

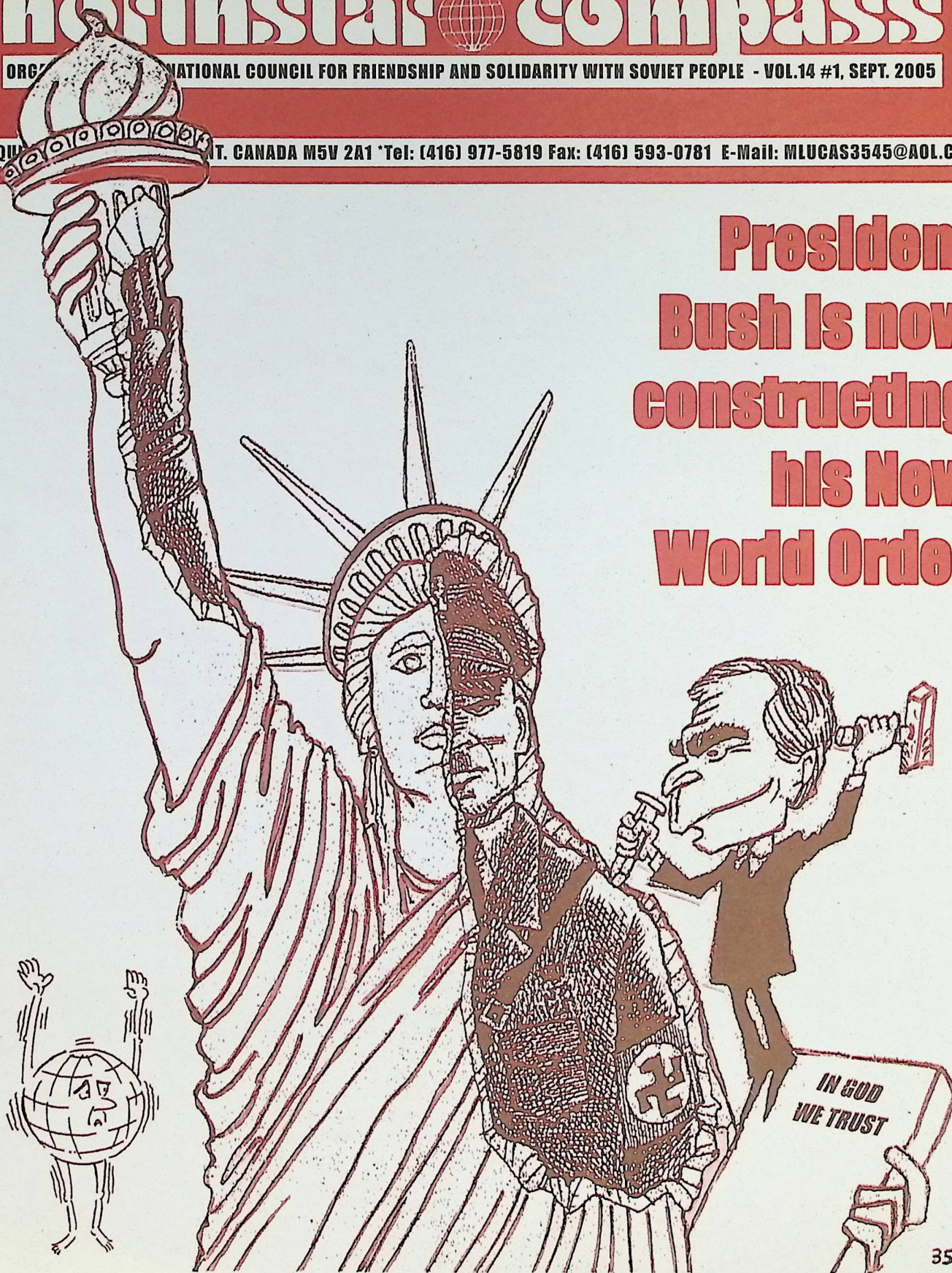
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# Remembering STALIN

By **NIHAR MUKHERJEE**

*General Secretary of the  
Socialist Unity Center of India*

The then US Ambassador, Joseph Davies, reported to the US President that, "I arrived at the reluctant conclusion that the state had established its case" (Mission to Moscow). Viewed in the context of Nazi war preparations in Europe and espionage inside Russia -- as exposed in course of the investigations over the murder of Kirov in 1934 -- the trials do not look like a "terror". They were a necessity. This becomes evident from this entry of May 8, 1943 by Goebbels in his diary: "The Fuhrer explained the case of Tukachevsky and said that in believing that Stalin would bring ruin to the Red Army, we were absolutely mistaken. The truth is just its opposite. Stalin has rid himself of all the opposition groups in the Red Army..." Tukachevsky, a top army general, was sentenced in 1934 by the military court and shot along with a number of military leaders for conspiring against the Soviet Union. Davies wrote in 1941, on hindsight: "There were no Fifth Columnist (in Russia) in 1941 -- they had shot them". "Stalin's bloody trial" was a revisionist invention fanned by imperialist propaganda. So far about the trials.

Two other things rouse the wildest passion of the bourgeois media against Stalin's "cruelty"! They are, the mass purges of that period and the execution of many innocent lives in it. What are the facts? Kirov was murdered within his own office, by his own bodyguard who was an old party member. Investigations revealed a network of opposition groups, not in the army and the government alone but even in the highest levels of the party. To save the socialist state, the party had to be saved first from



malcontents, conspirators, careerist elements and spies. The mass purge of the party was thus indispensable. Churchill too admitted that the purges "were merciless but perhaps not needless". In a party with above 3,000,000 members it was a most difficult and complex task and even though any mistake was inadmissible here, yet they could not be fully avoided in the end. But the socialist state and the communist party was saved. As a result, fascism could be crushed finally. Notably, Lenin himself undertook a mass purge in 1921 in which nearly 170,000 people, about 25% of the membership, were expelled. The "cruelty" of Lenin! But the revisionists keep mum about it lest their 'humane face' gets bared and their anti-Stalin slander comes under light! So much about the purges. True, many innocent people were wrongly punished. Even many innocent lives were lost. The administrative lapses responsible for it can not be excused and Stalin too, as the head of state, can not be absolved of his part. But a lapse, however serious, is not a crime even when it leads to loss of life. Stalin was instrumental, not culpable. Above all, it must not be forgotten that at such critical and complex situation, such tragedies

are not uncommon. Blaming it on Stalin's "terror" is a lie. And the tale that these were 'unknown' until Khrushchov revealed them is a blatant lie. Stalin himself openly admitted these "grave mistakes" in the 18<sup>th</sup> Congress. All these lies were needed to support the story of "terror". But even after this experience, throughout the war and till 1953 the Soviet people were advancing under Stalin's leadership. Can this also be challenged? Why terror would be required to deal with those masses who willingly followed Stalin is therefore a question! But force had to be applied of course -- against the enemies of socialism. And Stalin fought these enemies implacably. He was a 'terror' -- only to these enemies of revolution. Voroshilov says: "In the period from 1918 to 1920 Comrade Stalin was probably the only person whom the Central Committee shifted about from front to front, selecting the most vulnerable spots, the places where the threat to the revolution was most imminent. Stalin was never to be found where things were comparatively quiet and going smoothly ... During endless nights, foregoing sleep, he organized things, took the leadership into his own firm hands, relentlessly broke down all obstruction -- and the tide of affairs would turn, an improvement would set in." (Voroshilov: Stalin: and the Red Army)

### **Collective style of work**

Stalin always combined individual responsibilities with collective functioning. Anna Louise Strong, the celebrated authoress, recounts how in a meeting in which she had wished to tender her resignation from The Moscow News, Stalin, speaking the least of all, steered the talk so deftly that she not only gave up any idea of resigning but enthusiastically started on new projects for the journal. Enver Hoxha relates in his book "With Stalin" how representatives of the PLA and the Communist Party of Greece were invited by Stalin to a bilateral meeting over certain grave

differences of opinion and bitterness following them. Stalin, presiding over the meeting, conducted it to the happy restoration of fraternal understanding by carefully listening to their problems and making apt and farsighted queries and remarks. Asked by him, delegation of both the parties embraced each other in the end after all misunderstandings had been resolved. Even in the war years when the exigency and urgency of the moment often called for one-man command, Stalin acted collectively on all or almost all-decisive questions. All renowned Soviet military leaders of the period like Rokossovsky, Vassilievsky, Voroshilov, Zhukov, Timoshenko confirm it. Zhukov says in his "Reminiscences and Reflections" a number of times how, when directives were to be issued to the front, Stalin would summon the Politbureau together with the Military High Command, where everyone would state his opinion, arguments would follow and only then the decision would be finally made, taking all factors into consideration. Another veteran Soviet General, Stemenko, said, "Stalin didn't decide alone and didn't like to decide alone the important questions of the war ... he recognized the merit of the people who were experts in one sphere or another and took note of their opinion." The talk of his being a despot does not stand in the face of these facts. Stalin was meticulous and exacting and at once flexible and reasonable. And both these sides of his character can be seen in Zhukov's objective description, interestingly, despite his serving Khrushchov for long as Defence Minister. "Stalin wanted daily reports on the situations at the fronts. And one had to have the facts at one's fingertips to report to the Supreme Commander. One could not go to him with maps that had "white spots" on them, or report approximate, much less exaggerated, information. ... He saw them instantly and severely reprimanded the culprit." (Zhukov: *Reminiscences & Reflections*, Vol. I, p. 364-65). At the same time, admits the same Zhukov, "I realized during the war that Stalin was not the kind of man who objected to sharp questions or to anyone arguing with

him. If someone says the reverse, he is a liar." (*Ibid.*, p. 364) Such a giant is being sullied by dwarfs!

### The revolutionary life

Stalin's revolutionary life began in 1898, at the age of nineteen. He had not yet heard of Lenin, but joined the Messame Dassy, one of the many petty bourgeois socialist groups active in Russia then. His father was a shoemaker and mother a washerwoman who wanted her son to become a priest and so sent him to a church school. His result was exceptionally brilliant and this got him to the Theological Seminary of Tiflis, Georgia, run by Jesuit monks. His attitude regarding the oppressive atmosphere of the Seminary and its priesthood was rebellious. But, he started studying Darwinian biology and Economic history already, books forbidden in the seminary, and became member of the Messame Dassy. He was expelled from the Seminary in 1889. For a time, he took a job in the Tiflis Observatory. It was in fact his secret shelter. From what little is known of this period, it appears that socialists in Georgia, including members of the Messame Dassy, were divided on almost similar lines as the Bolsheviks and Mensheviks -- and that young Stalin was nearer to the Bolshevik line, without knowing it. In 1900, he and his colleagues organized the first May Day demonstration in Tiflis. Before the May Day in 1901, the tsarist police discovered and raided Stalin's "secret office" at the observatory and arrested others. But Stalin escaped and addressed the May Day rally in the centre of Tiflis. He was soon elected to the Social Democratic Committee of Tiflis and it sent him to organize the workers in Batum, where he took the name of Koba. Within just four months, as the tsarist police record says, "As a result of Djughashvili's activities, Social Democratic organizations began to spring up in all the factories of Batum ..." After spending 18 months in tsarist prison, he was exiled to Siberia but escaped and arrived in Tiflis again in 1904. He "travelled from one prison or place or exile to another",

in his own words, including Siberia, for several years between 1901 and 1917.

With the approach of 1905, the year of the "dress rehearsal" of the November Revolution, Stalin started to emerge from the Caucasian upon the Russian national political stage. He played a distinct role in the 1905 revolution as a Bolshevik and helped organize the first All Russian Union of Oilfield Workers in Baku in 1907. Already he took part in the Bolshevik Party conference in Tammerfors, Finland, in 1905, then in the Stockholm Congress in 1906 and in the London Congress in 1907. In 1912, he was inducted at Lenin's behest in the 12-member Central Committee of the Bolshevik Party and was entrusted with organizing the underground party in Russia and publishing the first legal paper of the party, Pravda. Lenin's regard for him can be seen in his letter to Maxim Gorky where he mentions "the marvellous Georgian" preparing a book -- 'The National Question and Social Democracy'. He was arrested soon upon his return to Russia and sent to Siberia and was freed only by the 1917 February revolution. Hurrying to the centre of revolution, Petrograd, he took up the reins of the party and established a friendly influence in the Petrograd Soviet while more well known leaders like Zinoviev, Bukharin and Lenin were still abroad. By the time Lenin arrived in Petrograd, Stalin had trebled the party membership, increased the circulation of Pravda and secured party's leadership over the Petrograd Soviet. Trotsky, much focussed by the capitalist press even then as 'the flamboyant' communist leader, but who was an anti-Bolshevik since 1903, had not yet joined the party which he did only in August 1917. And even then he remained a factionalist and an individualist. Preparing for the final battle for the November Revolution, for which Trotsky had propped up a committee of his hand picked men, the Central Committee of the Bolshevik party appointed a 5-member revolutionary military committee including Stalin, but not Trotsky, in it. The Civil War immediately followed, from 1918 to

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1920. And although the Commissar of the Red Army was then Trotsky, Lenin and the Central Committee put their trust in Stalin. Stalin became deputy Chairman of the all-powerful Council of Defence, with Lenin as the Chairman. Stalin headed also the two most important Commissariats -- that of Nationalities and of Workers' and Peasants' Inspection. When Trotskyites like Preobrazhensky, protested and complained to Lenin, Lenin countered that he didn't think that even Preobrazhensky "could suggest any better candidate than Comrade Stalin." On Lenin's motion, Stalin was elected Secretary-General at a Central Committee Plenum in 1922. In 1924, Lenin passed away and his great responsibilities now became Stalin's. Till the end of his life, Stalin carried them out faithfully. He told to Emil Ludwig that, "The task to which I have devoted my life is the elevation of a different class -- the working class. That task is not the consolidation of some "national" state, but of a socialist state and that means an international state; and everything that strengthens that state helps to strengthen the entire international working class. If every step I take in my endeavour to elevate the working class and strengthen the socialist state of this class were not directed towards strengthening and improving the position of the working class, I should consider my life purposeless." (CW, Vol. 13)

### Lenin's worthy disciple

Even Stalin's worst enemies and malicious opponents could not point to a single incident in his long life, even incidents in which they condemned Stalin's role most vociferously, in which Stalin's action was influenced by personal motives or personal considerations of any sort. Indeed, Stalin has rather often been shown as having no feelings and emotion at all! Many anti-communist or non-committal bourgeois authors also had to admit the fact, which appeared to them enigmatic, that Stalin seemed to have no personal life except his political life. Even arch-revisionists felt compelled to admit it. Khrushchov himself was obliged to



admit in his secret speech at the 20<sup>th</sup> Congress, in a crafty manner for sure, that, "The question is complicated by the fact that all this which we have just discussed was done during Stalin's life under his leadership and with his concurrence; here Stalin was convinced that this was necessary for the defence of the interest of the working classes against the plotting of enemies... he saw this from the position of the interest of the working class..." (Source: *The Stalin Question* -- Banbehari Chakraborty) It was the power of truth which forced Khrushchov play so innocent. He was also obliged to say in a public meeting at Tiflis: "One of the most prominent leaders of the revolutionary Social Democrats in Georgia and the rest of Transcaucasia was J. V. Stalin, who later became an outstanding leader of our party." (*Ibid.*) And this not before, but about five years after the 20<sup>th</sup> Congress, on May 12, 1961! So, not a single representative of the many shades of reactionaries from arch imperialists, sworn anti-

communists, liberal bourgeois to downright revisionists, could assail the moral superiority and force of character of Stalin. Stalin emerges as a noble-hearted revolutionary and a worthy disciple of Lenin.

