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INTERNATIONAL COUNCIL FOR FRIENDSHIP AND SOLIDARITY WITH SOVIET PEOPLE - VOL. 12 #5, JAN. 2004

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THE WAR INDUCING CURSE OF THE MUSLIM WORLD – IMPERIAL “OIL” GRABS...

The end of WW1 and the destruction of the Ottoman Empire brought a continuing state of war, oppression and Imperialist imposed degradation to vast numbers of Sunni, Shiite and Kurdish people – cobbled together in Iraq, with Kuwait split-off - the architect of that day was Winston Churchill, acting for the Imperial oil interests of the British Empire. His aim was the procurement and control of the then growing demand for oil lubricant and energy sources, in order to ensure “efficiency” for both British military and limitless profits for Imperial investments. Needless to say... he succeeded...at the expense and untold misery of the above peoples. Their development and progress economically, politically and in major ways...culturally...was distorted under Imperialist controls. They endured under duress and languished in the newly formed state of Iraq, cemented together by massive foreign investment and semi-feudal, militarized government, installed and supported by the great powers of the day...the USA, Britain, France, Germany etal.

It was a classic case what Vladimir Lenin exposed in his seminal 1916 work on Imperialism. Included in the forays and savage penetrations of investment, plus military controls...whether through local satraps or directly... the “oil” flow was assured to the immense profit of the Imperial investors. So today, the Sunnis, Shiites, Kurdish people together with all humanity confront an extension, intensification and continuation of those horrific and devastating years of pillage and thievery. Today the guns and military might of the “super power” Imperial USA and the original British “colonizers” are the overseers with death-dealing powers. No amount of “psycho-warfare”, lies, subterfuge can conceal the basic element of what is happening in Iraq, and that threatens ALL Middle-East Muslim

countries, including particularly the ravage of the Palestinians by the US propped-up and financed Israeli Sharon of Shabra and Shatela butchery. As the primary nuclear armed “*police sentinel*” overseeing every US Imperial interest in the area, Sharon applied every long-standing policy enunciated by the Washington White House. Sharon of Israel has projected no policy that could possibly lead to the long talked about “Peace” with the Palestinian Authority. On the contrary, again and again, blatant provocations that inevitably has led to the “suicide-bomber” scourge, has been supported by the current Bush gang of “oil” desperados now formulating and practicing US “world dominant” war efforts to corral all available resources of “OIL” and world hegemony.

The unvarnished and dangerous result is a form of combined liberation and guerrilla WAR in Iraq and ongoing immediate danger of more “oil wars” to come...all fought under the new banners of bloodthirsty Imperial design of “Security from Terrorism.” This has now effectively replaced the old psycho-war “old bogey man” of “Communism” used by Churchill, Hitler, Mussolini, Truman and list of too many “Imperial statesmen” to be repeated here. With this manipulative, phony and intensely hyped “banner of aggression”, “psycho-war” continues worldwide in growing fury and “Big Lie” efficiency. We suggest that total withdrawal of Imperialist holdings and military could probably end terrorism.

The “spider-hole” capture of Saddam Hussein, President of Iraq, long ago installed and supported by the US, A and CIA, the disgusting televised exhibition of some US Military Medic prodding into Saddam’s mouth, repeated ad nauseum on TV and in the print media, reveals razor-sharp the “Psycho-War” process. The supine

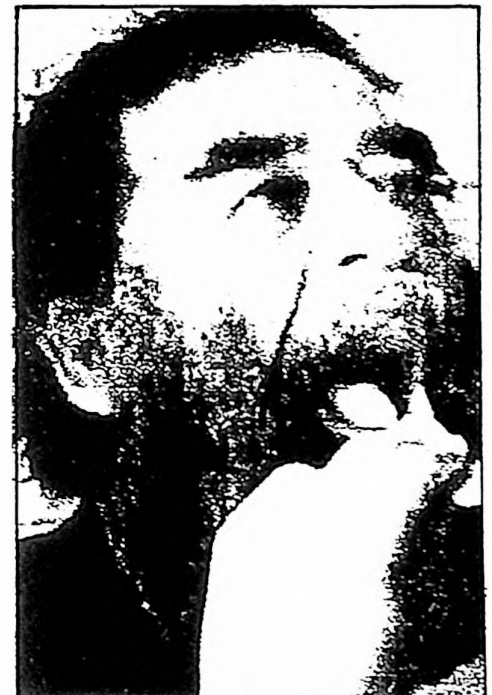
RAY STEVENSON



media on the Western corporate powers outdo each other in the competition sickening “rush to please” the Oil Clan masters of Bush, Blair et al and to numb the minds of all who watch or read their outrageous efforts of “Big Lie” texture and substance.

For example, the Toronto Daily Star newspaper (Canada) of Tuesday, December 16, 2003 verifies the above on page A-28 by displaying a bedraggled, unkempt, dirt encrusted photo of Saddam, carried front page on six leading world’s renowned journals, each announcing the “capture of Saddam”. Not to be outdone, the Star runs the “story” in front banner headlines, with President Bush’s pronouncement that the captured Iraqian is a “dictator, murderer. liar.”

Saddam Hussein being checked-out?



deceiver" and proposes that "the world is better off without him"... the implication of a "summary death penalty".

Not satisfied with that, the same edition of the paper on an Editorial, page 26, under an "Ace of Spades" playing card cartoon of the captive...we might suppose in order to ensure the reader will not "miss the event"... no less than FOUR leading US editorial comments are run. They are: The Washington Post, New York Times, Los Angeles Times and the St. Petersburg Times. These are all followed by the Arab News Jeddah, London Telegraph, the Jerusalem Post and finally the Vancouver Sun. Each in their own way hail the fact of Saddam's "Spider Hole" capture, by a suggested heroic, heavily armed US Army division as a "great victory". In fact it is a "victory" for the Imperial oil tycoons.

Not so strangely, in all that torrent of words and "news", no journalist responsible for the "psych-war" outpourings remembered the word "oil" or that from World War 1 the Iraqi people have been held hostage by Imperialists insatiable thirst for "oil" and economic, political and military control. Previous headlines in various newspapers proclaimed that under the US imposed UN sanctions, **one and one half million defenseless Iraqis, children and otherwise have died in the past twelve years...** not to mention in the same period repeated and ongoing US bombings of unprotected Iraqi territory in the UN "No Fly" zones in an undeclared, unpublished war, generally hidden from the world populations.

Now we are supposed to believe that the war, illegally imposed by the USA and Britain, based on Presidential and Prime Minister lies, and a collection of previously unheard of champions of "freedom and democracy" was waged to "liberate" Iraq. But Bush and Blair lied in their teeth to the world about the phantom "Weapons of Mass Destruction", about the illusory "ties" between Saddam and the still "free" CIA man, Osama bin Laden and Al Qaeda; about the incoming "terrorists" to Iraq etc. etc. ad nauseum. In "the psycho-war" process we are also to forget that the "terrorist" attack on the World

Trade Center Towers was the work of a majority of bin Laden's Saudi cohorts and probably financed by moneys flowing from the US Bechtel and Halliburton corporate fortune, largely amassed with the bin Laden family in massive construction "contracts" in Saudi Arabia, while making friendly with the former USA's Republican Governments of Reagan, Bush (Sr), Cheney, Schultz et al. Also to be forgotten and buried deep in the "sands of time" is the current overcharge by the "Vice Presidents former company Halliburton" of gasoline for the "heroic" US soldiers who are getting themselves killed and the billions of dollars contract "takes" being handed out now by the Bush-Cheney- Wolfowitz -Rumsfeld-Perle "oil clan" to their cohorts and "privatized" corporate friends...at the US taxpayers expense of course.

The hullabaloo of continuing lies and corrupted activities surrounding the Saddam Hussein story and the Baath Party in Iraq is now being utilized to popularize the "War on Terrorists" in order to ensure the re-election in 2004 for the oxymoron...if not psychotic...Bush and his cabal as they lead their country and the world and its people towards a "new dark ages". It is safe to predict that Saddam will never be allowed to speak from any public forum, whether in a "show trial" or otherwise, unless an unsavory and hideous deal is in the offing...or perhaps that already exists. After all, Saddam Hussein is a creation of Imperialism, greeted and supported in his 1993 War on Iran by the same US Mr. Rumsfeld who now seats securely in the Bush cabinet. That was to promote the war on Iran by Saddam to ensure good "oil deals" for the US Imperialists. Saddam's unforgivable "crime" was to switch markets and deals to the more lucrative European customers and away from the US. But Saddam "knows too much of the USA and the CIA, (not to mention British) deals and programs" to be allowed to speak in any "open trial". But if by some Machevillian scheme, he can give an uplift to the Bush (Dubya) coming presidential elections...he may survive...by virtue of some "deal".

If not, execution awaits him...by

whatever means...legal or illegal. We know that such are perfectly within an integral part of covert policy within the means and methods of US imperialism. Formerly successful or failed assassination attempts on other leaders attest to that. After all, why didn't they kill Saddam in his "Spider Hole"?

As this is written, eight days after his capture, it is clear that the Bush (Jr) cabal, facing failing "polls" of support for their illegal war realized that Saddam, the alive Iraqi prisoner would boost his election polls and perhaps even guarantee his re-election by a befuddled US electorate. In a few months, that would be a case of "more valuable" while still breathing. That does not mean that "murder by subterfuge"... of any kind is ruled out. We know that assassination has both a positive and a negative place in past history...and we believe... present US State policy and history, when the purposes will advance the interests of the monopoly Imperialist rulers. The "Hanging" ex-Governor George of Texas in days past is a vivid example of death by judicial means...and is not alone among past, particularly Republican US presidential figures...both positively and negatively.

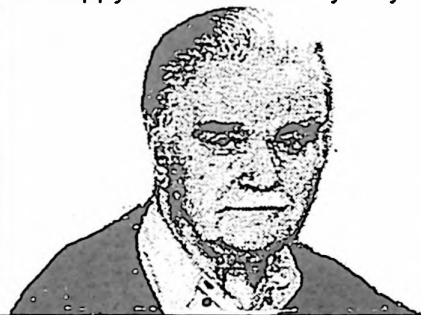
On another note, Saddam, the "heroic" (according to television exposure) a "shot master" of small arms was armed only with a pistol, loaded, as he is alleged to have climbed from his "Spider Hole"...if anything portrayed by those particular "news gathering crews" can be believed. Why not a "Fighting Martyrs" death...standing up (as always...) to the Imperial US forces? Surely Arabic "Martyrdom" lay in that direction. Or was his trigger finger frozen by the thought that "a former hit-man and close associate of the CIA...meekly surrendering might possibly carry some kind of negotiated deal?" That is of course speculative and cannot be answered...perhaps will never be answered. As this is written, the world must "watch intently for rifts an divisions" among those who have denied, destroyed, or otherwise limited the mass rights and freedoms of people every where...including those in the Imperialist countries.

There can be no reason for prolonging the current world wide situation of bloody, infinitely dangerous gangster-like assaults and war on the peoples of the oil rich Muslim world. As suggested above, and we hope confirmed by the withdrawal and agreement of the ling standing sanctions on Libya, Cuba and others - normal trade and commerce in energy resources could be the way out of the Imperialist quagmire. History will tell.

HAPPY 84TH BIRTHDAY RAY STEVENSON!

Last December 17, 2003 Ray celebrated his 84th birthday and in his honour Lil Greene donated \$84.00 towards Northstar Compass.

Readers of NSC know and appreciate the many excellent articles written in his analytical style, these many years. Happy belated Birthday Ray!



The Lies Keep Marching On

VIC
RATSHA



Lengthy and sensational media reports, including discussions by the so-called "experts" have followed the capture of Saddam Hussein. But still the truth has not been heard.

It is being hailed as a major victory for the USA, a triumph for the Bush

Administration and a justification for the war against Iraq. I am talking of course about the capture of President Hussein in December of last year. Over and over again and again the same pictures were shown of Saddam's hideout, of his hair being cut, of Iraqi people celebrating in the streets and in homes and of politicians like Bush and Blair declaring the enormity of their catch, and how this may alter the situation of the war itself. And of course, not to forget, how this is supposed to enhance Bush's chances for re-election this coming November.

Yet, I have to ask myself "Can a capture of one old man, who has been on the rum for the last eight months have that much impact on the course of history?" There is little doubt that the regime of Saddam Hussein had conducted horrendous crimes and that, as leader, he has taken full responsibility for such actions. For his removal from power few people will shed tears. But Saddam's crimes are not the reason why there is a war going on in Iraq, and that's why his capture, while scoring propaganda points for Bush and Blair, will in the end not change the situation for the people of Iraq. Nor does it change the real reason why this war is being conducted and the Imperialist Agenda on which it is based.

I will not repeat all the reasons that were given by the Bush-Blair tandem to the United Nations Organization and to the people of the world, now about a year ago. You will no doubt remember all of the "evidence" provided by Colin Powell to the UN Security Council, massive evidence of weapons of mass destruction, numerous illegal long-range rockets, nuclear weapons, chemical and biological weapons, mobile bio-lab etc. - all said to be in the possession of Saddam Hussein - who was ready to strike anytime. But one year later, none of these weapons have been found and they appear to have existed only in the imagination of the US-UK aggressors. Then there was the so-called link between Hussein and El Qaida terrorists and the threat that this posed to America and the "free world". Americans were even told that Saddam was responsible for the attacks on the World Trade Center and the Pentagon, and unfortunately

many people in America believe this to this day, even though it has long been proven that there is no such connection.

The fact, that both the planning and preparation for war on Iraq and on Afghanistan long preceded the events of September 11, 2001 is today conveniently ignored by virtually all the mass media and commentators. Yet these plans are very well documented and publicly accessible. In 1997 a group of people created a Washington-based think-tank "The Project for the New American Century" (PNAC) who published a report in the year 2000 under the title "Rebuilding American Defenses" (1) in which they projected American economic and military hegemony over the entire world. William Rivers Pitt (2) in an article published Feb. 23, 2003 describes this report as "the institutionalization of plans and ideologies that have been formulated for decades by men currently running the American government." Among these men we find Vice President Dick Cheney, Secretary of Defense Donald Rumsfeld, Defense Policy Board Chairman Richard Perle, Deputy Defense Secretary Paul Wolfowitz and others, and also among whom is George W. Bush's brother and Governor of Florida Jeb Bush. The report recognizes that a major event (like the 1941 attack on Pearl Harbor) will be necessary to obtain the broad support of the American people.

"Bring them on!" George W. Bush said publicly after the fall of the Iraqi regime, when speaking of terrorist attacks. Perhaps he also said that before the planes flew into the World Trade Towers and the Pentagon - but then, only quietly - the proof of that is still hidden in those Whitehouse briefing notes that no one was allowed to have excess to, and in the details of the forewarnings the Whitehouse had about the September 11 attacks, but which they conveniently chose to ignore.

Why is everyone from the Government's CIA to the Opposition politicians and the major mass media ignoring the connection between the PNAC Report, the September 11 attacks and the wars in Afghanistan and Iraq? And why are the rest of the world's governments, even those who opposed the war in Iraq are so

silent about this connection?

The answers to these questions, I suggest, are simple. Follow the money trail. Private corporate interests (*including the mass media*) are not served by the (*for them*) horrendous consequences of a guilty verdict of the Bush administration, as stock markets would undoubtedly crash. Similarly, governments around the world are not only fearful of US retaliation, but also could suffer the consequences of a US economic collapse. Better therefore not to rock the boat. And so, not "Truth" but "The Lies Keep Marching On."

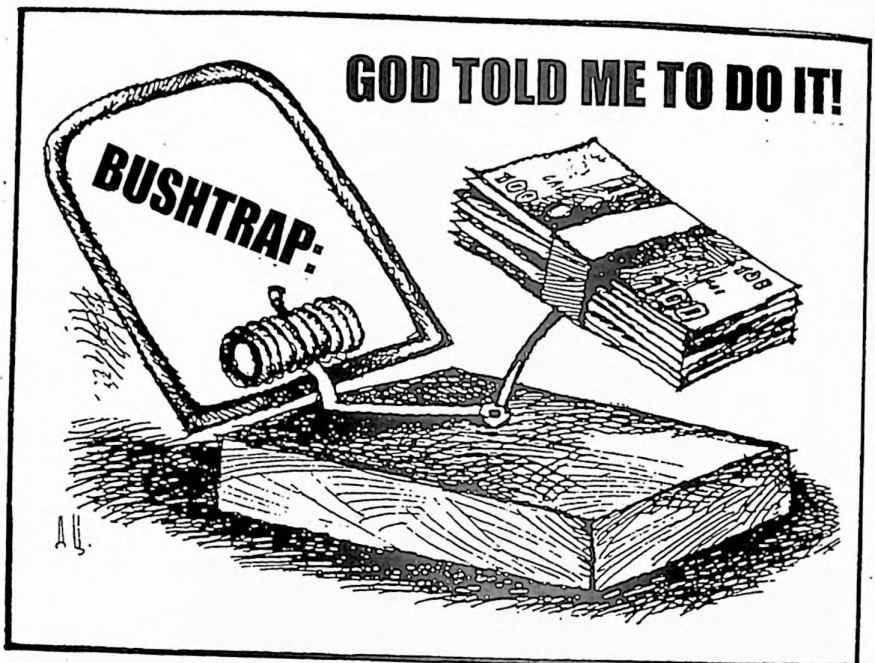
Hallelujah!

As for the capture of Saddam Hussein, it won't make any difference to the real objectives of the USA for world domination. There will continue to be more American military bases and troops around the world, not only in Iraq, but also in all of the former republics of the Soviet Union, in the Far East and wherever they can persuade or force the governments to play their game. All this is now done in the name of "spreading democracy". Winston Churchill once said: "Democracy is the worst form of government, except for all the others." The United States has discovered a better form of government: "The New World Order", previously known as the "Fascist Dictatorship".

It is time to wake up!

(1)PNAC:<http://www.newamericancentury.org/publicationsreports.htm>

(2)William Rivers Pitt is the Managing Editor of Truthout.org



WHY IS OUR EDITOR SO UPSET ABOUT?

NSC needs \$2,000 per month to be able to publish, plus the upcoming Second World Congress expenses to cover some of the costs! Delegates are coming from over 36 countries this September!

