist attacks, but, in an effort to protect both their sources and methods, and therefore it was practically useless.

#### THE CONVERSE CONNECTION

The third part of the Fox series showed how the Israelis had access, not only to telephone records in the USA, but also to the wiretaps being conducted by the US law enforcement agencies. This access could have easily been provided, Cameron points out, by yet another hi-tech Israeli communications company, "Converse" which operates as practically a branch of the Israeli government, and enjoys near monopolistic status here in the United States of America.



When you place a call, it goes through a complicated network of routers and switchers. The way wiretapping works is that customized computers are linked to that network via specialized software, and system intercepts, records, and stores wiretapped calls. But this system has a "back door" that could easily have been opened by Israeli intelligence. "Converse" maintains a link to all the wiretapping computers, on the grounds that it is necessary for system "maintenance". Over the opposition of some patriotic American law enforcement officers from local, state and federal jurisdictions, who complained that the "law enforcement current electronic surveillance capabilities are less effective today than they were at the time of the CALEA was enacted." Attorney General Ashcroft and FBI Director Robert Mueller were both warned of this on October 18, 2001 by a hand-delivered letter from the above officers.

#### ASHCROFT'S COMPLICITY

But Ashcroft is too busy rounding up

Arabs and closing down their organizations to worry about the wholesale penetration of our communications system – including "secure" network at the White House, the Defense Department, and elsewhere – by our wonderful allies, the Israelis. Cameron cites several unnamed law enforcement agents – concerned about the ominous implications of the Israeli penetration in light of the September 11th – and they say that even raising this issue with the White House is a "career suicide."

Okay, so the Israelis have the phone lines over at the White House, the Defense Department, the Justice Department, and, for all we know, your local dogcatcher's office bugged to the maximum. So they have the capability to know where and when practically every phone call in the USA, and large sections of the rest of the world, is made, and to whom. As fantastic as it sounds, given the advance of the present time technology and the reputation of Israeli Mossad, I'm willing to believe it. What's really alarming, however, is that, as Cameron reports:

"On a number of cases, suspects that they have sought to wiretap and survey immediately changed all of their telecommunications processes. They started acting much differently as soon as those suspected secret wiretaps went into place."

#### BEYOND THE BEGUINE

The implications of this stunning news go far beyond my original contention: that the Israelis had foreknowledge of the 9/11 attacks and simply failed to let us know the details. For it all depends on the intended target of the wiretaps: was it the Israelis, or bin Laden's agents? If the former were acting differently after the wiretaps were put in place, it means only that the Israelis were using their sources and methods to protect their own: if the latter, it means that the Israelis were using their sources to protect the bin Ladenites. That is a possibility no one – including me – wants to contemplate, and, in all truthfulness, I just confess I cannot believe it. I am forced to concede, however, that, given what we now know, it is possible. Until and unless the government comes clean, we won't know for sure.

At the end of his second report, Carl Cameron remarked to Brit Hume that the question of Israeli connection to 9/11 "came up in the Select Intelligence Committee on Capital Hill and they intended to look into what was reported. Naturally, all this is occurring in secret, with a likelihood of a

cover-up all but certain. What is needed is a public investigation, and full disclosure of the Israeli role, if any in the 9/11 attacks.

#### WHERE IS THE MEDIA?

That, of course should be the role and the demands of the media – and, in this regard, it is interesting to note that Cameron's explosive investigation has not been picked up by a single news outlet, as far as I know (*although I would be happy to be proven wrong*) or discussed by a single "mainstream" columnist. Yet, US Fox News is hardly a marginal news source. In a business where scandal and especially spy stories are hot, you would think that a story like this, with its tie-in to 9/11, would have the other networks falling over themselves to get a piece of the action. But, not this time, at least so far. Some directive from the top must have been issued to kill this story.

I can only hope, for Mr. Cameron's sake, that what amounts to "career suicide" in law enforcement doesn't hold true at Fox News. Israel certainly has many vocal and very active supporters and the Israeli Lobby is strong in the US...they are very effective and quick to make their views and opinions known. But it is false to posit a "Jewish-controlled" media, no matter what the ethnicity or political persuasion of the editors, owners, or whatever: these media companies are beholden to their shareholders, and to the market. Reporting the news is a very intensive competitive business: there is no way to enforce a complete embargo on certain information, not in this day and age. There is no "Jewish conspiracy" – only the machinations of a particular foreign government (*Israel*) and its uncritical supporters in this country, who span the ethnic and religious as well as the political spectrum.

#### THE TRUTH AT LAST

It is too soon to say whether or not this story has "legs", as they say, or is going anywhere soon. But one thing's for sure: Fox News has blown the mystery of 9/11 wide open. This isn't just going to go away. On September 11<sup>th</sup>, the American people looked on in disbelief at the site of not only the World Trade Center going down, but also the Pentagon – the Pentagon, for Christsake! – under an attack and apparently defenseless. My first thought, at any rate, was: How could this happen? With these latest surprising developments – all pointing to an ambiguous Israeli role, at best, in all of this.

– I fear that we are just beginning to discover the answer to that question.

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## WEST DUMPS PESTICIDE INTO COUNTRIES OF AFRICA

BY Wayne Britenden

While the West agonizes over the possibility of toxic chemicals released warfare, people of Africa are left sick and dying with an unreported bombardment of peacetime poisons.

I have just returned from a BBC assignment that took me to some of the most remote rural areas of Ethiopia, where over 3,000 tons of obsolete pesticides are seeping into the food chain. Throughout the country, there are more than 9000 sheds –

of rotting chemicals. There are about 50-60 different products, some of them arsenic based, and all of them years, even decades, past their sell-by-date. There are products sold by the West to Ethiopia that have long been discredited or outlawed in their own countries or against the law to manufacture.

Toxic molasses-like cocktails, centimeters thick, seep through the storage walls into the soil and waterways. At one site I visited, a yellow crystalline crust had formed. The moment that our cameraman stepped on it, his shoe soles dissolved.

Fumes engulf subsistence farming communities and toxic dust settles into grain silos and food stores. Residues reach the drinking water – the only drinking water. The Ethiopian authorities have lacked the capacity to monitor this epidemic. The Government stored these pesticides that were sold to UN agencies by Western private firms who just dumped these illegal substances on African soil in order to save them the cost of recycling them into harmless waste.

The bitter irony is that the money that was shelled out for these hazardous materials and often unnecessary products that Western firms had to get rid off, due to the laws in their own countries that banned such dangerous products from being manufactured. The Western Aid Agencies, instead of helping the Ethiopian people, have bolstered the profits of the pesticide corporations instead. Western tax-payer aid budgets are now footing much of the bill for an urgent clearance that began recently.

The UN Food and Agricultural Organization (FAO) is overseeing the clean-up, but, it cleans only the worst chemicals that were sold to Ethiopia, but the years of previous chemicals are left to do the untold damage to agriculture, health and welfare of the people.

The umbrella organization in the USA for the pesticide, Crop Life International, has reneged on paying for the clean up. Instead of delaying with proposals and stalling actions, in spite of directives from the United Nations and pleas from the Ethiopian Government, since it is this company that made millions on worthless and dangerous dumping unto Africa and thus forgoing the clean-up that they had to do in the US. It is now admitted that a further 20,000 tons was dumped into the countries of Africa by Western manufacturers, with super profits and worthless-dangerous contamination of the African environment. Ethiopia is only the tip of an iceberg.

In the later 1980s, a leaked World Bank memo declared the "impeccable logic" of dumping the West's toxic waste on African

shores. The carcinogenic consequences, the argument ran, wouldn't take effect, because African people die earlier of Aids or famine. The author of that memo, Lawrence Summers, went on to higher things as head economic advisor to former president Bill Clinton.

The cynicism of the memo is reflected in the actions of the pesticide companies. They've had free reign in much of the developing world. In Ethiopia, their local salesmen instill fear into the peasant farming communities, with stories of the imminent return of the dreaded desert locusts and the need to buy more chemicals. Farmers go into debt every year, but the desert locust swarms haven't been sighted for more than fifty years.

With most of the population illiterate, it's difficult enough for people to come to grips with pesticide safety instructions in their own language, but it is in English.

Ethiopia is much more than a dumping ground for pesticide, or a venue for civil war or famine. It's a country of great natural beauty. Ancient churches carved out of rock reflect the long connection to Christianity. In one rural village the local kids sang while I recorded them. They crowded around the playback, and we realized that they never ever saw a tape recorded before.

The quality of their adult life will depend on whether they will have access to clean water. But, unless the governmental policies change for the better and this means that foreign chemical companies must be barred from dumping toxic waste unto the Ethiopian soil or into African countries in general. ■

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When the whole property of this universe has been inherited by all creatures, how then can there be any justification for a system in which some one gets a flow of huge excess while others die for a handful of grains?

P.R. Sarkar

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## ISRAEL'S DIVIDE AND CONQUER STRATEGY

By Labournet

In a gripping article published in the October 2001 issue of Harper's Magazine, New York Times reporter Christopher Hedges described how every afternoon around four o'clock, nearly every day, a voice on a loudspeaker is heard spewing out insults in Arabic, calling out: "Come on

you dogs! You, Sons of Bitches". To his astonishment, Hedges discovered that the loud speakers were mounted on the armored Israeli vehicles parked just outside the Palestinian refugee camp. Soon after, young Palestinian boys, most of them no more than 10-eleven years old, would dash towards the armored vehicles and began throwing rocks at the soldiers. At which point, the soldiers would open fire. Here's how Hedges describes one bloody scene: "A percussion grenade explodes. The boys, most no more than 10 or eleven years old, scatter, running clumsily across the heavy sand...there are no sounds of gunfire. The soldiers shoot with silencers. The bullets from the M-16 rifles tumble end over end through the children's slight bodies. Later, in hospital, I will see the destruction: the stomachs ripped out, the gaping holes in the limbs and torsos." To Americans, the notion that Israel would go out of its way to provoke and incite the Palestinians, let alone Palestinian children, to violence is beyond belief.

And yet, evidence is abundant that Israel is not engaged in any form of self-defense – certainly not as it is understood under international law – but rather in a deliberate, willful provocation aimed at creating an unstable atmosphere within which Israel can undertake its military operations with impunity.

Let's revisit the few weeks before the tragic December 1-2 bombings in Jerusalem and Tel Aviv: November 7 - the Red Crescent Society reports that the Israeli soldiers shot in cold blood three wounded Palestinian gunmen under their custody after Medics were unable to save the life of a wounded Israeli soldier; November 13 – the Israeli Human Rights Group B'tselem uncovers that the Israeli army has established a policy of not prosecuting Israeli soldiers that have shot and killed, without provocation, Palestinian children; November 22 – five boys, ranging from 6-14 are killed when an ordnance planted by the Israeli soldiers deep into the civilian Palestinian territory explodes; November 23 – four Palestinians are killed during the boy's funeral march, among them a 14-year old boy.

What ignited this latest firestorm is of course the November 23 assassination by Israeli soldiers of militant Hamas leader, Mahmoud Abu Hannoud, who was assassinated while riding in a taxi with 4 other Palestinian men. As expected, Hamas vowed revenge. "Evidence has shown that the militant wing of Hamas reacts to the Israeli crimes and always strikes back" said Aziz Rantissi of Hamas – God willing, there

will be a painful response." And so there was.