### A giant communist leader

In the conduction of their life struggle as leaders of the party, for making their personal interest secondary to that of revolution and the party, not only Trotsky, but also many other prominent Central Committee members like Zinoviev, Kamenev and Bukharin fell far behind Stalin. In this respect, Comrade Shibdas Ghosh said that, since present day world capitalist system has become moribund, and so the old bourgeois humanist moral values that grew on this basis have become fully exhausted, the old values and old standard of communist character and culture of surrendering one's personal interest to the interest of the party is no longer sufficient. So, he said that the aim of the life-struggle of



communists today, at least of the leading communists, should be complete identification of their personal interest with that of the party. Stalin's life and activity proves beyond doubt that he had not only surrendered his personal interest to the interest of revolution and the party but had succeeded in completely identifying his personal interest with the interest of the party also. Naturally, in the matter of acquiring the communist culture and safeguarding party interest, Stalin came most nearer to Lenin. As history has shown, Stalin alone succeeded in correctly understanding and interpreting Leninism and in uniting and consolidating the party. Those leaders like Trotsky, Bukharin, Zinoviev etc. who failed to assimilate Marxism-Leninism in all aspects of their life and culture and fell victim to individualism, ego and factionalism, constituted the anti-Leninist "Opposition" within the party. Stalin's interpretation of Lenin's teachings ideologically unarmed and fully exposed them. Stalin realised the tremendous necessity of educating the ranks of the party as also communists abroad on the correct appraisal of Leninism as against all social-democratic deviations and particularly those of the "Opposition" on questions concerning party, socialist economic construction, attitude to the peasantry and to the bourgeoisie, the nationality question, etc. Out of this historic necessity Stalin wrote, immediately after Lenin's death, his great works 'Fundamentals of Leninism' and 'Problems of Leninism'. The term Leninism, as it is understood today by Marxists, was also Stalin's contribution. It was Stalin who first defined Leninism correctly as "Marxism in the era of imperialism and proletarian revolution". Comrade Shibdas Ghosh upheld that "In fact, the present understanding of Leninism, as distinct from Social-Democracy and Trotskyism, is due to Stalin". (SW., Vol. 1, p. 85-86) Stalin's contribution to Marxist-Leninist political economy made in 'Economic Problems of Socialism in the USSR', his contribution to the Leninist

understanding of the nationality problem contained in his writings, his analysis of the problems of Linguistics and his elaboration of Leninism in his battle against Social Democracy and Trotskyism are invaluable enrichments of Marxism-Leninism. Stalin's gift as an organizer can never be even hinted at in one discussion, let alone discussed exhaustively. How great must be the capacity of one who inspired and organized a whole nation in three successive historical upheavals. The first time for socialist construction. The second time in the anti-fascist Great War. And again, a third time, to reconstruct the war-devastated socialist land. And every time, it was a rising of not only the communists and the proletariat, though they were the vanguard, but a rising of an entire people from adolescents to greybeards. Never, in no other land than in this land of socialism, and under Stalin's inspiring leadership, has it happened. So because, such genuine rising of the masses cannot be 'ordered' by any bureaucratic apparatus. The old and rotten lie against Stalin of resorting to 'forced labour' or accusations of 'command-administrative method' do not square with this reality. In fact, this novel mass enthusiasm and mass initiative in the building, defense and advancement of the country -- a preserve of the bureaucratic state in capitalist 'democracies' -- only show the power of the proletarian socialist democracy. Stalin nurtured it carefully. He did it by inspiring the masses not only in construction but also in the playing of their role in all social affairs. Proletarian democracy in party and society Stalin, naturally, encouraged criticism and self-criticism in party life also, not excepting criticism also of the leaders at the top. But Stalin is frequently accused of violating inner party democracy! It is not true. "If Bukharin and Tomsky" said Stalin, "violate a Central Committee decision by stubbornly refusing to work in the posts entrusted to them, then all the more the party members have the right to criticize them for such conduct. If this is what they call 'being put through the mill', then let them explain what they understand

by the slogan of self-criticism, inner party democracy, and so on..." (*Ibid.*, p. 333-40) But his purpose was not to intimidate, as is slandered, but the contrary: "I am absolutely against a policy of expelling all dissident comrades. I am against such a policy not because I feel sorry for dissidents but because such a policy generates in the party a regime of intimidation, a regime of fright, a regime that kills the spirit of self-criticism and initiative. It is not good if the party chiefs are feared but not respected". (CW., Vol. 2 p. 34-35) Encouraging initiative while combating bureaucracy, Stalin did never hide the truth and mince words that, "Bureaucracy is one of the worst enemies of our progress. It exists in all of our organizations ... the trouble is that it is not a matter of the old bureaucrats. It is a matter of the new bureaucrats, bureaucrats who sympathize with the Soviet Government, and finally, communist bureaucrats. The communist bureaucrat is the most dangerous type of bureaucrat. Why? Because he masks his bureaucracy with the title of party member. I think that there is not and cannot be any other way of combating this evil than by organizing control from below by the party masses, by implementing inner-party democracy. What objection can there be to rousing the fury of the mass of the party membership against these corrupt elements...?" (CW., Vol. 11, p. 75) Stalin's supreme ability as organiser and leader of the great socialist construction, ensuring all-out participation of the entire people, lay in his ability as the organiser of proletarian democracy in the society. "If the workers criticize shortcomings in our work frankly and bluntly, to improve and advance our work, what does that mean? It means," Stalin concluded, "that the workers are becoming active participants in the work of directing the country, economy, industry". (*Ibid.*, p. 41) How open Stalin was to criticism, and how careful to protect the critical spirit of people, is clear here. "Critics are sometimes abused ... because their criticism is not always 100 percent correct. The demand is often made that criticism

should be correct on every point ... It is a dangerous misconception. Only try to put forward such a demand, and you will gag hundreds and thousands of workers ... We would get not self-criticism, but the silence of the tomb ... That is why I think that if criticism is even only 5 or 10 percent true, such criticism ... should be listened to attentively, and the sound core in it taken into account. Otherwise, I repeat, you would be gagging all those ... who are devoted to the cause of the Soviets, who are not yet skilled enough in the art of criticism, but through whose lips speaks truth itself." (CW. Vol.11 p. 33-34) The most notable fact is that the party intensified this self-criticism after the 15<sup>th</sup> Congress, when the "Opposition" was defeated and construction was advancing. When everything was smooth sailing, in other words! But Stalin wrote To Maxim Gorky: "We cannot do without self-criticism. We simply cannot, Alexei Maximovich. Without it, stagnation, corruption of the apparatus, growth of bureaucracy, sapping of the creative initiative of the working class, is inevitable". (CW., Vol. 12, p. 179). In this overall perspective must one grasp his sharp and significant criticism that: "I know there are people in the ranks of the party who have no fondness for criticism in general, and for self-criticism in particular. Those people, whom I might call "skin-deep" communists... shrug their shoulders at self-criticism, as much as to say: ... again this raking out of our shortcomings -- can't we be allowed to live in peace"! (*Ibid.* p. 31).

**Socialism in Russia became a reality under Stalin's correct leadership**

Without this inner-party struggle, the leadership of the party directing the alliance of the proletariat and the peasantry and the active operation of proletarian democracy among the masses -- Russia could not build a 'complete' socialist economy despite having a proletarian state. Inevitably, it would crumple economically, or militarily before imperialist intervention. That was the firm belief of Trotsky. That was also the hope of world imperialism. Stalin despaired the imperialists as well as the Trotskyite

and Bukharinite "Opposition" by successfully building a 'complete' socialist economy without any outside help. Russia had already become the political citadel of working class struggle in 1917. It now became so in a much larger sense. The struggle of Stalin with the Trotskyite-Bukharinite "Opposition" has many lessons. But fundamentally, it shows the way the forces of capitalist restoration always work from within and degenerate the party and the proletarian state. Without crushing them, socialism cannot be built, or preserved. Trotsky had not understood the peculiarities of the socialist revolution in the imperialist epoch, above all in a peasant country. Naturally, in such a country, the alliance between the proletariat and the peasantry will be far more determinant for the fate of the revolution and the socialist state than in an industrialised country. Leninism fully accords that. But, Trotsky contended that such an alliance would not at all be possible. This was departure from Leninism, and Menshevism. Trotsky's disbelief in the role of the peasantry in the revolution followed a dogmatic understanding that the peasant, being a "small proprietor", was a private owner and so, opposed to revolution. This was not Leninism. Trotsky's muddle did not prevent the peasantry to participate in the 1905 and the 1917 February revolution! But Trotsky insisted: "The contradictions in the position of a workers' government in a backward country with an overwhelmingly peasant population can be solved only on an international scale, in the arena of the world proletarian revolution." (Preface, *The year 1905*) Clearly, denying the role of the peasantry in carrying through the Russian revolution, Trotsky offers its 'only' solution "in the arena of the world proletarian revolution"! It was Marx's and Engels' proposition of the possibility of proletarian revolution "severally" in at least the advanced European countries. But it was valid only in the pre-monopoly capitalist period. In the imperialist epoch revolution would occur "first in several or even in one capitalist country" as Lenin established in 1915. To talk of solving the problems of revolution in a single country "only on an

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international scale" means to rely on the revolution in another country, or countries, without relying on one's own revolution. This is Trotsky's theory of 'permanent revolution'. According to his muddled theory, victory of socialist revolution in a single country is hopeless without outbreak of revolution "on an international scale". Naturally, Trotsky did not have faith in the future of socialist construction in Russia also. He cultivated his faction. His factional activities, and also Bukharin's, was condemned at the 10<sup>th</sup> Congress, in 1920. Bukharin's misunderstanding of the significance of the New Economic Policy, introduced in 1921, came to the focus around this time. It indicated his rightist deviation on the question of socialist construction from that time itself. The NEP was a special policy of giving "temporary concession" to the capitalists for putting the socialist economy on its feet. But the Bukharinites wanted it to stay. But the goal was, as Stalin said, "to emerge from NEP" after fully utilising it. The more the party, under Stalin, consolidated the socialist sector, organised collective farming on a countrywide scale, gradually expanded industry and regulated private trade – Trotskyite and Bukharinite "Opposition" followed their logic all the way and even started disrupting the economy. Discussions in the Central Committee did not prevent sabotage. Trotsky had often preached his 'permanent revolution' that "Without direct state support from the European proletariat, the working class of Russia will not be able to maintain itself in power..." (*Our Revolution*) But the Russian proletariat had not heeded him. Without revolution in Europe – or European proletariat's "state support" – they maintained themselves in power! As socialist construction was speeding up, he was now theorising that, "Real progress of a socialist economy in Russia will become possible only after the victory of the proletariat in the major European countries." (*Ibid.*) How well Trotsky was serving socialism! Stalin showed, "Trotsky has so far never said – neither in his pamphlet 'Towards Socialism or Capitalism?' Nor in his subsequent writings --

that we can completely build socialism. Neither Zinoviev nor Kamenev deny, or ever have denied, that we can begin to build socialism in our country, for it would be sheer idiocy to deny the obvious fact that socialism is being built in our country... But they emphatically repudiate the thesis that we can completely build socialism. On this point Zinoviev, Kamenev, Trotsky, Smilga and the rest are united." (CW, Vol. 8, p. 217-18) Which class-interest was the "Opposition" leaders serving then? Stalin had clarified these years ago. In 1924, three years earlier, Stalin had said crystally clearly at the 13<sup>th</sup> Congress: "The alignment of forces internationally is such that every attempt to weaken the authority of the party and the stability of the dictatorship in our country ... will inevitably be seized upon by the enemies of revolution as a definite gain for them... Whoever fails to understand this, fails to grasp the logic of factional struggle within our party, fails to realise that the outcome of this struggle depends not on personalities and desires, but on the results ... of the struggle between the Soviet and anti-Soviet elements." (CW, Vol. 6) The "Opposition" was completely exposed and isolated ideologically at the 15<sup>th</sup> Congress, 1927. Trotsky did not abide by the party decision and was expelled in 1927. The whole party, united as never before behind Stalin, plunged in construction. In 1928, the First Five Year Plan was declared, and was achieved in four years. Gibson Jarvie, British capitalist and the President of the United Dominion Trust, said in October, 1932: "Now I want it clearly understood that I am neither communist nor Bolshevik, I am definitely a capitalist and an individualist ... Jokes have been made about the five year Plan, and its failure have been predicted. You can take it as beyond question, that

under the five year Plan much more had been accomplished than was ever really anticipated ... In all these industrial towns which I visited, a new city is growing up, a city on a definite plan. With wide streets in the process of being beautified by trees and grass plots, houses of the most modern types, schools, hospitals, workers' clubs and the inevitable crèche or nursery, where the children of working mothers are cared for ... Russia today is a country with a soul and an ideal, Russia is a country with amazing activity ... and perhaps most important of all, all these youngsters and these workers in Russia have one thing which is too sadly lacking in the capitalist countries today, and that is -- hope!" (*Ibid.*, p. 168-9). Grudging admissions! But admissions nevertheless!

### Revolution demands supreme loyalty

But this epoch-making victory could not have been won, nor could it have been protected with all care without the wisdom of Stalin. Stalin's whole being and faculties were riveted on this goal. And how has this been misrepresented! Even as the countrywide activity around the first Plan was at its peak in 1934, Bukharin, Zinoviev, Kamenev and other "Opposition" leaders were facing trial on charge of treason against the Soviet socialist state. They had reached the logical end of their factional and conspiratorial path which they took going against Stalin and Leninism. They were found guilty and executed. These self-confessed Quislings were exonerated in 1995 by Gorbachov! And Stalin is accused of "vendetta"! Yet Zinoviev confessed in the trial that, "the party saw where we were going and warned us ... Stalin, Voroshilov, Orjonikidze, Dzerzhinsky and Mikoyan did all they could to persuade us, to save

## STAMPS FROM AROUND THE WORLD FOR "U"

For a donation towards NSC we shall send you a packet of these very interesting collection of stamps.



us. Scores of times they said to us: "You may do enormous harm to the party and the Soviet Government, and you yourselves will perish in doing so". But we did not heed these warnings ... My defective Bolshevism became transformed into anti-Bolshevism and through Trotskyism I arrived at fascism." (Report of Court Proceedings quoted in *The Stalin Question*: Banbehari Chakrabarti).

### The epitome of communist morality

Few things reveal Stalin's complete identification with the interest of revolution more than this incident. To a bourgeois liberal, the only explanation will surely be that Stalin was too magnanimous even to opponents. But the real reason is not that. Comrade Shibdas Ghosh repeatedly taught us that everyone has his positive as well as negative sides and only by encouraging one's qualities and positive sides it is possible to make one free from his negative sides and shortcomings. Stalin gave the opposition leaders repeated opportunities for self-rectification as well as criticized them unsparingly but sincerely wanted them to become worthy communists. What greater communist revolutionary moral can be found in any other leader of his time? But, once their conspiracy was established doubtlessly, he had to save the revolution from their conspiracy at all costs. By permitting the execution of them, he did just that. The bourgeois world is horrified at this! And the common masses, and even many communists are touched! This is liberal sentiment alone. But correctly evaluating Stalin for whom helping a deviating colleague to rectify himself and awarding him supreme penalty after he turns renegade flow from the same sense of revolutionary morality, requires a far greater understanding of morality. It can be understood from the tribute paid to Stalin by Comrade Shibdas Ghosh: "To a revolutionary, revolutionary necessity stands supreme; all other things like love, affection, personal relationship, friendship, etc., which to a humanist are so important and precious and make life worth living are subordinated to it." Stalin was

the epitome of communist morality in his time. But revisionism has eclipsed all trace of that noble revolutionary fervour and conceptions. Capitalism and imperialism have completely debased society and it signifies that the bourgeois humanist moral values have also been completely exhausted. Can one evaluate a man like Stalin on the yardstick of these obsolescent moral values? Stalin has been misunderstood so much basically on this count. Comrade Shibdas Ghosh explained that, "In the annals of human society, humanism is not the last word. It is undoubtedly the most lively air that the oppressive bourgeois thinking is capable of producing. But the march of progress of society does not stop there and hence, the sense of moral values does not find its zenith in humanism. Communism begins where humanism ends. ... Only with proper understanding of communist ethics can many of the traits of Stalin's character be correctly appreciated, which, judged by the yardstick of humanist moral values, would appear as negative qualities of character." (SW. Vol.I, p. 84-90)

### Path Ahead

Stalin has left behind a rich heritage for all communists of the world. However, while Stalin emerged as the foremost Marxist-Leninist of his time, the communist movement of his time failed to rise to the necessary height. But it is wrong to presume that the role of the leader alone determines the development of the led. Those who follow must also creatively conduct the struggles in their own spheres. Has the communist movement and its parties done this always? It was greatly influenced by the immense prestige and authority of the CPSU and of Stalin, learning and benefiting much thereby, but learning blindly and mechanically. In the post-war situation, when the communist parties grew unprecedentedly, the tiresome work of ideologically exposing and eradicating all bourgeois liberal and humanist influences, in different countries, was not adequately cared after for this reason. On the contrary, as Comrade Shibdas Ghosh had clearly shown, "humanistic appeal of the anti-

imperialist struggles" and "liberal sentiment against capitalist



exploitation" considerably contributed to its growth. The ideological foundation of the communist movement became weak and vulnerable. It is precisely for this reason that the communists of the world, with their unquestionable but blind sense of loyalty to Stalin, failed to properly appreciate his values and defend him in the face of revisionist ideological onslaught when it came. The time has come to identify the mistake and accord the uppermost importance to raising the level of ideological consciousness of the communists. So long as the communists cannot exhaust the influence of bourgeois humanism ideologically, culturally and morally, proletarian democracy cannot fully function, the process of democratic centralism cannot grow and develop and collective leadership cannot take concrete shape inside the party. The party cannot grow as the revolutionary vanguard of the proletariat, makes the proletariat conscious and organized to fulfil its historic mission, let alone influence the other strata of society. The disorganisation among the communist parties following the collapse of the Socialist Camp -- the process of which began from the 20<sup>th</sup> Congress of the CPSU -- is its surest proof. All this urges upon the communists of the world to weigh the present situation and determine their tasks. Unmitigable crisis in the imperialist 'globalized' economy and irrepressible outbursts of the discontent of the toilers of the world call upon the communists to unite and advance with giants strides.

Red Salute to Comrade Stalin!  
Long Live Revolution!

**MICHAEL  
LUCAS  
Editor**



## **THIS IS A PRE-CONGRESS ISSUE OF NSC**

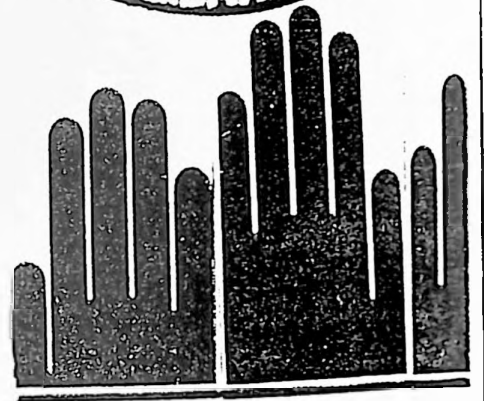
Dear readers:

This issue of Northstar Compass contains extensive materials that will be subject to discussions and analyses at the Second World Congress which is being held this September 23-24-25, 2005 in Toronto, Canada, with delegates from four corners of the world, dedicated to plan the future path of the International Council as well as of the Northstar Compass journal.

We have eliminated some of the regular features of NSC in order to concentrate on articles that will ad depth to the discussions that will follow at the Congress.

The October issue will be devoted to the decisions made at the World Congress in full, so that most readers who were not able to be delegates to the Congress will read the full scope of discussions, debates and the adopted results, which will guide our work until the next Congress in two years time.

With a representative delegation of 10 from former USSR present, and close to 60 other delegates, the future cooperation and future plans that will be worked out between the Soviet (Russian) Society for Friendship with Foreign Countries



and the International Council for Friendship and Solidarity with Soviet People will guide our expanded work during these very dangerous times for humanity.

All of the Congress materials are in English, Russian, French and Spanish, but, our interpreters will be on hand to translate on the spot during discussions and question and answers.

As you are aware that the Friendship House suffered extensive damage, caused by fire, smoke and water, which fire was set by arson on April 21 of this year. It is only now, three weeks before the opening of this Second World Congress that we were able to get the Friendship House in order.

At this time I would like to thank all those comrades and friends from all over the world who so generously donated finances in order to help defray some of the costs of the

renovation. You generously contributed \$10,000 in total! Many sincere thanks from all of us.