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**TO OUR SOVIET FRIENDS:
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Dear readers:
The Palestinian political prisoner in the US has again been moved to another prison. Messages should be sent to the:
Committee for the Release of Farouk Abdel-Muhti,
P.O.Box 20587, Tompkins Sg Sta
New York, NY 1009 -
USA

WHAT DID THE RUSSIAN DUMA ELECTIONS SHOW?

Dear readers:

We publish here excerpts from three different reports on the Russian Duma elections that were held on December 7, 2003. One report is by Nina Andreeva from the All Union Communist Party of Bolsheviks, another is from the article by NSC writer Felix Gorelik, while the third one is from Moscow News as published by DeWarheid of The Netherlands..



There were representatives elected to the Russian Duma from three political parties: "United Russia", CPRF and LDPR and smaller "Motherland". For the "United Russia" the Putin's party received 37.1% of votes, the CPRF -12.7%, the LDPR- 11.6% while Motherland (*Rodina*) received 9.1%. Others did not pass the 5% barrier.

That means that "United Russia" will have 222 seats, the CPRF 53, LPDR 38, Motherland 37 while others will have the other seats. The percentage of voters voting is still a guess, the regime media boasts that 50% of people voted, while the newspaper "Pravda" says that it was closer to only 36%. All agree that there were thousands upon thousands of voters who voted against all the parties.

How did the parties do in Moscow, Leningrad and overall in Russia?

MOSCOW:

United Russia 34.5%
CPRF 7.7%
LDPR 6.5%
Motherland 15.3%

LENINGRAD:

United Russia 30.7%
CPRF 8.5%
LDPR 7.8%
Motherland 13.7%

AVERAGE ACROSS RUSSIA:

United Russia 37.1%
CPRF 12.7%
LDPR 11.6%
Motherland 9.1%

Let us just see as to why most of these candidates to the Dumá were so anxious to get elected? What was so inviting for them? According to the present perks each deputy receives the following:

*Each deputy gets \$500 USA pension per month, while the average Russian has to live on \$20 per month.

*He or she has immunity as a deputy

*Free transportation inside Moscow and inside Russia

*Free trips abroad and free night clubs and theatres

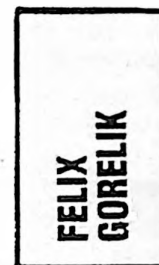
*Paid staff

*He or she gets paid ten times more than any Academician or Scientist.

But this does not force you to attend any sessions of the Russian Duma while you are a Deputy. Last Duma had 57 deputies who attended less than 3 sessions of the Duma in 4 years.

The new party (*Rodina*) that was set up, many speculate with the help of Putin, these were former high officials in the CPRF party, and some are still in there! Strange - but true.

Let not the present bourgeois celebrate too early, the evening is still far away. More and more Soviets are realizing as to the farce of these elections and time is coming when these people will realize the truth. There is an old Russian proverb: "you might take a long time to harness the horses, but once harnessed, they go faster than the wind."



LESSONS OF THE ELECTION IN RUSSIA

The mass media is full of stories about the low turn out of the electorate. They say that only 56% took part in voting -but there were over 5% of people who voted against all the parties. Which means that only about 50% of voters support the existing parties. Why? They showed in this way their protest against the Putin administration and the terrible situation that is in the country.

In some localities the rise of prices for electricity and gas had gone up by 200-300 per cent. The hardship is such that people cannot pay rent and thus are evicted. Therefore they abstained to vote as a sign of protest. They cannot forget that during Soviet times all communal services were free or very minimal costs were required to pay.

How then did the governing party manage to win the election? The present United Russia, under Yeltsin was called "Our Home Russia" but did not receive the necessary votes. What has changed?

The Western programmed and promoted Hollywood style public relations have made an idol out of Putin and sold him over the mass media as the West sells soap or any other product. What happened and why?

We live now in global psychological era and a moral crisis. The sell out by the top leadership of the CPSU, liquidation of the USSR

and the onset of reforms, has nurtured a non-belief in communists and left them with dissolution. The promotion of the West, plus the Russian Orthodox Church has presented Putin as the new Messiah. The West, in picking Putin knew that Yeltsin was old, a drunkard, and here they presented Putin as young, energetic man - and he played on the yearning of patriotism, cleverly promoted war against the Oligarchs, while at the same he supported them and they supported him. He was promoted as a hero that will ride his white horse against all evil. The West and his New Russians made certain that the media - TV, press, radio and newspapers - were all controlled by his "party" and thus the new "Messiah" was born.

He undertook upon himself as a fighter against "terrorism" while at the same time he became a stooge for US imperialism. He fought for Russian capitalism, not foreign capitalism, which was a clever mask, as if Putin was just concerned for the welfare of Russia only.

Before the elections, all efforts were made to convince the Russian people that Putin was that shining knight in white armour and is fighting against all policies of that traitor Yeltsin. Even though the Oligarchs are guaranteed their ill-gotten profits, the people unfortunately believed that a "new era" has come with Putin. From morning until night, the daily media was Zomberizing the population...including the ongoing propaganda from the Russian Orthodox Church pulpit.

Western Imperialism has poured billions into Russia before the election and some industries started to grow and exports grew in some places, even though this capitalist Russia needs at least 15 years to reach the economic potential that the Soviet Union had twenty years ago. To some extent this false "growth" has fooled some of the voters who believed the "Putin miracle".

The practical defeat of Zyuganov and the CPRF is also not by chance. The vicious anti-communism that was let loose, the millions being poured by not only US imperialism, but by the organization set up by this vicious George Soros all over Russia, played its part. It is also interesting

to note that as the Duma elections were being organized, there grew and were set up 22 different political parties that all of a sudden had finances, had publicity and got much free media coverage, The CPRF and other left-wing parties did not get much time on the TV or radio.

The weakness of the CPRF is that they appealed to "all the people", but not one word of appeal to the "working class", "socialism" or the "resurrection of the Soviet Union!" Amongst the candidates of the CPRF there were big businessmen, capitalists and owners of industries. The money

THIS JUST IN!

There were reports published in the Moscow press after the elections of December 7th, that Gennady Zyuganov, head of the Communist Party of the Russian Federation is planning to resign after the disastrous showing by the CPRF in the elections to the Duma.

The CPRF Central Committee would only say that a "plenary meeting will take place to discuss the results."

that flowed into the CPRF was used as propaganda by the Putin regime and many scandals abounded. Accusations were made, they had their effect, but replies from CPRF were either not heard or were not forthcoming.

These elections to the Russian Duma show us that "bourgeois democracy" is a fairy tale, hiding the actual dictatorship of big capital. The main struggle by the people must not be through parliamentary games, but a class struggle. The masses learn on their own skins in participating in the struggles. They are learning that "United Russia" is hiding behind this sportsman Putin image who is now using his billions from the oligarchs to prepare his election for a Second Term as President. But the people are awakening and will awaken sooner than later. In order to make this happen sooner, the Russian communists must learn from V.I.Lenin, J.V. Stalin and the Bolsheviks in their struggle on behalf of the working class. ■

DEFEAT COULD WIDEN SPLIT IN THE COMMUNIST PARTY!

From The Moscow News.com
By Francesca Mereu

The CPRF is in a crisis and facing a possible change in leadership or even a break-up after it was routed at the polls December 7, 2003 and pushed to the political sidelines Ilya Ponomaryov, the CPRF's chief information officer who was in charge of attracting younger voters, said that the CPRF have only themselves to blame for their worst showing in 10 years.

The CPRF is in a crisis, with many different ideological currents fighting for supremacy within the party. According to Ponomaryov the CPRF should have stuck to its base and dedicated communists.

CPRF leadership was not able to explain as to why they allowed rich and powerful big businessmen, the Oligarchs to be candidates and to have them in the CC of the CPRF and to have them support the CPRF with their ill-gotten fortunes.

A powerful and influential group within the CPRF want to have the CPRF turn itself into social democrats as it is in Europe. Ivan Melnikov is the head of this group and is the deputy chairman of the CPRF. Another group, headed by the Deputy Speaker in the last Russian Duma, he wants to find a compromise with the Putin leadership.

According to Ponomaryov of the CPRF, Gennady Semigin will be the party candidate in the next March's presidential election, replacing Zyuganov, who has run and lost in the last two presidential elections. Zyuganov still does not know as to which group he will support.

What direction the CPRF will take is unclear, it all depends as to which faction takes over the leadership. During these reform troubles, the CPRF is likely to lose some of its deputies who might switch their allegiance in the Duma.

The CPRF was formed in February of 1993 and claims it has 500,000 members. ■

HELP NSC AND THE 2ND
WORLD CONGRESS
FINANCIALLY!

STATEMENT BY THE CC COMMUNIST PARTY OF THE SOVIET UNION

December 12, 2003

As the presidential campaign in Russia has already started, to be held in March of this year, the Russian media has already started to speculate whether Gennady Zyuganov, leader of the CPRF, is not very useful anyplace in the left movement and demands are already being voiced that he be replaced by a more honest, dedicated leader to the peoples needs.

The vacillation of the leadership of the CPRF, on the one hand trying to be red and revolutionary, but on the other hand doing all that is necessary to hold on to their seats in the Duma, their CPRF positions and to please the present regime. But, who is it that is proposed to replace Zyuganov? Oleg Shenin or Gennady Semigina?

It is evident that the electorate for the second time has voiced its opposition to the leadership and to the policies pursued by Zyuganov. It does not matter as to who will lead the CPRF, but time has come for the CPRF to throw away the notion and the monopoly that they are the only ones capable of leading the left movement in Russia – and to ignore other Communist parties as they have done up to the present time.

Time has come to stop fooling the people with phrases that sound Marxist and anti-present regime, while at the same time taking part and in many ways assisting the present regime in the anti-peoples laws that were and are adopted. Now, like never before, the leftwing movement needs a clear policy, a clear road to activity and a principal Marxist-Leninist stand.

The policy of the CPSU and the people who support us, we feel that there will be a rising movement of like-minded people in order to make the necessary changes. ■

SIRENS DROWN OUT KIEV DEBATE

FROM MOSCOW TIMES,
December 2003

Ukrainian opposition deputies used loud speakers and air aid

sirens to drown out and prevent Ukrainian parliament from discussing constitutional changes that opponents say are a ploy by President Kuchma to hang on to power. Kuchma announced that he will seek a third term as president.

Dozens of opposition deputies blocked the speakers rostrum, chanting "Kuchma Out!" Others set off sirens, drowning out the speaker as he tried to press ahead with the debate.

The opposition spokesman said: "We will not allow pro-presidential factions to push it through parliament. Implementation of the Kuchma reforms will take the country to the edge of an abyss" ■

CAPSUL NEWS FROM EX-USSR

President of Azerbaijan Aliyev died while in the US. This will intensify the power struggle in the Caucasus between US capital and Russian oligarchs.

*

A military parade in Georgia started with the US National Anthem (!) and then the Georgian Anthem The US White House emissaries promised a huge increase in aid to the new government.

*

Georgian mercenaries attack Dagestan Republic, kill hostages, attack hospital as a prelude to Georgian expansion in the region.

*

The New Georgian US puppet government is sending 500 more Georgian soldiers to Iraq. In February of this year NATO and Georgian integration will be speeded up.

*

Ex-Georgian Security Chief said that the Georgia's coming election will be rigged and it will be worse than what happened in Yugoslavia.

*

A bomb blast took place for the second time outside Shevernadze's son-in-law office, who is a big financial tycoon helped by his father-in-law, former president Shevernadze.

"WE MUST GET RID OF YARAFAT!"

FROM KOMINFORM

JERUSALEM (AFP) - President Bush told an Israeli journalist that "we must get rid of Arafat", the mass circulation Yediot Aharonot daily has reported last December.

Bush's comments came in a brief exchange with the newspapers' correspondent during a Christmas drink party in Washington, several hours after a key-note speech by Israel Prime Minister Ariel Sharon, in which he outlined plans for unilateral disengagement from the peace negotiations with the Palestinians.

The US government has boycotted Arafat, and Bush accused the veteran Palestinian leader of failing the Palestinian people. Israel has also shunned the 74-year old, branding him an obsolete obstacle to peace and confining him to his West Bank headquarters for more than two years.

The Israel's Security Cabinet approved Arafat's "removal" last September. One Israeli Minister suggesting that he should be assassinated and did not get reprimanded!



COMMENT:

Where is this former KGB apparatchik, former CPSU member Putin - the present un-elected president - the Dancing Doll of the US White House and the Pentagon? Has the American dollars clouded his mind that the supposed official foreign policy of Russia is to support Palestinian freedom? But, the Put-in White House Dancer has to go on! After all, the one that pays the money, calls the tune, and Put-in is very good in dancing to a foreign master! ■

US tells Russia of plans for Eastward military expansion

From DEWAARHEID

A top US official told Moscow last month that Washington planned to expand its military bases into Eastern Europe and the ex-Soviet territories and hoped that Russia will not look at it as an aggressive act.

President Putin just held discussions with his military, instead of making a statement condemning this outright provocation. US-Russian relations are not going well, with Washington taking a more aggressive approach

One US diplomat, Grossman, refused to identify recent NATO member Poland and Azerbaijan – the last is a volatile country where both Russia and USA have oil interests. Aliyev the Azerbaijan head of state said only that: "The world is changing in a very dynamic way."

Grossman said, that the idea of a US Eastward push was formalized by President Bush, and he is sending top officials to formalize this move.

Russia's Defense Minister Sergei Ivanov told a meeting of his counterparts that Moscow has no intention of accepting Washington's military encroachment of its borders.

But President Putin of Russia made this statement which is very telling: "Anyone who enters a collective security treaty run by Moscow will get preferential treatment from Russia."

COMMENT:

How long will this dangerous charade be sprung upon the Soviet people? Who are we kidding that US has no aggressive plans against Russia? Where is President Putin, that so-called manly, dedicated, ex KGB man? Is he just waiting if the price is right? Or, where is the CPRF that cried "foul" about the elections, but is oblivious about the incoming military bases all over Russia and ex-USSR?"

Why not give this copy to a friend and get a subscription?

WHAT DO OUR READERS FEEL ABOUT THIS STATEMENT?

"President Lukashenko of Belarus criticized the US policy towards other countries and said that international organizations cannot guarantee sovereignty of nations. Lukashenko is seeking to help build a new **security system in Europe by setting up cooperation with NATO**. Also, Belarus is building a defensive space with Russia."

Not a word of criticism of NATO and its Eastward expansion or even an inkling that the USSR should be resurrected – or a word about socialism!

SHENY CHIRIME OUR SUFFERING GEORGIA

GALINA
SAWCHENKO



You, forever true and blood-related sister of Russia, Byelorussia and Ukraine and of all the peoples of our Motherland, the USSR, you gave a gift of Stalin to the whole world, while the "ex communist" and now with the ex-president Eduard Schevernadze – you stumbled!

One more black mark by the "best diplomat of the 20th century", this pro-American sold out not only the Soviet Union, he sold out the GDR and Erich Honecker.

He brought on a catastrophe on his people. The liberation of Georgia from the so-called "Soviet-communist totalitarianism" has turned out to be the liquidation of the minimum standard of living and in many cases starvation. Today in Georgia, it's the 3-5 lbs of potatoes that is used as a measure to sustain life for the pensioners, while children are forced to scurry around the markets, trying

to pick up pieces of cabbage, leaves and scraps in order to sustain life. It is as if it was during the blockade of Leningrad during WW II.

Dying on the street was the second secretary of the Communist Party of Georgia (Tbilisi) Vasiko Galorge. When during the meetings-gatherings in the offices of the CPG, the party members of Komsomols were throwing their party cards away while "confessing their mistakes as communists" the fighter-communist Vasiko was one of the first who refused to throw his party card away and did not sell out the communist party. May his example shine on forever for this Internationalist.

Today the world press went on a rampage about the events in Georgia and many bourgeoisie newspapers commented correctly as to who was behind this "velvet revolution" and where the new leader was trained and supported financially. Only Mr. Koffi Annan complemented Schevernadze with these words: "The whole world is applauding you Mr. Schevernadze. You are needed by Georgia!" And this, by the General Secretary of the United Nations Organization! You can see in whose pocket this modern day "Uncle Tom" is in!

You are mistaken Mr. Annan. The people of Georgia hated Mr. Schevernadze and US imperialism made the decision to replace him with another lackey. Schevernadze was a tragedy for the people of Georgia and of the region of the North Caucasus. We hate him as we hate American imperialism, which is now in every nook and cranny of the world.

But remember our dear Georgians: "You were led into the streets not by Communists. The change of the anti-peoples leadership in Georgia did not take place!" And no Mikhail Saaskashvili who speaks perfect English, having studied for many years at the US universities, or any other of the so-called present leaders, because if Schevernadze was the octopus, these leaders are his tentacles!

What is the difference now in Ukraine if the present President Kuchma is no longer useful to Uncle Sam, there are already many others that are willing to take his place and placed there by American imperialism.

No State is won by parliamentary ballots or debates – only tanks will bring back the changes needed!

For all that is going on in Georgia, the dirty hands of US imperialism are there. Here, like in Yugoslavia and Moldavia, the hands of multi-billionaire George Soros are seen there with his billions, buying off anyone than he can.

Today, like 150 years ago, the Crimea War is happening: the greedy Western powers again want to tear away Crimea and the Caucasus from Russia and rule the Black Sea. And if Georgia is torn away from cooperation with Russia, she will become the victim and grabbed piece by piece by Turkey, Iran and the USA.

During the 13th century, under the leader Tamar, Georgia had a population of 12 million. At the end of the 18th century, as a result of invasions by Turks, Persians and Arabs, there were left only 600,000 Georgians. Georgians were on a verge of extinction. The good Tsar Irakly II went on the path of cooperation with Russia in order to save his people from extinction. Now, the present Georgian nationalists have declared this Irakly II as a traitor.

Get to your senses my dear Georgians. For more than 200 years we Slavs lived with you in peace and friendship. How we love Georgian music, songs, dances and films. How we always appreciated your kind hospitality.

NATO needs Georgia for their plans in order to enlarge their war bases in the Caucasus and to get their dirty hands on the oil and gas...and all this is aimed against Russia.

Awake my dear Georgians, give us again another Stalin! ■

GREAT LESSONS OF THE PAST

By VLADIMIR PRONIN

Amongst us Soviet communists, there is a great tradition as regards any important date in the life of our leaders, and we dwell into their history, details and all aspects of information that can give us a clearer picture of their greatness and their persona. Facts like these can be used even now in the struggles for the truth and socialism.