And did Israel expect such a reaction? Of course it did! It knew full well that just as the taunted Palestinian children of Gaza throw rocks at their tormenting soldiers, so do Hamad and Islamic Jihad, taunted by assassinations, bombings of densely populated areas, house demolitions, land confiscations, react with weapons of their choice: suicide bombings.

But then we ask: Why? Why would Israel engage in such provocations?

As demonstrated by Camp David, the Palestinians are not willing to settle for anything less than as sovereign Palestinian State, and the Israelis are not willing to offering anything or listen to the demands of the United Nations many resolutions to get out of the occupied Palestinian lands. Palestinians, militarily are no match against the Israelis, have time and again pleaded for an unconditional return to the negotiations table.

The Israelis, holding the military upper hand, have decided that the negotiations are a dead end for attaining their goal of a semi-autonomous Palestinian state, and have instead opted for the time-tested strategy of divide and conquer: spread civil strife among Palestinians, establish a state of chaos, so that Israel is no longer faced with solving a political problem, but rather with confronting a security crisis, and then move on to further dismember, annex and tighten the control over the remaining Palestinian territory.

In this light, it becomes perfectly clear why the Israelis are making it virtually impossible – not only politically, but now, physically – for Yasser Arafat to bring about order among the people.

During the period between 1993-2000, about 400 Israelis were killed in militant Palestinian actions (3,000 of them were killed not in Israel but on the Palestinian territory). The only period during that interval when Israeli fatalities fell almost to zero, was during the last year under Barak of Israel...*(but he was defeated by Israeli war hawks.)* This was the period that the Palestinians truly believed that their ordeal was at an end...with belief that the cycle of violence will be broken.

But it will be broken only if and when Israel abandons its grand strategy of divide and conquer and its tactics of provocations and collective punishment. Peace will become possible at long last when Israel does come to terms with the reality that there is no alternative to the establishment of a free, sovereign Palestinian State. ■

## NEWS DIGEST COMMENT

### US EXTREME RIGHT & ANTHRAX SCARE

From INDIMEDIA.ORG NEWSWIRE

The evidence continues to mount that the extreme right-wing elements in the US are responsible for the anthrax scare since early October. But both the Bush administration and the American media have lapsed into virtual silence on the subject, a noticeable contrast to their portrayal, barely a month ago, of the anthrax attacks as a major terrorist threat.

The shift in the official treatment of the anthrax attacks points to the cynical political calculations that underline both the media coverage and the policies of the Bush administration. As long as it seemed possible to attribute the anthrax attacks to Osama bin Laden or some other foreign terrorist, shrieking headlines and alarmist statements from government officials were the norm. Now that it seems certain that domestic fascists are to blame, anthrax no longer serves as a pretext for expanded US military intervention in the Middle East and Central Asia. Accordingly, the danger is being downplayed and the investigation put on the back burner.

In late November discovery of a contaminated letter addressed to US Senator Patrick Leahy further undermined suggestions that Middle East terrorists are behind the anthrax attacks.

The letter to Leahy was found as part of a systematic search of the mail delivered to Capital Hill the week of October 15, when the first anthrax letter to Congress, addressed to Senate Majority Leader Tom Daschle, was discovered.

FBI officials said the Leahy letter confirmed their hypothesis, based on an analyses of the writing style and wording of the previous anthrax letters, that the sender was an American terrorist with some familiarity with biotechnology relatively simple equipment costing as little as \$2,500.

One official told the New York Times that "sending a letter to Leahy suggested that a domestic terrorist was responsible. No disrespect to Senator Leahy", the FBI official said, "but I don't know how many foreign terrorist would want to single out the chairman of the Congressional committee. They would have other more important targets."

The Judiciary Committee handles issues in the USA that are among the most

inflammatory for the extreme right, including abortion rights, gun control, review of the work of the FBI, and confirmation of Federal judges.

Two Bush administration spokesmen on the anthrax attacks, homeland security director Tom Ridge and Health and Human Services Secretary Tommy Thompson, have admitted that the likely source is domestic rather than foreign.

The New York Times concluded its article, in an Editorial on November 22 with this comment: "Discovery of an anthrax-laced letter mile to Senator Leahy strengthen the likelihood that the terrorist is home-grown rather than foreign... Since Senator Leahy is primarily associated with social and law enforcement issues, he seems more likely to attract the attention of home-grown terrorists."

#### NO DRAGNET AGAINST THE RIGHT

Those involved in the investigation now admit that the facts fairly scream that the domestic fascists are responsible for the anthrax attacks. But the US federal authorities are noticeable reluctant to act on that conclusion. While the Justice Department has sent out instructions to local police departments across the country, to bring in for questioning thousands of Arab and Muslim men, aged 21-35, there has been no such dragnet order against the right-wing elements, such as the militia groups and gun-rights groups, white supremacists, or anti-abortion extremists.

For the Bush Administration, of course, such an investigation could prove politically embarrassing, given its close ties to the ultra right-wing elements and the prominent role they play in the Republican Party.

The FBI and Justice Department are well aware of the links between right-wing elements and past threats of bio-terrorism. Two white supremacists have been linked with such threats: Larry Wayne Harris, a microbiologist and former member of the Aryan Nations, who obtained both bubonic plague and anthrax materials; and also Alexander James Curtis, author of Internet report entitled "Biology for Aryans" with information on botulism, typhoid and anthrax.

An extraordinary article in the New York Times, November 20 described the scene at a recent Gun Show in Salt Lake City, Utah, a virtual convention of all right-wing enthusiasts, at which one individual,

Timothy W. Tobiason of Nebraska, sold printed CD copies of his self-published book "Scientific Principles of Improvised Warfare and Home Defense, Volume 6-1: Advanced Biological Weapon Design and its Manufacture." According to the New York Times, the work is a germ-warfare cookbook that bio-terrorism experts said, "is accurate enough to be dangerous."

The book contains expert direction for making airmail delivered anthrax, and advises readers: "If you can make Jell-O, you can wipe out cities. Enjoy!" The New York Times reported that the Federal officials have been monitoring Tobiason for years, and that he delivered copies of his book to the office of dozens of US Senators, including Daschle.

A former electronic warfare specialist in the US Navy, Tobiason went AWOL, after a conflict with an officer and eventually received a less than honorable discharge. His anti-government grievances allegedly grew when the US Patent Office failed to grant him a patent for an agricultural chemical, and then awarded a patent of a similar product to a large corporation.

While Tobiason is only one of thousands, of such individuals, he and his ilk have been given little or no media attention, especially from all of the major television networks. Whenever the networks make mention of anthrax at all, they continue to suggest that these attacks somehow justify the Bush Administration's military intervention in Afghanistan and Central Asia.

### AS I SEE IT!!!

By JERRY MORSE

### SOMETIMES HEADLINES TELL THE WHOLE TRUTH

*One of the first projects for the rebirth of the Soviet Union is to straighten out the warped history of the world, which is the multi-direction of GLOBALIZATION, which at present follows the warped direction of GOEBBELIZATION.*

\*Putin says dialogue with NATO developing intensively.

\*Georgia to continue integration into European structures.

\*Robertson of NATO wants to discuss nonproliferation of weapons. (The biggest exporter of weapons wants to be the only kid on the block - a bully!)

**\*Gorbachev's Party considers merger!** (It is so right-wing, they have problems finding a party that is to the right of them.)

**\*Criminal cases of trade in people reaches 106.** ( Well, with Ukraine's economy in shatters and their exports down, then sell people as an export commodity!)

**\*Russia to open up a Consulate General in Houston.** (Washington government might move to Texas, closer to Bush's home turf. The globalized government representatives will be in Houston and voting will be counted only by the size of the American flag that each member will be waving.)

**\*Georgian Minister says: West continous supporting Shervnadze.** (Of course, the sponsors always support traitors).

**\*Kasianov of Russia urges society to take part in the reforms.** (Yes, the Soviet people are taking "part" by demonstrating in the streets against the capitalist reforms!)

#### LATEST ADVANCE

We recognize and applaud the scientific breakthrough in DNA molecular science to miniaturize computer functioning. According to the news media, credit goes to Professor Ehud Shapiro of the Weizman Institute for making advancement in obtaining a molecular mix from DNA and playing it on the doorsteps of human destiny a road map to better thinking by human beings.

Let us hope that the first political use of this new scientific achievement by this Israeli scientist will solve the problem between Israel and Palestine, and that the DNA of its citizens in both countries does not fall upon the sands of Palestine and Israel!

## WHAT IS USA UP TO IN THE CAUCUSUS?

As the readers will remember, sanctions had been placed on Azerbaijan in 1992, due to the conflict about the Nagorno-Karabakh - between Armenia and Azerbaijan. Ethnic Armenians wanted out of Azerbaijan proper. What is happening now in this hot spot?

US is offering military assistance as was indicated by the visit of US Defense Secretary Rumsfeld to Azerbaijan and his discussion with the government. Does that mean that the Nagorno-Karabakh people are going to be classified as terrorists?

US also placed sanctions against Armenia. Is the present US policy now to get their hands on the rich oil fields that are in Azerbaijan and thus get these former Soviet republics into the Caucasus into the US foreign policy pocket? It seems that the TNC's and oil monopolies want USA to lift all the sanctions against Armenia and

Azerbaijan, sell both of the people arms and thus divide and rule.

Yes, the US government and the oil monopoly lobby are gung ho to get their hands on all oil fields in their path for world

Of course USA is backing all of the reactionary-nationalistic regimes of the break-away former Soviet republics of Uzbekistan, Kyrghyza, also Tadjikistan and Kazakhstan right up to the borders of China and also right into the mineral rich Siberia. Maybe the next step by Uncle Sam will be to get Siberia to separate from Russia and then divide itself into small fiefdoms...all on their knees before US imperialism!

It looks that the profits to be gained both economically and politically is needed to fuel the tremendous costs of the National Missile Defense System that the present warmongering US wants to save the world from. **But, from whom?**

When will the Soviet people realize the danger, as they did before 1953...time is running out for them and the world working class.

Oh yes, yes...do you remember the screaming headlines about Anthrax, about the terrorists using this deadly Anthrax against the "democratic peace-loving US of America"? Well, now the US government has openly admitted that they were and are manufacturing Anthrax in two US locations and that it was made and sent by US - but but it was shown on the back pages of the bourgeois press, without even a headline. Oh yes, it was those Arabs, Near East terrorists that did this!!

How long will the American public and other slavishly people following every foot-step of Uncle Sam, wake up and see the light? ■

## MANY DIFFERENT KINDS OF TERRORISMS

*By Luis Brito Garcia of Prensa Latina - Cuba*

**Terrorism** - an unlimited violence against the defenseless. All the wars of the last century, and those now in progress, are disasters heaped on unarmed civilians.

**Strategic terrorism:** the weapons industry is the most lucrative on the globe. Five powers that control the UN Security Council are also the main weapon manufacturers. To sell them, they promote wars where their puppet states crush unruly states or movements.

When their puppet states become unmanageable, a new deluge of weapons, destroys them and the sales resolve the recession. The cost of this warmongering orgy, is sufficient to put an end to hunger in the world, is paid for by the victims.