The Editorial Board of NSC is asking every reader to try and get **one new subscriber to NSC** in the next few months, so that they would also be able to read the details of this very important World Congress - where the decision will be taken as to where will Northstar Compass be published, here in Canada or in Europe and, where will the International Council be located?

Some of the slogans at this Second World Congress are:

**BACK TO THE FUTURE!  
RESURRECT THE SOVIET  
UNION AND SOCIALISM!  
ONWARDS TO VICTORY!**

**OUR CAUSE IS JUST!  
WE SHALL BE VICTORIOUS!**

## STRUGGLE ON UNTIL THE FINAL VICTORY!

By V. PRONIN I

American-British imperialism has now got bogged down in Iraq. The heroic and undaunted struggles by the Iraqi patriots have somewhat cooled the aggressor's appetite. The count is over 2,000 American soldiers dead - that the US only admits to. But the fight of the heroic Islam fighters took this struggle into the heart of Britain, to its capital London. This has caused many of the top leaders to think and also made the people in the street aware as to what their leaders are leading them into. This has affected even some of the top echelons of American leadership, besides, giving impetus to the American people to struggle for an end to this war of aggression.

This US aggression has got itself into a corner and there is no end in sight. This is beginning to be realized even by the most dumb-heads of the leadership of US and Britain. This has curbed them to somewhat curtail their propaganda efforts and slow down the bellicose attacks against other countries which they deem "forces of evil" - like Iran, Syria, Cuba and North Korea plus others, whose policies are not to the liking of US imperialism.

But nevertheless the aggression in the near East is ongoing in Iraq, where blood is flowing, and this might give an impression that the anti-war movement has not made a slightest bit of difference to US and British imperialism. The appetite of Imperialism does not seem to have slowed down. Countries like Vietnam know what imperialism is and even today cannot get rid of the chemical poisoning that the country and the people suffered and, who are still dying from its effects. And this is after 30 years!

People have to be vigilant and cannot think that US imperialism,

although it is bogged down in Iraq, that it will not attack another country - we should remember how the Second World War started and by whom. Hitler set the stage for imperialism to follow. But fascist Germany was defeated by the Soviet Red Army and its allies but how colossal was the tragedy for mankind?

Is US imperialism capable to follow in Hitler's path? Of course it can! This fact alone should be remembered not only by the people of the world, but also by the heads of capitalist and imperialist states. There is no love between these states when it comes to expansionism and trying to overcome the economic crisis.

We cannot overlook the role before World War Two of the imperialist states such as US, Great Britain, France and many others. They all did everything in their power to rebuild Germany and push it towards attacking the Soviet Union. They thought and hoped that Germany and the USSR will bleed each other dry in this conflict, then they both can be taken over with empty hands by the Western imperialist powers.

History knows as to what transpired. Imperialist states are always at war with each other for markets and territorial gain of raw resources. These conflicts between capitalist states present hardships on the people who have to bear two struggles, the terror and loss of rights and other economic and political hardships.

When the socialist state of the USSR was existing and growing stronger and the socialist idea was a bulwark against imperialist plans for world expansion and against capitalist states, this presented a great danger to these capitalist countries, since their exploitation of the world became harder to promote and justify, with the idea of socialism growing stronger all the time - and they foresaw the end of capitalism and exploitation, if the socialist yearning of the people was not going to be unchecked. But now, when the communist ideas are splintered, and there is no longer existing the USSR

and other socialist states do not present a serious threat to capitalism-imperialism, they do not have to curtail their activities and appetites for exploitation and profits.

I do not think that no one in their right mind can be fooled by the words of Bush and his idea that he is safeguarding and promoting democracy and other lies - even Hitler was promising all sorts of programs for democracy, and his only concern was struggling against Bolshevism. But, what has history shown us as the result of these empty demagogic words?

That is why people of the world cannot be lulled into inactivity regarding Iraq and other countries under threat from the American New World Order! Workers, as in Ukraine and other countries, whose governments are just lackeys of US imperialism, sent their soldiers to fight the conquest war in Iraq - must do everything in their power to demand that their soldiers be immediately withdrawn from Iraq back home.

Imperialism, of course historically must die - but it will not die of its own free will - it all depends upon the masses of people, when this death shall occur. As long as Imperialism exists, there will always be wars and conquest, and the danger for the future of mankind to exist.

We cannot allow this to exist and we cannot allow this to happen. We must defeat imperialism so that no trace will remain of this peril in the world! ■

## US MILITARY PRESENCE IN CENTRAL ASIA IS A THREAT - Kazakhstan statement

From INTERFAX

The USA military presence in Central Asia is a potential threat to Russia and China's security, said the Director of the Kazakh's presidential strategic research institute - Builat Sultanov.

"Military bases in Central Asia countries are a potential threat to Southern Siberia, the Far East and a threat to China. I am categorically against the presence of military



bases in the Central Asian countries, because any military base is a base of occupation.

I cannot understand the euphoria of some Central Asian states regarding the US military bases on their territory. Everywhere in the world where foreign military bases are deployed, people are demanding that these bases be withdrawn – as they are doing in Europe, South Korea or Japan”, he said. ■

## **Russian Air Force To Engage In Joint Exercises With China, India**

From Heikki Sipilä

The Commander-in-Chief of the Russian Air Force Vladimir Mikhailov said that: “Russian strategic aircraft, and also the SU-34M bombers and SU-27SM fighters will practice mid-air refueling during military exercises with China and India, in addition to military and transport aviation.

The first Russian-Chinese exercises were held on August 18-25 and involved 10,000 troops, Pacific Fleet ships, 17 long-range planes, other aircraft and marines.

In October the first Russia-India exercises will be held, involving air force units from both countries and these exercises will be held annually.” ■

## **RUSSIA DENOUNCES SS OFFICERS CONGRESS IN ESTONIA**

The Russian Government has condemned the July Congress held by the SS Veteran Officers from the Baltic states – Finland, Sweden, Latvia, Lithuania and even from Canada in Tartu, Estonia.

“Russia has more than once resolutely condemned such gatherings in the past. We find it intolerable that it happened in a member state of the European Union, without the EU making any statement. We voice our great concern about this open neo-fascist sentiments.

Sixty years after the defeat of fascism, mankind should again consolidate for an uncompromising fight against the growing “Brown Shirt” threat.” ■

## **RUSSIA, CHINA SPEARHEAD DRIVE FOR NEW WORLD BASED ON INTERNATIONAL LAW**

From PEOPLE'S DAILY-AUG. 16

Russia and China are working together to help form a new world order in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century that will be based on multi-polarity, respect for international law and a leading role for the United Nations, Deputy Minister of Russia Alexander Alexeyev said. He was speaking at the Chinese Embassy in Moscow during an official function devoted to the 60<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the country's liberation from the Japanese occupation.

Chinese Ambassador on Moscow, Liu Guchang said in his turn that the Chinese people would never forget the feat of the Soviet Army in the liberation of China from Japanese militarism.

At the present, the Russian-Chinese relations are the highest they have ever gotten after 1953 of the bilateral contacts, the diplomat added. ■

## **US MILITARY THROWN OUT OF UZBEKISTAN**

Reuters Agency

Uzbekistan evicted the United States in July from the military base that had served as a hub for combat missions into Afghanistan, since the US was granted this base shortly after the September 11, 2001 attack.

This base was known as K2 and this diplomatic note was delivered to the US Embassy by the Uzbek Foreign Ministry. US must vacate the base in 180 days. ■

## **SOVIET ATTACK AGAINST JAPAN HASTENED THE END OF WORLD WAR II**

On this 60<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the end of World War II, it is necessary to remember that it was not only the atomic strikes against Hiroshima and Nagasaki that made Japan give up - it was the Soviet blow against Japan's occupied Manchuria that showed Japan's military rulers that they stood no chance of holding out, even in the home islands.

It was a massive campaign of 1.5

million Soviet Red Army soldiers under the leadership of Marshal Vasilevski, which inflicted the greatest military defeat in history. The Soviet Red Army encircled Japan's Kwantung Army which lost over 80,000 dead.

The impact of this colossal defeat was the final blow that made the Japanese military General Staff to surrender and go over to the side of the US in its negotiations. ■

## **SANCTUARY FOR MILOSEVIC IN MOSCOW?**

Former president of Yugoslavia Slobodan Milosevic may end up serving his expected jail sentence in Russia, according to the British Sunday Times report. British and American officials are backing a plan that would allow Milosevic to live out his final days near his wife, Mirjana Markovic, who resides on the outskirts of Moscow. Milosevic's brother Borislav, formerly the Yugoslav ambassador to Russia, has an apartment in the same complex as Markovic, and Milosevic's son Marko is believed to be in hiding in Russia.

## **PUTIN CULTIVATES AND PREPARES HIS CADRES**

President Putin met with the top leaders of his own youth organization “NASHI-OURS” – the future storm troopers of Russian capitalism, in his country estate outside of Moscow. He said among other things, that they should “influence the Russian Society and you must defend the present policies against any returning back to what was the Soviet Union.” ■

## **RUSSIA'S REGIONS FACE THREAT FROM CHINESE MIGRATION**

Khabarovsk Krai Governor Viktor Ishayev has warned that Chinese illegal migration into Russia's East could lead to a Sino-Russian confrontation in the next 10-15 years the United Press reports. Speaking in Moscow, Ishayev, whose region borders China, asserted that Moscow does not seem to have a clear policy towards this region.

Illegal migration is reaching into millions. ■

## THE KREMLIN TURNS TO THE COSSACKS

President Putin has introduced a bill into the State Duma that would create special "Cossack Units" to preserve law and order and fight terrorism. According to the Times of London, the bill would make some 600,000 Cossacks eligible to join the units, the first that will be formed by the end of this year. "We want to defend the Motherland" said Sergei Buzinov, the deputy Aaman of the Cossacks. But people are wary of this move, since there are recorded instances now that these Cossacks are beating up on ethnic minorities.

### COMMENT:

*Did not the Tsars of Russia depend on the Cossacks to put down peoples protests against conditions under the Tsar. It seems that Putin is following in the Tsars footsteps. The Cossacks under the Tsar also had a slogan "We want to defend the Motherland!"* ■

## NEW CHARGES AGAINST YUKOS

The top shareholders of Russian Yukos oil conglomerate, Lebedev and Khodorovsky were charged with money laundering, fraud and tax evasion and criminal activities. They were sentenced in May to nine years in jail. Meanwhile, another Yukos embezzler, Nevzlin, has flown to Israel and the Israel authorities will not deport him to Russia to face charges, charging instead that all this is "anti-Semitism on the part of the Russian government." ■

## DEMOGRAPHIC CRISIS

The head of the Russian Federal Statistic Service said that the death rate in Russia remains the highest among the developed countries. Over 80% of deaths are men. Some 200,000 men die prematurely each year due to the economic hardships. ■

## ABKHAZIA COMMITTED TO BECOMING PART OF RUSSIA — NOVOSTI AGENCY

Abkhazia remains committed to be a member of the Russian Federation, the president of this republic proclaimed while in Moscow last

August. Sergei Bagapsh said Russia is the main trade partner and investor and that both countries benefit by this.

Abkhazian residents will become Russian citizens in a year and that this process is under way. This is done in order to stop the attacks by the present Georgian leadership. He also stated that 84% of Abkhazians had Russian citizenship and about 70% of the population received a Russian pension. ■

## The Yugoslav TRAGEDY

By T. Yakubovskaya

TV broadcasts hot news (they're always highly paid): "This Miloshevich is the greatest terrorist". The meanest plan has been already made, — The TV-man is just a venal beast.

And once again in European sky jet-vultures go round, engines roaring. "Great" countries Commonwealth's is heard mad cry that threat of World War III is very quickly growing.

All peoples of the world pricked up their ears, scared families in front of TVs clustered. And the disaster's come — Belgrade had never known such a war — Plants, houses and human fates were blasted.

TV continues to broadcast hot news (announcer is cool): "Aerodrome was bombed... hundreds of refugees... a bridge was blown up... direct hit in a school..."

NATO's hawks shoot upwards through the sky then swoop like spears — And Serbian woman's loud desperate cry is heard with a baby in her arms, in tiers.

The day before my friend refused to shake my hand... Last night my wife has left me out of the blue... Today under my windows on the sand someone has written: "Murderer, damn you!"

It seemed to me, the sky above exploded. Just last weekend I was a super ace, Today all eyes that look at me with scorn are overloaded.

Oh no! No! No! I never knew I would have kids to kill. I merely tried to carry out the orders from the Hill.

And two or three behind my back bush-leaguer called the ace. They are the beasts who always lack for simple human base.

But I... but I... I only pushed the trigger, trying my best, I didn't killed no kids, no babes... just hit the foe's nest

And only now I hit upon that I have played a tiger, That I myself appeared to be that goddamned killing trigger.

You see? The dawn is painting th' East. The Earth is tolling like the alarm bell. So tremble, thugs in th' Pentagon! He's coming, coming, the high Priest, And he will show you the road to Hell.

Requital's sentence I can hear: "The murderer, to death you're doomed yourself", And very soon you'll utter your last breath". ■

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## JAPAN IS REMILITARIZING AGAIN

Japan's move to rewrite its history is a cause of great concern both to North Korea and China. This is worrying because the present ruling clique governing Japan is tilting very heavily towards ultranationalism as it did before the outbreak of World War II.

Japan is rewriting the history now and it is unrepentant towards its neighbors which Japan attacked and proceeded with genocide. All of the present school textbooks are completely whitewashed with lies about the past. Militarism is growing alarmingly and all this is of course under the guiding hand of US imperialism.

Last year Japan spent over \$41.5 billion on its military, second only to the US itself. ■

## BETTER LATE THAN NEVER!

On the second day of the AFL-CIO convention in July of 2005, it took a historic step - calling for a rapid withdrawal of US troops from Iraq and an end to the country's occupation.

Yes that is a great step, but - why not call for the withdrawal and ending of the occupation of Afghanistan? They could have started also the process of impeaching Bush as a war criminal!

AFL-CIO for far too long was the lackey of US imperialism and its aim of the New World Order! ■

## COLD WAR HEATING UP

In a Statement made by the "Political Commission of the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe" - it is preparing a Report on the "Need for International Condemnation of Communism". This is to be presented at its regular session in October of this year. In this Statement is the following:

*"Whereas the criminal and condemnable character of Nazi ideology and regime has been condemned, but the communist ideology has been spared this condemnation. The crimes of communism rarely have been*

*subject to public prosecution and many of its leaders have not been brought to justice. Communist Parties are still active and communist symbols are still used openly, and awareness of communist crimes is very poor. The education of the young generation must be started to show the full criminality of communism."* ■

## AMERICAN TERROR

By CHRIS FLOYD

*From this very extensive article on the subject, we just quote some items due to space reasons. Editor*

There is a secret Pentagon plan to foment terrorism by sending covert agents to infiltrate terrorist groups and goad them into action - in other words, committing acts of murder and destruction. This plan is in action now under the guidance of Defense Secretary Donald Rumsfeld.

These covert units in countries of the world - include the Pentagon's own funded terrorist groups and hit squads - will be operating outside the constraints of law and morality. "We're going to be riding with the bad boys," one Pentagon insider told the inner circle of the media. Another likened it to the balmy days of Reagan-Bush years: **"Do you remember our sponsored right-wing execution squads in El Salvador? We founded them and we financed them. The objective now is to recruit locals in any part around the world we want. And we are not going to tell the US Congress about it!"**

President Bush has already budgeted \$500 million to fund local paramilitaries and guerrilla groups in the most volatile parts of the world, a measure that will produce needless bloodshed, destruction and suffering for innocent people already ravaged by local conflicts.

The next target is Iran, where US forces are already conducting military reconnaissance in preparation for strikes against the alleged Iran's nuclear facilities.

US now stands very openly for terrorism in a so-called "fight against terrorism". They are for Hitler-like

terror, and for his principles of war. The US has fallen into a bottomless pit - and trying to take the world to go with it - unless mankind unites to defeat this "born again" Brown Plague of Fascism! ■

## BULGARIANS HIRED AS MOVING DECOYS BY US ARMY EXERCISE IN BULGARIA

By GROUP FOR CIVIL PROTEST

For a couple of weeks the US military exercise called "Immediate Reply 2005" was holding this military training exercise near the village of Novo Selo in Eastern Bulgaria.

We were informed that these 500 US combat troops had been fighting in Iraq, and using the US tanks called "Bradley" which are the ones that are used.

The local press reported also that local Bulgarians were used in this military exercise. For a daily fee of about \$20, these locals were reported as "contributing to the creation of conditions close to the realities of an actual battle. These locals are used as running bait and decoys for the US army soldiers." Of course there were casualties.

How kind it is for the only super power to assign such a role to Bulgaria, which is an ally of US imperialism. How dignified it is for the present regime of Bulgaria to willingly accept such an assignment!?

This comment is necessary, since the majority of these Bulgarian citizens, who are destitute, no work to be had, are Gypsies - this may well explain this US and Bulgarian tactic of expedience in using exactly them as civilian target simulations during this war exercise!

On the other hand, this might just be the glorious "Decade of Roma Integration" program as announced by the multibillionaire George Soros in Sofia, Bulgaria earlier this year, who represents the World Bank, the IMF and US imperialism. ■

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HAVE A VIEW? WRITE!

# VENEZUELA THREATENS TO CUT OIL TO THE USA

Anadolu News Agency-Turkey

President Chavez stood as a witness at a symbolic "Anti-Imperialist Court" in Caracas and said: "We do not want to spoil our relations with the US, but if attacks continue, mutual relations will be affected by them. Washington's molestation may cause more serious problems; our two oil tankers going to US each day may go to another country...North American market is not compulsory to us."

Venezuela exports 1.5 million barrels of oil to the US each day. ■

## OIL EMBARGO BEST RESPONSE TO USA

TEHRAN: "Oil is the lifeline of the West, and most of the West's military industries are dependent on it. Therefore it is the most potent economic weapon for settling scores with the neocolonialist countries."

The "Tehran Times" criticized the "Atomic Energy Commission (IAEA) resolution against Iran. This is meant to meet the objectives of the Zionist regime and the United States."