Not too long ago, the historians opened up the book of names when they were born, gotten from the Monastery in Gory, which showed that Stalin was born not on December 9, 1879, as was celebrated up to now, but on December 18, 1878, so that last December 18, 2003 was the 125th anniversary of the birth of this great state and political leader. This again-brings us to dwell into the history of this great figure of the 20th Century. There is an ongoing discussion, arguments and debates about this great personality, and in most cases these arguments are based on lies and innuendoes.

For some, who forgot or forget the characteristics of Lenin, who praised Stalin as one of the most dedicated, talented Bolsheviks whom Lenin proposed to be a member of the Politbureau of the Bolshevik Party. These people are constantly repeating the same lies, the same hearsay and trying with all their power to hang a mantel of revisionism on Stalin. These people cannot see or understand any positive aspects in Stalin and debunk all of his accomplishments as a leader, as a theoretic and as a Bolshevik. When they cannot hide the truth that is evident in history about the great achievements of the Soviet Union under Stalin, they then fall back on the tactics of — Yes, there were many achievements under Stalin, but they would have been achieved anyway, much better, much faster and with less victims and strife.

Others, forgetting that every person has weaknesses and support Stalin in all aspects, even though some decisions could have been

better thought through. These people forget that Stalin himself criticized this hero-worship and bowing, as was done before and thus this hero-worship produced results which were not Bolshevik or good for the revolutionary struggles. He as a Bolshevik demanded criticism and self-criticism as the way towards a better society, on the road towards Communism.

This policy of critical analyses, criticism and self-criticism as a leader even under Lenin, showed that Stalin was able to have the people follow and set up the first Socialist State on this planet - these so-called analysts-historians forget this crucial and cardinal point.

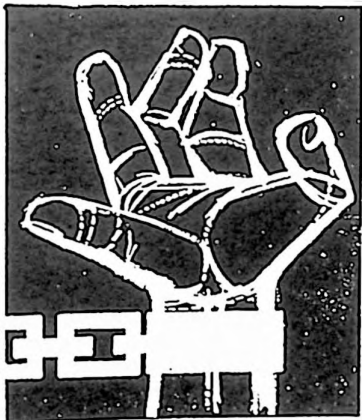
Let us look more closely at the work and leadership of Stalin in the Caucasus and his revolutionary activities. I would suggest to the readers of NSC, to restudy and re-read the historical past materials, written about the Baku period and Stalin's struggles and leadership during the period of 1905-07 years. These materials will show the rationale, the analyses and the Bolshevik criteria and plans of struggle during this important period.

For those communists who want or think that they can resurrect socialism through revolutionary or parliamentary means, without the participation of the working class, without getting them involved – you should understand as Stalin understood that, leaders of the revolutionary movements cannot themselves bring on a change without the participation of the working class.

The classical words of Stalin after the defeat of the Baku Commissars are valid today as never before. *“We should never forget, that our organization of Bolsheviks will grow only as we are able to involve the participation of the proletariat!”*

Communists cannot base themselves on achieving a change of a regime and institute socialism by parliamentary means - because even if the Communists are successful in getting a majority in parliament, they will never be successful to eliminate the dictatorship of the bourgeoisie. The bourgeoisie will always sabotage, unravel, and break any resolution or act that would be passed by a parliament headed by communists.

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



In order to have a success in planning a revolutionary change, Stalin proposed and demanded that there be set up in every industry, enterprise, factory, party committees: "these organs of the party are the ones that are capable to spread the revolutionary fervor amongst the masses. These people in the factory committees are alive, who can bring around the party large masses of people. To do this and be successful, these party committee's of Bolsheviks must be at the center of all struggles, all problems that are brought up by the workers - be their actual defenders - this is the task of these party committees (page 151).

Stalin even went on the say that these party committees at the factory level, must be supplemented by higher party structures - the main objective is that the party must be with the workers, defending their struggles and their rights, as the vanguard leader.

Only in this way can we think of rebuilding socialism in the post-socialist countries, for now, using peaceful methods but building up for the overthrow of the present regimes in the ex-Soviet Union. The present trade union leaders are basing themselves on the bankrupt policies of Gorbachevism and "perestroika". This method is used by the present regime in order to break-up, nullify the gains and split the communists into small groupings - which are then ineffective.

Communists today in ex-USSR have still to learn how they can influence the working class - they must learn very quickly. Without the idea of leading the working class, they should learn from the history of the preparation for the Great October Socialist Revolution. Otherwise, we are going backwards in the struggle to overthrow capitalism. We must lead the masses against imperialism and against the New World Order!

This excellent article was shortened for space reasons. Editor

HOW WAS PUTIN PUT-IN?

In future issues of NSC we shall report the details that have surfaced now?

US EYEING BIGGER FOOTHOLD IN THE CAUCASUS

By VLADIMIR RADYUSHIN

The USA is planning to establish a major military presence in Azerbaijan in order to win a bigger foothold in the former Soviet part of the Caucasus, safeguard the oil and gas pipeline in the region and thus step up pressure on Iran.

The US Defense Secretary, Donald Rumsfeld, discussed this plan with Azerbaijan's newly elected President, Ilham Aliyev, during his visit to Baku in December of 2003, Azerbaijan media reported.

Rumsfeld ducked questions about possible US bases in Azerbaijan, but confirmed America's resolve to expand defense cooperation with the oil-rich former Soviet republic in the Caucasus. The high officials from the Pentagon and Washington are regular visitors to Azerbaijan.

Russian officials already have pointed out that the US has 17,000 troops in mobile bases in Azerbaijan. Washington plans to deploy there F-16 fighters which it will use in the Afghanistan and Iraq wars. The US has already upgraded several airfields in Azerbaijan. The USA provides already \$3 billion a year to train and equip and modernize its equipment. This is just an official figure, but behind the scenes, money is pouring into Azerbaijan.

The visit of US Air Force Lt. General Charles Wald to Baku, who is the head of the US European Command, said that the US will defend Azerbaijan against Russia and others in the disputed Caspian Sea region. Baku is locked in a conflict with neighbouring Iran and Turkmenistan over the offshore hydrocarbon reserves in the region. ■

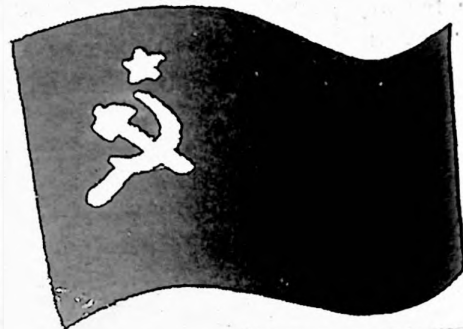
DID YOU KNOW?

Workers in industries in ex-USSR sometimes have to wait even 10-12 months to receive their pay?

There were more coal mine accidents in Ukraine in the last 4 years than in the USSR for 70 years?

HERO OF NOV.7, 2003

In the last issue we published a news item about the brave deed of a young Komsomol in raising the Red Flag over the State Duma building in the Kremlin. We publish here his photo and his words as printed by the Russian newspaper "Voice of a Communist" in Moscow.



ARMIN BENEDIKTOV

Q: Are you being now investigated by the security forces in order to be sentenced for "insulting the Russian flag"?

A: No, nothing as of now. But I will be very glad to go court and to blame those who have usurped power. Those who not too long ago swore an oath to defend the USSR, its Constitution, the CPSU - like the previous General Secretary of the CPSU, Gorbachev, who then turned around and then ripped and stamped upon all the laws, the constitution, and the oath he took!

I will blame those who now have made Russia a dying country, where every year over 800,000 people die needlessly. This is more than the population of the whole of Pskov region of Russia. When I was hoisting the Red Flag over the State Duma, I felt elated and happy that thousands of marchers below saw the red flag flying, with a clear blue sky above me and the sun shining. I

am certain that soon the beautiful Soviet red flag will be again flying over the Kremlin as the flag of the USSR. ■

BOLSHEVIKS & DUMA ELECTIONS

By NIKOLAI GALIN

Last December 7, 2003, in Russia there were held elections to the Duma. This election, which Putin declared as "the main political event of the year", again showed the two faces of the regime and the so-called "democracy" as practiced by the present regime.

At a time when 2/3 of the population lives practically in poverty, the tremendous millions of rubles that were spent on this election by the present bourgeois regime, it is practically impossible for genuine representatives of the working class to be able to get elected into the Duma. The so-called "Left Parties" headed by the CPRF, whose smaller number of representatives were elected into the Duma, are depended on either one group or another for financial help of the bourgeoisie. In fact and practice, these elected "deputies" cannot be considered "left" at all. All those that were elected into the Russian Duma are and have become part of the Russian bourgeoisie state and beholden to them.

The only left and really Communist

Party is the AUCPB, which called the people to boycott these elections. The results are like this --- More than 44% of the voters boycotted the elections, thus showing their dislike of the present regime and the farcical election. On top of all this, more than 4% of voters that voted - voted against all of the parties. If we put all these factors together, there were more than 51 million people that voted against the present regime.

This is in spite of 24 hours per each day, that the regime spent billions to try and hoodwink the minds of the people through, radio, TV and their press. The decisions that are made by the Duma, most



often carry only a "suggestive character", because in most cases the Putin's Upper Chamber, veto's any law that might be passed by the Russian Duma. You think that the resolutions, demanded by the working class of their so-called "representatives" will become law? Think again.

But we do not despair or become despondent, regarding our class struggle. Now the lines are becoming drawn in all of the factories, industries and business enterprises in political and practical discussions. The main lines of discussions are carried on by the young members of

the AUCPB, who are optimistic in this struggle for the minds and hearts of the workers. We are certain of the coming revolution that will cleanse our Motherland of traitors and pseudo-communists. We are also certain that sooner than later the world revolution will cleanse this world of capitalism and the so-called "bourgeoisie and their democracy." ■

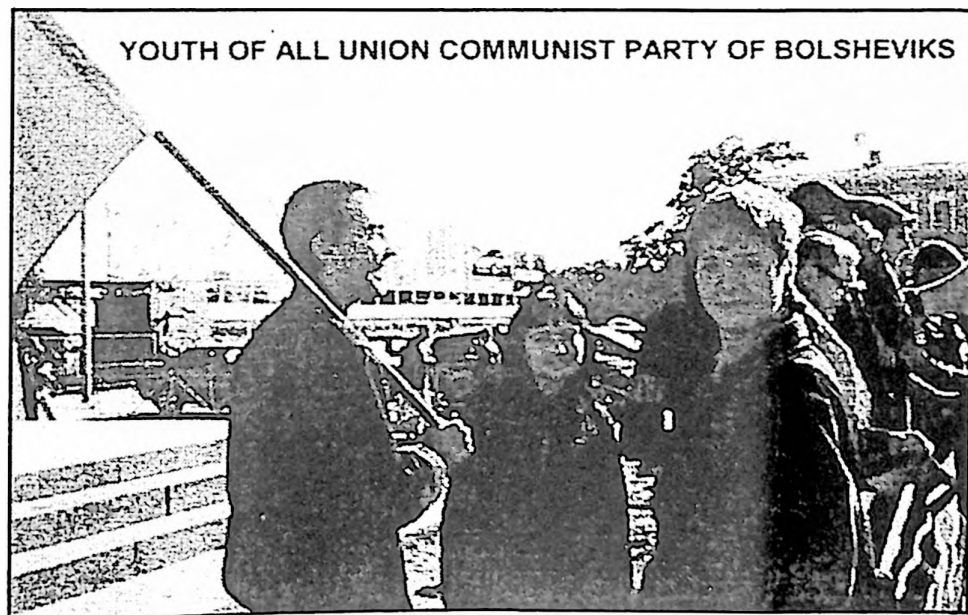
50 YEARS WITHOUT STALIN

BY GRIGORY ATOMOV
AUCPB Youth Section



2003 was the 50th Anniversary of the death of Joseph Stalin. For us, Stalin is not only the renowned Generalisimus and the leader of the USSR, or the liberator of Europe from fascism. To us, he is known as Koba, the youth revolutionary, a pupil and helper of V.I.Lenin, becoming the true follower and leader of Lenin's teachings, heading the Party of Bolsheviks and of the Soviet State.

Our party, the All Union Communist Party of Bolsheviks (AUCPB), from the moment of its inception (1991), carries on one of the key struggles against anti-Stalinism, exposing the lies, the anti-Sovietism, whose main role is to help the bourgeois counterrevolution. We



YOUTH OF ALL UNION COMMUNIST PARTY OF BOLSHEVIKS

did a tremendous amount of work in dispelling these vicious lies and provocative arguments. The name of Stalin shines and will shine forever in the minds of mankind.

Now, even the representatives of the present regime often fall over themselves to say and print positive points about Stalin, trying to gather the votes in their electoral ridings. Many of them, and we can include Zyuganov of the CPRF, is forced to admit and recognize the great achievements of Stalin and the Soviet Union under his leadership. We are carrying on massive propaganda work about the ideals of Bolshevism, without which there could never have been the successes of socialism and of the Soviet state.

Today, you often hear from people, who are at their wits end from these "reforms" (*read, the permanent robbery of the workers*), that "today there is a need for Stalin!" In these words, you can sense that the sentencing of those responsible for this tragedy will be severe and swift.

It is only under the banner of Lenin and Stalin, under the banner of Bolshevism that the workers can throw off themselves the yoke of slavery, so that our Motherland can again become the shining star. That is why on our party's badge there is a portrait of Lenin and Stalin. ■

AUCPB APPEAL NOT TO TAKE PART IN ELECTIONS!

From newspaper "Voice of Stalingrad"

If you are planning to vote, obviously you still believe that by voting you will improve your life. Did not the last 15 years teach you anything? Elections here are not democratic. To be a candidate is to have large sums of money-and it is the rich class that has the money.

If you do not want to take part in this farce "comedy", just say no! The regime is afraid of people who abstain, or even who vote against them, even though through their cheating, even if we won, we would lose.

The answer is to boycott the elections as a sure sign of protest. They cannot manipulate your vote if you do not vote! ■

Lies as a Method and the Means for PROPAGANDA!

In the previous issues of NSC we touched on this question many times, that the effectiveness of the world capitalist bourgeois media propaganda is based completely on lies. One method of these lies is the method of subverting the truth of a given event. The term "perestroika" is never referred to as the establishment of capitalism, but only as democracy. The opportunism is rampant and so is the attempt to present pseudo-socialism as real socialism. As a cover for the struggle against the so-called "Cult of Personality" of Stalin and USSR, the undercurrent through it all was and is an attack on Marxism-Leninism.

The main tool in the anti-communist propaganda around the world is the attack and besmirching leaders of the world working class. From their point of view this is understandable, because these leaders like Marx, Engels, Lenin and Stalin were the pillars of struggle against capitalism and imperialism. Their teachings were not utopian and this is proven by the successful Great October Revolution in 1917 and, the great feat of work during the 1930s and the tremendous victory against fascism during the Great Patriotic War.

But the class struggle did not end there, as was pointed out by Stalin. The falsification against the leaders of the young Soviet state was an ongoing and very well financed industry. In this case, the most vicious and the most rapid anti-Sovietism, hidden under the mask of "Anti-Stalinism" was started by that traitor Nikita Krushchev and his cronies. This was a counter-revolutionary diatribe held at the XX Congress of the CPSU. This well-planned and carried out attack has produced many counter-revolutionary sold-out artists in the Communist parties of the world.

This started the process of bringing to the fore other counter-revolutionaries in the CPSU that were just biding their time to emerge - Gorbachev, Yeltsin, Yakovlev, Schevernadze of Georgia, Krawchuk, Shushkewich, and now

PROFESSOR
VLADIMIR
HERASYMCHUK



Putin, Kuchma and others. Now the new "shining stars" supported by the money from the USA in Ukraine, like Yushenko in Ukraine, Saakvashvili in Georgia and others stooges acting as tools of US imperialism in the other former Soviet republics.

We must admit that the most vicious propaganda and attacks were aimed at Stalin and his teachings. Because it was he who made certain that there was a dictatorship of the proletariat in the Soviet Union. The CIA and other US secret services were working day and night for years to undermine the leadership of the USSR and of the CPSU, with money and other methods to gain their evil ends.

In attacking Stalin, the enemies were also attacking Lenin and the falsification of all sorts of propaganda that it seemed that Lenin was a Saint and Stalin was the Devil. The bourgeoisie knew that Stalin was leading the country according to the teachings of Lenin.

The role of being the actual ideological Judas was given to Yakovlev, who admitted that: "They were all cynics, together and I was with them. They mouthed the phrases of Marxism, but held their true feelings to themselves...after the XX Congress and Krushchev, we all tore off our masks and came to be what we really were. We attacked Stalin, by praising Lenin. This group came up with a plan of using Lenin to attack Stalin. If this attack proved successful, then we would quote and use Plekhanov to attack Lenin." (*Pravda*, 20-09-2002) The truth is here - no guessing as to the intent!

Unfortunately this attack against Stalin was very successful in dismembering the USSR and splitting the Communist parties and

the break-up of the Soviet Union and the loss of the other Socialist countries in Europe.

NSC and I wrote many articles as to what this produced. There is no sense repeating it all over again. Facts are facts.

More and more now there is growing and getting stronger - liberal fascism in the government actions. This is beginning to awaken more and more of the Soviet people into realization. Among the working class there is noticed a strong authority of Stalin and his teachings. This is also noticed by the present regimes and they are worried and taking more and more drastic actions against the protesting population.

Since the authority of J.V. Stalin is growing more and more amongst the working class, the present ideological chiefs are starting to use different tactics. Here we are showing just two aspects of this new tactic:

* The tactic is to recognize Stalin as a leader of a given historical time, but debunk all of his teachings of Marxism-Leninism and his outlook about capitalism, imperialism and pseudo-democracy.

* They use academics, historians who have sold out to the present regime, like one of the "defenders of Stalin" from Lutsk, Ukraine - who wrote: "Stalin was not very good, he made many mistakes. But at the same time he was a strong political leader of the XX Century, recognized by friend and foe alike. He was a strong willed ruler of the USSR and the best General of the Soviet Red Army during the Great Patriotic War".

This is nothing more than hidden anti-Stalinism and opportunism of the highest order.

Yes, these modern anti-Stalin architects try to milk the situation so that the anti-Stalinists will be satisfied and the dedicated Stalin followers could have some sort of an idol to pray to.