**Narcotic terrorism:** drug traffic is the second most productive business venture in the world. The seven most powerful nations control all of the financing, distribution, consumption and reinvestment of drugs.

At present, US banks handle \$300 billion dollars of doubtful origin. Such large financial movements cannot occur without the knowledge and the consent of the authorities.

The country that controls the world's drug traffic uses this as an excuse to intervene in troublesome countries such as Panama or Colombia and destabilizes others, such a Peru and Bolivia.

**Energy terrorism:** oil is the third most productive business of the planet. The wars of the 20<sup>th</sup> century, and those of the 21<sup>st</sup> are for oil and the control of oil.

Strategic and energy terrorism are part of a political and military aggregate to transfer control from the country of resources to the powers of consumption. Their sin is to destroy them in a few decades, leaving a contaminated humanity without energy resources.

**Ecological terrorism:** the most powerful countries, with barely 20% of the planet's population, consumes almost 80% of the world's resources.

To that end, they poison and overheat the atmosphere, contaminate the oceans, hoard and waste the water reserves, destroy the ozone layer, destroy biodiversity, cut-down forests, contaminate the biosphere with uncontrolled genetically mutated species, and make the planet, progressively uninhabitable.

**Financial terrorism:** The United States forces the rest of the world's countries to support their own currency with dollars, although, since 1974, the dollar is no longer backed by anything. The constant uncontrolled speculation complicates the false value of this painted paper.

To obtain loans in this currency, puppet States hand over their sovereignty and resources and accept unpayable debts that consume almost 50% of their gross national products, collapse their economies and destroy the standards of living, not to mention the human and social rights of their citizens.

According to the UNICEF statistics after the debt crisis, half a million children die every year as a result of economic adjustments.

**Cultural terrorism:** the powers that monopolize the means, demand a single idea, a single omnipotence, a single model of civilization as the only one possible, and praise the absolute imposition of the above-mentioned terrorism as an inevitable global destiny.

Their media saturates the air waves with the five thousand victims of the attack on the Towers in New York, and absolutely ignores news of the five thousand civilian victims of US intervention in Chile, the five thousand civilians burned by their bombers in Panama, the 30,000 disappeared by puppet governments in Argentina and the 40,000 victims of US actions against Nicaragua.

At the same time, they cover-up the 200,000 Indians annihilated in Central America, the thousands of Venezuelans who were exterminated by repression, the catastrophe of the bombings of Baghdad and also Kosovo, plus the Clinton administration's butchering in Sudan and Somalia that, according to Norman Cholmski, had more civilian victims than those of the World Trade Center. Add to this Yugoslavia and now Afghanistan, than the picture becomes crystal clear.

All forms of terrorism, and those yet to be invented, come from the powerful countries. Against this deluge, humanity has only the light of our own conscience, that teaches us to identify the true enemies and thus defend ourselves.

*The author is a Venezuelan journalist and writer.*

## MINERS MARCH FOR MEDICINE

South African miners marched last month to demand medicines for the treatment of HIV-AIDS.

The marchers showed how the HIV-AIDS has become a major industrial issue in South Africa, which has the world's highest known infection rates. All members of the National Union of Mineworkers (NUM) in the seven Imgwe mines (*foreign owned*) in the Highveld area of Mpumalsanga, sent special memorandums to the government and managements. The mines are owned by the multinational conglomerate Billiton. They demanded that the multinational fulfill its signed agreement with their union as part of this year's industry-wide bargaining round.

The need to tackle HIV-AIDS at the workplace level was emphasized by an international trade union conference held in South Africa last February by the 20-

million strong and influential International Federation of Chemical, Energy, Mine and General Workers' Unions (ICEM). This important conference particularly stressed employers' responsibility in the fight against the pandemic. The NUM is Africa's biggest union, is an ICEM affiliate.

AIDS is now one of the biggest killers in South Africa. A recent report from the state-funded Medical Research Council says that, within the next ten years, AIDS probably will be responsible for twice the number of South African deaths, than all other causes put together. This means "5 to 7 million cumulative deaths in South Africa by 2010".

The present South African government tries to dispute its own funded report, but its regarded by the medical profession as very authoritative. It estimates that 40 per cent of deaths of South Africans between the ages of 15 and 49 are now AIDS-related. So the worst hit South Africans are those of working age. Miners are particularly at risk. Most of them are migrants who live in impoverished and overcrowded company hostels, far away from their families. This conference called for a speedy end to this "hostel culture".

### COMMENT:

*Maybe Sir Nelson Mandela, the father of the new South Africa could do much more for his country then prancing all over the world, becoming honorary citizen and while in Canada, his welcoming committee charged \$5,000 per plate to see and hear Mr. Mandela.*

## Milosevic won't Apologize for Resisting NATO's Schemes

By John Catalinotto (*Workers World*)

While US wages war in Afghanistan, it is trying to complete its aggression against Yugoslavia by putting former president Slobodan Milosevic on trial before NATO's court in The Hague.

On October 29<sup>th</sup>, the Yugoslav leader reiterated his strong stand of refusing to recognize the legitimacy of the court or even to read the charges against him.

"I have heard here, he said, " as on previous occasions, expressions of concern because I do not read documents from this false indictment, since, allegedly, I should learn what I am accused of.

"I wish to state that I know very well what

I am accused of. I am accused because I defended my people, in a legal manner and by legitimate means, on the basis of the right of self-defense that belongs to every nation.

"It was my honor and privilege to defend my people against the criminal aggression committed against them and to defend my people against terrorism that Clinton's administration was closely cooperating with, something that no one would be able to deny.

"No flood of false documents can drown the truth. I have no intention to get acquainted with the contents of something that is completely fabricated and very distant from the truth," the former president said before the court.

There is functioning an International Committee to defend Slobodan Milosevic and it held a conference in Belgrade where plans were made to hold protests and organize local conference in countries and to send petitions to governments.

*Where is an outcry from Put-in and his many trips to kiss the hand of President Bush? Where is that defender of the Orthodox faith in Russia...why is his voice not being heard? It's a silly question...Put-in now goes to church and visits the head of the Orthodox Church. Maybe they should get together...this former communist KGB (who were to be the defenders of the USSR and Socialism) and the spiritual Head of the Orthodox Faith, who leads the flock. But they are together. What a question?*

## THE SILENCER

The Pentagon has admitted that it silenced the Arab TV service Al-Jazeera by blowing up its Kabul office with a missile on November 12<sup>th</sup>. Just minutes before the bomb hit, Tasir Alouni, Kabul correspondent of what the Associated Press describes as "*the Arab world's most respected television channel*", was abducted and beaten by unknown assailants. Now, could there be possibly a more blatant act of suppression of the press? Yet, this is exactly what happened when the US destroyed the Belgrade television station in Yugoslavia with a direct bomb hit. Now the Bush administration is spared the embarrassment of people around the world seeing the real pictures of the war: dead bodies of women, children and men, casualties of its terror bombing campaign.

WW New Service

## FEATURE ANALYSES

# U.S. WAR CRIMES

MIDDLE EAST TIME LINE (revised December 12, 2001)

BY STEPHEN R. SHALOM

The list below presents some specific incidents of U.S. policy in the Middle East. The list minimizes the grievances against the United States in the region because it excludes more generalized long-standing policies, such as U.S. backing for authoritarian regimes (arming Saudi Arabia, training the secret police in Iran under the Shah, providing arms and aid to Turkey as it ruthlessly attacked Kurdish villages, etc.). The list also excludes many actions of Israel in which the United States is indirectly implicated because of its military, diplomatic, and economic backing for Israel.

1947-48: U.S. backs Palestine partition plan. Israel established. U.S. declines to press Israel to allow expelled Palestinians to return.

1949: CIA backs military coup deposing elected government of Syria.<sup>1</sup>

1953: CIA helps overthrow the democratically elected Mossadeq government in Iran (which had nationalized the British oil company) leading to a quarter-century of repressive and dictatorial rule by the Shah, Mohammed Reza Pahlevi.

1956: U.S. cuts off promised funding for Aswan Dam in Egypt after Egypt receives Eastern bloc arms.

1956. Israel, Britain, and France invade Egypt. U.S. does not support invasion, but the involvement of its NATO allies severely diminishes Washington's reputation in the region.

1958: U.S. troops land in Lebanon to preserve "stability".

Early 1960s: U.S. unsuccessfully attempts assassination of Iraqi leader, Abdul Karim Qassim.<sup>2</sup>

1963: U.S. supports coup by Iraqi Ba'ath party (soon to be headed by Saddam Hussein) and reportedly gives them names of communists to murder, which they do with vigor.

1967: U.S. blocks any effort in the Security Council to enforce SC Resolution 242, calling for Israeli withdrawal from territories occupied in the 1967 war.

1970: Civil war between Jordan and PLO, while Israel and USA discuss

intervening on side of Jordan if Syria backs PLO.

1972: U.S. blocks Egyptian leader Anwar Sadat's efforts to reach a peace agreement with Israel.

1973: Airlifted U.S. military aid enables Israel to turn the tide in war with Syria and Egypt.

1973-75: U.S. supports Kurdish rebels in Iraq. When Iran reaches an agreement with Iraq in 1975 and seals the border, Iraq slaughters Kurds and U.S. denies them refuge. Kissinger secretly explains that "covert action should not be confused with missionary work."<sup>4</sup>

1975: U.S. vetoes Security Council resolution condemning Israeli attacks on Palestinian refugee camps in Lebanon.<sup>5</sup>

1978-79: Iranians begin demonstrations against the Shah. U.S. tells Shah it supports him "without reservation" and urges him to act forcefully. Until the last minute, U.S. tries to organize military coup to save the Shah, but to no avail.<sup>6</sup>

1979-88: U.S. begins covert aid to Mujahideen in Afghanistan six months before Soviet invasion in Dec. 1979.<sup>7</sup> Over the next decade U.S. provides training and more than \$3 billion in arms and aid.

1980-88: Iran-Iraq war. When Iraq invades Iran, the U.S. opposes any Security Council action to condemn the invasion. U.S. soon removes Iraq from its list of nations supporting terrorism and allows U.S. arms to be transferred to Iraq. At the same time, U.S. lets Israel provide arms to Iran and in 1985 U.S. provides arms directly (though secretly) to Iran. U.S. provides intelligence information to Iraq. Iraq uses chemical weapons in 1984; U.S. restores diplomatic relations with Iraq.

1987 U.S. sends its navy into the Persian Gulf, taking Iraq's side; an overly aggressive U.S. ship shoots down an Iranian civilian airliner, killing 290.

1981, 1986: U.S. holds military maneuvers off the coast of Libya in waters claimed by Libya with the clear purpose of provoking Qaddafi. In 1981, a Libyan plane fires a missile and U.S. shoots down two Libyan planes. In 1986, Libya fires missiles that land far from any target and U.S. attacks Libyan patrol boats, killing 72, and shore installations. When a bomb goes off in a Berlin nightclub, killing three, the U.S. charges that Qaddafi was behind it (possibly true) and conducts major bombing raids in Libya, killing dozens of civilians, including Qaddafi's adopted daughter.<sup>8</sup>

1982: U.S. gives "green light" to Israeli invasion of Lebanon,<sup>9</sup> killing some 17

*Results of US Imperialism's "collateral damage" of apartments in the bombing of Afghanistan!*





thousand civilians.<sup>10</sup> U.S. chooses not to invoke its laws prohibiting Israeli use of U.S. weapons except in self-defense. U.S. vetoes several Security Council resolutions condemning the invasion.