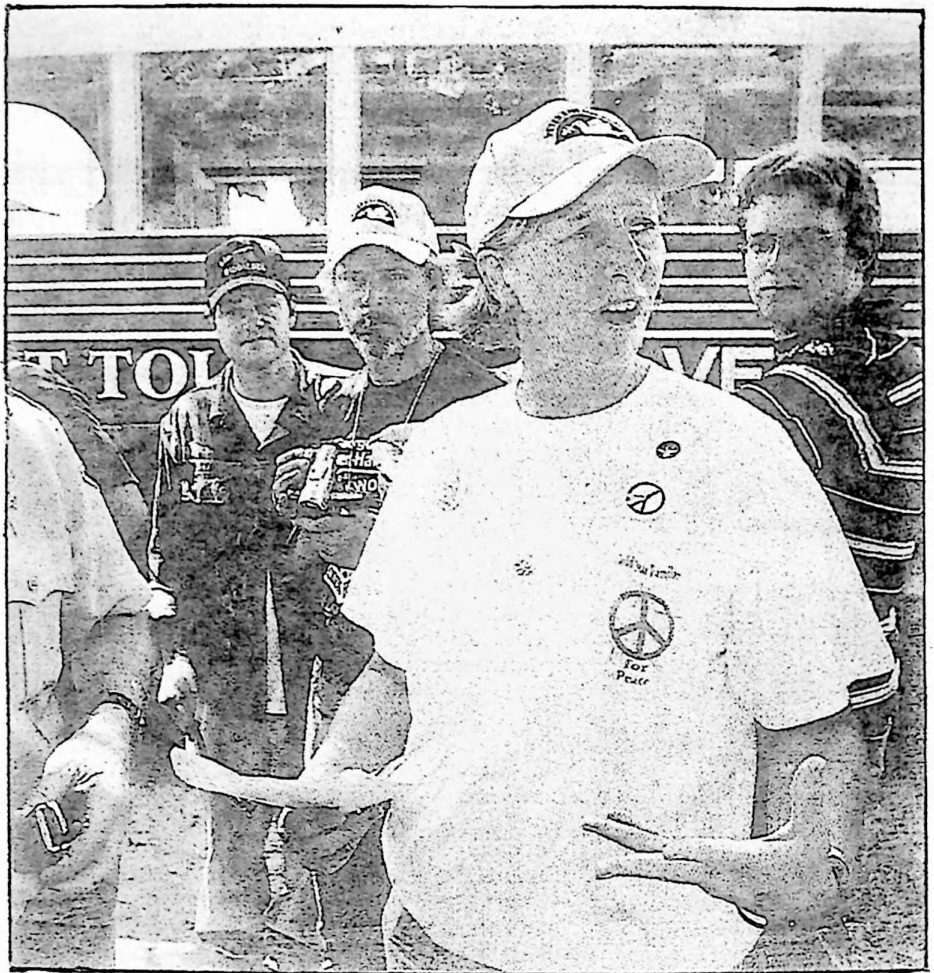
"Islamic countries must unite and formulate a political strategy to respond to Western neocolonialist countries, since the efforts to prevent Iran from accessing nuclear technology are the first step to prevent Islamic and Third World countries from developing this vital technology" – warned the newspaper in conclusion. ■

## EVERY MOTHER'S SON

By STEPHEN KING –TRUTHOUT

George W. Bush hauled stakes for Texas and a vacation a few weeks ago. Cindy Sheehan followed. She got off the bus and started walking to Bush's Crawford Ranch. She wanted some answers from Bush and was going to get them.

Sheehan met Mr. Bush once before. On April 4, 2004, just shy of a year after Bush stood on an aircraft



carrier beneath a banner that read "Mission Accomplished". Cindy Sheehan's son, US Army Specialist Casey A. Sheehan, was killed in Iraq when his unit was attacked. He was 24 years old.

After Casey's death, Cindy Sheehan was invited to the White House for a visit with Mr. Bush in June of 2004. Her first memory of Bush's appearance that day was when he walked into the room, and said in a loud, bluff voice, "Who we'all honorin' today?"

"His mouth kept moving", Sheehan later recalled of her meeting with Bush, "but there was nothing in his eyes or anything else about him, that showed me that he really cared or had any real compassion at all. He is a human being totally disconnected from humanity and reality. His eyes were empty, hollow shells". Bush called her "Mom" or "Ma" throughout the whole meeting and never got serious to even ask or to bother to ask her name.

"The whole meeting was simply bizarre and disgusting, designed to intimidate instead of providing

compassion. He did not want to know even our names. I just could not believe that this was happening. Later I met with some of the other fifteen families who were at the White House and, sure enough, they felt the same as I did."

Because of this Cindy Sheehan became an activist. She traveled and spoke very widely. She always said that her son Casey was told that he would be welcomed to Iraq by the people as a great liberator with chocolates and rose petals strewn in front of his armored Humvee. He was in Iraq for only two weeks when the Iraqis welcomed him with bullets, which took his young life.

She received lots of press, but most of it was vicious and attacked her expose of Bush's war on Iraq and his lies

Casey Sheehan was every mother's son. Cindy Sheehan is every son's mother. She loved him and mourns his absence in every second of every day. She refuses to see Bush's lackeys at the Ranch. She wants to speak to the man directly who sent her son to die.

**She is still waiting!** ■

## IRAQ: The Nemesis of Imperialism

Economic & Political Weekly (India)  
EPW Commentary  
July 16, 2005

*The colonial pillage of Iraq has also exposed the soft economic underbelly of American imperialism that is battling for its own survival, living off borrowed time and other people's borrowed money. What the imperial genocide in Iraq has unmasked is the extent to which it is a giant with feet of clay with its shrinking uncompetitive industries and thrashing in a storm-tossed sea of debt.*

**Frederic F Clairmont**

The colonial invasion of Iraq and the ugliest of lies of the lie machine that propagated and justified these barbarous acts will forever remain among the greatest and unpardonable crimes against humanity.

—Jose Luis Zapatero, Prime minister of Spain.

A vastly shrunken, unrepentant and dishonourable Blair has scraped to power in the shallowest of victories but in so doing he has once again been subjected to the obloquy of his people, and been exposed the world, in the words of one Labour backbencher, as 'one of the most ignominious political swindlers of all times'. These are the strongest of words that can be used to delineate a squalid political opportunist who shoved his nation into the cruellest of wars on grounds that were criminally false. Bush, his co-conspirator, had earlier also won an election, if it is worthy of being called that, at a price tag of \$ 4 bn. A woefully corrupt administration battered by the advancing tide of national liberation is also floundering in a military quagmire joined to one of the biggest fiscal and external payments crisis, the notorious twin deficits, that have ever afflicted the nation.

There is yet a third actor that was 'elected' or rather selected by the colonial occupation. The raison

d'etre of this puppet regime is not the pursuit of democracy as its creators contend but, as servants of foreign rule, to execute the orders of the occupation that shows no signs of tailing off. Its freedom of manoeuvre is non-existent as it is incarcerated within the confines of a 'Green Zone', located in the epicentre of Baghdad, which is a razor-wired sand bagged purgatory from which its quislings cannot leave save under heavily guarded convoys and which invariably are under merciless onslaughts by the resistance. Their life expectancy is of short duration for all must be aware that, as a servant class, they are dependent on a white alien colonial master whose major project has never wavered: the conquest of the country's energy resources.

### Faluja

The city will remain forever enshrined in the Pantheon of national liberation struggles. A once beautiful and model city, the size of Geneva (3,200,000), has been reduced to rubble. Hospitals, places of worship, schools, infirmaries, social centres were obliterated. Apache helicopters, fighter-bombers, napalm, tanks, artillery and depleted uranium ammunition were flung against a defenceless people. The US was the only country that did not ratify the 1980 convention that banned the use of napalm, a deadly cocktail of polystyrene and jet fuel. Battling this armada was a resistance with only small arms and mortars. They were faced with the military elite of the colonial expeditionary force: the US Marines, the Black Watch, Ukrainian and Polish mercenaries and others. A city defended by a handful of resistance fighters who finally were not defeated or captured but vanished across the Tigris. Dozens of individuals bled to death because medical personnel had been forcibly removed from the city. The resistance before and after Faluja has gone from strength to strength and their numbers, now estimated by one Pentagon source at around 2,000,000, include men, women and children of all ages and all ideological persuasions. Military repression was matched by the

grimmest of torture regimes not seen since the darkest days of the US occupation of Vietnam. This is how *The New York Times* put it: "Euphemisms, like renditions, coercive interrogations and water-booming entered the lexicon of the torturers. The abuses of Abu Ghraib seemed mind-boggling at the time turned out to be symptomatic of the torture, abuse of the institutionalised injustice that have permeated the operations of the Bush administration in its so-called war against terror."<sup>1</sup> The torture chambers erected during and after the battle for Faluja and Abu Ghraib were test benches of new techniques as were those in the concentration camp of Guantanamo.

Historical parallels are meant to give us a deeper understanding of the flow of historical forces. There are no carbon copies in history and this is no less valid for Iraq and Vietnam. The dissimilarities are many but of central significance is that both represent the striving of enslaved colonial peoples for freedom.

### Cost of War Machine

In subsequent sections, we shall examine how the imperial machine is being battered by its own weighty contradictions and policies. The Himalayan costs of its war machine, like the nation's external accounts, has gone berserk. The \$420 bn military budget for 2006 has risen steadily. A number that excludes an additional \$89 bn approved by congress for the pursuit of the Afghan-Iraqi war. And, obviously, it does not include the astronomic sums for the 15 spy organisations now corralled under the command of the empire's new super spymaster, John Negroponte, second viceroy of Iraq. Seen in another grotesque perspective, the US is shelling out more than the combined arms outlays of the next 17 countries, unparalleled in the annals of military history. The scale of the insanity is boundless, disclosed in the Pentagon's project for 'the unbeatable robotic army'.

The Pentagon intends to invest tens of billions of dollars for the



creation of fully automated armed forces with the seemingly innocuous title: 'Future Combat System', which does not include military expenditures in the occupied countries of the Middle East. It's the fattest military contract in American history. The rationale of this drive is to reinforce its global conquests. The marketing show has been launched. In the words of one of its promoters: "Let me remind you that these robots don't get hungry", waxes General Gordon Johnson of the Joint Force Command. "They are not afraid. They do not forget their orders. They don't care if the guy next to them has just been shot. They are far cheaper. And, yes, they do a better job than humans." This peddler of imperial rectitude reminds us that these robots born of nano-technology – the science of very small structures – may move like humans or hummingbirds, tractors or tanks, cockroaches or crickets.

The costs of the arms build-up will drive the defence department's budget to \$530 bn in 2010. The military debacle of the US colonial expeditionary force and their string of satraps in Iraq is inextricably correlated to imperialism's febrile financial and productive structures: soaring debt at all levels, too much money chasing too few profitable investment outlets, overproduction and excess capacity. It is an irreversible systemic crisis of capital accumulation that can no longer be shovelled under the rug of denial by sanctimonious mantras of official claims and their echoes in their servile mediatic lie machine.

The starting point of this brief analysis is the US balance of payments, specifically the US current account deficit (CAD) which is the gap between what the nation spends and what it produces or, in more technical jargon, the combined balances on trade in goods and services, income and net unilateral current transfers. It is but one significant facet of the torments of imperialism. The CAD, now veering out of control has been in the red for more than two decades, with the single exception of 1990. Stemming from the maulings of unstoppable

deficits the empire has been metamorphosed from a once robust net international investor in the 1970s to the world's biggest debtor. These chronic deficits have to be financed by net foreign purchases of US stocks and securities, foreign investment and by borrowing on international financial markets.

The extent of US indebtedness to the rest of the world is seen in the net international investment position (NIIP). This has rocketed from \$320 bn (1995) slated to scale \$3.7 trillion by the end of 2005, or a compound growth rate of 28 per cent. What is no less unmanageable is the US total debt financing requirements that stood at \$827 bn in 2004<sup>2</sup> which has grown yearly at a compound rate of over 50 per cent. With real short-term interest rates hovering around zero but which are set to rise, the honeymoon days of dirt free borrowing are drawing to a close. What is now ominous is the world's central banks are now offloading for the first time since September 2002 a part of the mountain of their dollar reserve accumulation. In my view in the very short run this trickle has all the potential of turning into a flood.

### Ocean of Debt

The imperial economy is floundering in a turbulent ocean of debt; living off borrowed time and parasitically of foreign borrowed money, markedly so in the case of Asian central banks. The term mendicancy is apt to depict its grasping addiction to foreign handouts. Outstanding national public debt of the US at end March 2005 was \$7.789 bn slightly more than two-thirds of GDP, soaring on an average at \$2.3 bn daily since September 30, 2004. In the 1990s, \$2.8 trillion of new debt was created that dwarfed the national debt prior to 1990. A further \$1.6 bn was piled in 2002-04. Per capita federal government debt is running at around \$25,000. According to US treasury data, that indicates that a family of four is strapped with over \$100,000 of federal debt, inseparable from the ever-expanding black hole of the twin deficits and the never-ending state of apoplectic indebtedness.

What we are witnessing is a lethal spiral of the external deficit as the CAD advances relentlessly day-by-day, week-by-week, month-by-month and stands at 7 per cent of GDP, up briskly from 4.3 per cent one year ago. The voraciously debt-addicted empire needs \$2.9 bn every working day to plug this hole. In just the first three months of 2005, the average annualised trade deficit was \$33 bn higher than the corresponding period of 2004. Excluding oil prices the deterioration is striking. One devastating number alone encapsulates its dilemma: imports outpace exports by 60 per cent which means that US exports must grow 60 per cent faster than US imports just to keep the trade deficit stable. There's no stratagem that the US oligarchy can deploy to wiggle out of this stranglehold. Particularly at this strategic juncture when capitalism's manufacturing base, the once legendary smokestack America, is quivering at its industrial and financial roots. Over the 35-year time frame, 1970-2005, factory employment plunged from 33 per cent to less than 14 per cent today. Nor can currency manipulation and the greenback's hyper-devaluation redress the CAD.

How this works out in the ongoing war for the imperialist division and conquest of world market shares is grasped in the illuminating case history of Daimler-Chrysler's project (together with its Chinese joint venture partners) to produce subcompact cars for the US and Europe. Its executive director is ecstatic about the lush pickings of the beckoning El Dorado when he gloats, "China has a big, big, big advantage as far as labour costs are concerned". The word 'big' could be bellowed a thousand times because the comparative labour costs ratios speak for themselves. Wages and benefits cost Daimler Chrysler 38 euros in Germany (1:25) an hour, 28 in the US (1:19), 4.5 in Brazil (1:3) and 1.5 in China. Lower labour costs are just part of the story: what's dazzling and often glossed over is China's productivity strides due to the drastic reduction in its labour manufacturing unit costs.

As we have stressed ad nauseam it is a totally bogus proposition in the light of a stricken dollar, the rocketing budget and external payments deficits to label the US the world's paramount economic power save in a very constricted macroeconomic sense.

Deficits are bankrolled by foreign central banks that are recycling their swelling foreign exchange reserves into dollar denominated assets. The game is coming to an end. Their goal is clear: to accept sub par returns to enhance their currency's competitiveness and sustain their export drives. With a near-zero personal saving rate and an unprecedented shortfall of national saving, the US current account and trade deficits are a huge suction pump for sucking in foreign capital. The capital providers that are saving the skin of American capitalism emanate overwhelmingly (apart from Japan) from the savings of third world countries. Indeed, US is appropriating four-fifths of our planet's savings.

What has cushioned the debt's impact is that interest rates in real terms, until quite recently, have hovered around zero. The federal funds rate is 2.7 per cent, which is less than the yearly increase of the consumer price index (3.1 per cent). These rising interest rates must inevitably boost US internal costs as well as have an impact on external costs. The real federal funds interest rate is now slowly clambering above the zero threshold after residing for more than three years in negative territory.

Here is a nation that flaunts its moral rectitude in and out of season but, as universally recognised, it's the beneficiary of inflows of foreign cash from poor countries. This is a form of economic aid on a scale the world has never seen. The Marshall Plan (which was repaid with interest) was a one-shot trifling sum compared to the sheer non-stop magnitude of these gigantic capital inflows. Without these injections of financial muscle American capitalism would be subject to a meltdown of horrendous scale. Because of the dollar's erosion the purchasing power of these foreign

owned assets is also shrinking. That's the big contrast with the halcyon age of imperialism from the 1890s to 1914, when the imperial powers basked in surpluses.

### Role of Capital Inflows

These capital inflows are not only propping up the US economy but provide it with the wherewithal to finance its war machine and pursue its ceaseless imperial aggrandisement. The current huge money inflows funding the CAD cannot be a thing of fixity. It raises the spectre of US default that could be branded the balance of financial terror that will involve catastrophic consequences both for the impecunious debtor and its lenders. To argue, as many have done, that the economy is on a perilous and unsustainable course is to trivialise the depth and scale of capitalism's crises. Rather, it would be more accurate to contend that it is well on the road to financial bankruptcy for which there is no exit strategy on the horizon.

According to the findings of Nouriel Roubini of New York University, for the last two years about three quarters of the US fiscal deficit was financed mostly by China and Asian banks; the entire fiscal deficit was funded from abroad; and four-fifths of the CAD was bankrolled by Asian banks, with China a prime activist. A rupture of these financial flows would lead to the dollar's implosion, a collapse of real estate prices, a vast speed-up of household and corporate bankruptcies. This is tantamount to a socio-economic upheaval whose global reach has not been experienced since the Great Depression of the 1930s, and whose potential carnage could be even more apocalyptic due to the size, growth and interrelatedness of international capitalism since the depression.

Notwithstanding that the trade weighted dollar dived by 20 per cent in real terms since 2002 it proved unable to dent the deficit. Rocketing twin deficits moved in concert with rising debt levels. The US external deficit stands at \$ 670 bn, which means that US households, capitalists, and the public sector on

net have to fork out \$ 670 bn on international capital markets. By normal accounting procedures, a negative balance in the current account must be matched by a positive balance in the capital account. US imperialism is a bleeding sore: a CAD from \$ 120 bn in 1996 to \$ 414 bn in 2000 to \$ 670 bn in 2005 with no signs of flagging. American forecaster, Brad Seltzer audaciously predicts that the CAD will be propelled to a hitherto unimaginable \$ 850-\$ 900 bn by end 2005. If this comes to pass it would, in my view, be a leap into the abyss from which there is no return.