Stalin as a leader, as a person, does not need to be defended. His prestige, authority, genius and leadership can stand on their very own. More and more people, workers, intellectuals and others are beginning to realize the greatness and the truthfulness of what Stalin preached, what he said, how he acted and how he defended not only the USSR, but saved the world from

fascism.

We have a duty to perform to humanity by working to bring about Socialism. If we shall not do this, our children and grandchildren will do this.

The teachings of Lenin and Stalin will live on forever ■

RACISM IS ADVANCING

By T.V. YAKUBOVSKA - Ukraine

In 1948 the people of the world were still remembering the terrible genocide of German fascism, which were made public during the Nuremberg Trials. In front of all the people of the world was the cardinal question as to how to make certain that another world war as was the Second World, would not happen. It is because of this that the United Nations Organizations adopted the "Declaration about the Rights of Man". In this Declaration, amongst other things, there was the declaration that men have the right to stand up and rebel against tyranny and slavery, as a means of defending the rights of man, if they are not being defended by the existing state laws.

This point answered two questions: on the one hand it warned any government of stamping out the rights of their citizens, from fascist methods and means to keep holding on to power; from the other side, it declares that the citizens of that country have the right to stand up and struggle against and defeat the regime that is using these fascist methods. This UN "declaration" is supposed to prevent the rising of the ugly head of fascism on this planet.

Ukraine is a member of the United Nations, and it is supposed to follow all the declarations of this body, meaning also the "Declaration of Human Rights", and to recognize the right of its citizens to stand up and struggle against any tyranny as contained in the UN Charter of Rights.

But as the present situation in Ukraine vividly shows, the present bourgeois regime does not only ignore the "UN Charter and the

Rights of Man", but it does not recognize the right of its own citizens to protest.

The facts are listed here which show that the present policy of Ukraine is genocidal:

- the lowering of the majority of people of their pensions of nearly 1.5-2 times the required for minimum living costs.

-the lateness of payment to workers for 2-6-8 months at a stretch, amounts to astronomical sums that are owed to the workers.

-an enormous army of workers are forced to go abroad in search of work, because of devastating crisis in employment in the Ukraine.

-the country is over its head in tuberculosis and other diseases, caused by hunger and lack of medicines.

-the absolute tragedy of lack of newly born and the catastrophic death rate and longevity.

This situation is not only in the Ukraine, but in all of the former republics of the USSR.

This calamity is felt more strongly and catastrophically by the older generation, who remember how people lived in the Soviet Union under socialism, even 10-15 years ago. The young people also remember when going to school as to what they had and what was guaranteed to them.

It is now apparent that it is these young people who have stood up and demanded that the present regime of Ukraine follow the UN Human Charter of Rights of Man.

In December of last year it was one year that many young people from Ukraine, Russia and the Pre-Dniester Republic were arrested. They were accused as being "terrorists" and also accused that they wanted to overthrow the present Ukrainian regime by violent means.

What the present Ukrainian regime was doing to these young patriots is shown just some quotes from the Statement of the IV Conference of the Movement "For USSR".

"Last September 24, 2003 there took place the first session of the Appeal Court in Odessa. During that day there were meetings of protest held not only in Odessa, but also in many other cities. After a days session the trial adjourned until October 13; but some young

prisoners were not able to attend, due to being sick and wounds received while in jail.

In Russia, the major work in the defence of all political prisoners is being done by the "Moscow Workers Soviet of Deputies" - in which movement there are many representatives of Communist Parties and peoples organizations.

Now in Russia, Ukraine, Pre-Dniester Republic there are being gathered financial and other help for

these young Soviet patriots."

I call upon all friends of Soviet people to show solidarity with these patriots, by letters, telegrams, and protests directed to the President Kuchma of Ukraine.

Financial help can be sent to:

Ukraine, Odessa -r/s
26003310741101
Odessa filial AB "Poivdennyj" MFO
328209, DRPOU 25915226
Odessa Section VSR

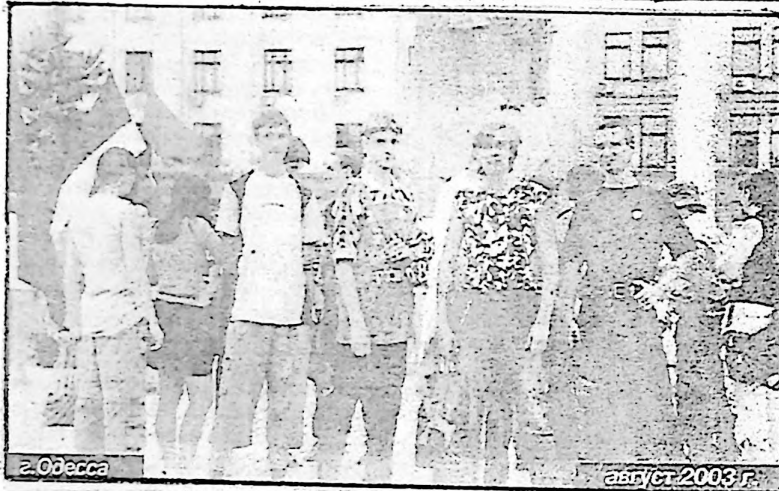
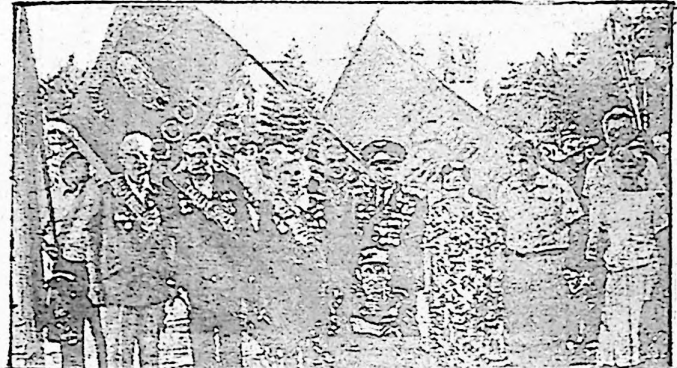
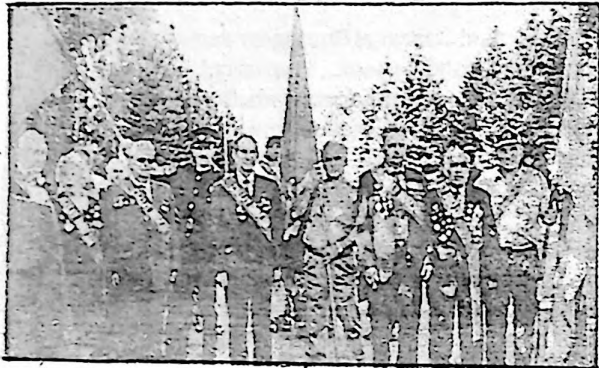
Or to the -

Vasilkovu Alexandru V.
Ul. Koroleva, d.85, kv. 78
Odessa 65122
Ukraine

Yours truly, T.V. Yakubovska

NSC and the International Council have sent letters of support and protests. We urge all of our readers to do likewise.

DEMONSTRATIONS, PICKETS, PROTESTS, MEETINGS ARE ONGOING



We publish just a selection of photographs that were published in the AUCPB newspapers, *The Workers-Peasants Pravda*, *Komsomol Banner*, showing the ongoing demonstrations against the present bourgeois regimes in Ukraine and Russia. Most of them are headed by the young *Komsomol* members.

BUSH & BLAIR: THE BIG FALL-OUT

By Chris McLaughlin, Editor
Sunday Mirror, UK

The love-in has collapsed over the rebuilding of Iraq and the heavy-handed action of American troops against the civilian population. Besides, Bush had put on a veto on the visit last Christmas by Blair to Iraq to visit British troops as a moral booster.



The relations have gone into a deep-freeze, after the capture of Saddam Hussein.

President Bush was incensed that Mr. Blair stole the Washington's thunder by being the first Western leader to announce that Saddam was captured by the American troops.

Whitehouse in London aid that Mr. Blair's decision was in anger over the US veto against him visiting British troops in Iraq. Washington wanted Mr. Bush to be the first leader to announce this capture. The many phone calls between Bush and Blair were described by Washington as very "terse"

COMMENT:

The whole episode is about the lucrative business of reconstruction of Iraq and the fight for contracts that is going on behind the scenes. Do not forget the oil that monopoly capitalists are fighting over. Business is business. Isn't this "democracy" and "freedom" great for the multinational corporations? ■

UNION LEADERS IN COLOMBIA PAY WITH THEIR LIVES – if they oppose Colombia's president

FROM ANNCOL

Acting in what seems a blind fury after loosing crucial elections, including a constitutional referendum to achieve special powers, the regime of Alvar Uribe is seeking revenge on to union leaders. In the city of Pereira, death squads allied with the present regime have murdered several street vendors and cut their bodies into pieces and left the bloody remains in different part of the city as a warning.

The Central Trade Union Federation of Colombia (CUT) has denounced the assassinations of trade unionists, which are increasing. There have been 58 assassinations in 2003, plus there are growing number of forced displacements and trade unionists, endure deaths threats on a daily basis.

The CUT was publicly and constitutionally at the forefront of the Active Abstention campaign against the Referendum of the President.

In a statement by CUT's National Executive Committee, the Colombian trade union movement asks for international solidarity to pressure the Uribe government to guarantee the right of dissent and the lives of unionists and workers.

The Union statement said that the Uribe regime has been criminalizing the political opposition, for example, the massive detentions instituted in different parts of the country where leading activists of the Colombian Liberal Party have been charged with terrorism.

The Pereira unionist call on the outside world to express their protests about the "lack of political will of the governing classes to stop these acts of terror against the social activists," and to condemn "this policy of terror aimed at eliminating the Leaders of the Trade Unions and Democracy in our country!" ■

Bulgarian parliament acts to allow US bases

BY ASSOCIATED PRESS,
DEC. 19.2003

An overwhelming majority of the Bulgarian legislators adopted a declaration in support of setting up permanent US military bases in Bulgaria. The members of Bulgarian parliament voted 200-3 to endorse the document, which says that: "Bulgaria is ready to contribute to the efforts of US and allies community as one of the main priorities of Bulgaria's foreign policy."

US is aiming at small flexible bases in countries of Eastern Europe. Bulgaria is a staunch supported of US/UK invasion of Iraq and Afghanistan. Bulgaria is one of seven new countries to be admitted into NATO in 2004.

Along with the Romanian Black Sea port of Constanta, Surafpvo in Bulgaria is considered important because it is closer to the Middle East. US military officials are in Bulgaria touring and arranging for bases for aircraft, land forces, and sea forces.

COMMENT:

Maybe these 200 present day Bulgarian traitors in parliament will also give away Bulgarian territory to Turkey, as some forces there demand, for the glory of a Greater Turkish Empire. We wonder whether these traitors will call upon Russia to come to their aid against the invading Turks as Bulgaria did before? I doubt it...the US money is much better to them than any Bulgarian sovereignty for these modern day Judases. ■

US INVADED IRAQ FOR OIL: CASTRO

Agence France Press, Arab News
CARACAS- 24 December, 2003.

The US-led invasion of Iraq was aimed at taking control of the

country's oil, Cuban President Fidel Castro told Venezuelan State Television in an interview.

"The United Nations Organization did not agree on it; rather the most powerful nation agreed to invade Iraq: the main objective, let us be totally honest, was to win an essential raw material which is called petroleum." Castro was invited by President Chavez of Venezuela.

"The arguments US used to justify the invasion are not valid. US accused Iraq of having Weapons of Mass Destruction but it is they who have the monopoly on Weapons of Mass Destruction. No weapons of mass destruction have ever been found in Iraq!" ■

MILOSEVIC ADDRESSES THE SOCIALIST PARTY OF SERBIA

Belgrade, December 3, 2003

President Slobodan Milosevic has addressed by phone the session of the Head Committee of the Socialist Party of Serbia. The Head Committee adopted the party ticket for the early parliamentary elections that were held on December 28, 2003 and the party has contested 250 seats in the Serbian Parliament.

It has also decided that the party ticket will be under the name of: Socialist Party of Serbia-Slobodan Milosevic.

The candidate number one will be Slobodan Milosevic. The Socialist Party will fight for at least 20% of the seats in the Serbian parliament which, if achieved, will make them unavoidable factor in the future political life of Serbia. Here is the text of Milosevic's statement to the party:

Dear comrades:

I wish to greet you and to tell you that we all together have a duty to struggle for victory and to win. It is in the interest of the whole people, of every family and every individual. And looking from the prospective of the individual, everyone wishes to live in prosperous and developed, safe and happy country. In order to be all that, Serbia has to be free. That is why freedom is the goal that has to be above all other goals. That goal is reachable, although it is hard

to reach it.

In these elections, Serbian people have a historical duty to choose the truth. Three years ago, I warned the citizens of Serbia what was going to happen, if the exponents of foreign powers, of their governments came to power. Everything has happened exactly as was said, nobody can deny that.

The Socialist Party of Serbia has the duty and the ability to gather and mobilize the forces that will reverse the processes which are the sad reality of Serbia - in the interest of the peasants, in the interests of the workers, the intellectuals, in the interest of the Kosovo martyrs - as well as in the interests of the Serbian people, national dignity and the dignity of every citizen.

I have proposed Milutin Mrkonjic for the Prime Minister, because he is a builder who proved himself during the hardest times. Serbia needs millions of jobs, it needs apartments, hospitals, schools, roads, railways, bridges - it needs accelerated improvement of the living standards, both social and individual, for all - from babies in nurseries until pensioners.

Serbia is in Europe - it has no reason to stand submissively in anybody's waiting room. There is no happy beggar or a wealthy colony. We must have successful development - not by mercy or decree of the outside factors.

That is why Serbia should vote for the truth, should vote for Serbia!

Until Victory! ■

ANTI-COMMUNIST STATEMENTS BY EU OFFICIALS

*From COMMUNIST PARTY OF
GREECE - December 5, 2003*

Dear comrades:

As probably you already know, last December 11, 2003 the Vice President of the Hungarian Workers Party, Attila Vajnai went on trial, because at a press conference of his party, he wore a pin with a Red Star. As you know, in Hungary the use of symbols of the labour or communist movement is not allowed and prosecuted.

On this occasion we would like to draw your attention to some negative developments that take place around the issues of democratic rights and anti-communism in the European Union.

Last October 30, 2003, the President of the European Commission Romano Prodi, answering to the EMP and KKE Stratis Karakas, stated that the "ban of a Communist Party in an accession country, in no case constituted a cause of particular questioning or criticism in the frame of the abovementioned political criteria." (Refers to the Copenhagen criteria.)

The response of Mr. Prodi was due to the letter that the EMP has addressed to him, protesting the anti-communist stance of the EU Commissioner Mr. Verheugen in a discussion held by the Committee of Foreign Affairs of the European Parliament. Then, responding about the clauses that keep communist parties and their symbols outlawed in accession countries, he said: "If I must just make a political comment, were I to have experienced what people in Eastern Europe have experienced, I think that I would be the first person to ask for the Communist Party to be banned in these countries."

The above mentioned successive anti-communist positions assumed by the EU officials constitutes both a provocation to the democratic feelings of the people of Europe and a threat for the democratic rights in the EU and its member states.

We have the opinion that these statements do not only legitimize the undemocratic, anti-communist clauses, prohibitions and persecutions in the series of EU member states, but they create conditions for a potential expansion of such measures to other member states as well, since they introduce a dangerous idea that democracy and banning of communist parties are compatible.

It is interesting to note that these developments take place in a period when the EU elaborates the so-called "European Constitution", as well as in the face of the elections for the European Parliament.

The International Section of KKK. ■

CUBA

PERFECTING ITS DEFENSES

From Granma International

First Vice President Raul Castro, Minister of the Revolutionary Army Forces (FAR) attended maneuvers for the National Day of Defense that took place throughout the country. In December of 2003.

With the activation of the territorial defense systems and maneuvers, that involves both regular military troops and militia troops, this is done in order to confront possible attack by the United States.

Last month, after taking part in a military ceremony commemorating the 107th anniversary of the death of Major General Antonio Maceo and his adjutant Captain Francisco Gomez Toro during the War of Independence, General of the Army Raul Castro assured the national and international press that Cuba will never be dominated, defeated or beaten, due to the defense preparations initiated, following the triumph of the Revolution in 1959.

He stressed that Cuba has been transformed into a trap for any potential invader and that there would be a very high price to pay for any aggressor. ■

HARTAL IN KALMUNAI AND AKKARAI PATTU

From Asiantribune - Dec. 19, 2003

The Eastern town of Kalmunai and Akkaraipattu in Sri Lanka came to a standstill in a Hartal, called by the local Muslim groups against the recent violence in Muttur. Shops in the two predominately Muslim towns were closed and no buses were seen on the roads. Government offices were closed and the streets were empty.

The local Muslim groups charged the LTTE for recent violence against the Muslims in Muttur, and there were demands that the Muslim political leadership unite in a campaign for the rights of Muslims in the East of Sri Lanka.

"Muslim leaders are divided in their political leanings, while the community interests are at stake." A spokesman for the local Muslim organization said, which organized the strike.

The LTTE was accused, by the local Muslim groups for the recent violence. The LTTE Tigers denied the charge. Sporadic acts of violence, which cost eight lives last November came to an end, after the Security Forces, the LTTE and the local Muslim groups agreed to work on a united efforts to ease the tensions there in the East in Sri Lanka. ■



From the Secretary
George Gruenthal

of the Executive Committee of the International Council for Friendship and Solidarity with Soviet People

Dear Comrades and Friends:

Below is a Statement, circulated by leading members of the Iraqi Communist Party who have taken a clear stand in supporting the resistance to the US occupation of their country. This stand is just and progressive for two reasons.

First and foremost - it strengthens the resistance of all patriotic forces opposing the illegal and unjust occupation of Iraq by US forces, which is of interest only to the US oil and other monopoly corporations. The continuing resistance has put a damper of US imperialism's hopes for an easy occupation, and for further attacks on Syria, Iran, the Philippines, Colombia or any country that gets in the way of US plans for world domination.

Second - it revives the prestige of the communist movement in Iraq and throughout the Middle East and the rest of the world. The Iraqi Communist Party had long been the strongest Communist party in the Middle East. But due to the influence of revisionism, the ICP first refused to take up the leading role in the

patriotic struggle, after the fall of the monarchy in the late 1950s, and now has gone so far as to actually have an official seat in the US sponsored Iraqi Governing Council, the puppet collaborationist government set up by the US occupying forces. The fact that leading members of the ICP have broken with this policy of betrayal and capitulation, is of great significance.