1983: U.S. troops sent to Lebanon as part of a multinational peacekeeping force; intervene on one side of a civil war, including bombardment by USS New Jersey. Withdraw after suicide bombing of marine barracks.

1984: USA backed the rebels in Afghanistan fire on civilian airliner.<sup>11</sup>

1987-92: U.S. arms used by Israel to repress first Palestinian Intifada. U.S. vetoes five Security Council resolution condemning Israeli repression.

1988: Saddam Hussein kills many thousands of his own Kurdish population and uses chemical weapons against them. The U.S. increases its economic ties to Iraq.

1988: U.S. vetoes 3 Security Council resolutions condemning continuing Israeli occupation of and repression in Lebanon.

1990-91: U.S. rejects any diplomatic settlement of the Iraqi invasion of Kuwait (for example, rebuffing any attempt to link the two regional occupations, of Kuwait and of Palestine). U.S. leads international coalition in war against Iraq. Civilian infrastructure targeted.<sup>12</sup> To promote "stability" U.S. refuses to aid post-war uprisings by Shi'ites in the south and Kurds in the north, denying the rebels access to captured Iraqi weapons and refusing to prohibit Iraqi helicopter flights.<sup>13</sup>

1991?: Devastating economic sanctions are imposed on Iraq. U.S. and Britain block all attempts to lift them. Hundreds of thousands die. Though Security Council had stated that sanctions were to be lifted once Saddam Hussein's programs to develop weapons of mass destruction were ended, Washington makes it known that the sanctions would remain as long as Saddam remains in power. Sanctions in fact strengthen Saddam's position. Asked about the horrendous human consequences of the sanctions, Madeleine Albright (U.S. ambassador to the UN and later Secretary of State) declares that "the price is worth it."<sup>14</sup>

1991-: U.S. forces permanently based in Saudi Arabia.

1993?: U.S. launches missile attack on Iraq, claiming self-defense against an alleged assassination attempt on former president Bush two months earlier.<sup>15</sup>

1998: U.S. and U.K. bomb Iraq over the issue of weapons inspections, even though Security Council is just then meeting

to discuss the matter.

1998: U.S. destroys factory producing half of Sudan's pharmaceutical supply, claiming retaliation for attacks on U.S. embassies in Tanzania and Kenya and that factory was involved in chemical warfare. Evidence for the chemical warfare charge widely disputed.<sup>16</sup>

2000-: Israel uses U.S. arms in attempt to crush Palestinian uprising, killing hundreds of civilians.

<sup>1</sup> Douglas Little, "Cold War and Covert Action: The United States and Syria, 1945-1958," *Middle East Journal*, vol. 44, no. 1, Winter 1990, pp. 55-57.

<sup>2</sup> Thomas Powers, *The Man Who Kept the Secrets: Richard Helms and the CIA*, New York: Knopf, 1979, p. 130.

<sup>3</sup> Andrew Cockburn and Patrick Cockburn, *Out of the Ashes: The Resurrection of Saddam Hussein*, New York: Harperperennial, 1999, p. 74;

Edith and E. F. Penrose, *Iraq: International Relations and National Development*, Boulder: Westview, 1978, p. 288; Hanna Batatu, *The Old Social Classes and the Revolutionary Movements of Iraq*, Princeton: Princeton UP, 1978, pp. 985-86.

<sup>4</sup> U.S. House of Representatives, Select Committee on Intelligence, 19 Jan. 1976 (Pike Report) in *Village Voice*, 16 Feb. 1976. The Pike Report attributes the quote only to a "senior official?" William Safire (*Safire's Washington*, New York: Times Books, 1980, p. 333) identifies the official as Kissinger.

<sup>5</sup> UN Doc. # S/11898, section # 1862. For a full list of U.S. vetoes in the Security Council on Middle East issues, along with full text of the draft resolutions, see the compilation by David Paul at

<http://www.salam.org/policy/veto.html>.

<sup>6</sup> Zbigniew Brzezinski, *Power and Principle: Memoirs of the National Security Adviser, 1977-1981* (New York: Farrar Straus Giroux, 1983), pp. 364-64, 375, 378-79; Gary Sick, *All Fall Down: America's Tragic Encounter with Iran* (New York: Penguin, 1986), pp. 147-48, 167, 179.

<sup>7</sup> Interview with Zbigniew Brzezinski, *Le Nouvel Observateur* (France), Jan 15-21, 1998, p. 76.

<sup>8</sup> See the sources in Stephen R. Shalom, *Imperial Alibis* (Boston: South End Press, 1993, chapter 7.

<sup>9</sup> Ze'ev Schiff, "Green Light, Lebanon," *Foreign Policy*, Spring 1983.

<sup>10</sup> Robert Fisk, "The Awesome Cruelty of a Doomed People," *Independent* 12

Sept. 2001, p. 6. Fisk is one of the most knowledgeable Westerners reporting on Lebanon.

<sup>11</sup> UPI, "Afghan Airliner Lands After Rebel Fire Hits It," *NYT*, 26 Sept. 1984, p. A9.

<sup>12</sup> See, for example, Barton Gellman, "Allied Air War Struck Broadly in Iraq; Officials Acknowledge Strategy Went Beyond Purely Military Targets," *Washington Post*, 23 June 1991, p. A1. See also Thomas J. Nagy, "The Secret Behind the Sanctions," *Progressive*, Sept. 2001.

<sup>13</sup> Cockburn and Cockburn, *Out of the Ashes: The Resurrection of Saddam Hussein*, chap. 1.

<sup>14</sup> Cockburn and Cockburn, *Out of the Ashes: The Resurrection of Saddam Hussein*, chap. 5. Albright quote is from CBS News, 60 Minutes, 12 May 1996.

<sup>15</sup> On the dubious nature of the evidence, see Seymour Hersh, *New Yorker*, Nov. 1, 1993.

<sup>16</sup> See Seymour Hersh, *New Yorker*, Oct. 12, 1998.

## FB EYE ON YOU

From the OREAD DAILY NEWSPAPER



Antivirus companies in the USA are reported today to be in a quandary over whether they should include in their software packages detection for a Trojan-Horse computer program reportedly under development by the FBI. The FBI program, revealed in November is called "Magic Lantern", which would allow the FBI agents to place a "Trojan Horse" on the target's computer without having to gain physical access. The FBI could e-mail this tiny program, disguised as a message from friends or relatives, to any suspect. The recipient of this Trojan Horse Virus wouldn't even have to open the e-mail to activate the program. As long as it lands in the mail box, it is capable of sending data logs back to the FBI periodically. The goal of the "Magic Lantern" is to allow the FBI to obtain the passwords needed to lock and unlock the encryption programs that scrambles data and renders it unreadable. That software will be able to track every keystroke made on a computer, any computer.

The USA government argues that they can do this under an obscure law, which involves less scrutiny by the courts.

## OPEN FORUM

# CAN GENETICALLY ALTERED FOODS END WORLD HUNGER?

By John Robbins\*

"Biotechnology is one of tomorrow's tools in our hands today. Slowing its acceptance is a luxury our hungry world cannot afford." — Monsanto advertisement

"Genetically engineered crops were created not because they're productive but because they're patentable. Their economic value is oriented not toward helping subsistence farmers to feed themselves but toward feeding more livestock for the already overfed rich." — Armory and Hunter Lovins, founders of Rocky Mountain Institute

The global acreage planted in genetically engineered foods grew nearly 25-fold in the three years since 1996, the first year of large-scale commercialization. Yet this enormous growth took place almost entirely in only three countries.

In 1999, the United States by itself accounted for 72 percent of the crops. Argentina was responsible for another 17 percent and Canada weighed in with another 10 percent. These three countries together accounted for 99 percent of the entire planet's genetically engineered plantings.

Monsanto and other proponents of biotechnology continually tell the public that genetic engineering is necessary if the world's food supply is to keep up with population growth. But even with nearly 100 million acres planted, their products have yet to do a thing to reverse the spread of hunger. There is no food available for the world's less fortunate. In fact, most of the fields were growing transgenic soybeans and corn that are destined for livestock feed.

One of the clearest independent voices in the sometimes raucous debate about genetically modified foods is Rachel's Environment and Health Weekly. In 1999, the journal noted that, "Neither Monsanto nor any of the other genetic engineering companies appears to be developing genetically engineered crops that might solve global food shortages."

If genetically engineered crops were aimed at feeding the hungry, Rachel's

noted, Monsanto would be developing seeds with certain predictable characteristics including:

- able to grow on substandard or marginal soils;
- able to produce more high-quality protein with increased per-acre yield, without the need for expensive machinery, chemicals, fertilizers or water;
- engineered to favor small farms over larger farms;
- cheap and freely available without restrictive licensing; and
- designed for crops that feed people, not meat animals.



"None of the genetically engineered crops now available, or in development (to the extent that these have been announced) has any of these desirable characteristics," Rachel's reports. "The genetic engineering revolution has nothing to do with feeding the world's hungry."

If genetically engineered plants were designed to reverse world hunger, you would expect them to bring higher yields. But there is increasing evidence that they do just the opposite. Ed Oplinger, a professor of agronomy at the University of Wisconsin, has been conducting performance trials for soybean varieties for the past 25 years. In 1999, he compared the soybean yields in the 12 states that grew 80 percent of US soybeans and found that the yields from genetically modified soybeans were 4 percent lower than conventional varieties.

When other researchers compared the performance of Monsanto's transgenic soybeans (the world's number-one genetically engineered crop in terms of acreage planted) with those of conventional varieties grown under the same conditions, they found nearly a 10 percent yield reduction for the genetically engineered soybeans. And research done by the University of Nebraska in 2000 found the yields of genetically engineered soybeans were 6-11 percent lower than conventional plants.

Not that this research has hampered Dick Goddow, vice-president of the Biotechnology Industry Organization, from repeating the refrain that genetic engineering "is the best hope we have, as denizens of this planet, of being able to feed the people who are going to be on it."

If genetically modified foods are really were an answer to world hunger, it would be a powerful and persuasive argument in their favor. How could anyone stand in the way of feeding the desperate and starving people?

But Dr. Vandana Shiva, one of the world's foremost experts on world hunger and transgenic crops, claim that the argument that biotechnology will help feed the world "is on every level a deception. Soybeans go to feed the pigs and the cattle of the North. All the investments in agriculture are about increasing chemical sales and increasing monopoly control.

"All this is taking place in the private domain, by corporations that are not in the business of charity. They are in the business of selling. The food they will produce will be even more costly," Shiva argues.

Similarly, delegates from 18 African countries at a meeting of the United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization responded to Monsanto's advertisements with a clear statement: "We strongly object that the image of the poor and hungry from our countries is being used by giant multinational corporations to push a technology that is neither safe, environmentally friendly, not economically beneficial to us.

"We do not believe that such companies or gene technologies will help our farmers to produce the food that is needed. On the contrary, it will undermine our capacity to feed ourselves."