There are no precedents of any country running deficits for more than four to five years. By this standard, the US borrowing binge and its deficit should have fizzled out a long time ago. Such was not to be because US imperialism is able to achieve this tour de force of barefaced global manipulation of financial markets because the dollar, as the monetary fist of the empire's power, is still the world's reserve currency, although decreasingly so, buttressed by a totally unaccountable monopoly on printing greenbacks with impunity.

For how long foreigners will continue to pump their money into the black hole remains problematical. Foreign holdings of US treasury bonds for example, as a per cent of total debt, has jumped from a trifling 4.3 per cent in 1952 to 52 per cent in 2005, more than a 104 fold increase. This rabid addiction to foreign handouts was matched by an attendant fall in the US net asset position.

Net foreign borrowing equals the excess of US capital investment over the combined savings of households, capitalists and the public sector. Hence the CAD equals the excess of investment over saving. The CAD is a direct outgrowth of a fall in net national US saving that is now plunging to zero. Hit by rising interest rates, stagnant real wages and record levels of overall household debt, American households, on average, are crushed with an aggregate household debt of \$10.6 trillion or 90 per cent of GDP, one-fifth larger since the mid-1990s. And thus the

income strapped, saving short, overly indebted, asset addicted American consumer is dangling on the ropes. Precisely for this reason the credit and housing bubbles are poised to burst.

We can get a clearer focus of its operations when we realise that American households, on average, possess nearly eight major bankcards or 17 including store and gas cards. Buffeted by the acquisitiveness of a capitalist society the consumer is an asset-addicted spending machine driven to operate on the principle of buy now pay later. Rising debt and falling savings have fuelled domestic demand and consumption that continue to outstrip GDP and gains in real disposable income.

Is this not emblematic of a country grovelling in skid row on borrowed money? Foreign goods are plugging the shortfall. The households being financed by the both the equity and housing bubbles have made this possible. According to the US commerce department, households have piled on record unsustainable debt loads obtaining their purchasing power from the equity and housing bubble made possible by an accommodating monetary policy. It is this, which has driven the rise in US consumption from around the historic 65 per cent to 71 per cent of GDP over the last two decades.

Within the citadel of empire, there reigns a deep-seated malaise that at times borders on a sense of dread. Bedevilled by conflicting interests a ruling caste oligarchy is never homogeneous. As the empire's crisis symptoms become more glaring, leading inexorably to its eventual crash, there are voices to be heard proclaiming that the day of reckoning is at hand. Warren Buffet, the second richest man in the world according to the tally of Forbes magazine and dubbed in Wall Street 'the king of the money bags' proclaims his dire warnings.

As one of the world's leading corporate moguls with tens of billions embedded in dozens of the world's top 200 corporate behemoths, he is aware of the implacable logic, complexity, crookedness of the corporate and

national economic balance sheets. His critique is, in effect, an admonition to the ruling caste oligarchy, of which he is the pillar of pillars, that the nation is being shoved to the wall. The major thrust of his argument is that "should we continue to run CADs comparable to those now prevailing, the net ownership of the US by other countries and their citizens a decade from now will amount to roughly \$ 11 trillion. And, if foreign investors were to earn only 5 per cent on that net holding, we would need to send a net of \$ 0.55 trillion of goods and services abroad every year merely to service the US investments then held by foreigners... Therefore our US 'family' would then be delivering 3 per cent of its annual output to the rest of the world simply as tribute to the over indulgences of the past." No fight here.

The point that Buffet makes is at once pedestrian and straightforward: "Large and persistent CADs as time passes and as claims against us grow, mean that we own less and less of what we produce. In effect the rest of the world enjoys an ever-growing royalty on American output. Here we are like 'a family' that overspends its income. As time passes, the family finds that it is working more and more for the 'finance company' and less for itself."

In his folksy moralising the Sage of Omaha has captured one of the fundamentals of a crisis-ridden capitalist order that can be likened to a drunk staggering from one lamp post to another. I shall not contest his arithmetic and his unrealistic time frame of a decade, but what strikes us is the anguish he brings to bear on the empire's wobbly financial structure. From his vantage point at the pinnacle of the ruling class, he is ideally positioned to mock Bush's nostrum of 'An Ownership Society' and asserts, without tongue in cheek, that the mounting level of indebtedness and fiscal debauchery is tearing at the guts of the American economy and should be more fittingly branded as a 'Sharecroppers Society'.

Paul Krugman of Princeton University, and *New York Times* columnist, in his departure from Buffet's metaphorical depiction opts for the harsher turn of phrase: 'a Debt Peonage' social order. The debate however goes beyond a choice of metaphor; of central importance is that major segments of the ruling caste and their media ventriloquist dummies are aware that American capitalism is heading at a breakneck tempo towards the inevitable crash. A process that is visible in the absence of faith in the economic system by many Americans. Two-thirds of Americans polled by Gallup say that the economy is only 'fair' or 'poor'. And only 33 per cent believe the economy is improving, while 60 per cent think it's getting worse. Inequalities are not a cause of the crisis, but symptomatic of the workings of capital accumulation, and the propertied class relations on which it is based.

Over the past three years profits burgeoned at an annual rate of 14.5 per cent after inflation, the fastest growth since second world war. Need we be astonished? Berkshire Hathaway's CEOs Warren Buffett once again: "Tax breaks for corporations (and their investors, particularly large ones) are a major part of the administration's initiatives. If class warfare is being waged in America, my class is clearly winning." It certainly is. Executive pay is rising sharply about 300 times that of average workers.<sup>3</sup> The numbers of US unionists have plummeted from 27.3 per cent in 1973 to 11.6 per cent of the workforce at present.

Noam Chomsky has underscored this truth in a scintillating synthesis: "There is a very simple principle that goes a long way towards explaining decisions of the Bush administration. If some policy is beneficial to wealth, privilege and power, it should be promoted. If some policy is beneficial to the large majority of the population but of no particular concern (or even marginally costly) to wealth, privilege and power, it should be undermined." A truth extendable not merely to the loathsome ruling



caste, but exemplifies the exploitative political, economic and social mechanisms that are the drive wheels of American capitalism since its parturition in the 18th century.

The class struggle has not been consigned to the ash cans of history. Over the past three years, wage and salary incomes grew less than in any other post-war recovery – less than a 10th as fast as profits. Wages have stagnated or decreased for the entire working class. Wage income has been partially buoyed up by the classical methods of extending the length of the working day far beyond those prevailing in all leading capitalist countries. This is coupled to a further squeezing of real incomes by labour saving rationalisation measures. In short, the old story: squeezing the worker to produce more and more for less and less wage outlays.

As the costs of imperial crimes surges in the colonies and the wretched inequalities and impoverishment engendered by the unrestrained profit-driven Moloch bites into the flesh of an increasingly enfeebled non-unionised world of labour, the trajectory of empire and its works promises to become even more grisly.

#### **In Sum**

The decline and fall of empires, as Edward Gibbon said, is never imputable to a single cause but to a concatenation of interrelated strands. A statement no less true of the ongoing implosion of the world's first mega terrorist empire. Indubitably historians will come to regard the colonial invasion of Iraq as one of the tilting points in the debacle of empire. It conforms to the central doctrine of Hegel's philosophy of history: "out of the actions of men comes something quite different from what they intend and directly know and will". A point that bears analogy with Hitler's greatest crime with its self-destructive reverberations: the assault on the Soviet Union. None could have foreseen what Egyptian novelist Hosni El Shazli baptised, the miracle of the Arab resistance movement in Iraq.

None also could have envisaged the isolation of the empire in just two short years after 'victory' had been proclaimed. Bush stands alone: a desperate and forlorn figure. The taunt of a triumphant George Galloway to Blair that "all the people you have killed have come back to haunt you". It will not go away. It is tantamount to an indictment that is true not merely of Bush's most trusted jackal, but applies to the wider assortment of his fellow colonial killers that spuriously advertised themselves as a 'coalition of the willing'. They, too, are jumping the moribund ship of empire. It is therefore only a matter of time before the perpetrators of these mass crimes against humanity are brought before a War Crimes tribunal.

The struggle for the national liberation of Iraq has meant that the empire has proved unable to stem the Promethean tide of change not only in the Middle East but elsewhere. The planned military invasions in Cuba and Venezuela, thanks to Iraq, will remain the deactivated projects in the Pentagon's archives. They have stymied the opening of a second front in the very traditional colonial backyards of imperialism. These countries that are battling for their national sovereignty will not crumble in the manner of El Salvador or Nicaragua, Guatemala or Chile. The resistance fighters in Iraq have also massively contributed to nullify the project of invasion and annihilation of Iran and North Korea. No less crucial is that the upshot of the military cataclysm in Iraq has destroyed the blueprint for the creation of Greater Israel, a super Zionist state, and aborted the wholesale appropriation of the region's prodigious energy resources.

The colonial pillage of Iraq has also exposed the soft economic underbelly of American imperialism that is battling for its own survival, living off borrowed time and other people's borrowed money. What the imperial genocide in Iraq has unmasked is the extent to which it is a giant with feet of clay with its shrinking uncompetitive industries and thrashing in a storm-tossed sea

of debt. The cruellest cut of all is that it has neither an exit military strategy nor a national economic survival strategy.

For the bulk of humanity there is a positive thrust to all this. Imperialism's debacle on the military, ideological and economic fronts has opened the floodgates to the sweeping expansion of other anti-imperialist fronts. In this perception of things, the onslaughts of the resistance fighters in Iraq have provided the catalyst for the unravelling of the imperial gulag.

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#### **Notes**

1. *The New York Times*, April 29, 2004.
2. This is the aggregate of the CAD, portfolio equity and net foreign direct investment. This is the estimate of BIS.
3. *The Financial Times*, May 4, 2005.

### **CHINESE "SOCIALISM"?**

Chinese ruling class is now importing Butlers from Britain to Shanghai, through a private Chinese company, in order to bring local maids up to snuff in the British tradition.

Maids and Nannies, known in China as "ayis" are commonly employed in the cities to handle housekeeping and child care for the wealthy Chinese. This is thanks to a huge supply of cheap labour available from the Chinese countryside.

### **RUSSIA TO EXHIBIT 100 MODELS OF WEAPONS IN VENEZUELA**

The International Exhibition in Venezuela will feature unrivaled submarine model 950 Amur, a Patrol ship noted for its powerful weapons plus a SI-39 assault aircraft and other latest technological advances. These weapons are for Venezuelan sea, land and air defense.

## WHAT IS TO BE DONE?

By ROD BOWKER

An old Slavic tale tells us about an elderly man who knew that his life was ending and who wanted to leave his family affairs in good shape. One evening he summoned his seven sons for a discussion around the fire and said: "My sons, I am going to die soon and I worry about your constant quarrels. I worry about your disunity and you are not listening to me. This may be the last warning to you before I close my eyes forever."

His sons watched attentively as he pulled a bundle of seven straight twigs from a pile of firewood and started to explain. "There is one twig for each one of you here. Together you are a mighty force. No matter how I try to break this bundle I cannot do it, but look how easily I can break them one by one!"

He then started to break them separately until they were all a pile of worthless firewood and threw them into the fire. The sons saw the seriousness of his actions, kissed and hugged each other and promised to take heed of the lesson, and their father lived long enough to reassure himself.

Likewise, we are a family at the crossroads. Our post Soviet political scene is filled with various communist parties and movement, that it reminds us of the "seven sons", before the fire talk. According to some estimates, there are about 70 communist and socialist parties in Russia alone, and the capitalists and imperialists hope that their number will grow even bigger. There is no doubt that this is the result of strong nostalgia for the resurrection of the Soviet Union on the one hand, and the capitalist-imperialist hope that this will never happen. Are we going to learn from our mistakes, or ignore them? Are we going to listen more to "Happy Birthdays" songs to the new communist parties from the Pentagon, the CIA and Wall Street capitalists, or are we going to unite into mighty resolute chorus and sing

them a requiem?

It is all up to us. Most of the people in former Soviet Republics are desperate and they feel cheated by what they got after the break-up of the USSR, and, no one was asked if the Soviet people wanted the break-up of the Soviet Union to take place! We know now for certain that most Soviet people polled for their opinion stated that the break-up of the Soviet Union was a great tragedy. Even President Putin had to state the same thing. But, he forgot to say whether he also felt cheated or whether he participated in the cheating?

It would be a mistake to assume that we are back at the same stage as we were in 1917 in Russia, but it would be even more false to pretend that there is no hope. Many factors are dissimilar today, though many fundamentals remain as true today as in 1905 and in 1917. What is different is the wealth of historical experience available for us today, that was not there for the Bolsheviks in 1917 and thereafter. True, we do not now have Lenin or after that Stalin to lead us, but we have the wisdom, we have the strategy and organizational experience to guide us in our analysis.

Our comrades do not have to invent any new principles - they just have to apply the immutable historical lessons to contemporary conditions. These lessons were arrived at through trial and error and the application of a dialectical thought. We can skip the errors today and proceed to dialectical thinking. Perhaps the best piece of literature where those thoughts are explained is in the "Leftwing Communism, an Infantile Disorder", by none other than V. I. Lenin. Particularly in Russia today as well as in other former Soviet republics with many fragmented proletarian movements, it would certainly be useful to hear what Lenin had to say about the German revolutionary movement and its mistakes:

"This is a long process, and hasty "decisions", "No compromise", "No maneuvers" - can only hinder the work of strengthening the influence

of the revolutionary proletariat and enlarging its forces."

Lenin not only talks about proletarian unity there, but, he also explains the wisdom of temporary strategic co-operation with parties and unions, which are of different political persuasion. If such cooperation with hostile groups is possible, why should it not be possible with groups and parties of same ideology? Comrade Lenin has taught us that sometimes the best of intentions lead to worst results, and we have just such a situation in former USSR and in Russia in particular now. It will take a leader like Lenin or Stalin to turn things around. The ball will not find its way into the goal without some skilful legwork. Here is what V.I. Lenin said on page 56 of the same book:

*"The whole point lies in knowing how to apply these tactics in such a way as to raise, and not lower, the general level of proletarian consciousness, revolutionary spirit and the ability to fight and conquer. Incidentally, it should be noted that the victory of the Bolsheviks over the Mensheviks demanded the application of tactics and manoeuvres, arrangements and compromises, of course, as would facilitate, accelerate, consolidate and strengthen the Bolsheviks at the expense of the Mensheviks."*

**Comrades, we have a lot to learn! Let us not waste any time! Unite to win!**

*\*V.I. Lenin -Left Wing Communism an Infantile Disorder - p.57 - International Publishers, New York 1972*

## THE LIAR IS CORNERED

Just like a common criminal, President George W. Bush continues to think that if he keeps on lying, he will escape the coming avalanche of truth. In the story written in the newspaper "Globe and Mail" August 12, 2005, Toronto, Canada, was the following:

*"The American President is afraid of a dead soldier's mother, Cindy*

Sheehan, who is demonstrating and asking to meet him at his Crawford Ranch in Texas. In an effort to avoid the truth in the face, this powerful US President feels cornered in his sanctuary and is forced to use helicopters to enter and leave his ranch. What is he afraid of? (-----) You have 5 spaces to fill the letters in – and this is all that Mrs. Sheehan wants of him!"

**"All we're asking is that President Bush sacrifice an hour out of his five-week vacation, to talk to us before the next US mother loses her son in Iraq!"**

This president was never so stingy with words and time when he talked about the non-existent Weapons of Mass Destruction in Iraq, but now he cannot meet a grieving Mother who has come to see him for one hour. Perhaps this Mother is of no use to him anymore, he would rather talk to another mother who still has a live son for his dirty war, but Mrs. Sheehan just wants this president to live up to his pronouncements:

*"The President said that he feels compassion for me, but the best way to show that compassion is by meeting with me and the other mothers and families who are here demonstrating at the Crawford Texas ranch!"*- said Mrs. Sheehan.

We all know that this US president can fake any emotion, so that is not the reason he is afraid to meet this lady, and he is surely surrounded by security people to make certain that he cannot be harmed.

Though this Mother is not a politician, she was able to see through some political deceit that this US president has perpetrated when she said: *"I don't believe his phony excuses for the Iraq war. This war is really about oil and to make his friends richer!"*

*(Pssst! She must have been reading Northstar Compass or should be from now on!)*

A US University academic has been watching this interesting political challenge and has summed it up in this way: *"Bush would not trust himself in a face-to-face meeting and neither would his staff. These guys like to control things,"* said Professor Jillson. *"This Mother's*

*protest in itself may not be that significant, but it comes at a time when many Americans are reconsidering their views of the Iraq war"*.

The newspaper Globe & Mail continued with: *"Unlike government leaders in a parliamentary system, who are challenged directly by their political opponents, Mr. Bush can easily shelter himself from any such confrontations."* The approval of Mr. Bush's handling of the conflict in Iraq has dropped to as little as 34 per cent of the people surveyed, according to a recent poll conducted by the US Newsweek Magazine.

Meanwhile, Mr. Bush is continuing his killing spree in Iraq as if the siege of his ranch is just a logistic and not a political problem. He hopes that the white flake of truth by the name of Cindy Sheehan will just melt away, never ever becoming a snowball that will cause an avalanche. He hopes that his lies will be more acceptable than this grieving Mother's truth, after all, on whose side is the US daily media anyway? His response to this Mother's challenge was just like Joseph Goebbels. Bush said the following:

*"Pulling troops out would send a terrible signal to the enemy—that the United States is weak and all we've got to do is intimidate and they'll leave."*

Dear Mr. Bush, we know that your agents read Northstar Compass, so we hope that you'll get this message. Your country lost the Vietnam War **(not you, because you hid from serving)** simply because the American people were lied to by *"Tricky Dick"* President Nixon, that the US was winning. If they had faced the truth and had not killed innocent students at Kent State University, who were demonstrating against that Vietnam War, maybe only 30,000 US soldiers would have died and not nearly 60,000. You are now exterminating children in Iraq, lying all the way to the Iraqi oil fields.