Third - it will help to for, a secular and socialist-orientated pole in the resistance movement of the Iraqi masses. It will show the working people that resistance to US imperialism is not only carried out by religious forces, but by those who are in favor of the power of the workers and socialism, which in the long run is the only way out of the US imperialist domination and exploitation for all the working people.

OPEN LETTER BY LEADING IRAQI COMMUNISTS IN SUPPORT OF RESISTANCE

Dear comrades, warm greetings:

According to most historians, the Iraqi Communist Party was founded in March of 1934. They all agree that the first Marxists contributed to national events and had contacts with the international media before the official founding of the party.

Accordingly, the organization that was considered the precursor of the Communist Party was called the "Committee for Struggle against Colonialism and Investment" (when British Imperialism dominated Iraq). In this context, we observe the summation of aspects of struggle for national independence and the realization of socialism's dreams and aspirations.

REMAIN INSEPERABLE

These aspects remained inseparable throughout the history of the party, and they should remain as such and firmly unchangeable. Unfortunately, the current leaders of the Iraqi Communist Party have abandoned this historical fact and have converted the idea of antagonism to imperialism into a melting pot of common ground of interest and collaboration with the imperialist foe today.

The change of ideological direction became apparent and

transparent thirteen years ago, before the first war of aggression against Iraq, starting on January 17, 1991. It is clear, that this war was preceded by the dismantling and demise of socialism in the Soviet Union and Eastern Europe - as well as the vast retreat of the left's power in many other countries of the world.

The leaders of the Iraqi Communist Party justify their collaboration with the American imperialists and their coalition partners, by claiming that the convergence of common interest to rid Iraq of dictatorship and build a democracy in that country.

The prolonged and vicious police atrocities which were directed against all progressive political dissidents, the closing of all doors of reconciliation by the Saddam dictatorship, which could have resolved the internal political disputes peacefully and stop the social bleeding, created a suitable environment to weaken the Iraqis resolve to stand up and stop the imperialist invasion of Iraq.

The consequences have been manifested as loss of sovereignty and national independence, the dissolution of the army, the destruction of the economy and national historical heritage and so on, moreover, the country's wealth has been sold in an open international auction.

The American leadership and its coalition partners have attained the objectives in this war through lies. They have prepared and persuaded various Iraqi political movements to participate in this war through false promises like "rescuing Iraq from a dictatorship" and "establishing a democratic regime."

Among these political movements who have collaborated with the Imperialists is the Iraqi Communist Party. The Saddam dictatorship was responsible for the break with these other political movements that have now gambled on collaborating with the invaders - especially the Americans who now have proclaimed themselves as the liberators.

However, all political parties that have collaborated in the invasion of Iraq are fully and directly responsible for the spread of the false American propaganda about Iraq's "liberation."

The participation of the leadership

of the Iraqi Communist Party in this so-called Provisional Council, which was created by the occupiers, had already been planned before the beginning of the war and the occupation of the country. The leadership of the Communist Party are not truthful when they say that they were not pro-war or in favor of the occupation of Iraq, or when they claim they want to put an end to the occupation. They have closed ranks with the occupier and therefore it is worthless to correct them. They have thus distanced themselves from the arena of the national struggle to build a humane and democratic society.

PEOPLE'S STRUGGLE

These movements claim that they would negotiate a settlement with the occupiers, while giving them an unlimited period of time to end the occupation. This would mean the perpetuation of the occupation. Therefore, it is only the people's struggle by all the necessary means available under a unified national anti-occupation front that will put an end to the occupation and, put Iraq on the right path towards building a prosperous democratic society.

We support the demand for free and fair elections, under scrutiny, independent and internationally recognized and respected observers, to elect a legitimate authority which

will preserve Iraq's independence and the natural resources, as well as returning Iraq to the Arab world and international community.

We hope that all progressive and socialist parties and human rights organizations will continue to support the struggle of the Iraqi people and to provide urgent human needs for the victims of the war and occupation.

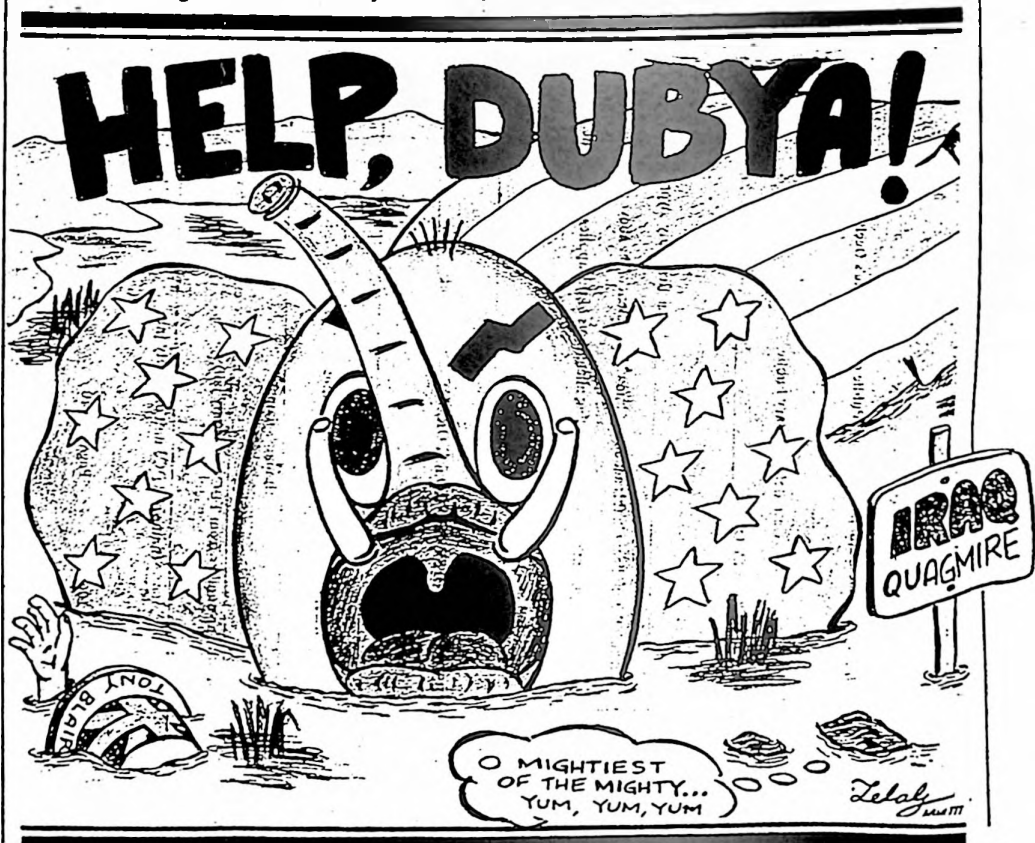
We hope that parties will condemn the political stand of the Iraqi Communist Party and their cooperation with the occupation forces.

At the end, I would like to point out that I have been a member of the Iraqi Communist Party since 1947 and was one of the leaders who contributed actively in rebuilding the party following the political oppressions in 1963, 1971 and 1978.

The majority of the Communist Party members and the Iraqi leftists who participated in the struggle against dictatorship for decades and who are against the current political direction of the Iraqi Communist Party leadership, have previously have read this letter.

Best wishes

Baqet Ibrahim as well as
Kharim Achmed and Dr. Khalid Al-Salam



"Lets divide Iraq as we did Yugoslavia!"

These are just excerpts from a story in the New York Times editorial of November 23, 2003, quoting an interview with Leslie Gelb, who until recently presided over the very important US Council on Foreign Relations, a "Think Tank" that brought together the CIA, the Secretary of State and big shots from the US multinational corporations.

Leslie Gelb in an extensive detail outlined how things were done in Yugoslavia and proposed that the same thing be instituted now in Iraq. Namely - no unity as a country, but divisions, fighting, ethnic cleansing among the different nationalities.

IRAQ:

-23 million inhabitants, divided into 3 large ethnic groups. Unfortunately US now has destroyed all the state and civil registries as a first step to divide and rule.

-Shiites: 55-60%. Mostly in the south.

-Sunnis: 20-25%. Mostly in the centre of Iraq, between Mosul and Baghdad.

-Kurds: 20%. Mostly in the north. Significant Kurdish minority live in Turkey, Iran, Syria. Russia. Majority of them are Sunni.

-Minorities: 5% - 200-300,000 Turkmen, Assyrians-Chaldeans (Christians), Yezidis, 2,000 Jews.

-No region of Iraq is ethnically pure.

Even though dividing Iraq into three parts is practically impossible and will lead to civil war, the plan of US imperialism is to do the same as they did in Yugoslavia. US has financed, stirred up over the past twenty years - by financing certain minority leaders so that they will favour a break up of the country. If this comes to reality, and ethnic fighting erupts, with US supporting and arming each faction, then Bush will feel that the US is obliged to keep the US troops in Iraq in order to "protect" the minorities.

This is exactly as they did in Kosovo, where they installed a military base that can accommodate

bombers. Today USA is protecting the KLA war criminals and the Mafia, which practices ethnic cleansing on behalf of US imperialism.

YUGOSLAVIA:

-21 million inhabitants, divided into republics. According to the official census in 1991:

-Slovenia had 1.9 million people,

-Croatia had 4.7 million people,

-Serbia had 9.7 million people,

-Macedonia had 2.00 million people-

-Montenegro had 0.6 million people-

-Bosnia had 4.3 million people.

-No region was ethnically pure.

There were substantial minorities resided throughout Yugoslavia and this rendered the country indivisible.

-In Croatia there were 12% Serbs

-In Macedonia there were 21% Albanians, 5% Turks, 2% Roma (Gypsies) and 2% Serbs.

-In Bosnia there were 43% Muslims, 31% Serbs, 17% Croats, 7% other nationalities.

Despite warnings of numerous expert and some Western leaders in 1991, Germany and then the United States, forced the division of the country at a price of a terrible civil war and the forcible displacement of populations and minorities.

Here also, Washington and Berlin supported, financed and armed these ethnic minorities secretly - all separatists and extremists alike. All of this has been carefully hidden from the general public. ■

9/11 ATTACK WAS PREVENTABLE

CBS NEWS

For the first time, the chairman of the US independent Commission that is investigating the Sept. 11 attacks is saying publicly that the 9/11 could have and should have been prevented, reported CBS News correspondent Randall Pinkston last month.

"This is a very, very important part of history, and we've got to tell it right," said Thomas Kean. "As you'll read this report, you're going to have a pretty clear idea what wasn't done and what should have been done."

This was not something that had to happen."

This Commission was appointed by the Bush administration and Kean, a former Republican governor of New Jersey, is now pointing fingers inside the administration and laying blame.

"There are people that, if I was doing the job, would certainly not be in the position they were at that time, because they failed. They simply failed", Kean said.

The scores of widows of the victim of 9/11 want to know why various government agencies didn't connect the dots before Sept. 11, such as the warnings from the FBI offices in Minnesota and Arizona about suspicious student pilots.

Ken also admits that the Commission has more questions than answers, because of the stalling tactics of the government in supplying the documents that the Commission has a legal right to see.

When Commissioner Kean was asked whether the US public should know if people in the decision-making spots during those critical days are still in those same positions, Kean said: "Yes, the answer is yes. And we will!"

Kean promised major revelations in public testimony, beginning this year, from top officials in the FBI, CIA, Defense Department, National Security Agency and, maybe, President Bush and former President Clinton.

Let's not hold our breath for too long dear readers - this Commission can find itself afloat in a quagmire. ■

ISRAEL TRAINS US ASSASSINATION SQUADS IN IRAQ

By JULIAN BORGER in Washington in the Guardian

Israeli advisors are helping train US special forces in aggressive counter-insurgency operations in Iraq, including the use of assassination squads against guerrilla leaders, US intelligence and military sources said last month.

The Israeli Defense Force (DF) has sent an urban warfare specialists

to Fort Bragg in North Carolina, the home of the US Special Forces, and according to two sources, Israeli military "consultants" have also visited Iraq.

US forces in Iraq's Sunni triangle have already begun to use tactics that echo Israeli operations in the occupied territories, sealing off centers of resistance with razor wire and razing buildings from where attacks have been launched against the US troops.

But the secret war in Iraq is about to get much tougher, in the hope of suppressing Ba-athist-led insurgency ahead of the US next November's presidential elections.

US special forces teams are already behind the lines in Syria attempting to kill foreign Jihadists before they cross the border, a group focused on the "neutralization" of guerilla leaders is being set up, according to sources familiar with the operations.

"This is basically an assassination programme. That is what is being conceptualized here. This is a hunter-killer team", said a former senior US intelligence official, who added that he feared the new tactics and enhanced cooperation with Israel would inflame already a volatile situation in the Middle East.

"It is bonkers, insane. Here we are – we're already being compared to Sharon by the Arab world, and we've just confirmed it by bringing the Israelis and setting up assassination teams. They are being trained by Israelis in Fort Bragg", a well informed intelligence source in Washington said.

The Pentagon refused to answer calls seeking comment, but a military planner, Brigadier General Michael Vane, mentioned the cooperation with Israel in a letter to an Army magazine last July, 2003, about the Iraq counter-insurgency campaign.

"We recently traveled to Israel to glean lessons learned from their counter-terrorist operations in the urban areas," wrote General Vane, deputy chief of staff at the army's training and doctrine command.

Colonel Ralph Peters, a former army intelligence officer and sometimes a critic of the Pentagon policy in Iraq, said last month that there was nothing wrong in learning lessons from the Israelis since they had experience against the

Palestinians. This new force is called Task Force 121, according to the New Yorker magazine.

One of the planners behind the offensive is a highly controversial figure, whose role is likely to inflame Muslim opinion: Lieutenant General William "Jerry" Boykin.

In October of 2003, there were calls for his resignation, after he told a congregation in Oregon that he is at war with a Satan, who "wants to destroy us as a Christian army."

Now he's been promoted a rank above his capabilities. Some Generals are pretty good on a battlefield, but are disastrous nearer the source of real power. ■

1,700 US SOLDIERS HAVE DESERTED IRAQ

FROM JAPAN TIMES, DEC. 5, 2003

One thousand and Seven Hundred US soldiers have deserted their post in Iraq, with many of them failing to return to military duty, after getting permission to go back to the US, according to the French weekly magazine "Le Canard Enchaîné."

The magazine, known for its exposes, said that the French Intelligence Agency obtained this information from what it described as an "American colleague". Citing a senior French official posted in Washington, the magazine also said that over 7,000 US soldiers have left Iraq, allegedly due to psychological troubles and other illnesses. (Kyodo News). ■

TURKEYS ON THE MOON

BY MICHAEL MOORE
December 8, 2003

Dear Mr. Bush:

Well, it's going on two weeks since your surprise visits to one of the two countries you now run and, I have to say, I'm still warmed by your gesture. Man, take me along next time! I understand that only 13 members of the US media went with you – but it turns out that only ONE of them was an actual reporter for a newspaper. But you did take along five

PHOTOGRAPHERS (*hey, I get it, screw the words, it's about the pictures*), a couple of wire service guys, and a crew from your Fox News Channel (*fair and balanced!*)

Then, I read in the paper that that big turkey you were holding in Baghdad (*you know, the picture that's supposed to replace the now embarrassing footage of you on that aircraft carrier with the sign saying - "Mission Accomplished"*) – well, it turns out that that big and beautiful turkey of yours was never eaten by the troops! It wasn't eaten by anyone! That's because it wasn't real! It was a STUNT turkey, brought in to look like a real edible turkey for all the great camera angles.

Now I know that some people will say that you are into props (*like the one on the lower extremities of your flamboy suit*), but hey, I get it, this is healthier! So what if it was a bogus turkey? The whole trip was bogus, all staged to look like "news". The fake honey glaze on the bird wasn't much different from the fake honey glaze that covers that war. And fake stuffing in the fake bird was just the right symbol for our country during these times. America loves fake honey glaze, it loves to be stuffed, and dammit, YOU knew that – that's what make you so in touch with the people you lead!

It was also a good idea that you made the "press" on that trip to Baghdad pull the shades down on the plane. Not one in the media entourage complained. They like the shades pulled and they like to be kept in the dark. It's more fun that way. And, when you made them take the batteries out of their cell phones so they wouldn't be able to call anyone, they dutifully complied – that was genius! I think that if you had told them to put their hands on their heads and touch their noses with their tongues, they would have done that, too! That's how much they like you. You could have played "Simon Says" the whole way over there. It wouldn't have been that much different from "Karl Says", a game they LOVE to play every day with Mr. Rove.

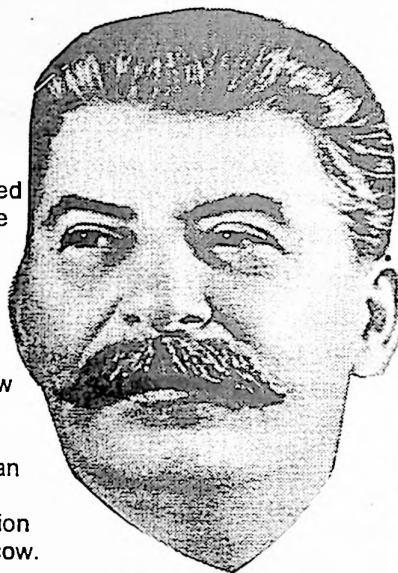
Well if you did plan any surprises for Christmas, don't forget to include me. When I heard last month that you wanted to send a man back again to the moon, I thought, get the

fake goose ready – that's where ol' George is going for the holidays I don't blame you, what with nearly 3 million jobs that disappeared, and a \$282 billion surplus disappeared, and the USA stuck in a war that will never end – who wouldn't want to go to the moon! This time, take all the media with you. Embed them on the moon! They will love it there. It just looks like Crawford! You can golf on the moon too. You'll have so much fun up there, you might not want to come back. Better take Cheney with you too. Pretend it's a medical experiment or something. *"That's one small step for man, one giant leap for every American who's sick and tired of this crap."*

Yours truly
Michael Moore

WHAT IS A COMMUNIST SOCIETY?

In 1927 Stalin described what the future society should be like in an interview with the first American labour delegation to Moscow.