In 2000, a coalition of biotech companies began a \$50-million media campaign to keep fears about genetically altered foods from spreading through the US. Bankrolling the campaign (which included \$32 million in TV and print advertising) were Monsanto, Dow Chemical, DuPont, Swiss-based Novartis, the British Zeneca, Germany's BASF and Aventis of France. The ads, complete with soft-focus fields and smiling children, pitched "solutions that could improve our world tomorrow" and could help end world hunger. Third World Network Features/IBON Features

\* John Robbins is the author of Diet for a New America and founder of Earthsave International.

From the Belly of the Beast

# BUSH'S GLOBAL TERRORIST WAR AND EVENTS OF SEPT. 11<sup>TH</sup>

By RAY O LIGHT

At this writing, U.S. imperialism along with its chief stooge, British imperialism, are continuing their criminal and genocidal war of terror against the people of Afghanistan. Quite rightly, there have been many positive letters and articles in the last several issues of *Northstar Compass* denouncing the world's number one terrorist, U.S. imperialism, and the imperialist stage of capitalism, which inflicts most of the exploitation, violence and war on the international working class and the oppressed peoples. However, the question of how to appraise the events of September 11<sup>th</sup> and their connection to the events in Afghanistan still needs to be clarified.

Right opportunism equates the 3,000 victims of the September 11th attack with the millions killed by U.S. imperialism and its allies and puppets! These opportunists bury the fact that U.S. imperialism's war budget, now over \$300 billion dollars per year, has bought planes, bombs, armies to wage war against any people who threatens their super-profits. They bury the fact that U.S. imperialism has been responsible for the terrorist murder of an estimated 8 million people since they gained hegemony in the world capitalist camp at the end of World War II. (See September 2001 *Ang Bayan*, organ of the Communist Party of the Philippines.)

These opportunists bury the necessary existence of a thriving world-wide U.S. imperialist terror network (the CIA et al.) as a vital factor in the defense and expansion of the U.S. world empire of financial enslavement of the world's peoples for the past fifty years. They bury the intimate connection between the U.S. CIA and Osama bin Laden, the Saudi billionaire family member who organized under CIA sponsorship his murderous band of Islamic fundamentalist feudalists as a terrorist force in the ultimately successful fight to drive the former U.S.S.R. out of Afghanistan. These right opportunists bury the connection of

U.S. imperialism to the Taliban feudalist regime which came to power on the heels of the U.S. CIA led bin Laden-Pakistani intelligence-backed reactionary Islamic fundamentalist victory over the bourgeois-democratic regime in Afghanistan. In fact, even with its recent contradictions with the Taliban regime, the Bush Administration, as recently as August of this year, provided \$43 million dollars in aid to the Taliban regime!!

The right opportunists bury the *proletarian truth* that the people of the USA, including the more privileged strata of U.S. working people, have benefited materially from the imperialist plunder and terror of the oppressed peoples of the world for many years. To the extent that we workers, and oppressed nationalities in the USA have failed to resolutely oppose U.S. imperialism in this period, we have "gaily shared the imperialist feast" (Engels). Consequently, our people at the World Trade Center were not totally "innocent."

Finally, many right opportunist forces in the USA, Germany, et al who previously opposed the U.S. war in Vietnam, and hold responsible positions as "leftist" labor leaders and, in Europe, as Social Democratic government leaders, etc. have become silent or even become ardent supporters of the U.S. led global terrorist war on the world's people. Some of them have even remained silent as the bourgeois democratic rights in the imperialist countries are being rapidly eliminated by Bush and his terrorist coalition partners.

In the imperialist oppressor countries, including the USA, right opportunism is the main form of betrayal of the international working class. The answer to the right opportunists is as follows: imperialism, headed by U.S. imperialism, is the main source of world terrorism. Working class and oppressed nationality forces in the USA who support Bush's War against the people

of Afghanistan are continuing to side with their own worst enemy and can expect much more massive destruction in the USA in the future as U.S. imperialism continues to spread terror and suffering around the globe. For the working people and oppressed nationalities of the USA — the only way to prevent future tragedies such as occurred at the World Trade Center on September 11th is to fight for the overthrow of "our own" imperialists, spearheaded by the illegitimate Bush Administration, the main source of world terrorism.

In opposition to right opportunism, the working class and oppressed peoples of the world must wage a united war against international terrorism led by U.S. imperialism and the Bush Administration. The proletarian revolutionaries of the world must demand: "USA — HANDS OFF AFGHANISTAN!!"

Lenin taught that the essence of imperialism lies in the fundamental distinction between the oppressing and oppressed nations. It is not surprising then that to one extent or another, many people in the *oppressed nations and dependent countries* throughout Asia, Africa, Latin America, Southern and Eastern Europe and especially the Middle East, felt that, at long last, the U.S. ruling class and even the people of the USA are feeling some of the fruits of the terror which the imperialists, headed by U.S. imperialism, have inflicted upon them for decades. Many of them know that, this protracted imperialist sponsored terror has been inflicted upon them historically with the acquiescence, if not the approval, of the majority of the people of the USA, Western Europe, and Japan. With ample justification, the majority of the peoples of the world can take some satisfaction in the fact that the "chickens have come home to roost" in the USA.

This latter viewpoint, a mass sentiment, cannot, however, substitute for a concrete analysis of the concrete conditions *from the revolutionary standpoint of the international proletariat*, i.e. for *scientific socialist* observations and conclusions about the September 11th events and the Bush led global imperialist war offensive on the international working class and oppressed peoples. Indeed, this mass *sentiment* is not the same as a mass anti-imperialist *movement*, which would provide a positive context for a strike against the Pentagon, etc. Left opportunism, in its wishful thinking and impatience, confuses these two things and draws the incorrect conclusion

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that the September 11<sup>th</sup> events were positive for the proletarian revolutionary cause.

The answer to left opportunism is to assess what has been gained and what lost by the forces of international capital, of imperialism, on the one hand? On the other hand, what has been lost and what gained by the forces of the proletarian revolution, the international proletariat and its allies – chiefly the oppressed peoples?

For the forces of the proletarian revolution, the fact that the U.S. population has now directly experienced some of the violence it has so callously sanctioned when directed by U.S. imperialism against the rest of the world's peoples (From Grenada to Central America and Chile, to Libya and Iran and Palestine, to Somalia and Congo, to Indonesia, the Philippines and Afghanistan) means that this population is now more interested in world developments. And it may become sensitive to civilian casualties among other peoples in the future. However, on this latter question, at least initially, the opposite reaction has set in. Much of the U.S. population (especially its white majority) has directed its interest in the rest of the world and its sensitivity to civilian casualties into overt great nation chauvinist support for U.S. imperialism's terrorist war "against terrorism", i.e. against the oppressed and exploited peoples of the world.

There is a new "national unity," rallied behind an illegitimate president and his "cowboy" imperialist response of revenge and retaliation (We will take bin Laden "dead or alive"). This unity is reflected in Bush's rating among the U.S. people soaring from a dismal 37% approval rating before September 11th to 90% after the attacks! The same number supports military retaliation – with over 70% supporting military retaliation against innocent people and assassination of "foreign" leaders by the U.S. government and its various agencies. In the eyes of the U.S. people, Bush has been transformed from an illegal and illegitimate president to a "genuine" leader of the United States and the "free world" "in its time of need".

This orgy of "national unity" behind the Bush Terrorist War is reflected in a large number of new volunteers for military service, flag waving on cars, homes, and businesses and "God Bless America" signs in public places and retail businesses, and ultra patriotic ceremonies at all public events such as

sporting events. It has been reflected in a clear willingness of much of the United States population to now accept an open-ended war for "god and country." This "national unity" is manifested in a profound change (at least for the time being) – the U.S. population is now willing to accept U.S. ground troop casualties. This represents a dangerous shift from the post Vietnam war era where the U.S. population was reluctant to accept U.S. casualties even while at the same time supporting the military exploits of U.S. imperialism and casualties inflicted on others. (See *Ray O. Light Special Edition*, "Bush's Global Terrorist War and the September 11th Events".)

Left opportunism consoles the oppressed peoples with the destruction of the World Trade Center, a *symbolic* victory, in lieu of real victories in the struggle for national independence and socialism. We have heard of no company, which had offices at the World Trade Center ~~that~~ has been put

*class was finally beginning to break in a real way with its own worst enemy, the US ruling class, and link up with its best friends, the rest of the international working class and the oppressed peoples of the world.*

Left opportunism tries to console the oppressed peoples of the Middle East with the idea that the Al-Qaeda network and Osama bin Laden in particular are "heroic fighters for national liberation". Yet the majority of the known participants in the September 11th airplane skyjackings were Saudi nationals from well to do backgrounds whose connections to the Arab national liberation movement are unknown but whose connections to the Saudi royal family and its semi-feudal and imperialist comprador rule are well known. In turn, the relationship between the Saudi royal family and US imperialism is also undeniable.

For at least thirty years, US imperialism has operated in the Middle East on the



*Here is how Northern Alliance soldiers treat the Afghan women when they try to protest. This is "freedom" as promised by U.S. Imperialism.*

out of business.

Left opportunism "hopes" that the September 11<sup>th</sup> events will "excite" the working class in the imperialist countries, particularly in the U.S., to rise up against imperialism. Initially at least, to the contrary, most of the U.S. populace has rallied behind U.S. imperialism, its great nation and white chauvinist hostility to the world's peoples, its agencies of counter-intelligence and suppression, and for war and fascism. *Tragically the Bush War Drive has at least temporarily reversed the process which had begun with the anti-WTO protests in Seattle two years ago in which the U.S. working*

*basis of a "two pillars" policy of support for the brutal Zionist settler state of Israel on the one hand and for the reactionary Arab regimes on the other. By playing them off against each other, US imperialism has been able to keep control of the key center of world oil supply. For example, it has now been admitted that Yasser Arafat has been a CIA stooge for this entire period. (See the columns of David Ignatius, 1970's Wall Street Journal, Middle East correspondent). But to left opportunism, bin Laden, the Al Qaeda network and the Saudis are somehow part of "progressive humanity", instead of part of the detritus of the*

moribund, capitalist system in its imperialist stage.

As the International Council for Friendship with Soviet People, we need only look at the fact that Putin has become an open stooge for Bush and US imperialism, to see the negative impact of the September 11 events. Now, in the name of the "war against terrorism", Putin has already allowed and even given his blessing to the US military occupation of several Central Asian Republics of the former USSR (!) which are laden with ample oil reserves for this new century and beyond. Once they are deployed in Uzbekistan, Turkmenistan, etc. US military forces will remain there just as the US troops deployed in Saudi Arabia itself since the Gulf War against Iraq more than ten years ago still remain *there* today.

In addition to their motivation to control the oil and natural gas of the world, US imperialism has launched its war in Afghanistan and the surrounding area in order to gain a **strategic military foot-hold** in an area which is in the geographical center of the most dangerous potential military alliance which could be mounted against US imperialist hegemony. This potential alliance includes Russia and China that recently have begun again to explore cooperation (no longer based on socialist relations but now based on capitalist relations of self interest). It could well include India and Japan and even Pakistan if there were a change in government there. So a US military presence in the area of Afghanistan is a *key counterweight to any major military alliance with Russia and China at its core* that would threaten US hegemony.

Contrary to the left opportunist view that the September 11<sup>th</sup> events were positive for the international working class and oppressed peoples, the balance sheet clearly shows that international capital, headed by US imperialism, has been strengthened in the short run. The clearest example of all thus far has been the brutal U.S. imperialist led terrorist war against the people of Afghanistan that is threatening them with genocide.