How cheap do you think American lives are? We know that you often read the bible and it seems that as in your days at Yale University, you read a book and get absolutely nothing out of it!

**PASS NSC TO A FRIEND AFTER YOU READ IT!**

**EVERYWHERE THE YANKS ARE – ITS ALWAYS "YANKEE GO HOME!"**







ACCORDING TO  
**MISHKA**

## A CRITIQUE!

By PHIL STEIN

US reader of Northstar Compass

Erwin Marquit's review of Moshe Lewin's *The Soviet Century* in the July 2005 *Political Affairs* and the one in the same vein in the June 4, 2005 *PWW*, while being rather thorough in pointing out the shortcomings in the faltering development of the Soviet Union from the time of its inception, it is to be noted that the omission of any mention of the role played in the final demise of the USSR by the extreme counterrevolutionary activity of the Russian bourgeoisie, intelligentsia, kulaks along with the subversive attacks of U.S. Imperialism. Failure is attributed by Marquit to "Stalin's precipitous and premature introduction of an over-centralized planned economy." So then, without any counterrevolutionary activity to contend with, Stalin must be working and ruling in a sanitized atmosphere, and has only himself, his greedy power-hungry self to blame for causing the Russian Revolution to fail so miserably. But then Marquit seems to be running away with his analysis of the problems. For he contradicts the author, the anti-Stalin Lewin, with whom he is enthralled even though Lewin's "view is heavily influenced by Trotsky and Isaac Deutscher", since Marquit points to the fact that Lewin "stresses the system's industrial and scientific achievements and the tremendous rise in living standards, education and culture." (*PWW*). This after condemning the "the over-centralized planned economy". Due to what Marquit calls a "premature...planned economy" he seems to be calling for some kind of alternative social organization or revisionism, not the go-it-alone socialism as was Lenin's decision. As Marquit proceeds in his

review it becomes clearer that this is not an objective analysis but rather takes advantage of the opportunity to still continue the incessant battle of the Bourgeoisie, after so many years of trashing Stalin. Speculations as the final word of truth are at every turn. He writes; "figures released about the first five year plan (now known to be falsified)". Must we take his word? The rewriting of history goes on as the bourgeoisie struggles to hold on to power. The rewriting they have control of is endless when it comes to Stalin. Put him down and you hold on to power. Historical truth collapses before propaganda. The number of counterrevolutionaries executed between 1937 and 1938 cited by Marquit in his *PWW* review (not mentioned in the *PA* review) and disclosed by the pro-capitalist KGB archives in Feb. 1990, is highly doubtful for such a large number of counterrevolutionaries to be sentenced to death in only two years. This would most likely be a number through the period from 1930 to 1953 and would include about half of that number as common criminals as the table of the American Historical Review of the USSR Custodial Population 1934 - 1953 indicates. But we all know that the day after the worker's revolution socialism is not born in all of its splendor. The day after the revolution the bourgeoisie, the intelligentsia, the kulaks all scurry about in panic, either to flee or assume new "revolutionary" identities while burrowing underground. One may be appalled by the mayhem, the number of executions, but consider the activities of this dedicated counterrevolutionary sector of the new society. Kenneth Neill Cameron has written to this point with great clarity: "But the question of numbers, however of imprisonments or deaths, is not the essential question. The basic issues are those of motivation and guilt. Why were these people arrested? What had they done? Why

was the penal code amended to secure swift arrest and imprisonment? The underlying, indeed sometimes outspoken thesis of Khrushchev, Medvedev, Conquest and others is that of a sadistic persecution of innocent people by an insane dictator. But this view smacks more of sensationalist journalism than social analysis. Moreover Stalin alone could not have initiated the prosecutions. Even if the whole Party leadership was not involved, the central leadership certainly was. At the time, this inner core of leaders included Molotov, Kaganovitch, Zhdanov, Voroshilov, and Manuilsky. Thus if the professional anti-Stalinists are to be believed, we are confronted with not one insane dictator but a group of insane dictators. When we consider the records of these men, their years of heroic revolutionary work and their determined struggle for socialist industrialism, it is clear that, mistaken or not, they must have believed they were acting in face of a threat to socialism. They were all responsible and serious men, not men who would persecute for the sake of persecution or who would lightly endorse executions." (Cameron - Stalin p. 12) Just to refresh our minds as to what counterrevolutionary activity was taking place to warrant the trials and executions, Cameron reminds us: "As we look over the history of the 1920s and 1930s in the USSR, one of these reasons quickly becomes apparent, namely massive sabotage in the mines, on the railways, in factories, in agriculture, in economic planning, in government. A picture of the extent of this sabotage emerged only in the trials of the various opposition leaders between 1936 and 1938, which revealed that sabotage was linked with plans for the destruction of the Soviet Union in War. These public trials of the 'opposition' leaders, however, had

revealed only the tip of the iceberg. They indicated the existence of followers everywhere – wrecking machinery, making the wrong parts, sending materials to the wrong places, poisoning farm animals, starting pit-fires in mines, planning railway sabotage to build up to immobilization of the railways in the coming war. Nor was the sabotage only physical. Economic plans were deliberately distorted, government documents lost, statistics faked – actions which could cause widespread disruptions in a planned economy. Furthermore, this sabotage, which appears to be the most massive in history, was coordinated with Nazi and Japanese war plans and with terrorism. Sergei Kirov, the popular head of the Party in Leningrad, was assassinated, and terrorist plans seem to have been afoot to assassinate the whole top Party leadership. To assert, then, that most of those arrested were innocent 'victims' is patently absurd." (Cameron, p. 129) No this was not Stalin's "premature planned economy", more likely it was the "most massive sabotage in history". But then too, not having read his book, has Moshe Lewin taken into consideration the active, subversive, undermining of the of the USSR by the United States. The top priority of the U.S. State Department had long been to engage in every effort to wipe out the world's first worker's republic. None of this does Marquit seem to concern himself about. "It was George Kennan", writes Gregory Mitrovich, "who formulated these objectives, and it was Paul Nitze who called for the very intensification of the means to achieve these objectives that led eventually to the formation of the Psychological Strategy Board (PSB)." (Mitrovich – Undermining The Kremlin, p. 114)

The role of the United States, combined with the homegrown counterrevolutionaries was decisive in bringing about the final result. The proof of the matter is that since 1991 the USSR has no longer been with us. Mitrovich has pointed out the techniques and strategies put in place by Truman after George Kennan, in 1946, back from his stint as ambassador warned the President that "Soviet Russia might be changed overnight from one of the strongest to one of the weakest

and most pitiable of national societies....It was possible that within five or ten years Russia would be overwhelmed by clouds of civil disintegration". (Mitrovich, p.6)" Gen. Omar Bradley", wrote Mitrovich, "argued that the United States must: develop an integrated and coordinated over-all economic, political, psychological and national military program including a plan for the U.S. and its allies against the Kremlin dominated communism....to force the USSR on the defensive and ultimately, reduce to impotence the threat of Kremlin dominated communism. The plan should include affirmative measures of economic, clandestine, subversive, and psychological character to foment and support unrest and revolution in selected strategic satellite countries and Russian political divisions. Such action is essential to engage the Russian's attention, keep the Kremlin off balance and force an increased expenditure of all the Soviet resources....and must be carried out with full acceptance of the risk of war." (Mitrovich, p.100) Gregory Mitrovich's formidable research into U.S. Government archives, in spite of the fact that most of the documentation still remains classified, should be taken notice of by our Party scholars who today prefer cutting off all links of past fraternal experiences with the USSR by sweeping them under the rug. It is well to note further some of what Mitrovich writes: "With the approval of NSC 10/5 (National Security Council), President Truman gave his blessing to an enormous intensification of the administration's covert offensive to destabilize communist control throughout the Soviet bloc. (102) ... PSB D-31 (Psychological Strategy Board) proposed that the CIA develop the necessary operations to eliminate the communist parties operating throughout the free world. It called for greater effort to detach Albania from the Soviet orbit....The document stressed the need to intensify covert efforts to breed suspicion and dissidence within the communist system'. It argued that: The inherent

suspicion and lack of mutual trust and confidence within the communist system and our own experience in exploiting them gives ground for the belief that we would be able to increase this suspicion far beyond what we have hitherto accomplished, to the point of the systemic removal or elimination of personal in important and effective positions." (118) This latter may bring to mind that one of the charges leveled against Stalin while he was General Secretary was that many innocent people were falsely imprisoned for counterrevolutionary criminal offenses. This allegation, unlike most of the others, is true. "Between 1934 and 1938 the post of People's Commissar for Internal Affairs – the charge of the security police – was held successively" by the counterrevolutionaries, Genrikh Yagoda and Nikolai Yezhov. At Yagoda's public trial in 1938, he described to the court how he had used his authority to serve the conspiracy by protecting his fellow-conspirators from arrest, while arresting loyal communists on false charges. (Bill Bland – Address to Sarat Academy, London 1999) (Report of Court Proceedings – USSR, 1938). Of the aggressive nature of the American foreign policy toward the Soviet Union, Mitrovich wrote the following: "As we have seen, the State Department has been at the forefront of developing a national security strategy premised on the independence of Eastern Europe and the destabilization of Soviet power. It was George Kennan who formulated these objectives, and it was Paul Nitze who called for the very intensification of them to achieve these objectives that led eventually to the formation of the PSB (Psychological Strategy Board).... In August 1952 the Truman administration accepted [Charles] Bohlen's judgement that the cold war would end only with the removal of the Soviet regime. That August, a new program entitled 'The Strategy developed of the Third Choice' was by a team of political-warfare specialists sponsored by the center for International Studies at MIT....The Soviet Vulnerabilities Project began work in late 1951 under the direction of Walt Rostow... with McGeorge Bundy, Harvard and Philip Mosely, Columbia.... The U.S. Government

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helped organize the Soviet Vulnerabilities Project in order to continue the work... to develop sophisticated psychological techniques to attack the Soviet leadership (144)... and achieve U.S. objectives — particularly the overthrow of the Soviet regime.” (Mitrovich) While the Soviets had the problem of the bureaucracy taking on a life of its own, what organized stable social system is not saddled with its own bureaucratic necessity to which accrues the molesting attributes of all bureaucratic structures including our own. But the Soviets were faced with the greater danger of the counterrevolutionaries at home and covert enemies from abroad. Mitrovich dwells on Khrushchev’s denunciation of Stalin and the shock it caused in Moscow and amazement in Washington, causing Allen Dulles to declare that Khrushchev had “deliberately sought to destroy Stalin... and afforded the United States a great opportunity, both covertly and overtly to exploit the situation to its advantage”, offering America the best prospect to “reshape the Soviet Bloc”. That Truman sought to incapacitate the administrative structure of the Communist Party, then to incite defections to the West by shaking their faith in the Party with the use of disinformation against high-level Soviet leaders, particularly Politburo members “in order to intensify their mutual distrust and induce a power struggle at the apex of the Communist Party.” The foolhardy efforts of the U.S., from Truman through Eisenhower, to succeed in ridding the world of proletarians in power never let up for a moment, and when they did finally seem to succeed, the huge Russian land-mass with all its resources was still in the hand of the Russians. Scott Lucas in his “Freedom’s War. The American Crusade Against The Soviet Union” (NYU Press, 1999) has laid bare the repeated plans to send into the Soviet Union CIA assassination teams, how the U.S. Imperialist conspirators of the Truman and Eisenhower Administrations with the aid of the scholars from MIT and Harvard had worked furiously and frantically with all the money and power that corporate America could provide to bring down Joseph Stalin “the

greatest menace to the free world.” Eisenhower ordered the country blanketed with anti-Soviet propaganda. MIT’s Lloyd Berkner, director of Project Troy asked Acheson “if it was possible to organize an aggressive political war of sufficient effectiveness to bring the Soviet Union to its knees in a relatively short time without resorting to widespread military action.” Innumerable discussions took place as to what tactic would be best to destroy Stalin and the USSR, covert activities to support the Cold War or prepare for a hot war? Should paramilitary action be changed from covert to overt? The State Department was told to “stop balking at an aggressive strategy” and was reminded that the White House intended to achieve the “overthrow of the Soviet Union and the liberation of the satellite states.” (Lucas) The question of what import, if any, should Marquit and Lewin give to the counterrevolution within the Soviet Union, and from outside, the American crusade against the Soviets? Or stick with their own thesis: the culpability of Stalin, the premature centralized planned economy and the over-blown bureaucracy? It has for a good number of years now rather inconvenient and even unacceptable in the capitalist countries to speak in a perfunctory manner about Stalin, as I perhaps have thoughtlessly done here. I should have realized this even when the discussion attempts to be somewhat analytical and objective, and does not follow the accepted standard of attacking the subject we are concerned about.



*“Bourgeois newspapers and journals are maintained by large sums of capital. Workers’ newspapers and journals are maintained by funds collected by the workers themselves.”*

**V.I. LENIN** ■

I worried about this, after I by chance, came across the writing of the Hungarian historian, Gábor Tamás Rittersporn, who published a study: “Stalinist Simplifications and Soviet Complications: Social Tensions and Political Conflict in the USSR, 1933-1953” (Chur, Switzerland: Harwood Academic Publishers, 1991). Rittersporn states his opposition to communism and says that “we have no intention in denying in any way, much less justifying, the very real horrors of the age we are about to treat of, we would surely be among the first to bring them to light if that was still necessary.” A preface to Rittersporn’s study states: “However, the official bourgeois version is so grotesque and its untruthfulness so obvious that in the long run it could lead to a complete rejection of the standard Western interpretation of the Soviet Revolution. Rittersporn admirably defined the problems he encountered when trying to correct some of the most grotesque bourgeois lies.” (Nick Lampert, Univ. of Birmingham). In part some of what Rittersporn writes follows: “If...one tries to publish a tentative analysis of some almost totally unknown material, and to use it to throw new light on the history of the Soviet Union in the 1930s and the part that Stalin played in it, one discovers that opinion tolerates challenges to the received wisdom far less than one would have thought....The traditional image of the ‘Stalin phenomenon’ is in truth so powerful, and the political and ideological value-judgements which underlie it are so deeply emotional, that any attempt to correct it must also inevitably appear to be taking a stand for or against the generally accepted norms that it implies....” “To claim to show that the traditional representation of the ‘Stalin period’ is in many ways quite inaccurate is tantamount to issuing a hopeless challenge to the time-honored patterns of thought which we are used to applying to political realities in the USSR, indeed against the common patterns of speech itself.... Research of this kind can be justified above all by the extreme inconsistency of the writing devoted to what historical orthodoxy considers to be a major event — the ‘Great Purge’ of 1936-1938. Strange as it may seem, there are few



periods of Soviet history that have been studied so superficially." "In other words", states Lampert, "Rittersporn is saying: Look I can prove that most of the current ideas about Stalin are absolutely false. But to say this requires a great hurdle. If you state, even timidly, certain undeniable truths about the Soviet Union in the 30s, you are immediately labeled 'Stalinist'. Bourgeois propaganda has spread a false but very powerful image of Stalin, an image that is almost impossible to correct, since emotions run so high as soon as the subject is broached. The books about the purges written by great Western specialists, such as Conquest, Deutscher, Schapiro and Fainsod, are worthless, superficial, and written with the utmost of contempt for the most elementary rules learnt by a first-year history student....In fact these works are written to give an academic and scientific cover for the anti-Communist policies of the Western leaders. They present under a scientific cover the defense of capitalist interests and values and the ideological preconceptions of the big bourgeoisie." (Nick Lampert, Centre for Russian and East European Studies, Univ. of Birmingham)

## PAGES FROM THE PAST

### Chang Chun-chiao Remembered

Fourthwrite magazine

On 10th May this year, the official Chinese Xinhua News Agency, announced that Chang Chun-chiao (Zhang Chunqiao), one of the leaders of the so-called "Gang of Four", had died on 21st April. He was 88.

Arrested after the death of Mao Tse-tung in 1976, Chang and his comrades were unable to prevent the military coup in which the capitalist-roaders seized power, putting an end to the Cultural Revolution. In the subsequent show-trial, Chang, reportedly ill with

cancer, refused to cooperate with the new authorities, speaking only to reject their indictments. While fellow-accused, Chiang Ching (Jiang Qing) stood to defend revolutionary principle, the Cultural Revolution and Mao's line, Chang's support was unmistakable.

Convicted in 1981 for "the excesses of the Cultural Revolution" and "trying to seize power after the death of Mao", Chang and Chiang were sentenced to death (later commuted to life). Their co-defendants Yao Wenyuan and Wang Hongwen, having capitulated under pressure during the trial each received 20-year terms. Chiang later died in unclear circumstances in 1991, after 15 years in isolation. Wang was released in 1998, later dying, while Yao, also released, is said to be still alive.

Beginning in 1966, the Cultural Revolution ignited two trends within the CCP when Mao took the struggle out of the confines of the top leadership by calling on the people to "Bombard the headquarters". A call to criticise and overthrow reactionary party leaders, Mao explained that the masses of people should "seize power in an all-around way and from below". As Mao pointed out, "You are making the socialist revolution and yet you don't know where the bourgeoisie is. It is right in the Communist Party - those in power taking the capitalist road." Chiang Ching and Chang Chun-chiao were part of the national leadership core of this unprecedented "revolution within the revolution".

A Shanghai journalist who joined the party in the 1930s, Chang operated as a guerrilla fighter behind enemy lines in the anti-Japanese war. After liberation, he became a party official in that city coming to prominence during the Great Leap Forward. In 1967, as the Cultural Revolution surged forward, Chang led an earthshaking event known as the January Storm in which, after months of fierce debate to clarify the issues, rebels from Shanghai's factories, overthrew the old city administration, a stronghold of the capitalist-roaders. Led by revolutionary party members, thousands of rebels attempted to establish the Shanghai Commune, an endeavour based on the model

of the 1871 Paris Commune, the first, short-lived working class revolution.