The general characteristics of a communist society are given in the works of Marx, Engels and Lenin. Briefly, the anatomy of a communist society may be described as follows: It is a society in which :

(a) there will be no private ownership of the instruments and means of production, but a social collective ownership;
(b) there will be no classes or state power, but there will be working people in industry and agriculture who manage economic affairs as a free association of working people;

(c) the national economy, organized according to plan, will be based on the highest level of technique, both in industry and agriculture;
(d) there will be no antithesis between town, city and countryside, between industry and agriculture;
(e) products will be distributed according the principle of the old French communist: "from each according to his abilities, to each according to his need" ;
(f) science and art will enjoy conditions sufficiently favorable for them to attain full flowering;
(g) the individuals, freed from concern about his daily bread and from the necessity of adapting himself to the "powers that be", will become really free;
(h) there will be no more wars. ■



Police list highlights anti-Irish racism in Britain

By IRINA MALENKO

The British police have maintained a secret list of Irish people, regardless of whether they are suspected of breaking the law or not - this has now emerged. Police in Humberside area of England ordered the officers to record details of every Irish person they dealt with.

Names and other personal details were fed into the database that is compiled by the Special Branch officers. Even English people of Irish descent were put on the list. The database of Irish residents was compiled during a campaign codenamed "Operation Pre-Empt."

Liberty – the civil rights campaign group, has called for the destruction of this database. Barry Hugill, spokesperson for the group said: *"This is the police force that didn't think it necessary to keep files on the child-killer Ian Huntley and I think that it is outrageous that the Irish people should be targeted this way."*

There should be an investigation into this Humberside force, these are the demands of the people. This revelation coincides with reports that show that Irish people living in Britain are being subjected to daily racial taunts.

Based on a recent research and interviews with Irish people in Britain, the researchers found that even going to a doctor carried a risk of racist comments. Some Irish people are even afraid to speak in public for fear of remarks about their accents. These facts emerged after a seven-year study into the health and attitude to the Irish-born people living in Britain. The study found the insidiousness, the subtlety and pervasiveness of anti-Irish racism was alarming.

Irish people living in Britain describe that they are stereotyped as drunks, having their accents mimicked and made fun of, or having grammar and pronunciation corrected. This contributed to a reluctance to access the health services available, with individuals resorting to coping alone until a health crisis occurred.

There is a documentary film that was made showing the plight of elderly Irish emigrants living in extreme poverty in Britain. ■

THIS IS THE USA!

The Internet newspaper "telegraph.co.uk" reported last December 18, 2003 that the US Attorney General John Ashcroft had been fined for breaking the law. Ashcroft, the controversial figure and a deeply religious man (?!) who lost in the 2000 election for a seat in the US Senate to a dead man (*his opponent died in an air crash during the election*) has been fined \$37,000 for illegally accepting \$110,000 from a body set up to support him at the run for the presidency. His campaign people failed to disclose this illegal donation. ■

A subsidiary of the American company Diebold (GES), one of the largest manufacturing of electronic voting machines used in the US elections, had been found to employ at least five convicted felons (*persons convicted of a crime*)

among its management staff, according to a report published by the Sarasota Herald Tribune, Dec. 13, 2003. The five felons included one cocaine trafficker, one man convicted of fraudulent stock market transactions and one programmer, Jeffrey Dean, jailed for falsifying computer records. According to a public court document released before GES hired him. Dean served time in a Washington correctional facility for stealing money and tampering with computer files in a scheme that "involved a high degree of sophistication"

US Senator Ted Stevens, who held a US Senate seat as a Republican from Alaska for more than 30 years, was not a wealthy man and struggled financially, so stated Los Angeles Times in an article published on December 7, 2003. That is, until 1997, when he got serious about making some money. And in no time he was a millionaire – thanks to investments with businessmen who received US government contracts or other benefits with his help. Armed with the power of his committee posts, given him over the Pentagon, Stevens helped save a \$450 million military housing contract for an Anchorage businessman. The same Alaskan businessman made Stevens a partner in a series of real estate investments that turned the Senator's \$50,000 stake into at least \$750,000 in six years. An Alaska Native Company that Stevens helped create, got millions of dollars in defense contracts through preferences that he, Stevens wrote into the law. Now this company pays \$6 million a year to lease an office building owned by the Senator and his business partners. Stevens continues to push US legislation that benefits the company. An Alaskan communications company benefited from the Senator's activities on the Commerce Committee. His wife, Catherine, earned tens of thousands of dollars from an inside deal involving the company's stock. ■

Harry Browne is the Director of Public Policy for the American Liberty Foundation. On December 18, 2003, Donald Rumsfeld said that Hussein's capture means that the

Iraqis can now be free in spirit, as well as in fact. Ah yes, liberated Iraq. It is now a free country. George Bush has liberated it. How has Iraq been liberated? Let me count the ways...

1. The country is occupied by a foreign power.
2. Its officials are appointed by that foreign power.
3. Its citizens must carry ID cards.
4. They must submit to searches of their persons and cars at all checkpoints and roadblocks.
5. They must be on their homes by curfew time.
6. Many towns in Iraq are ringed with razor-sharp barbed wire.
7. The occupiers have imposed strict gun-controls and the citizens cannot defend themselves – making robberies, rapes and assaults quite common.
8. Trade with some foreign countries are banned by the occupying authorities.
9. The occupiers have decreed that certain electoral outcomes won't be permitted.
10. Families are held hostage until they reveal the whereabouts of wanted resisters to the occupiers – much like the Nazis held innocent French people hostage during World War II.
11. Protests are outlawed.
12. Private homes are raided or demolished – with no due process of law.
13. The occupiers have created a fiat currency and imposed it on the population.
14. Newspapers, radio stations and TV are supervised by the occupiers.

This is liberation in the NewSpeak language of politics. Words like freedom just don't seem to mean what they used to, do they? ■

Interview Chairman Prachanda Answers to an US Paper

[This is the full text of the answers provided by Chairman Prachanda to the questions put to him by a Washington-based paper via e-mail on November 29, 2003. – Ed.]

1. Could you please tell us little

bit about yourself – what inspired you to organize and lead an armed rebellion in Nepal when there were enough democratic outlets to ventilate popular grievances?

Just by displaying the signboard of democracy any country does not become democratic. In Nepal for a long period there has been a feudal state with an autocratic monarchy. After the 1990 historic people's movement, the character of the state has remained autocratic and feudal in essence, although in form it gave the appearance of democracy. When peaceful rally was taken out under the leadership of our Party highlighting immediate and basic problems of the people which are related to nationalism, democracy and livelihood, the so-called elected government killed innocent and unarmed people like 12 years old Anish Shaky and dozens of other people in the Kathmandu alone. When we raised our voices against the existing feudal exploitation, discrimination and repression through peaceful means, the state resorted to looting and burning of hundreds of houses of poor peasants, committed criminal mass rape on hundreds of rural women and unleashed state terror throughout the country, in the name of so-called Romeo Operation. Institutionalized corruption made people's lives even more miserable. It is this background, which made us rebel against feudalism so as to complete bourgeoisie democratic revolution and compelled us to organize armed rebellion and to fight for the genuine rights of the country and the people. Today after about 8 years of the People's War, the coming of all the rural areas of the country and more than 80% of the population under our leadership proves the importance and relevance of this historic armed rebellion.

2. Friends of Nepal all over the world are concerned over the escalating violence following the failure of peace talks last August

**DID YOU DONATE TO
SUSTAINING FUND?**

between your party and the government of Nepal. Why did the peace talks fail?

The responsibility for the failure of the last peace talks entirely lies with the old feudal state whose nature is both autocratic and terroristic. By rejecting our minimum democratic agenda, which involves giving sovereign rights to the Nepalese people through a Constituent Assembly, from political point of view the so-called state has closed the door for peaceful settlement. From military point of view, the so-called royal army of the old state never obeyed the cease-fire and the code of conduct, instead it killed heinously 21 unarmed cadres in Doramba in Ramechap district, by capturing them and firing them in a line on the same day when the third round of talks was proceeding, thus ending the relevance of the negotiation. Under such a circumstance we had no other alternative than to resist against the conspiracy and terror of the so-called royal army of the old feudal state. It has been our Party's open policy and commitment to never compromise on any thing that goes against the basic interest of the country and the people but instead to continue fighting till the end.

3. What is your assessment of the military and political equation of the ongoing civil war in Nepal?

In the present situation while People's War is going on in Nepal, the old feudal state has been thoroughly isolated politically from over all masses. The old state has been completely destroyed and displaced in the entire rural areas of the country. Its existence has now been limited to district headquarters, military barracks and terroristic activities of the royal army. From military point of view the so-called royal army is getting to face tough resistance of the People's Liberation Army in even Terai and urban areas under its new strategic plan. Successively the royal army is getting pushed into a defensive position. It is our synthesis that if the Bush administration of the United States of America had not supplied money, arms and training to the royal army, that is ill famed as genocidal, plunderer and rapist amongst the people, then it would

have got defeated last year itself by the People's Liberation Army. In reality the Bush administration has defamed Americans as anti-people and genocidal in the eyes of the Nepalese people by giving assistance to the paid butchers of the royal palace.

4. You have claimed King Gyanendra's regime has been wiped out from majority of the rural areas but the royal government has formed an "unified command" to disarm your forces and then plans to conduct elections. What would be your party's position if the government announces elections to local government as well as the parliament?

After the termination of cease-fire the People's army, on the basis of a new strategic plan, has put the co-called royal army on the run even in Terai and urban regions. The old state, in order to maintain the morale of the royal army, has been shamelessly giving false news by concealing actual number of hundreds of army men killed by People's Liberation Army and hundreds of weapons seized from them. The royal army, which has been pushed into a defensive position and is on the process of dissolution, is making vain efforts to save itself in the name of so-called unified command. (It is worth noting the fact that contradictions have been intensifying from top to bottom within the royal army and that more than five hundreds army men have left the job and fled). It is our synthesis and conclusion the unified command is the result of continuous failings of the old state and royal army and the victory of People's Liberation Army. At the same time it is conspiratorial and an impossible maneuvering by the feudal palace to prolong its life through militarizing the country. In this background, the talk of conducting elections by the old state is a lowly conspiracy to put a veil over the militarization of the country and hoodwink the general masses and our Party but also other

parliamentary political parties. Without a political solution to the political problem, it is impossible to conduct genuine elections. If the old state foolishly declares the so-called elections only to hoodwink the whole world, then we will completely smash it through a general rebellion.

5. In view of your anti-American rhetoric as well as threats to U.S. funded development activities in Nepal, your party — the Communist Party of Nepal (Maoist) — has been recently branded a "Specially Designated Global Terrorist" by the U.S. Government and has determined to seize any assets that your organization may have in the U.S. What effect, if any, have you felt on your movement from this decision?

The United States of America has ultimately and in essence, exposed its anti-people imperialist face by assisting autocratic feudal monarchy against the genuine democratic revolution of the Nepalese people against feudalism. By putting our glorious Party, which is devoted to the servicing the entire people, in the so-called terrorist list, American rulers have negatively created good atmosphere to integrate our movement with anti-imperialist anti-war world opinion. The so-called decision made by the US administration has in fact made us more serious in our historical role to fight against imperialist world system, which is not able to give any thing except deprivation, poverty and exploitation to the majority of the mankind of the present world. In our opinion, this decision made by the USA is what Mao Tse Tung has said; it is the true character of the imperialists to lift a stone only to drop it on one's own feet. The great People's War which is being waged by the general masses for their liberation from feudalism and imperialism won't get affected by the so-called decision, rather it has added to it even more sense of responsibility. However, we would like to clarify that we have no policy to physically target any US national or genuine US interests in any part of the world, including Nepal, and reiterate our commitment to strive to have good diplomatic and working relations

**YOU LIKE TO WRITE? LET US
HEAR FROM YOU NOW!**

*PASS ON THIS COPY OF
NORTHSTAR COMPASS*

with all countries of the world, including the USA.

6. Despite your directives to your cadres not to engage in destruction of infrastructures and killings of individuals accused of "spying" against your "people's war", there are reports that your cadres and militia have continued violence and extortions. Even tourists have been reportedly harassed and extorted. Have you lost control over your guerrillas?

We have only directed not to resort to sabotage activities in areas under the control of the new people's power which has been established in rural areas, and have specified that democratic legal methods should be adopted to deal with the offenders. That decision has not been made for those areas that are controlled by the so-called royal army. At present the enemy is propagating all sorts of rubbishes by distorting this basic distinction. Not only that at present the royal army is creating terror in civil dress in the name of the Maoists to defame us. The incident of looting of tourists sometimes ago was in fact perpetrated by the royal army in plain clothes in our name, which has been proved today. Hence, the facts have revealed that it is not our PLA, but the royal army of the feudal palace, which has become degenerated into a clique of anarchists, looters and rapists.

7. The international community, including the U.S., have been saying that there is no military solution to Nepal's problem and have called for the renewal of peace talks. Do you see any possibility of resumption of peace talks and peaceful resolution of civil war? Or is it a 'decisive war'? What is your bottom line?

For the basic well being of the country and the people, we have never closed the door of negotiations. But, we will certainly reject hatefully any conspiracy to disarm and make the people surrender and not giving forward-looking political solution through the negotiations. The same kind of conspiracy was behind the failure of the past peace talks.

We have never refused peaceful negotiation, which results in forward-looking political solution

without any conspiracy against the country and the people. The agenda of giving people their own sovereign rights through the election to a Constituent Assembly is our minimum agenda. But the old state, because it has lost people's mandates and has become reduced to a mere military dictatorship, is not accepting even our minimum and universal democratic agenda. In such a state we are committed to fight till the end.

8. You have tried to assure the critics that CPN (Maoist) will respect multi-party system and participate in competitive election. Many people have taken it as your tactical bait as they see very little in common between the Maoist ideology and multi-party democracy. Please explain how does a Maoist multi-party democracy look like?

We understand Marxism-Leninism-Maoism not in a dogmatic way but as a guide to action in a

continuous process of development. Our Party is taking the question of development of democracy in the 21st Century very seriously by drawing lessons from the experiences of the great proletariat revolutions and counter-revolutions of the 20th century. The Party has synthesized Prachanda Path as its own specific set of ideas based on the experiences of history and amidst the present Nepalese People's War.

Recently the Central Committee of our Party has adopted a draft resolution on the development of democracy in the twenty-first century. Accordingly we have proposed to institutionalize competition under democratic legal system and amongst political forces, which are anti-feudal, anti-imperialist. In our opinion such a multiparty competition will be thousand times more democratic than the parliamentary system. ■

STATEMENT BY THE ALL INDIA ANTI-IMPERIALIST CONVENTION

The two day long anti-imperialist convention of the All India Anti-Imperialist Forum (AIAIF) was held last November 15-18, 2003 at the University Auditorium in Calcutta, India. About 1000 delegates from different states of India and abroad attended the Convention.

The Convention was presided over by Dr. Sushil Kumar Mukherjee, General Secretary of the AIAIF. Before the opening a wreath of flowers was laid on a martyrs' column, erected at the corner of the Dias, to pay respect to all who died in different countries in the struggles against imperialism. He pointed out the heinous crimes of USA and its Allies in Iraq, and the US-backed Zionist Israel attacks against the Palestinians. He also highlighted the invincibility of peoples' power and applauded the heroic resistance of the Iraqi people to the US occupation, and the many massive protests all over the world.

Messages of solidarity were read from Cuba, National Liberation Army of Iraq, All Union Communist Party of



MANIK
MURHERJEE

Bolsheviks, AKP of Norway, Journal "Offensive" of Germany, CP Alliance in the UK, Federal Union of Journalists, Pakistan as well as journal NSC and the International Council for Friendship with Soviet People.

Manik Murherjee, Vice President of AIAIF, front-ranking social activist in India, presented the Approach Paper, which set down the basis for discussion during this Convention. He outlined the heroic struggles of the Iraqi people against US imperialism and pointed out the real attempt of the USA to dominate the oil resources, establish hegemony in West Asia and the domination of the

world market. Manik Mukherjee also condemned the Israeli attacks against the Palestinian people, with the full backing of US imperialism. He deplored the role of the Indian government for its virtual capitulation to the USA and to serve the interests of the capitalist class of India in trying to get a share of the world markets. He stressed the need of building up militant anti-imperialist movements in all the countries.

Distinguished fraternal delegates spoke from Syria, Palestine, USA, France and Bangladesh. Greetings were read from the Non-Aligned Students and Youth Organization (NASYO). Representatives from Nepal and Sri Lanka were to be present, had to cancel their visits due to the political turmoil in their countries.

Many distinguished doctors, professors, scientists, Justices and Judges spoke and took part in the discussions on different issues and on the resolutions.

At the end of the deliberations, a document which included all resolutions, was adopted in Calcutta Declaration 2003 amidst tremendous applause. The Convention ended with the singing of "We Shall Overcome" in which the entire audience participated.

Michael Lucas, as Editor of NSC had an invitation, but was unable to go, but nevertheless he was given a honorary badge as a fraternal delegate by the All India Anti-Imperialist Convention.

TIME FOR AN INSANE ASYLUM! *By DAVID RENNIE*

President Bush was sent a public manifesto on the last day of 2003 by the Washington's war hawks, demanding a regime change in Syria, Iran and Cuba-style military blockade of North Korea, backed by planning for a pre-emptive strike on its nuclear sites. It also suggested that Saudi Arabia and France to be treated as rivals, not friends.

This is the work of Richard Perle, Pentagon "intellectual guru" of the hard-line USA's neo-conservative movement and David Frum, a former Bush speechwriter.

BODYGAURD BETRAYED SADDAM

AMMAN –Saddam Hussein was betrayed by his personal bodyguard General Mohammed Ibrahim Omar al-Muslit, Al-Arab Al-Yawn daily newspaper said in Baghdad, December 18, 2003 with the help of Saddam's relatives. Of course the US\$25 million award offered by President Bush might have played a part in this betrayal.

With all the publicity to make Bush and Blair look as "heroes", there are things that do not make sense. There are questions that are being asked by many journalists, questions that may remain unanswered. There is being cast great doubt on the Bush scenario as to how Saddam was captured. Was Saddam arrested on the day that the US White House said he was?

According to these Arab sources, Saddam could not have been arrested on Saturday, December 13th, 2003!