Consequently the answer to the left opportunists is the same as the answer to the right opportunists. The working class and oppressed peoples of the world must *build a movement* to wage a united war against international terrorism led by U.S. imperialism and the Bush Administration. The proletarian revolutionaries of the world must demand: "USA -- HANDS OFF AFGHANISTAN!"

An integral part of the struggle to build friendship with the Soviet people is to defend the Soviet people and the Afghani people by building a global movement against the US imperialist led terrorist war on the world's people.

**NO TO US-LED IMPERIALIST  
GLOBALIZATION!  
NO TO US-LED IMPERIALIST WAR!  
NO TO THE #1 EXPLOITER OF THE  
WORLD'S PEOPLE  
NO TO THE WORLD'S #1 TERRORIST!**

**"USA--- HANDS OFF AFGHANISTAN!!"  
"STOP BUSH'S TERRORIST WAR  
AGAINST THE PEOPLES OF THE  
WORLD!"**

What went wrong? Once touted as the economic nirvana for both rich and poor countries, globalization has generated worldwide resistance as a result of the economic destruction, plunder and untold poverty it wrought on peoples particularly workers, farmers and other marginal classes. This three-part series, taken from the author's long analysis of globalization written last week for the Kilusang Mayo Uno (May 1st Movement), takes the reader to the roots of the world capitalist system and how its crisis is leading into a collision with peoples across so many countries today.

The Globalizers are Nervous

The "globalizers" are in panic. Neo-liberal globalization has now been exposed for the unprecedented destruction of

productive forces, colossal plunder, unheard of poverty, inequality, indebtedness, environmental degradation, economic and social insecurity, marginalization and disempowerment of the vast majority of the world while tremendously increasing the wealth and power of the global elite of monopoly capitalists.

Contrary to the claims of its defenders, the critics of globalization are not confined to the "noisy, unrepresentative mob" — the hundreds of thousands from a diverse range of organizations and nations — who have greeted every major confab of the global economic elites since Seattle 1999 with massive street demonstrations. Even in the US — whose government, mass media, academia and business elite are the most strident promoters of the "free market" ideology — 58% of Americans believe that foreign trade reduced jobs and wages, according to a recent Wall Street Journal/NBC survey. In a similar Business Week/Harris poll, only 10% preferred "free trade" while 50% preferred "fair trade." Another 37% described their stance on trade as "protectionist" (cited in Weisbrot et al, 2000).

In the industrialized countries of the North as well as in the underdeveloped South, there is an upsurge in industrial action by workers and other mass protests by social movements in opposition to neo-liberal policies and their iniquitous consequences. Labor journalist Kim Moody wrote in 1997 that there were at least two dozen political general strikes in Europe, Latin America, Asia and North America between 1994 and 1997 — more than at any time in the 20<sup>th</sup> century (cited in Brecher et al, 2000). This clearly suggests that the adverse effects of neo-liberal globalization are now better understood by many peoples than what elite and policy-making circles are willing to admit.

Even erstwhile "insiders" such as former World Bank (WB) Chief Economist and Nobel Laureate Joseph Stiglitz have publicly criticized the "market fundamentalism" of the IMF, WB and US Treasury Department which have imposed liberalization, privatization, deregulation, denationalization, deindustrialization and austerity policies on most parts of the world over the last two decades.

Crisis of legitimacy

All this points to the extent of the crisis of legitimacy now afflicting imperialist globalization and the success of social movements in exposing its plunderous and anti-people character. It also attests to the

# Fix it or Nix it? Can the Wrongs of Globalization Be Set Right?

By PAUL QUINTOS

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increasing militancy of workers and other progressive and democratic forces all over the world. It's no surprise that every other international conference among social movements are now discussing "alternatives to globalization."

But at this point, as we sharpen our strategies or combinations of strategies for combating globalization, it is important to dissect neo-liberalism and the current crisis of imperialism in their historical context, lest we lose sight of the inherent contradictions in the global capitalist system that have wrought this crisis. To confine our critique of the present world disorder by examining only its current contours may lead us into fighting for superficial policy or institutional reforms that paper over these contradictions or serve to legitimize imperialist rule rather than exposing and dismantling this unjust, exploitative and oppressive system.

#### Crisis of world capitalism

Sluggish growth has characterized the economies of the advanced capitalist countries since the 1970s. Even as big business continues to invest in new technologies in their drive to extract ever greater profit, average national productivity rates have been on the decline, save for the US in the latter half of the last decade. From 1960 to 1973, the average annual growth rate in productivity for the G7 countries ranged from 2.8% to 8.6%. But between 1973 to 1995, not one of them exceeded 3% on average. (IMF, 1999)

The 1990s was marked by economic stagnation in the industrialized countries. In the OECD countries, GDP growth fell from 3.1% per annum in the 1980s to a meager 1.7% in the 1990s (Chossudovsky, 1997). Even in the US, the most vigorous of these economies in recent years, growth only picked up in the second half of the 1990s, partly due to over-investment in information technology and a speculative build-up in the equities markets.

In Germany and France, growth was under 2% in 1990s and until today their economies continue to battle recessionary pressures. After decades of stellar growth, the Japanese economy has been languishing in recession since the bursting of its real estate bubble in 1989. Today, nominal GDP growth in the G7 economies is running at just above 1% and is expected to dip further in the coming year. (The Economist, Oct. 20-26, 2001). Around 1 billion people are either unemployed or underemployed, according to the International Labor Organization (ILO). This is equivalent to one-third of the world's labor

force, or one-sixth of world population. The jobs that are being created are increasingly of the insecure and low-paying sort. Some 1.5 billion people survive on less than one US dollar per day while 3 billion subsist on two dollars per day. In the few Third World countries that produce and export low value-added manufactures, workers, particularly women and including children, toil in sweatshops of subcontractors, or in their own urban slum or rural dwellings. They work more than 14 hours per day just to earn Their subsistence wages.

Third world debt has reached \$2 trillion and is expected to worsen along with deteriorating terms of trade faced by non-industrialized countries. The prices of key commodities that make up the mainstay of many developing countries' exports, such as coffee, cocoa and cotton, fell between 45% to 50% in recent years (Crossette, 2000).<sup>1</sup> Non-oil commodity prices are expected to further drop by 8.9% next year.

Even the markets for information technology appear near saturation, with the world's biggest IT and electronics firms slashing jobs and payrolls by the thousands and pulling down export earnings of even the tiger economies in Asia. Fujitsu has announced job cuts of over 20,000 between August and October, Alcatel by over 17,000, Siemens, with 15,000 and the list goes on (BusinessWorld, Oct. 31, 2001). Current over-capacity (the gap between actual output and its potential) in the world economy has increased to its widest level since the 1930s. (The Economist, Oct. 20-26, 2001) Because of heightened overproduction and the centralization of capital, speculation in currencies, equities, bonds, financial derivatives and other portfolio investments have provided a maddeningly lucrative outlet for a rapidly growing share of surplus capital in the

<sup>1</sup> Sugar prices dropped 30 percent within a year, and tropical beverages — cocoa, coffee and tea — fell 21 percent, with similar drops in the prices of vegetable oil seeds and oils. Agricultural material like rubber, cork, some wood products and textile fibers fell 10 percent. Only the prices of tropical timber, an increasingly scarce commodity, rose substantially (about 17 percent) from 1998 to 1999. This means peasants, farm workers and workers in the non-industrialized South must produce more commodities for export in order to earn the same dollars as before — dollars that go to paying for imports and foreign debt (Crossette, 2000).

hands of the capitalist class, rather than direct investment in new productive capacity in the form of factories and employment. In 1976, 80% of all international transactions involved the buying and selling of goods and services. By 1997 only 2.5% of international transactions involved the buying and selling of the same. Some 97.5% were for speculation (ILRIG, 1998). This has taken finance capital to new heights of ascendancy, but has left national economies, and indeed, the world economy, extremely prone to financial ruin as demonstrated recently by the Mexican Currency Crisis in 1995, the Asian Financial Crisis in 1997 and the Russian Financial Crisis in 1998.

#### Is the US Bombing Its Way Out of Crisis?

The much-vaunted "new economy" — purportedly immune to inflation and busts — has since reared old ills with the bursting of the tech-bubble as early as last year. Between April 2000 to April 2001, some US\$4 trillion in stock-market value in the US equities market evaporated. Even before the bombing of the World Trade Center (WTC), the US economy had already been deteriorating sharply with the US Treasury Department warding off recession with successive interest rate cuts. Industrial production had been on the decline for a year to September, capacity utilization had dropped to 75%, and profits of companies in the S&P 500 index had contracted by 60% in the year to the second quarter (The Economist, October 20-26, 2001.) Unemployment had been inching closer to 5% and job losses were accelerating with half a million workers laid-off from March to just before Sept. 11. Many of the world's leading corporations from various industries had announced job cuts even before the terrorist attacks including Sun Microsystems, Kraft Foods Inc., Sears Roebuck, Rolls Royce, not to mention every airline company in the world.

The so-called Asian NICs have not fully recovered from the 1997 Asian financial crisis. With their heavy dependence on computer and other electronics exports, particularly to the US, the global slump in the electronics industry and US recession is dragging down their economies even further. The other "emerging markets" are not spared. Brazil and Mexico are in recession while Argentina is poised to default on its credit obligations anytime soon in what could turn out to be the biggest sovereign debt default in history. (ibid.)

The WTC bombings merely accelerated a global downturn already in the

making. In its wake, the global GDP growth is expected to slow down to 1.5% this year and next, or almost half of last year's 3.8% growth rate and its slowest two-year period in the last 50 years (ibid).

But the WTC bombings are now being used to rationalize a US-led "global war on terrorism" which conveniently frames the tried-and-tested strategy of stimulating the economy through arms build-up — massive spending on military hardware, R&D for US President Bush's missile "defense" shield and arms exports — apart from quashing real and imagined enemies of the American empire. Just for the remainder of this year, the US government is prepared to spend \$40 billion on the "terror economy" on top of the "normal" programmed military budget which last year amounted to \$343 billion. This includes at least \$20 billion for the military; \$7 billion for recovery and relief in New York and at the Pentagon; \$3 billion to fight bioterrorism; \$2 billion for more security within and around dams, power plants and federal buildings; and \$600 million to secure US airports and aircraft (Reich, 2001).

Apart from coursing public resources to the monopoly capitalists in the military-industrial complex, the US Congress already proposing to grant \$100 billion in tax cuts not to low or middle-income earners but to large corporations, purportedly to spur the flagging economy (ibid.)

### Fanning the flames

At the same time, the US-led "war on terrorism" is propelled by fanning the flames of jingoism, racism and terrorist-baiting which plausibly prefigures a crackdown on civil liberties and legitimate protest across the globe. For instance, soon after the WTC bombings, Italian Prime Minister Silvio Berlusconi declared that Islam is attacking the West from outside and anti-globalization protestors are attacking it from within. An op-ed piece in the International Herald Tribune states, "While they are not deliberately setting out to slaughter thousands of innocent people, the protestors who want to prevent the holding of meetings like those of the IMF or the WTO are seeking to advance their political agenda through intimidation, which is a classic goal of terrorism." US Trade Representative Robert Zoellick painted critics of free-trade as un-patriotic, declaring "We will not be intimidated by those who have taken to the streets to blame trade — and America — for the world's ills." (Karlner, 2001). His inane proposal "to fight terror with trade" betrays the current desperation and dangerous mindset of globalization's defenders.