In 1975, as the struggle was reaching new peaks, Chang published *On Exercising the All-Around Dictatorship of the Proletariat*, analysing the contradictory nature of socialism and the way it is characterised by the contentious elements of the old society and the new. In this text, Chang identified three key issues: Why there are capitalist factors within socialist relations of production; why the question of ownership is a question of power, and why relations between people in the production process are class-based. Chang wrote. "Even when all the landlords and capitalists of the old generation have died, such class struggles will by no means come to a stop, and a bourgeois restoration may still occur..."

In 1976, such a restoration began, the coup beginning the process of fully integrating China with the imperialist system, overturning socialist relations in the pursuit of profit. The CCP constitution was eventually changed to allow membership for private capitalists, the new leaders and their hangers-on quickly amassing great wealth, rearing a whole class of capitalist profiteers. Today China's cities have been turned into sweatshops, where 21st-century machinery enslaves hundreds of millions of people in 19th-century conditions. This situation has expressed itself through a number of strikes and local uprisings that, like the more widely known Tiananmen Square protests, have been met with state oppression. ■

### RUSSIAN SUPREME COURT OVERTURNS BAN

The June ruling by the Moscow Regional Court to ban the National Bolshevik Party was overturned by the Russian Supreme Court. The leader of this quasi-Bolshevik party, Eduard Limonov bases his policy akin to the Nazi Socialist Party and its members act like storm troopers, but wearing hammer and sickle arm bands. ■

## SPECIAL FOR NSC

### G8 SUMMIT AND THE LONDON BOMBINGS

*By the Marxist-Leninist Party of  
Turkey and Northern Kurdistan*

The agenda of the biggest imperialist powers those who came together in the G8 summit at the beginning of July 2005 was, as usually, the problems concerning entire humanity: Such as "the hunger in Africa and the climate change". But, at the end of the summit, there were neither the debts of the poor countries -whose principal debt have been retaken many times through high interests-, were erased nor they took new decisions on stopping the air and nature pollution caused by them. On the contrary, the summit concentrated on the imperialist masters' conflict on hegemony and rivalry, the addition of new elements on the barbarity, brutality and colonialist oppressions that they put the people of whole world face to face with, the manoeuvres to impede the progress of mass movements against the imperialist war and globalisation, the exchange of imperialist experiences and intelligence over the revolutionary struggles, the continuation of attempts to find new solutions on the crisis of the system of imperialist relations and etc.

During the G8 summit, the people against the imperialist globalisation those who felt and sow in their real lives the consequences of the imperialist aggression and neo-liberal policies have flown to the streets in their hundred thousands under the slogan of "make poverty history". The wave of mass movement, which sometimes involved militant stance, targeting the G8 summit have become the agenda of whole oppressed world.

In the same process, on the day of 7 July, about 60 people died and hundreds were injured due to the bombings in three London undergrounds and one bus. A group called "Secret Organisation of al-Qaeda in Europe" and another group called

"Abu Hafs al-Masri Brigade" have claimed the responsibility of the attack.

Doubtlessly, we clearly state that such actions, which aim at the innocent people, do not serve the class and political interests of the oppressed; also, they are not compatible with the socialist outlook and the understanding of legitimate revolutionary violence, and so they are not acceptable. The uncontrollability, barbarity and bohemianism of the imperialist aggression and terror cannot justify selecting innocent, unprotected people as targets.

But the most interesting point is; whilst daily assassination of hundreds of people, including children, in Afghanistan, Kurdistan and Iraq do not take part in the agendas of the imperialist states and medias, the London bombings have immediately and comprehensively reacted the centres of imperialist propaganda and disinformation. The Muslim and Arab people were blamed immediately even when there was no definite proofs. It is being announced that "these attacks were against the civilisation, the life style of the West", but not the imperialist occupation and massacres, tortures and rapes in Abu Ghraib! They expressed the need for new "anti-terror laws". As usual, the subject "common struggle and dispositions against terrorism" started to become agendas of the urgent meetings of the international organisations such as NATO, UN and EU.

Under the "Islamic terrorism" demagogy, the USA and British imperialists are trying to lower the growing anger against the imperialist aggression and occupation, to search for ways how to come out in the Iraqi quagmire and to prepare excuse for attacks on Iran and Syria.

Israel Zionism wants to use the pretext of "clash of civilisations" as an opportunity to implement new massacres and tyranny on the Palestinian people.

The fascist Turkish regime tries to make this a step to attack PKK and Kurdish national movement. The Prime Minister, T. Erdogan, suggests an "International Platform against Terrorism".

Imperialist forces and world reac-

tionary, at the same time, wants to turn these bombings into an instrument to impede and deflate the working class and labouring masses' movement that is showing tendency of development on national, regional and international level against the neo-liberal policies. The imperialist bourgeoisie tries to reorganise and settle the internal reaction on regional and local levels through reactionary-fascistic laws and new institutions under the circumstances of disinformation and manipulation. The real reason that lies behind the bombings, which turned London into a blood-river, is the British imperialism's concealing under a flood of blood the people of the world from Afghanistan to Iraq and to Palestine. Therefore, Bushs and Blairs -those who said "we are going to set up a new order in the Middle East", "we are going to bring democracy"- are responsible for the innocent lives lost in the bombings. The British imperialists, who want to get a piece from the plundering cake in Iraq, are the ones to blame. British imperialists' ambition for profit has cost the death of Londoners.

Therefore the British government, defending the interests of the imperialist monopolies, is the real felon. So, it must give an account to British people.

Bush and Blair are trying to acquit their war criminal and responsible positions under the sophistry of "fight against terrorism".

### ISRAEL LIES ABOUT PULLOUT

After Israel Prime Minister Ariel Sharon announced his Disengagement Plan from the Gaza Strip, Israeli soldiers annexed vast areas of Palestinian land near Nablus and leveled hothouses and other dwellings. Soldiers handed eviction notices to the Palestinians in Dir Sharaf and Borga that their homes will be leveled for Israel settlers!

It seems that when the BBC or other TV shows this grab, they never mention that these settlements were "illegal".

## CONDEMN IMPERIALISM AND THE G8 BIG SWINDLE, DEMAND CANCELLATION OF ALL NEOCOLONIAL DEBTS!

By Prof. Jose Maria Sison  
Chairperson, International  
Coordinating Committee  
International League of People's  
Struggle

The G8 summit scheduled for June 6-8, 2005 in Scotland is being promoted by the big corporate media of the imperialist countries with much fanfare. The G8 promise of cancelling debts of some \$40 billion for 18 Most Indebted Poor Countries (MIPC), upon the fulfillment of certain conditionalities, is being hailed as a "historic" deal and a "victory for millions."

The amount of debt promised to be cancelled is a tiny fraction of the USD 2.4 trillion total debt (2003 computation) of the "southern countries" or "third world countries" of Asia, Africa and Latin America. By merely making a promise of token debt cancellation, the imperialist creditors try to conceal their criminal responsibility for overloading the dominated countries with onerous anti-development loans, misrepresent themselves as charitable to the poorest countries which they in fact continue to squeeze and make acceptable the neocolonial system of exploiting the overwhelming majority of countries through international usury and "free trade".

It is misleading and in fact wilfully criminal for the imperialists themselves and their camp followers to praise the G8 summiteers as being engaged in "debt relief" and "poverty reduction", as "making poverty history" and as providing charity to the MIPC for education, health, anti-AIDS campaign, disaster relief and infrastructure. For praising and praying to the G8 and seeking to deceive the people, the social democrats, the bourgeois liberals, the Trotskyites and NGO racketeers expose themselves as hired hacks of their imperialist masters.

### False Promises of G8 Countries

G8 countries have repeatedly made false promises. But they have always failed to deliver even the little that they promise. In March 1999, Canada's Prime Minister, Jean Chrétien, said that Canada would act alone on debt relief if other G7 countries failed to respond to the needs of the severely indebted countries. US President Bill Clinton in September 1999 said that the United States would try to forgive all the debt that poor countries owed the US. Britain announced a plan in December 1999, to cancel 100% of the debt owed by 26 poor countries. None of these promises have been kept.

The latest G8 proposal is a big swindle because it carries with it conditionalities that prevent full avilment of the debt cancellation. The character and scope of such conditionalities have precisely caused underdevelopment, poverty and further indebtedness in the countries the G8 are supposedly desirous of rescuing from poverty. These conditionalities include so-called measures against corruption and reforms that are designed to impose and apply neoliberal prescriptions of further investment and trade liberalization, privatization and deregulation. The client economies are further opened to foreign monopoly capital, which precisely causes underdevelopment, poverty, deficits and ceaseless local and foreign borrowing by the client state.

The G8 promise of debt cancellation being hyped by the big corporate media is calculated to make the monopoly capitalist countries look good while they lay the blame for poverty and misery on the people of the underdeveloped countries themselves. The culprits blame the victims for the crimes committed against them.



Many of the G8 countries have been responsible for the colonial rape of the countries of Africa, Asia and Latin America. They plundered the human and natural resources of these countries in their primitive accumulation of capital. Since direct colonial rule became largely a thing of the past, the former colonial powers (which had since industrialized using the wealth from colonial plunder) have continued the exploitation of these countries through neocolonialism using such subservient local stooges as the big compradors, landlords and bureaucrat capitalists who are given part of the spoils to perpetuate their control and dominance.

The G8 countries have a big responsibility for corruption in their client states. Aside from their historical role in creating the corrupt local ruling classes, the multinational firms and banks have been the sponsors and supporters of such corrupt politicians as Marcos, Mobutu and the rest of them for the behest loans and supply contracts that have thrust these countries into the vicious debt cycle. A large part of the borrowed money always ends up in the bank accounts of the puppet rulers, be these openly dictatorial or seemingly democratic. These puppets can "pay back" by taxing their people dry and begging for more loans at more onerous terms imposed by the G8 countries, the IMF and World Bank.

Foreign monopoly firms are efficient at corrupting the politicians in client states in order to capture juicy public works contracts and arms deals. The British government is even known to reward these firms by giving them tax breaks on these "commissions" paid abroad which are considered deductible expense.



In 1970, roughly 60 countries classified as low-income by the World Bank, owed \$25 billion in debt. By 2002, this was \$523 billion. Over the three decades from 1970 to 2002, \$550 billion has been paid in both principal and interest on \$540 billion of loans, and yet \$523 billion dollar debt burden remain.

### **The Crushing Debt Burden of Africa**

The following is a quote from the President of Nigeria: "All that we had borrowed up to 1985 or 1986 was around \$5 billion and we have paid about \$16 billion yet we are still being told that we owe about \$28 billion. That \$28 billion came about because of the injustice in the foreign creditors' interest rates."

The effects of the debt trap on the people of the third world are staggering. According to UNICEF data as many as five million children and vulnerable adults may have lost their lives in sub-Saharan Africa as a result of the debt burden since the late 1980s. Some 11 million children below five years old die each year around the world, not just Africa, due to similar conditions of poverty and debt.

The IMF and World Bank require poor countries to pay around 20 to 25 percent of their export earnings for debt repayment. Yet, no European country including Britain, France and Italy is repaying its loans at levels higher than 4 percent because they consider it unsustainable and bad for their economy.

Many of the proposals on debt relief coming from the imperialist countries and their instruments such as the G8, WEF and IMF and World Bank are a sham. The real solution is repudiation and cancellation of all the outstanding debts owed by third world countries. The reason is simple these debts have been repaid many times over.

The "carrot" of debt cancellation is being dangled as a bargaining chip to wring more concessions on trade and investments. Debtor countries are told that they can only avail of debt cancellation if they institute neoliberal reforms such as trade and investment liberalization. These "reforms" have already wreaked havoc on the economies of these debtor countries.

In Senegal, tomato production

used to provide peasant families with some kind of livelihood. After liberalization, the price for tomatoes was halved and tomato production fell from 73,000 tons in 1990 to only 20,000 in 1997 leaving many peasants without a cash crop. In Kenya, cotton production fell from 70,000 bales a year in the mid-1980s to less than 20,000 bales in the mid-1990s. Employment in textile factories fell from 120,000 people to 85,000.

Manufacturing industries have also been hit hard by trade liberalization. In Zambia, employment in manufacturing fell by 40 percent in just five years of trade liberalization. In Ghana, employment in manufacturing fell from 78,700 in 1987 to 28,000 in 1993. In Malawi, textile production fell by more than half between 1990 and 1996. Many firms producing soap and cooking oils went bankrupt and the poultry industry collapsed in the face of cheap imports.

Trade liberalization in third world countries follows this pattern. When trade is liberalized, imports of consumer goods rise sharply. Local producers are priced out of their markets by cheaper imports. Exports also tend to grow but not as much. Besides, third world countries tend to export similar primary commodities that flood the world market and result in the ever worsening prices for their exports. Over-all production falls as both producers for the local market and for export cannot stand the cutthroat competition. Any short-term gains to consumers from cheap prices are wiped out in the long term as their incomes fall and unemployment rises.

According to one study, sub-Saharan Africa lost \$272 billion in twenty years of trade liberalization. This would have been enough to wipe out the debt of all the countries in sub-Saharan Africa estimated at \$204 billion with still enough money to have every child in the region vaccinated and sent to school.

The oppressed peoples of the third world cannot pin their hopes on so-called solutions being offered by their oppressors. These do not solve their problems but aggravate them.

### **Solutions to the Debt Problem**

The only solution is for the oppressed peoples and nations and the underdeveloped countries to uphold and exercise political independence and economic sovereignty against the impositions of the imperialists and their local puppets. They must resist the dictates and bullying of the imperialist powers who wish to impose social and economic policies through such imperialist instruments as the IMF, World Bank and WTO. They must repudiate and cancel all the odious and onerous foreign debts.

They must conserve the natural resource and use them wisely for national development. They must carry out national industrialization and land reform. They must thereby develop the economy, generate employment and expand the domestic market. They must satisfy the basic needs of the people. They must break away from the unequal exchange of their raw materials with the manufactured goods of the imperialist countries. They must set themselves from the superprofit-taking and international usury of imperialism.

We must expose the sham solutions being hyped by the imperialist governments and the imperialist media. We must also struggle against the erroneous ideas being peddled by the social democrats, bourgeois liberals, Trotskyites and NGO racketeers and reformists that try to make imperialism appear benevolent, reformable and palatable.

The oppressed peoples and nations are being incited to rise up in armed revolution by the fact that imperialism has reduced them to a life of poverty and misery, due to superprofit-taking and international usury. Half of humankind or 3 billion people live on less than \$2 per day and 1.1 billion of them live on less than one dollar day. To keep the people of the world captive, the US is spending \$500 billion this year on its military forces, while \$15 billion is estimated to be enough to alleviate poverty in the worst-case countries. Under the worsening conditions of oppression and exploitation, the proletariat and people of the world are bound to rise up in order to overthrow the system of imperialism.

**IN HONOUR OF SECOND WORLD  
CONGRESS - GIVE A GIFT SUB !**

## Here, There and Everywhere!

By ROD BOWKER

### COST OF DOING THGS IN PRESENT RUSSIA :

A study done by the think-tank and Romir Monitoring has found that the businesses and individuals have to fork over \$319 billion each year to bureaucrats, police, doctors, educators, according to Moscow Times. These payments are bribes which saw an increase of 900% in four years. Ordinary workers are paying out \$8 billion a year & receive supposedly free services, such as education and health care, as well as for bribes to traffic police, military recruitment officials and doctors who can get the draftees exempted from compulsory military service.

### PUTIN'S UNPOPULAR PRESIDENCY

A new Public Opinion Foundation poll has found that President Putin's popularity is at an all time low of only 25 percent, Ekho Moskvyy radio reported. A poll only a month before by Levada Center found Putin's popularity at 38 percent, down three percent from February of this year.

### PUTIN ENDORSES A NEW ELECTION LAW

He signed the law tightening the election rules which end election of independent lawmakers, raised high the threshold of parties to get parliamentary seats and, bars political parties from uniting into election blocks.

### HALIBURTON ANNOUNCES 284% INCREASE IN PROFITS

This increase is due to the Pentagon's payment of "award fees" for what the military officials call "good" or "very good" work done for the US forces in Iraq and Afghanistan. The Pentagon Contract Agency itself questioned the \$442 million in "unsupported" expenses, with no receipts or no explanation. But the Pentagon brass ignored this audit questions and under pressure from the White House awarded Haliburton again with huge contracts thus making VP Cheney very rich and of course denying everything.

The US Auditors have stated that the Afghan war alone cost the US taxpayers \$314 billion and that another few years of this war will cost the US taxpayers over \$700 billion.

### ARE RATS JUMPING THE SHIP?

There is more trouble on the way for US-Israel strategic ties. These long-running political, economic and military ties between Washington and Jerusalem are weathering their worst crisis in over a decade, over Israel's controversial sale of defense equipment to China. Despite the June decision by Israel's Defense Ministry to halt all foreign military transfers to China - plus a subsequent public apology to Bush administration by the Foreign Minister Sylvan Shalom - the Pentagon is said to have demanded that Israel impose harsh new regulatory measures, including a new law restricting Israeli exports and a bilateral memorandum of understanding, effectively giving the United States veto power over Israeli arms sales abroad. These defense-industrial tensions promoted Israeli Defense Minister Shaul Mofaz to cancel his planned this July' visit to Washington. ■

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## OBITUARY

### Sam Weintraub October 1918 - July 1, 2005

This July 1, Sam Weintraub, a long-time subscriber to Northstar Compass and a founding member of U.S. Friends of Soviet People (USFSP), died of a heart attack.

Sam was born in the Bronx, New York, of eastern European Jewish immigrant parents. His father was a tailor and his mother a garment worker. They were both progressive,

members of the International Workers Order. In 1950 he married his wife Rosalin, a member of the British Communist Party. She died in 1995, whom he constantly spoke of.

Sam joined the Young Communist League around 1934 and the Communist Party in 1938. He was the party's educational director in the Bronx, whose chapter had some 300 members. He became a leader of the anti-fascist youth group, American Youth for Democracy, during World War II.

During the early 1950s Sam, who worked at clerical positions in various banks, was an organizer for a short-lived CIO union, Office Workers Union.