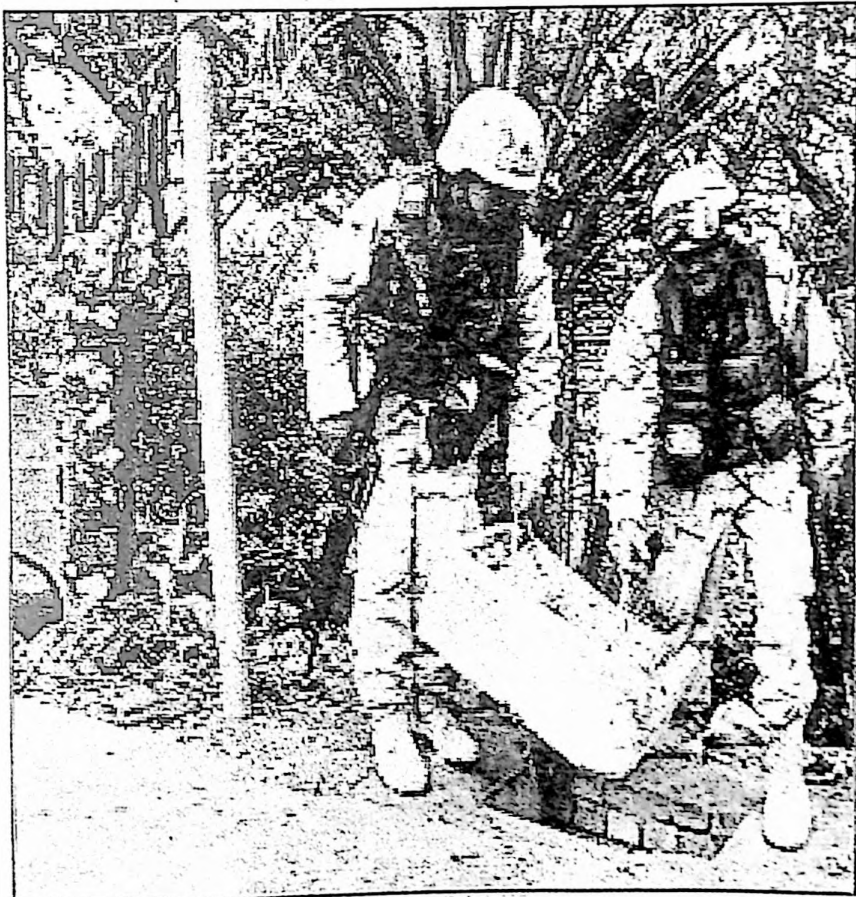
For one, it is not conceivable that the CIA to bring some, of the caliber of Saddam Hussein, straight in front of the media's cameras, not knowing what Saddam might say to the world,

without thoroughly interrogating him first. This was probably done over a period of days or weeks, using the torture and sense deprivation techniques and methods the USA is known for.

Bush and company staged this "capture" in order to gain popularity in view of the upcoming US elections. Additionally, capturing Saddam before Christmas can only do wonders for the US leader's image.

Those of you with a sharp eye, would have noticed that the announcement of Saddam's capture came only a few days after penalties for Syria has been announced, as there was wide spread dissatisfaction among the White House, that Bush's policy in Iraq had failed, due to the high rate of US soldiers being killed every day and the failure to find "Weapons of Mass Destruction", which prompted the US to invade Iraq in the first place. Such an announcement could only boost the morale of the US soldiers, who have suffered huge casualties, especially the so-called official ending of combat in Iraq.

Furthermore, Bush wanted to divert the world's attention from the mounting US failures and casualties in Afghanistan and why Bush did not



capture the leader of Al Qaeda Osama bin Laden? Just days before his "capture", US officials were talking about putting Saddam on trial and were even changing the international law to try former Iraqi regime members.

Interesting timing – no?

In addition, only ten days before December 13, Jihad fighters in Iraq had already announced that Saddam Hussein had been captured by the US, after very fighting involving thousands of soldiers, although the Pentagon denied this at that time. US media which gets its news from the Pentagon, why should they now try and find out the truth?

Even Saddam's personal doctor made an official statement, after seeing the footage of his capture, that it was impossible for Hussein to remain so compliant, unless he had been heavily sedated and drugged. Saddam's daughter who lives in Jordan, said that her father was sedated, because that was not his actions.

The current story that the Iraqis claim is the truth, that Hussein was captured at least three or four weeks ago and held in a dark hole in Adwar by his abductors, amongst whom was his personal body guard for at least three weeks, while his abductors attempted to get the \$25 millions that the US promised first.

There is is a photograph that got big play in the world media showing Two American soldiers that were standing beside a date palm tree, and this photo was supposed to have been taken on the day that Saddam was captured, December 13th. But any Iraqi knows that this photo is a fake, because date palms in Iraq are usually harvested in the summer time. In any case, the un-harvested dates fall off the tree before December, and anyway they are brown and dry, not yellow, as they are shown on the colour photograph. *(Unfortunately our print is in b/w, but it is the real colour photograph – Editor.)*

Meanwhile there are many uncertainties as questioned by the medical profession, about how the Americans could pull off such a fast DNA test to verify that they had a real Saddam Hussein in their hands? Under normal conditions, it can take up to a month to get a DNA study done.

The US government, known for their habit to "preach" democracy and other such values, should perhaps realize once and for all, that the world is sick and tired of their biased standards as well as their inaccurate approach in conveying information. Why should the Arabs believe the December 13th version of Saddam's capture when there are such conflicting and contradicting information that accompanies it? How can one believe anything that the US says when the world still awaits to see the location of Iraq's "Weapons of Mass Destruction"? Maybe it is time for the USA to just leave Arabs and Muslims alone, to pull out of Iraq lands, and instead, focus on their own domestic problems at home!

(Albawaba.com) ■

For all the pomp and circumstance that has surrounded the extraction of the former dictator from the hole in the ground, from which, Bush told the world, Saddam was conducting the fight against US occupation forces – without any radio, telephone, communication or loyal guards or runners – the reality is that the US is not a bit safer now than the man that is in chains now.

There will be no trial for Hussein, at least nothing in public, because he might start shouting about the back pay he is owed from his days as an employee of the CIA and US government.

Hussein was never a threat to the US. His capture means nothing to the security of the American people.

Hussein will be silenced because he knows too much and is a danger to the ruling class of US imperialism!

US CONSILDATES OCCUPATION OF ECUADOR

Silently, without firing a shot, Pentagon is installing military bases and an espionage center, plus financing and training of elite counterinsurgent units, to launch the Plan Colombia, first phase this year against guerrillas. ■

FEATURE ANALYSIS

COMMITMENT.

SUCCESS & CORRUPTION

By VIC RATSMA

Certainly we have all seen it. People who come from modest means, but who rose up in society to a position of prominence and promptly forgot or denied their roots, so as to make it appear that they are superior to others who were less successful. It's an ugly trait, but unfortunately not uncommon. For who hasn't seen a worker, an equal at that time, who obtained a promotion after which he or she didn't associate with you anymore? Or the neighbour who became successful in business and then felt so elevated to live any longer in your neighbourhood?

Politicians too, who at election time are your friends and equal in order to secure your vote and who promise faithfully to work in your interests, but who, once elected forgot not only you, but also the promises they made. Now they're "up there", away above you, where the interests of the rich and powerful take first place for attention and demand that he/she take care of them first.

One massive example that comes to mind are the many who rose up to leadership positions at the top of the Communist Party of the Soviet Union (CPSU), especially in the 1980's during the Gorbachev years. Having benefited throughout their formative years from free education and later from career opportunities that only a socialist society offers to its workers, they accepted the philosophy of a communist society when they became members of the CPSU – then rising to prominence in the party and government. But how solid was their commitment to socialism? Some, no doubt did not believe in

socialism, from the outset and used the opportunities if offered for their own benefit. Others likely were corrupted by their success and took advantage to gain personal wealth when the opportunity arose. Whichever applies, instead of defending socialism, many took advantage of the collapse to enrich themselves, forgetting all about their commitments to the people and to the building of a new society.

Against this background it is certainly most refreshing to read the story of Benjamin Zephaniah, published in The Guardian (UK) on November 27, 2002 (1). Zephaniah is a black African poet and writer, living in the United Kingdom. He is also angry. The source of his anger? He recently received a letter from the British Prime Minister Tony Blair in which he was told that he was being recommended to the Queen to receive the Order of the Empire (OBE) in recognition of his poetry. Here's a part of his reaction:

"Me! I thought. OBE me? Up yours, I thought. I get angry when I hear the word "empire", it reminds me of slavery, it reminds me of thousand years of brutality, it reminds me of how my forefathers were raped and my forefathers brutalized...my obsession is about the future and the political rights of all people. Benjamin Zephaniah OBE - no way Mr. Blair, no way Mrs. Queen, I am proudly anti-empire..."

This OBE is supposed to be for my services to literature, but there are a lot of writers that are better than me, and they're not involved in the things that I'm involved in. All they do is write; I spend most of my time doing other things. If they want to give me one of these empire things, why can't they give me one for all the letters I write to innocent people in prisons who have been framed. Why can't they give me one for my struggle against racism? I might just consider accepting some kind of award for my services on behalf of the millions of people who have stood up against the war in Iraq. It's such hard work - much harder than writing poems..."

"There are many black writers who love OBEs, it make them feel like they have made it. When it suits them, they embrace the struggle against the ruling class and oppression they visit upon us, but then they join the oppressors' club.

They are so easily seduced into the great house of Babylon known as the Palace. For them, a wonderful time is meeting the Queen and bowing before her presence"...

"There is a great part of me that hopes that after writing this article I shall never be considered a Poet Laureate or an OBE sucker again. Let this put an end to it. This may lose me some of my writing friends; some people may never want to work with me again, but the truth is I think OBEs compromise writers, poets, and laureates suddenly go soft - in the past I've even written a poem, Bought and Sold, saying that"...

"You can't fool me Mr. Blair. You want to privatize us all; you want to send us to war. You stay silent when we need you to speak for us, preferring to be the voice of the US. You have lied to us, and you continue to lie to us, and you have poured the working-class dream of a fair, compassionate, caring society down the dirty drain of empire. Stick it Mr. Blair - and Mrs. Queen, stop going on about the empire. Let's do something else."

(1) <http://www.guardian.co.uk/story/0,2763,1094010.html>

**RAPHAEL
MARTINEZ**



EUROPEAN SOCIAL FORUM

Throughout the European Union, as in the whole world, the wind of neo-liberalism is blowing. It is being increasingly denounced and rejected by the peoples. In its name, right-wing as well as social democratic governments are putting in place policies that reverse the social gains and worsen the living and working conditions of the working peoples. Everywhere now they are trying to gain back the

social gains that have been won by the struggles of generations of workers. These anti-worker policies are the conditions of entry for all candidate members of the European Union, which are called upon to join "at the same level".

We are seeing in the EU a vast, concerted action of privatization of the public sectors, of liquidation of the systems of social protection, of the retirement and health systems. The big businesses, who are always most exempt from taxes, receive subsidies and assistance from the governments and the Brussels Commission. They continue to close factories, restructure them, and relocate them in search of the best possibilities to exploit, plunder and increase the profits of their shareholders. The agrarian monopolies follow the same policies, which sacrifice the less profitable peasants and flood the world markets with genetically engineered products that provide them with maximum profit, without consideration of the health risks. With the same blow they liquidate the agriculture of the dependent countries, driving millions of peasant families into greater misery.

It is no accident that US Imperialism and the European Union are denounced as the principal enemies of the peasants-farmers throughout the world.

Within this European Union, there is no equality between states; the big states, such as German, French and British imperialism, have more rights than the others. And the people of a "small" country say "no" to the Euro, or to the basic treaty of the EU, their opposition is treated as meaningless. These countries are then subjected to strong pressure to change their position. The European Constitution under discussion now, seeks to institutionalize this inequality between countries, consolidate the neo-liberal model and strengthen it with reactionary references to the so-called common religious values.

***NO TO THE EUROPEAN
CONSTITUTION!
*NO TO THE EUROPEAN ARMY!
*WITHDRAW THE OCCUPATION
TROOPS FROM IRAQ!**

Signed by the:

- *Communist Party of the Workers (PCF)
- *Communist Party of Workers of Denmark (AKP)
- *Communist Party of Germany (KPD)
- *Marxist-Leninist Organization of Norway (Revolution)
- *Organization for the Reconstruction of the Communist Party of the Proletariat of Italy
- *Revolutionary Communist Party of Turkey (TDKP)
- *Communist Organization October and Communist Organization September 27 (members of the National Committee of Communist Organizations) Spain ■



**WHEN IS THIS TYRANT
YELTSIN, GOING TO BE
BROUGHT TO JUSTICE?**

CONTENTS OF LETTERS U.S. GI'S SEND HOME

By MICHAEL MOORE

"You'd be surprised at how many guys in my company and others say that the scare about Saddam's WMD was a bunch of bullshit!

*Lance Corporal George Batton US
Marine Corp*

*Dear Michael: I'm writing this, not knowing whether this will get to you and I don't know why I'm here at all. I've toppled statues while wearing an American flag on my sleeve. I believe that I and others do not belong here. Americans are almost oblivious as to what is happening here in Iraq. Homeland Security is teaching us how to spy one on another.

Jerry Oliver US Special Forces

Wow, 130, 000 troops on the ground here, nearly 500 deaths that we know off and over a billion dollars a day being spent, but they caught a guy living in a hole. Am I supposed to be dazzled?

Veteran of Marine Corps

I would like to tell how difficult it is to serve under a man in Washington who was not elected. Because he is the president and my boss, I have to watch what I say. I know that many in my company feel the same way. All of us are under 24 years of age. We want to be sent home!

*An Army private still in Iraq and
wishing to remain anonymous*

CREDO OF NORTHSTAR COMPASS



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

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

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

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

72

HISTORICAL USSR VIDEOS TO CHOOSE FROM!

These videos are no longer available in ex-USSR and most of them were destroyed by the present regime. Ask for your free catalogue

OBITUARY

ALEX STURGEOFF

1917-2003

Dear readers:

Northstar Compass has lost one of its ardent readers and a dedicated friend of Soviet people, of Socialism and of all progressive mankind.

Alex was born in Kamsack, Sask., Canada on March 12, 1917 and all his formative life he fought for the working class and against the danger of reactionary forces that during 1930's were forming an Imperialist Fascist ideology, which erupted into World War II.

Alex and his wife Ann enlisted in the Canadian Army to join the fight against Fascism and Nazism. Alex served in the 7th Canadian General Hospital in Germany. Alex and his

wife had three children Eileen, Lorne and Lynda.

Alex worked in the Russian newspaper Gudok, which later became the Vestnik, organs of the Federation of Russian Canadians. He translated many articles for Northstar Compass from Russian into English.

He died of congestive heart failure

on December 15, 2003. He also wrote many short stories, poems and other articles for the progressive press. Before Alex died, he wrote an autobiography called "Our Story" which contains details of his life.

Your work and dedication Alex will be carried on!

Editorial Board of NSC



THE WRONG SIDE OF THE TRACKS

BY W. VIC RATSMA

"All humans are born free and equal in dignity and human rights"

(Article #1 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights)

The expression of "*Living on the wrong side of the tracks*" originated from the time that railway-lines passed through the center of big cities. The railway tracks served as a sort of class dividing line, separating the population into a middle and upper class on the one side, and the working population and the poor on the other side. Being from the wrong side of the tracks meant that you came from the working class side of the line.

The border between two countries can also represent such a dividing line, with people on one side having a much higher standard of living than on the other side. Precisely such a situation can be found at the border between the USA and Mexico, a border that stretches for some 3000 kilometers and touches on four American states, California, Arizona, New Mexico and Texas.

In 1965, in an attempt to provide

more and better employment for Mexican workers, the government of that country began, what was called the "*Maquiladora Program*". This program allowed foreign companies to bring parts and raw materials into the country on a duty-free basis and they set up assembly and manufacturing plants, with the understanding that all products and wastes were to be returned to their country of origin. In the years following, over a million Mexicans moved to the border region to work in the Maquiladores. Some of the best known companies that operate there are Mattel (toys), Sony (electronics) and General Motors (auto parts). But while the US corporations took advantage of the low Mexican wages and reaped high profits, the Mexican workers remained poor, earning between \$3.50 and \$5.00 dollars per day, while a decent standard of living for a family of four requires about four times that amount.

When the North American Free Trade (NAFTA) was signed in 1994,

it opened up the borders between USA, Mexico, Canada for capital and for goods to flow freely across the border. But NAFTA also removed the requirements for the return of goods and wastes to the country of origin and while Mexico has some fairly strict labour and environmental codes, they are rarely enforced. There are now over 4,500 foreign companies operating in the Maquiladores and the living and working conditions of the Mexican people working there is deplorable. According to the organization Corpwatch (1) "*Sex discrimination in the Maquiladores is notorious. Human Rights Watch has documented the widespread testing of women for pregnancy as a condition of employment. Workers who become pregnant are many times fired. Women also face sexual harassment, unequal pay for the same work as men and a glass ceiling that prevents their promotion to middle management...There have been 180 murders of young women in Ciudad Jurez over the last six years...*"

" Foreign companies in Mexico pollute freely, degrading the border environment...toxic waste poses a health risk to both workers and surrounding communities; there is a deterioration of public health, ranging from respiratory problems to skin irritations and neurological disorders believed to be caused by the industrial pollution".

And this from "The Maquiladora Reader": Pollution from Maquiladora plants are responsible for birth defects in babies...Workers are exposed to a variety of substances which include the following - xylene, trichloroethylene, zinc and lead oxides and nitric acid without proper protection. Exposure to such substances can cause cancer, reproductive problems, skin diseases, vision problems, respiratory ailments, gastrointestinal and nervous disorders and headaches Without adequate sewer systems and with water sources contaminated with garbage and human waste, the Maquiladora communities are a breeding ground for disease."

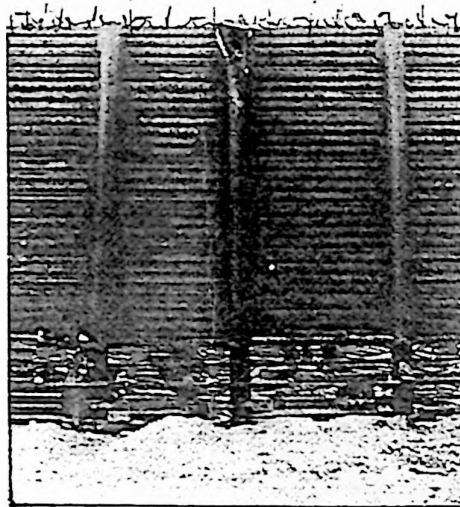
Clearly, the only winners in this situation are the corporations, while the workers are still living "on the wrong side of the tracks".