Yet all this is futile in countervailing the crisis of imperialism. For underlying this pattern of crisis in the global economy is a

fundamental contradiction in the capitalist system itself: between the socialized character of production and private profit.

On the one hand, socialized production (specialization, division of labor) enables great strides in the capacity of the productive forces — people, technology and materials. The high-tech gadgetry found in transportation, communication and information technologies that have underpinned rapid advances in the production and circulation of commodities (even people) merely accentuate the already highly socialized character of production at present. It has allowed transnational corporations (TNCs) to disperse their operations across the globe. At the same time, it has enabled greater centralization of control in the national bases of these corporate giants.

On the other hand, private profit — or capitalist appropriation of the product of social labor by virtue of private ownership of the means of production — leads to the accumulation and centralization of capital in the hands of a narrow class, the monopoly capitalists of a handful of imperialist countries, while the exploited classes in the world are left with deteriorating shares of the social product (wages) or thrown out of productive employment altogether.

### Monopolistic

Concentration and centralization of capital in the hands of TNCs — for instance in the form of mergers and acquisitions which are on the rise — is increasing the monopolistic or oligopolistic control of a few TNCs, especially in the crucial information and technology-intensive sectors as well as in international finance.

The rapid increase in production capacity on the one hand, and the constriction in the purchasing power of the broader masses on the other hand, inevitably leads to crises of overproduction — a glut in commodities for which there are not enough people with the capacity to buy. When commodities aren't sold, profits aren't realized, and employers throw workers out of employment and exploit those that they retain even more intensely. This often worsens the contraction of the market and only deepens the crisis of overproduction, thus spiraling into a depression. In the era of monopoly capitalism or modern imperialism, this crisis of overproduction takes on ever wider and deeper dimensions — to which we bear witness today.

As competition among big capitalists becomes even more vicious at the same time that the world markets are increasingly



*Protests against WTO, WB, NATO, European Union are treated as is shown by this photo! If you look closely at this picture of "democracy" you might just see a hidden Nazi Swastika. When in danger, Imperialism uses fascist methods of repression.*

constricted because of the depressed incomes of the broad masses, the crisis of overproduction is manifesting itself in falling average rates of profits and the alarming increase in financial speculation which has become the catchbasin for surplus capital. This is impelling TNCs to seek ways to prop up their profits by further prying open and controlling foreign markets and intensifying the exploitation of working classes, especially in the non-industrialized South. Thus, the governments of the most advanced capitalist countries and the IMF-WB-WTO triad are aggressively peddling and imposing neo-liberal policies on all countries in behalf of monopoly capitalists. They are prying open new markets for the unrestricted entry of surplus goods and finance capital from the advanced capitalist countries and ensuring the unbridled operations of TNCs in client states.

At the same time, the champions of neo-liberal globalization actively oppose redistributive policies (such as land reform) and the pursuit of sovereign industrialization programs in Third World countries for going against the logic of the free market. They are also forcing austerity on the people, cutting back on social services and public infrastructure in the name of containing budget deficits — while forcing them to devote substantial shares of the national budget to servicing debts to international creditors.

The monopoly capitalists are restraining wages of workers in the guise of fighting inflation and maintaining global competitiveness. Indeed, they are playing workers and nations against each other in a race to the bottom — by restraining wages, whittling down labor rights, relaxing environmental standards, dismantling social security, providing tax cuts and subsidies all for the benefit of monopoly capital. Women, racial and ethnic minorities, immigrants, indigenous peoples and other objects of discrimination suffer the worst under this process.

In short, neo-liberal globalization is an attempt to countervail the ever worsening crisis of the world capitalist system. But neo-liberalism per se is not the only way through which capitalists have attempted to cope with the crisis of overproduction.

From Keynesian State Interventionism to Neoliberalism

After the Great Depression of the 1930s, the unprecedented devastation of productive forces wrought by the last world war cleared the stage for around two decades of relatively stable and sustained

growth in the industrialized countries. From 1950 to 1973, economic growth averaged 4.9% per annum for the advanced capitalist countries; exports grew 8.9% annually; and profit rates were in excess of 15%. (Harvey, 1989) State-interventionist economic management figured prominently during this growth period. The industrialized countries adopted various shades of Keynesian economics to manage the effects of capitalist crisis, and to safeguard the stability of profits: from the New Deal Government of Roosevelt in the US, to the Labor Government in the U.K., to the Social-Democratic or "welfare states" of the Scandinavian countries. State resources were used to compensate for rising unemployment, contracting markets, and falling effective demand through pump-priming or public spending on infrastructure and utilities, scientific research, military build-up, and even white elephant projects. Unemployment and the falling incomes of the working people were countered with "safety nets," unemployment benefits, welfare spending, social services and so on. This served to artificially buttress effective demand for overproduced commodities, thus, ensuring sustained profits for corporate capital. To be sure, welfare measures along with state recognition of workers rights and core labor standards were rightly won through the agitation of a vigorous trade union movement (Price, 1999). On the other hand, these measures had the palliative effect of temporarily alleviating poverty, containing social unrest and holding class struggle at bay. In a putative "social contract," rising living standards for large sections of labor in the industrialized countries — mostly white, male workers in unionized large-scale capital-intensive industries — won through wage bargaining was accommodated to the extent afforded by real productivity gains and rising profits obtaining at the time, in exchange for binding the workers' movement to economism and reformism.

Indeed, social democracy succeeded in seducing many quarters in the advanced capitalist countries into dropping the revolutionary socialist agenda. At the same time, the militant section of the working class was held in check by fascist decrees against radical elements in the trade unions and class collaboration between the labor aristocracy, big business and their state (Harvey, 1989).

**We Do Produce Totally By  
Volunteer Labour.**

## State interventionism

State-interventionism in the economy was also an integral part of anti-communist containment strategy, particularly in areas where the "spectre of communism" loomed large. Thus we had welfare statism in Europe, authoritarianism and dirigism in Taiwan and South Korea. Correspondingly, the multilateral institutions — specifically the World Bank — were still "development-oriented" during this period. The WB provided loans for large infrastructure projects in the Third World in support of TNC operations, resource-extractive industries and raw materials exports.

Yet, by the late 1960's the Keynesian economic management could no longer contain the crisis symptoms. With the accumulation and centralization of capital, mass unemployment continued to rise entailing ever greater public spending to boost effective demand for surplus production. But together with the falling rate of profit fell the share of the state in surplus value which it needed for public spending. As public deficits ballooned, governments resorted to looser fiscal and monetary policy (including the printing of money), precipitating inflation, which, combined with low growth and high unemployment, produced the phenomenon of stagflation that was the bane of the industrialized countries well into the late 1970s. Inflation, falling productivity, and the growing trade deficit incurred by the US also placed increasing stress on the dollar-peg in place at the time (which had replaced the gold standard), prompting the US Treasury to devalue the dollar, break the dollar-peg and usher in a new era of international monetary instability. It also foreshadowed the blight of unbounded financial speculation that preys on this instability, giving rise to today's financial turmoils. (Price, 1999)

An attempt to put a brake on inflation in the early 1970s by tightening monetary policy precipitated a crash in the property markets in 1973. This ushered in a severe bout of deflation and recession in the industrialized countries, which was exacerbated by the oil price shock in the same year. From 1973 to 1979, growth rates in these countries fell to 2.6% per annum; export growth dropped to 5.6% annually; and profit rates sank to around 10%. (Harvey, 1989)

By the 1980s, Keynesian state-interventionist economic doctrine was relegated to the background as the governments of the industrialized countries — led by Reagan in the US and Thatcher in



the UK — embraced Monetarism and Neo-liberalism.

Fix it or nix it?

The unholy trinity of the IMF-WB-WTO — which today champion neo-liberalism in the interest of global capital — are rightly the target of people's anger and condemnation. But it is clear from the above discussion that the current world disorder is generated by the inherent logic of capital — to expand and accumulate in the hands of the few while severely impoverishing the many, to "externalize" social and environmental costs and ravage the commons, to spiral into crisis, to spawn social unrest, and to undermine human rights and democratic participation. Changing the nature of monopoly capitalist globalization therefore does not turn merely on the fate of these multilateral institutions nor their particular programs and policies. As an anti-globalization critic puts it, "Can we really say that the IMF can be reformed to bring about global financial stability, the World Bank to reduce poverty, and the WTO to bring about fair trade? Can we truly say that these institutions can be reengineered to handle the multiple problems that have been thrown up by the process of corporate-led globalization?"

The answer is no!

Indeed, in seeking immediate and concrete measures to address the many problems engendered by imperialist globalization, we must be wary of reforms that merely fortify imperialism's hegemony rather than exposing and dismantling this unjust system.

TNC codes of conduct, global compacts, international labor rights and environmental standards, multilateral treaties and conventions, national or local laws and regulations, and other ostensibly

"progressive" instruments paint a legitimizing gloss that can mislead people into thinking that globalization's wrongs are thereby set right and thus deflect criticism and opposition to imperialism itself.

The urgent task is to strengthen people's organizations, resistance and collective action towards exposing and opposing imperialist machinations; to build people's power not to lend corporate power a pleasant mask. We must strive to attain tactical gains that contribute to strategic goals. This means strengthening and expanding our movements, struggling to circumscribe the powers and influence of transnational corporations, the multilateral institutions and the monopoly capitalists that they represent, as we endeavor towards the long-run transformation of relations of production, of social and political structures at the national and global levels that breed the impoverishment and oppression of workers and other poor sectors everywhere.

#### Workers' struggle

At the labor front, the offense of corporate power is most concretely and directly experienced by workers in terms of sinking wages, intensifying work, worsening job insecurity and the violation of workers' rights. Therefore, the most immediate challenge for the progressive labor movement remains the need to organize, strengthen and mobilize our unions and other workers' organizations in struggles for higher wages, secure jobs, better working conditions and in defense of trade union and democratic rights. This is a major battleground in resisting globalization and circumscribing monopoly capital's power. Each local economic struggle in itself contributes to a process of upward-leveling of standards (at the national and global levels) and resists or retards the race to the

bottom that is a feature of imperialist globalization.

#### International Solidarity

While corporate power today is virtually unhindered by national borders or national regulations, it can be misleading to over-emphasize the strategic place of "transnational" initiatives in contesting globalization. After all, the most sophisticated top-level structures and bargaining tactics are worth little without a strong, broad and active mass movement at the grassroots. Global-level or regional initiatives must build on and complement labor movements based in different countries. But they cannot make up for labor movements where they are weak or non-existent. Nevertheless, more than ever, there is a need and a basis for stronger international solidarity and cross-border concerted action among transnational social movements and advocacy networks. The globalization of production has undermined wages, labor standards and workers' rights but it has also exposed weak points in the system. The internet, relatively cheaper mobile and cross-border communications, and other technological advances that have facilitated the decentralization of production (and the centralization of TNC control) have also facilitated exchanges and closer coordination among workers, unions as well as other social movements across borders.