In 1971, Sam became the chair of the Committee for a Just Peace in the Middle East, which called for a Palestinian state side by side with Israel.

Sam was a long-term reader of Soviet Russia Today, put out originally by the Hands Off Russia Committee in the United States, which later became the American Soviet Friendship Committee. Sam was on its National Council.

Sam Weintraub was a great and dedicated supporter of the USSR and socialism. Even when age and infirmity made it difficult to travel, Sam would come in to New York City by public transportation from his home in Jersey City, and later from his assisted living quarters in Irvington, New Jersey, for meetings of USFSP. He always focused comrades' hearts and minds on the struggle of the Soviet people to build socialism and on their fight against their deteriorating conditions after capitalist restoration. Before the meetings, he, together with other members, would strengthen our spirits by singing Soviet songs in Yiddish, Russian and English.

After Bush's declaration of endless war after September 11, 2001, he helped to focus on the fight against fascism and war and for democratic rights. At one meeting, in his usual enthusiastic way, he emphasized his point by pounding on the table, stating: "Before we can win new rights, we must defend old rights!"

Sam's forthrightness, spirit and steadfastness will be sorely missed. Comrade Sam, Presente! ■

JERRY MORSE



## AS I SEE IT

**SALSBURG:** An American rock band is here playing anti-war music, utilizing all the sounds that replicate the sounds of war by using different metallic sounding boxes. This of course came at a good time here in Germany.

**VIENNA:** The Communist Party of Austria are here in the streets gathering signatures to support their candidates in the election. People are not afraid to sign and the party already has enough signatures to take part in the election.

**BROOK PARK, OHIO-USA:** About 22,000 people in this town. It's also home to the 3<sup>rd</sup> Battalion Infantry. Last August 6 the town lost 19 of its soldiers in Iraq in one day. The people there are fed-up with the war and with the President, who after the multi-billion dollar near disaster "Discovery", fortunately brought back the seven astronauts and made this statement to the American people: "We are regaining the confidence of the people." Say it again Bush! This will not change the confidence of the families that have lost their sons in this occupational war.



## JUST LIKE THE NAZIS!

American Soldiers in Iraq took 5 children younger than 10 years old as hostages – demanding that the villagers deliver them other children, the ones that were seen with the clothes of the dead US soldier – just the way the German Nazis were conducting the war during 1940s.



**WHAT THE FOREIGN PUPPETS IN PRAGUE DO NOT SAY ON PAPER, PEOPLE EXPRESS THE MESSAGE ON THE WALLS!**  
"USA - ENEMY!"

## CHUCKLE CORNER

### GARDEN OF EDEN!

There was a man who went out to the middle of nowhere in Arizona desert, USA – found a source of water and created the most beautiful Garden of Eden that you can imagine. After a few years, a born again Christian friend came to visit him, and uttered the most abused line in Christianity: "I can see God's miracle here."

The host got very upset by his guest's ignorance and retorted: "What miracle? You should have seen this place when God was in charge!"

### IT'S THE WORKING CLASS!

I cannot stand people who pray before their meal. Did the idiots not

pay for it already, including the taxes - GST & PST? I can see persons praying before a meal at the Salvation Army soup kitchens, but not in restaurants and at home. God does not give me even clean water for free. I have to pay for it - and then check my water bill, it includes sewer tax also. Everything you consume is yours if you paid for it and you know that after you have paid for it, you have been highly overcharged by governments and by gouging private corporations!

They should be the ones praying to God every hour of the day, because they do not work for their food or comfort!

**Correction!** They should be praying to the working class, the only creator of life sustaining necessities in human civilization. Let this creator of all goods and services and social wealth, the **Working Class**, be in charge of society and not the capitalist leeches! ■

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

### REPORT FROM UZBEKISTAN

By ERIC WALBERG

I continue to meet many fine people here who bemoan the collapse of the Soviet Union – the result has been great poverty, unemployment, moral degeneration, increase sickness and premature death, massive corruption, a police

state and total collapse of the justice system.

But while Putin and his version of neo-cons control Russia, there is little we can do now to reunite. I fear that we just can't hope to "put Humpty Dumpty together again". As the saying goes here in Uzbekistan: "The dogs bark but the caravan moves on". We must recognize which are the progressive forces in the ex-Soviet Union and try to unite them to confront the real enemy, the



US-Israel and the quislings in the ex Soviet Union.

For instance, there is a lively debate within the Russian orthodox Church, with St. Petersburg Metropolitan Ioann showing that he is an important figure in the revival of Russia and an outstanding thinker. Even though he condemns the destruction of the church, especially in the 1920's, he is no fan of the post-collapse of the USSR. He compares the collapse of the Soviet Union with the original 1917 revolution, as a disaster (*fair enough from the point of view of the Church*).

This shows a sophisticated understanding of how both 1917 and 1991 events were destructive to the Russian Orthodox soul and were largely due to the Zionists who were instrumental in both the revolution and of the collapse. This is now argued publicly even by Zionist Jews. Look at the following:

(<http://simonjones1.blogspot.com/2005/05/jewish-century-by-yuri-islezkine.html>).

They hated the Tsarist Orthodox Empire and the late period of the USSR, when it was strongly anti-Israel and was desperately struggling to control the growing cynicism and Zionism of the dissident movement. Metropolitan Ioann is able to see objectively how the revolution was transformed into a relatively benign system from the religious point of

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view by the time Brezhnev, who, ironically became a "protector" of Orthodoxy against the growing threat of US-Israel imperialism. His argument that "it doesn't matter who wrote the Protocols, history has followed them" is brave and intelligent.

Rutskoi of Russia is touted as a possible contender against Putin, basing his platform on nationalism, Orthodoxy and Socialism. Perhaps this is not the best person to rally around, but there must be someone who is a patriot and socialist who can bring people together. The Communists, Nationalists and Orthodox will have to consolidate their forces in order to beat Putin. A majority of voters in the Russian Federation could be mobilized behind an intelligent popular front based on these three pillars. And I would add a fourth pillar - Islam is the only world force fighting US-Israel imperialism today and there are many Muslims in the Russian Federation and the CIS. Rather than repressing and killing them, as Putin (*and certain others*) do, we, the opposition should be searching for a DIALOGUE. There HAS to be a way to unite all of these forces, and it must not be on the basis of Russian chauvinism, but rather on "*anti-US-Israel imperialism*."

I look forward to reading the proceedings. I propose to open up a Yahoo Group. We can do this at <http://groupp.yahoo.com> for free - and then post messages which members will automatically receive in their "inbox". Considering that we are a world-wide movement, this is very essential. We must use the Internet to build our forces!

My best wishes to all the delegates.

**Eric Walberg  
Uzbekistan**

Former member of the Canada-USSR Association and on the Editorial Board of Northstar Compass

**FROM CANADA**

Enclosed is a \$50 donation to help keep this important publication going. I would like a list of all writings by J.V. Stalin, particularly his books.

I was listening to the Canadian CBC radio program and they were

promoting a program on the TV History channel about Stalin during the capitalist Great Depression of 1930's, and him inviting people from Finland, who were also in the middle of an economic depression and who couldn't find work, to come to the Soviet Union to work in the forest industry and its development.

This CBC program then went on to denigrate Stalin, by stating that he used these Finnish people to spy for him and eventually had a lot of them killed.

I would suggest that someone with a full knowledge of this would write in NSC and tell the truth. It makes me sick when I hear lies upon lies being told on the Canadian radio and television.

Yours sincerely  
Bill Wilcox

**FROM  
AUSTRALIA**

Dear Comrades:

Sorry that we shall not be able to send a delegate to the Second World Congress due to many factors. Although I had an operation for cancer, that would not have stopped me, but there are other vital expenses that I must spend to fix my home. We wish the Congress well and we are holding a membership function in order to raise finances to help the work of the Congress.

Ray Berbling  
National Secretary  
Australian Friends of Soviet People

*We all wish Ray Berbling a very speedy recovery and we shall keep the Friendship Society informed about the decisions of the World Congress.*

**FROM  
HUNGARY:**

Even though the situation in Hungary prevents me from attending the World Congress as I did at the first one, please find enclosed \$50 to help some in the workings of the Congress. I wish the delegates success in their deliberations.

Svetlana Benedikt  
Karl Marx Society

FROM  
CANADA

Dear friends:

It was heartbreaking to hear the terrible news about the Friendship House and the arson fire. You of course realize that there are now many enemies that are against our convictions. Please exercise greater caution as you progress into the future.

Accept this small contribution in the battle for world peace and unity in the ranks of the world's oppressed mankind.

Greetings to all of the readers and members and best wishes to the Second World Congress.

Paul Bovdis ■

FROM  
FINLAND

Dear comrades:

Enclosed please find \$100 donation towards NSC and the World Congress. I thought that I would be able to attend the Second World Congress, but I work all the time and I am better at writing than in speaking. The last article by Ghash in NSC was very good.

I am sending greetings to all the Congress delegates and especially to Michael Lucas and wishing you a successful congress. You must struggle against revisionism and liberalism in our ranks. Lenin said that revisionism is like a bacteria that we must destroy or it will destroy us.

If we work with revisionists, we shall never build a socialist society, which is the first stage towards Communism.

Here in Finland with the revisionist KTP - it is the same as Zyuganov's of Russia CPRF.

I am Iranian, living in Finland and glad that I chose Marxism-Leninism-Bolshevism. This showed me the way a person should live and behave, not only to his family, but also to society as a whole. I get great information from NSC for which I am very thankful and your support and dedication to comrade Stalin.

Best wishes to the Congress! Struggle against revisionism in our ranks

Comradely yours  
Ali Saiyar Akbar ■

## OPEN LETTER TO THE GUARDIAN NEWSPAPER

By RADOMIR PUTNIKOVIC

To Editor in Chief - Alan Rusbridger

I read the recent articles and comments in the Guardian newspaper (England) on the 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the fall of Srebrenica in Yugoslavia, with astonishment and dismay. You gave voice and space to various sides and many people, but none to the Serbs nor to the Serbian press. You talk about the 8,000 Muslims that were supposed to be killed, about the "uncovered graves". This foreign inspired civil war by NATO and its allies are the cause of this tragic civil war. The exact number killed is 3,268. If you like, I can provide you with the names of the Serbs that were killed at that time by the Bosnian Muslims.

I guess it would not be politically correct to talk about the Serbs that were killed by Bosnian Muslims, because this would put into focus the involvement of the American and British intelligence services, who encouraged the Bosnian Muslim extremists from other countries to come and fight. I am sending you proof of an atrocity on the Serbs by the Mujhaden and others who came to fight and kill in the name of Islam for the Bosnian Muslims. All these cases are well documented in Europe. How is it possible that your newspaper does not know anything about this?

Yes there is institutionalized racism here in this country, including in the press. There is no reporting of what is going on now in Kosovo with the continuing suffering of the Serbs at the hands of the Albanian Muslims. The Serbs are now forced to live in ghettos. The two British parliamentarians who were there, Julian Brazier and John Randall concluded that the Serbs living in Kosovo are worse off than the apartheid that was in South Africa.

As of today the Albanian Muslims have completely destroyed 151 Serbian Christian Churches, yet there is not one word about it in your newspaper or the other press.

What is racism today other than ignorance and arrogance by people of one nation to another. ■

FROM  
GREAT BRITAIN

Dear comrades:

Recently I watched an excellent DVD of the Brazilian film "Olga", which is about a Communist heroine, Olga Benario (*Olga Guttman*) also known as Olga Prestes. The film, despite being sponsored by the Brazilian capitalist monopoly Petrobras, is remarkably progressive as to give a sympathetic portrayal of a Communist and there is no "sting in the tail". It was very different to the portrayal of Communists in the US and British films.

The film tells the story of Olga Guttman, who, despite being from a middle class Jewish family in Germany. She tells her mother that the money that she spends on jewelry could feed the town poor. Olga becomes a passionate Communist and goes to work for the COMINTERN. She is given an assignment to go with Captain Luis Carlos Prestes, the Brazilian communist leader, to Brazil.

After the uprising in Brazil led by the Communist Party is crushed by the reactionaries - Olga and Prestes are arrested. The Brazilian fascist regime of Vargas is in league with Nazi Germany. Olga is then deported to Germany and imprisoned by the Nazis. Her baby daughter is taken from her, but fortunately handed over to her mother-in-law and sister-in-law.

Olga remains true to the cause to the end and dies in Ravensbruck concentration camp.

This excellent film, which has English subtitles is sadly not available in the UK (*though less savory Brazilian films such as the "City of God" are available in video shops*), but this is easily available in Brazil.

Apparently there is a street in Brazil named after Olga Benairo and also the former GDR had a street named after her.

Yours fraternally  
Dermot Hudson ■

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

## PAGES FROM THE PAST

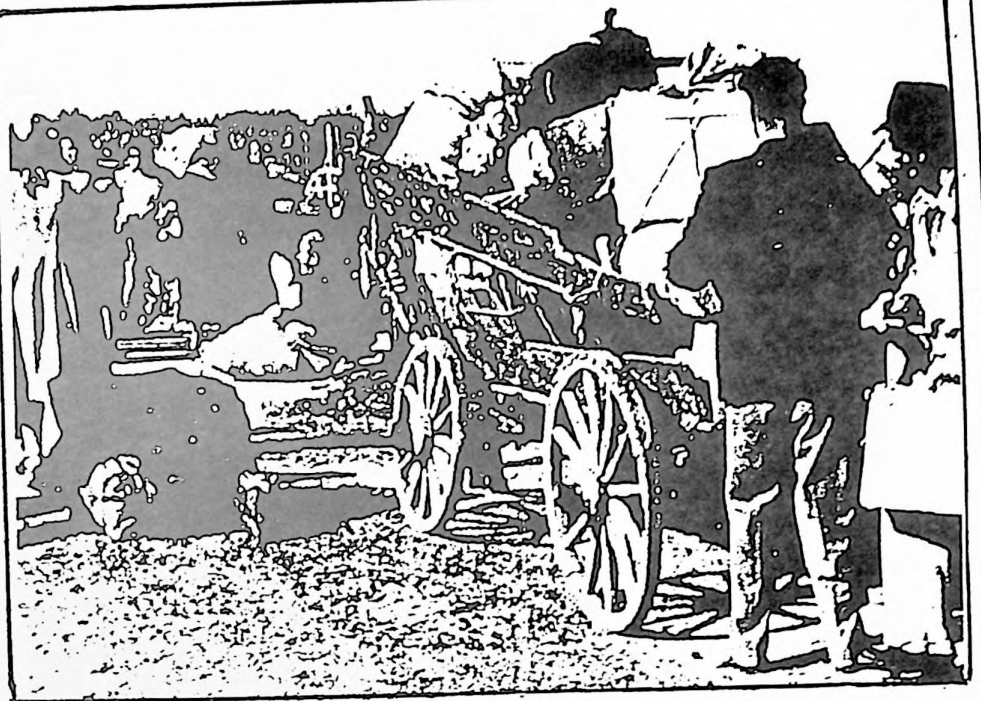
# THE MORAL SCANDAL OF THE TIME!

By YAHYA YAKHLEF  
From publication ILUCHA!

The political and social nature of Zionism embraces a political vision towards the Arab person in general, and the Palestinian person in particular, concerning his/her nature, culture, and existing relationship between this person and his/her homeland. This vision, however, contradicts the entire facts regarding the Arab person's existence; in fact, Zionism and Arab existence stand in total contradiction to each other. This vision provides the fundamental basis for the Zionist policy, including land expropriation and displacement of people by brutal means, and is derived from a mythology and past historical events.

The fundamental nature of Zionist ideology and culture manifests itself in three main ways: racism, aggression and expansionism. By this I mean, racism that considers others as the enemy, and aggression as a natural consequence of racism which manifest's itself through Israel's continuous aggression against the Palestinian people. Finally, by expansionism I mean the occupation and the displacement, and expatriation of the Palestinian people, destruction of villages, new plans for collective displacement (*i.e. transfer policies*), in addition to Israel's aspirations for additional territory, and the creation of other tragic realities on the ground.

This Zionist ideology then must perjure and fabricate historical facts. This is done by advancing the notion of - "**A land without people.**" and moving towards the denial of any existing culture for the Palestinian people. This includes altering



landmarks and names, and, finally, fabricating lies about the root causes of Palestinian displacement. This leads to the adoption of legislation that renders Palestinians who remain in their homeland into "**absentees**" - *i.e. present, but non-existent.*

This fabricated and misleading version of history claims that what happened in Palestine in 1948 was simply a Israeli war of independence. Unlike the Palestinian claim and recollection of events, Israelis claim that the expulsion of Palestinians was basically a liberation and

independence for the state of Israel.

This Zionist ideology relies on powerful allies such as Britain and now the United States (*the steadfast wall*). This is what I call "**The Moral Scandal of All Time.**" The right of the Palestinian refugees to return to their homeland is a natural and sacred right. This right is codified in International Law and the United Nations Charter; it is not subject to a statute of limitations nor can it be extinguished. Justice cannot be established by denying the rights to others!

### AMERICAN ISRAELI PUBLIC AFFAIRS COMMITTEE (AIPAC)

According to the RIGHT WEB on the Internet, which has as its motto "*Exposing the architecture of power that's changing our world*"- it states that AIPAC has lobbied very heavily (*among other direct lobbying efforts to the White House and to the Pentagon*) for US funding of various Israel weapons programs. Of all the US lobbies, few wield more influence and clout than the pro-Israel lobby, which comprises over 500 national and local Jewish organizations in the USA. This AIPAC lobby is active in the Republican and Democratic parties.

### DID YOU KNOW?

There are close to 250,000,000 children who are exploited in back-breaking work and hardly get any wages and sometimes even none? These are children as young as 7 years old and some getting paid less than 60 cents daily. These exploited children of capitalism have to get up early each day to work as slaves, - working 13 hours per day. Some children are chained to the floor.

Where in the world is this going on? It is in Nepal, India, Brazil, Mexico and yes, even in the "*bastion of democracy*", *the US itself!*

All this is shown graphically in a documentary film, called "*Stolen Childhoods*"

You can order this video from:  
<http://stolernchildhoods.org>



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