On the other side of the tracks, that is the north of the Mexican-USA border, the conditions are quiet different. There, the workers can earn upwards of \$10 dollars per hour for similar work and provide sufficient income for their family to live on. No wonder therefore that Mexican workers attempt to cross the border to the United States. Every year approximately 340,000 Mexicans enter the United States, about half who come illegally. The total workforce of these illegal Mexican migrants in the US is estimated at over 5 million. Although it is illegal for foreigners to work in the United States without a permit, many US employers are only too eager to take advantage of this available labour-pool, because these workers are not only cheap, but are in no position to complain about the working conditions and cannot demand the usual benefits that American workers are entitled to. US farmers too, employ many Mexicans as seasonal workers during harvest time.

But to illegally cross the Mexican-US border is an exercise with great

risks, one that leads to numerous deaths. What has made these crossings so deadly is the decision by the former US President Bill Clinton in 1994 to attempt to stop the flow of these illegal immigrants across the border, by building a huge 5-meter fence-wall. Topped by barbed wire and equipped with floodlights, guarded day and night by

18 ft. high wall with barbed wire top.



the US Army, the Police, the National Guard and the US Border Patrol. It is the longest wall separating two countries in the world.

President Bush, after the events of 9/11 in 2001 strengthened these measures even more. Many people have compared this wall, which stretches over a distance of hundreds of miles, to the former Berlin Wall. It must be said however that far fewer people have died in the 28 years of the Berlin Wall (192) which was supported by the CIA and was meant to heat up the Cold War, than is the case of the US-Mexican Wall which from 1993-1996 already reached 1,185 deaths and these are only confirmed, but there are hundreds of unreported deaths. Some of these deaths are the result of manhunts by the US border patrols and racist vigilante groups which are mushrooming now, according to the human rights organization "Coaliciom de Derechos Humanos". Many others die as a result of attempts to cross the border that leads through large stretches of a desert. They die from dehydration, drowning at river crossings and from sheer exhaustion. An August 21, 2003 report (2) under the title "More Border Deaths" (From Mexico Week in Review) provides a typical vivid example:

"The bodies of five migrants who presumably died of heatstroke or dehydration were found on August 8-10 near the Mexican border in the Arizona desert. On August 16 and 17 Tohono O'odham police officers and border agents found the bodies of three migrants who died crossing the US border from Mexico, near the village of Kohalk in Arizona Pinal County. The bodies of yet three more illegal migrants were found around the area at the same time."

Despite these strict inhumane measures by the American government, and despite the risks and hardships, the illegal migrants face, the flow of illegal immigrants has hardly been reduced. This is indeed a telling fact. Life becomes unbearable for them, with no hope of improvement, people will take almost any risk to escape their lot, even the risk of death. Governments on both sides of the border, as well as the corporations that operate in the Maquiladores are responsible for these abominable conditions and therefore must be held accountable for the deaths of hundreds of people every year.

Once again, profits are held to be more important that the well being of the people.

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

(2)<http://iits.indymedia.org/pipermail/mv-mexico/2003/August/000443.html>

JERRY MORSE



AS I SEE IT!

This New Year 2004, one would hope that the US presidential candidates of the Democratic Party, Dean/Gore ticket shall be successful in putting the Bush Administration out of the Washington office and out of the Pentagon - that might ease the world-wide problems and get the US troops out of Afghanistan and Iraq.

The gall of the Bush administration in setting up the Drive-Through War Criminal Tribunal as a Kangaroo Court to try the Iraq leadership as "war criminals" is beyond comprehension! Here, the US-UK criminals attacking, killing, burning, devastating Iraq, now try to convince the world that Iraq was a threat to the US and the world, while they call themselves "liberators"!

Now, they allow their corporate in-laws like Halliburton, Kellogg Brown and Root divisions to amass \$61 million as a starter in gas profits used in Iraq to move their illegal vehicles.

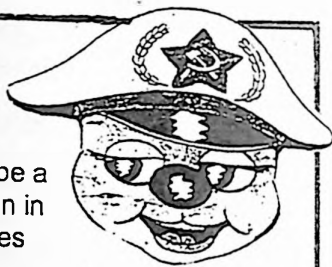
US demanded from the new Georgian leadership to tell Russia to get out of Georgia while US sent in their troops, built air bases and seaports and included Georgia into the NATO membership.

Yes, while this was going on, President Put-in was dangling on Uncle Sam's string, dancing merrily away while on December 12, 2003 the US Undersecretary of State Marc Grossman (a high flying Zionist war hawk) in a serious meeting with Russia' Deputy Foreign Minister Vladimir Chizhov was told openly of the US demand that Russia take no action or make a comment when NATO opens up its military bases in the 10 former Soviet republics.

WASHINGTON: President Bush again has instituted high-alert "terrorist threats" all over the US and demanded of all foreign airlines that they must put extra-armed security on the commercial planes, since, again, the USA's unintelligent intelligence has learned that there is a "threat" - an orange high alert.

Also, President Bush urged all nations to recognize that the "pursuit of nuclear, chemical and biological weapons brings not influence or prestige, but isolation and otherwise unwelcome consequences."

Great Idea Dubya! You first Mr. President!



There will be a new column in future issues called:

MISHKA SAYS!

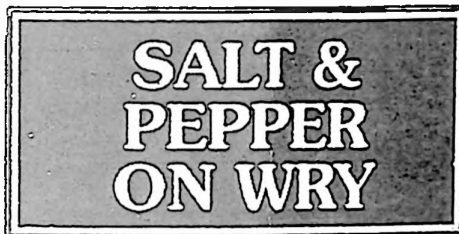
JORDAN: Hussein Mulalli, Head of the Jordan Bar Association, a well known and respected lawyer demanded that when and if Saddam Hussein is tried for war crimes, that President Bush and Prime Minister Blair be tried at the same time.

What a wonderful idea that should be supported by the United Nations and maybe even by that behind the scenes supporter of reactionary regimes, the present Pope residing in the Vatican!

CAN YOU BELIEVE THIS?

Last December 16, 2003 as reported by the New York Times, Defense Secretary Donald Rumsfeld said that the CIA will be in charge of interrogating Saddam Hussein. Rumsfeld said that in the Oval Office, "This was a three minute decision. The first two minutes were for coffee!"

Is there any need to comment?



By: Frank Ray Davis

WHEN UP IS DOWN - Dubya Bush claimed a "victory" in the handling of the patched-up Medicare Bill. Oh, oh, watch out! The difference between the Bush victory and a people defeat is not readily discernible.

A DEVILISH LOT OF NERVE - Ex-Dictator Pinochet of Chile says he is an "angel" who deserves, not condemnation but a grateful people begging his pardon. Yeah, Satan was an angel too, but I don't see anyone begging his pardon for thinking evil thoughts of him.

NEWSPAPER HEADLINES- "Bush and Dean, two Drops of Water" And both all wet? "US gives Mexico a Hand." Front or back?

SMART ECONOMIZING- Lawmakers in Central Mexico proposed an 80% increased in state propaganda and an 11% increase of help for the poor people. Very practical swap: Conning the poor people into believing they're well off is certainly cheaper than making

them so.

SINK OR SWIM - BUT FREE -

A couple of hundred years ago Historian Macauley had an answer for President Bush and others who say that the Iraqis should not be given their freedom till they're ready for it: "No people ought to be free till they are fit to use their freedom? The maxim is worthy of the fool who resolved not to go near the water till he had learned to swim."

PEE ON WAR; PEACE ON EARTH

This little kid has something in common with the boy Jesus - they both taught their elders good sense.

Legend has it that two armies were about to go at it with swords and muskets in another of those silly wars that pollute our history books.

Suddenly between the two armies was spied a little boy doing his pee thing. Laughter broke up on both sides. And the more the two armies laughed at this simple human event, the more they came to see the



foolishness of their fighting. Peace was the victor for a welcome change.

Today this little lad lives on in a bronze statue that is a tourist mark in Belgium and is an inspiration for peace to the world.

People have had 2000 years to digest Jesus' peace message and 400 years to draw inspiration from "Mannekin Pis", but, incredibly, wars still go on.

Which all goes to prove that Presidents and Generals are the world's best examples of slow learners!

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

FROM
FRANCE

Dear comrades:

I'm a Spanish political prisoner held in a French jail. I'm a Communist of the PCE(r). I read NSC and I wish all that 2004 will grow in resistance and combat readiness for the people's freedom all over the world.

I can also read NSC in French, if you can send it to me.

Josefina Garcia Aramburu

We will do all in our power to make that happen!

FROM
FORINO
ITALY

Dear comrades:

We greet you comrades at Northstar Compass in order to tell you that we appreciate what you comrades are doing in promoting Marx, Engels, Lenin and Stalin and for the plans that are already in the planning stages for the holding of the Second World Congress for Friendship and Solidarity with Soviet People. Your publication is helping in the formation of the new Communist International.

Our policy coincides with yours as to the danger of revisionism that has impregnated many parties of the world, including the Communist Party of the Russian Federation (CPRF) and others in many countries.

We should all read again and again what Lenin said and what he wrote about the class struggle and the importance of the working class as the only class that will and can make changes in a society.

Regarding the venue of holding the 2nd World Congress, we would suggest that it should be held in Leningrad, the cradle of the Great October Socialist Revolution, and in this way we can be the spark that will rekindle the unity movement in the ex-USSR and take another concrete step for the establishment of a new Communist International!

**DID YOU DONATE TO
SUSTAINING FUND?**

*Glory to the Great October
Revolution!
Glory to the great Soviet Union!
Viva the future Socialist Revolution!*

Domenico Savio
Secretary General
Partito Comunista Italiano Marxista-
Leninista

FROM
MOSCOW
RUSSIA

Dear friends:

My best wishes to all at NSC for the upcoming New Year. I have just come back from hospital after I was attacked and severely beaten by the hooligans near my apartment last February, but I do suffer severe headaches constantly.

I remember the Soviet times when we were safe on the streets, in our homes, in our country and were not afraid of anything.

The elections to the Duma were again falsified by Putin and his regime, with constant attacks on the Communists, on the demonstrators and constant provocations and slander. Your readers know the results by now.

But we are going on struggling and eventually the victory will be ours.

I enjoyed Michael, your cartoon of Bush and Putin on the October cover. Excellent! Give my regards to all the comrades such as Vic Ratsma and Ray Stevenson at NSC.

Rudolph Kurkin

FROM
ST. PETERSBURG

Dear comrades:

In former Leningrad there is an increase in police brutality and terror against young activists by the present bourgeois regime. They use torture, physical and moral abuse when these activists are detained and in custody.

On May 18th, 2003 - they detained many young activists and held them in the cells of Ministry of Home Affairs where they were tortured.

We ask you to show solidarity

with these young patriots by sending letters of protests to the Russian Embassies and Consulates in your country. You can have a signature campaign to protest the brutality of the Putin regime in Russia now against any dissent.

With Communist greetings
Editorial Board of "Proletarskaya
Gazeta"- Leningrad

NSC and International Council has sent protests here in Canada to the Russian Embassy. We urge our readers to do likewise.

FROM
BAYAN
PHILIPPINES

Dear Friends,

Last week I received our first copy of Northstar Compass. I read it page by page from beginning to end — not just because you and our friends there sent it, but because it has an excellent style that inspires and egg one on to read it to the very end.

Please share these observations with the editor: 1) readers are updated with current events worldwide; 2) the style is not one of the bourgeois intellectual; rather it is as if one were reading exciting stories shared by and about one's next-door neighbours; 3) however there is analysis that is indeed anti-imperialist, pro-people, pro-democracy (in the real sense of the word); and 4) accounts are done in a sharp and witty manner, throwing insults at the imperialists, monopolies and the fascists.

Although, more pictures of militant mass actions would be good.

We should also be sending you articles, shouldn't we?

In solidarity,
Rita Baua
BAYAN (New Patriotic Alliance)
International Desk

***WE NEED ALL 2003 NSC COPIES
FOR OUR FILES. CAN YOU HELP?***

FROM
SOFIA
BULGARIA

Dear comrades:

I would be very grateful to you if you can send me the cassette of Soviet songs, the "Soviet Treasures". Since in this capitalist Bulgaria, I cannot pay you for the cassette, but I will help in translation of articles from Russian into English.

Blagovesta Doncheva G.

It will be a pleasure to have your help, and we sent you the cassette. Enjoy and always struggle as you do for Socialism.

FROM
ZAMAN COLONY
PAKISTAN

Greetings from WWO-Pakistan!

On behalf of the Working Women Organization, I am very grateful to you for sending us NSC regularly. We find it very interesting and important enhancement for the working class. I, on behalf of the WWO express full support and solidarity with your significant work and struggle. We wish you great success in your work. We hope that cooperation between us will continue and I hope that in the future we shall keep receiving materials from you.

In solidarity
Aima Mahmood
Program Coordinator
Working Women Organization of
Pakistan

FROM
WHITE LAKE
USA

In the last issue we published the obituary of a leading comrade Gibson in Australia, signed by Peter Prior on behalf of the Australian Soviet Friendship Society. Below we publish an open letter to the Australian-Soviet Friendship Society from a reader in the USA.

HERE IS THE LETTER-

Dear Comrade Peter Prior:

I was saddened by comrade Gibson's untimely death. I read the obituary in NSC and your letter as well.

I am one of those that decided long ago to say where I am - in the CPUSA. There are several reasons for this:

- (1) I am now 70 and too old to rock the boat.
- (2) I have developed and nourished, over several decades, some very strong brotherly relations with a host of comrades. Severing the cord with the CPUSA at this late date will plunge me into a trauma.
- (3) The Australian CP looks and sounds to me like an identical twin of the CPUSA. We are both very small and puny, and with meager resources (but so was the Bolshevik Party prior to the Great October Revolution).

(4) Although we do detect a rightwing drift in our respective parties, we can do a lot to stop this drift from the inside. The CPUSA has been sliding downhill since the assumption of power of the Krushchev clique in the USSR. To make matters worse, the CPUSA praised Gorbachev to the point of calling him - "a new Lenin"!! and giving us lectures on "the socialist market"!! There was great hostility towards me in one large gathering, when I rose up and said that Gorbachev is a counter-revolutionary, and predicted, two years before the fall, that the USSR is about to be destroyed.

My greetings to comrade Berbling, and hope to see you again in Toronto this fall at the 2nd World Congress.

Comradely
Said Shunia (Hazzim)

WE WOULD LIKE TO THANK
ALL THOSE READERS WHO
OVER THE PAST YEAR
(2003), WITHOUT BEING
ASKED, SENT IN
HUNDREDS OF DOLLARS
IN DONATIONS TOWARDS
THE PUBLICATION OF
NORTHSTAR COMPASS!

Editorial Board of
Northstar Compass

SEND IN YOUR SUGGESTIONS
FOR THE AGENDA OF THE
SECOND WORLD CONGRESS!

TO ALL COMRADES !

We have received scores of
Holiday and New Year's
Greetings from all over the
world, for which we are deeply
thankful.

It is impossible to list all of the
greetings on the pages of
NSC, since space is at a
minimum. Again, many
thanks!

*

FROM
BRAZIL

Greetings comrades! I salute your journalism and the struggle for the resurrection of the USSR!

I would like to suggest that you start a FORUM in NSC as well as info about the on-line and best-emails sent. I have good archival photos of demonstrations from all over the world, communist posters and photos of leaders, which would enhance NSC. Are you interested in receiving them?

I would like you to publish this statement making the rounds of the media here:

"Last year, the media reported that a 14-year old boy Alexander, ran away from his home to join the Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia (FARC). The media went crazy with a campaign to find this boy. The police and security arms were hunting for him, trying to prevent him from joining FARC. He was later found by the police and detained. If this boy was Cuban, trying to escape to Brazil, the media would support him and call him a hero."

Cristiano Alves

IRAQ: The Bulgarian commander in Iraq charges that Polish commander struck a deal with the Iraqi Sheiks to attack the Bulgarian troops there. Many Bulgarian troops were wounded and relations between Poland and Bulgaria are at odds, with charges and denials going back and forth.

Overzealous, American dollar-paid Ukrainian troops in Iraq, arrested 6,000 Iraqis in only 3-4 months. It seems that they act as bounty-hunters for US Imperialism!

**STAMPS FROM
AROUND THE
WORLD!**

If you collect stamps and want to receive a package...just send a small donation to NSC and we shall mail them to you,

THE LIE OF THE

**"LENIN
TESTAMENT"**



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WORLD SEE THIS
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DEFEATED IN THE
COMING PRESIDENTIAL
ELECTION!
**THE NEW WORLD
ORDER MUST BE
STOPPED!**



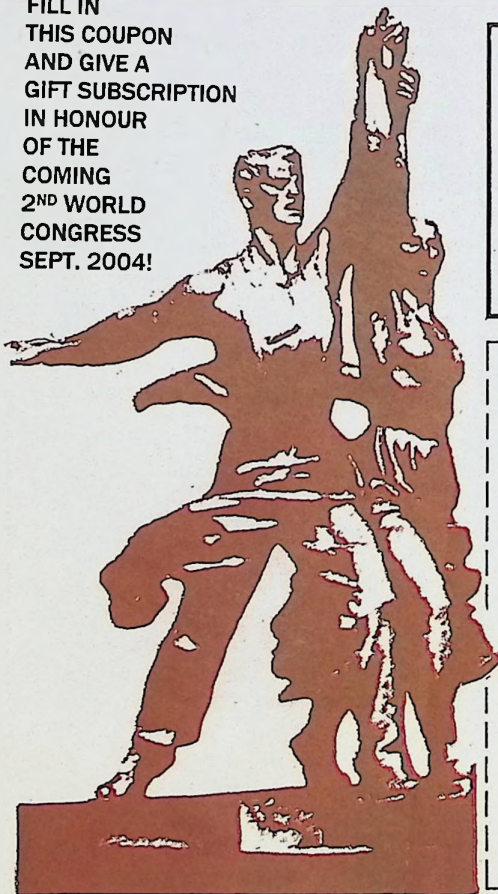
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SEPT. 2004!



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NSC THIS YEAR AND HELP
WITH THE WORLD CONGRESS!**