TNCs which rely on their brand-names are especially vulnerable to adverse international publicity. Unions, human rights groups, environmental groups and consumer associations can link-up with each other and coordinate campaigns that seek to expose and publicize the highly exploitative, inhumane and destructive practices of TNCs. People's advocacy networks can target the profit centers of these TNCs for public action. Solidarity can take the form of solidarity messages, solidarity action, international days for coordinated events or full-blown coordinated campaigns all the way to formal organizational formations such as issue-based coalitions.

We must build and strengthen anti-imperialist unity among workers and other democratic and progressive forces in our respective countries and across national borders in the spirit of true proletarian internationalism.

Ultimately, the new world disorder challenges and requires the working class and the rest of the people to wage political struggle against imperialism for national liberation, democracy and socialism. ■

*Demonstrations in Sweden against Israel. From newspaper "Proletaren"*



## LETTERS

FROM  
EDEN, MD.  
USA

Dear comrades:

Comrade Brar, a delegate from England at the World Congress was correct to oppose the resolution last September "On the terrorist attacks and the preparation for war", by the United States. I, as a delegate was happy to hear someone oppose it. Of particular concern to me was the reluctance of the facilitator to yield the floor to comrade Harpal Brar in order to explain his position to the resolution as proposed and to suggest the necessary changes. That's democracy!

No savvy progressive or communist should even think of voting in favour of such a resolution as was originally proposed.

The most sophisticated propaganda machine on the face of the earth is that of U.S. capitalism, for it makes one think that he or she is being tickled when the ruling class is kicking his or her ass and picking his or her pocket at the same time. And most of the gullible American people have no idea what their government is doing to them and those outside the borders of the U.S., and it seems that most of them don't want to know. The blind patriotism and flag waving which is prevalent at the moment, is no virtue and won't last long for it will certainly diminish as the U.S. economy goes further into depression.

The U.S. is the 'Evil Empire,' the land of lies and finally the chickens are coming home to roost, as Malcom X once predicted!

Tony Topolski

FROM  
CEDAR SPRINGS, IOWA  
USA

Dear friends:

I have followed NSC for some time and find it refreshing that it takes a very critical look at all the crap that's going on in this country.

After the daily bombing of Afghanistan started, I was so dissatisfied, disinherited and disconsolate and disheartened that I sat

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down and wrote for five days straight, night and day without rest during the nights until I just would drop from exhaustion in expressing my anger towards Bush, his theft of the White House and his gang of thugs who hijacked this country in the biggest coup d'etat of the century. We are reeling from the effects of it!

So, dear Editors...what came out the five days and nights marathon-writing event, focused on this REAL CRIME against America, was a book of poems about Bush, which I'm certain you'll find righteous.

I would like to do a trade with the Editorial Board of NSC and you Michael Lucas as its Editor. As I am on a very low SSI income budget of only around \$6,000 per year, I would like to send you these poems which I will do because of your bright, stalwart resistance to this all out U.S. thuggery, in exchange for a subscription to Northstar Compass.

I certainly would like to hear any comments from the NSC when they are published (*if you think they're suitable.*)

**Keep fighting the good fight!**  
Warmly

John Shumaker

*The poems are great and we have put you on our subscription list. We shall publish the poems in future issues of NSC.*

FROM  
ANCHORAGE, ALASKA  
USA

Dear Editor:

I can conceive of the World Congress and Northstar Compass as a means for global unification of a just world system!

Enclosed is a \$200 donation towards the work of the International Council.

Congratulations and best wishes.

BILL STIVERS

*We shall strive to fulfill your expectations and we hope that other readers will support the cause that we are all dedicated to.*

FROM  
NEW YORK, NY  
USA

Dear comrades:

Somehow I have not received my NSC lately but I read the last issue, given to me by the US Friends of Soviet People.

I would like to offer a few words to Harpal Brar's article in the November NSC. I just say that I was taken back by comrade Brar's

seemingly enthusiastic exhilarating exuberance over the September 11th attacks. In his eagerness to explain the facts of life to us he left out nothing of the adnifinitum list of reasons – the litany of the crimes of US imperialism throughout the globe.

However for the readers of NSC is this not like delivering coal to Newcastle? At the moment, this is not necessary. What seems to be sorely lacking in Brar's discussion of the justification for the terror acts of the 11<sup>th</sup> is that we are dealing with an apolitical fanatical religious grouping without the slightest agenda of a progressive reform of the world.

Must we not take into consideration the fact that the perpetrators of this act of terrorism (*yes, no less than the US imperialism's crimes*) were extreme reactionaries, rooted in the brainchild created by the Jimmy Carter, Zbigniew Brezinski, CIA conspiracy to overthrow the Democratic Republic of Afghanistan (DRA) and deliberately and consciously drawing the Soviet Union into its obligation to defend the DRA and thus unfortunately into the quagmire – the trap set by the above named conspiracy. It could be said that this scheme of US imperialism hastened the downfall of the USSR.

From that beginning, these CIA Islamic fundamentalist monsters devoid of humanity's civilized qualities, brought a plague of extreme misery and deprivation to the people of Afghanistan...plunging the country into the depths of the dark ages. This abcess was created by the organs of terror of the USA and of the CIA. These Taliban, Al Qaeda, bin Laden – they are the CIA creations and they bring only darkness to humanity. They had slit the throats of all school teachers of the Democratic Republic of Afghanistan that they could lay their hands on. Are we now to cheer because they struck at the evil hand that fed them? What can we hope for the future of humankind if such primitive throwbacks, guided by the gibberish of the Koran, bring their brand of negative progress to the world which could also be said for the Bible spouting Christian fundamentalists here at home.

Philip Stein

FROM  
MONTREAL, QU.  
CANADA

I am translating Harpal Brar's article regarding the Resolution #1 which was discussed at the World Congress and unfortunately defeated by a majority of only

2 votes. It is a fact that many delegates did not fully understand or follow the discussions and the numerous amendments in 4 different languages that produced a situation of confusion.

His full article in the November issue of NSC is very important in that it reached into the inner debts. We should congratulate him for a detailed, concise and truthful analysis of the situation.

I agree completely with our companion Harpal Brar and I consider that the defeat of the amendment gives readers to think how it was possible, during the important World Congress that brought the delegates together to set up the International Council for Friendship and Solidarity with Soviet People, for socialism and for the resurrection of the USSR and so inevitably to struggle against world imperialism, headed by the US, that a majority of 2 delegates was able to vote for such a resolution, without understanding its impact?

It is a hope that all of those delegates under the confused conditions of very loud four language translations which produced a noisy situation that many delegates could not hear all the amendments and discussions, and who voted against Harpal Brar's amendment will take the necessary time to read this very important article in the November issue of NSC again, and if need be, revise their position.

Dr. Adelard Paquin  
Member of the Executive Committee of the  
International Council  
Secretary of the NSC Editorial Board

FROM  
KARACHI  
PAKISTAN

Dear comrades:

Received your e-mail and I must say that the tone, the message and frankness is proof that I am dealing with real comrades!

The reason that I have stressed on the last word is that – they are almost non-existent in our Pakistan society now. There was a time, during sixties and seventies when we had a very strong, politically mature and class conscious stratum in our society (*mostly college and university students*) who fought with remarkable aggressiveness and commitment with the army, the clergy and the feudals – in fact Z.A. Bhutto won the elections in 1971 with the slogan of *"socialism and that the East is Red"!!*

But, since the mid-seventies an unending dark period of betrayal and revisionism by

some of the so-called Marxist leadership has not only disillusioned the party cadres but in fact has completely obliterated the concept of class politics. The bulk of the party workers left the country during 1980's and the remaining few are scattered, financially broken and disoriented.

The bottom line is – I am living under the thick cloud of suffocating black reaction and real comrades – real enough to include the name of Stalin with Marx, Engels and Lenin – are hard to find.

Enclosed is my NSC subscription. I'm happy to have made contacts with you comrades.

Dr. Hasan Nasir Abass

FROM  
QUEBEC  
CANADA

Dear editor:

Enclosed is a modest contribution towards NSC and I found the November issue very interesting. There is a good book out now that definitely shows how the West's refusal to collaborate with the USSR against Nazi Germany before the Second World War ensured the devastating war. This is from the Soviet archives. Although many of us knew about this, the younger generation should certainly be informed.

Best wishes in 2002!

Dick Piper

FROM  
MENOLA PARK, CA.  
USA

Dear friends:

As a reader of NSC I state that the article by Harpal Brar is correct and excellent in his insightful analyses.

This is the time, the critical time to say it like it is!

Martha Acevedo

FROM  
ROME  
ITALY

Thank you for all the World Congress documentation and all of the work of the International Council for Friendship and Solidarity with Soviet People.

We would like to meet with you comrades to discuss how we can help you in the struggle for socialism in the world and the resurrection of the USSR. If you can send a delegate to Rome this year, we can arrange discussions with you comrades. It would help if your delegate spoke Italian and we

fee that we would be able to give a good contribution to the struggles of the working people. We would like to hear from you whether this year there would be such a possibility.

Yours truly

On behalf of the Cultural Center  
Franco Alunni

*We shall try to arrange this meeting if at all possible.*

FROM  
FORIO  
ITALY

Dear comrades:

Let me at first thank the Organizing Committee of the World Congress, which I attended for their hospitality and their dedication. The World Congress was a huge success.

Also, I thank you for giving me and all other delegates the once in a lifetime opportunity to visit the Canadian Niagara Falls.

Best wishes in the coming 2002 year and success in our common struggle for socialism, peace and the unity of the working class all over the world!

With Communist best wishes

Domenico Savio  
General Secretary, Communist Party of Italy  
- Marxist-Leninist

FROM  
MOSCOW  
RUSSIA

Dear friends:

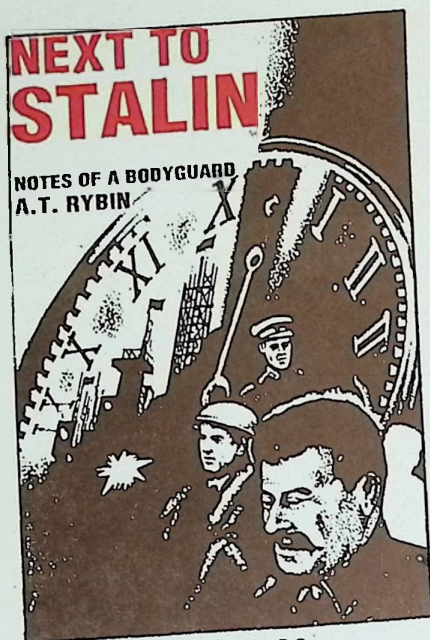
My best wishes to the NSC staff for the holidays and a Happy New Year. I've received the World Congress materials besides reading about the Congress in NSC.

On November 7<sup>th</sup> of last year, my wife and myself participated in a manifestation on Karl Marx Square, near the Bolshoi Theater. There were many thousands of people, but the so-called *"democratic"* media were absolutely silent about this event. The present Putin regime renamed this day as a *"Day of Reconciliation and Accord"* but the people celebrate this date as the Great October Revolution Day.

Putin is just a second edition of Yeltsin, his tutor. He is becoming more and more unpopular due to his slavish pro-American policy. We all hope that we shall restore the Soviet Union when the people wake up!

Your friend

R.K.



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