U.S. Escalates Middle East War Moves

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Oppose U.S. Imperialist-Led Aggression in the Gulf!

U.S. imperialism, aided by the world's other major imperialist powers, is fanatically assembling a massive military force in Saudi Arabia and in the waters of the Gulf. There is every reason to expect that the U.S. imperialism, itching for a fight, will unleash bloody aggression and perhaps a full-scale war with Iraq.

U.S. imperialism is using the pretext of Iraq's invasion of Kuwait to justify aggression. But it is the U.S. itself that has repeatedly tangled on other nations and which takes particular delight in using its military might against weak and defenseless victims, such as Grenada and Panama. It is the U.S. which brutally occupied the southern portion of Vietnam and killed millions in their failed attempt to suppress the people of that country. And it is the U.S. which arms and finances the Zionist state of Israel, whose very existence is based on the illegitimate occupation of Palestine and which periodically lashes out violently at the peoples of the neighboring states.

The real purpose of the U.S.-led aggression is to clamp down on the whole region, attempt to terrorize the peoples of the Middle East and the whole world, and strengthen its reactionary allies. The U.S. has even threatened the use of nuclear weapons in the event of hostilities. The Revolutionary Internationalist Movement, which unites genuine Marxist parties and organizations throughout the world, including in the Middle East and in the U.S. itself, resolutely condemns the aggression of the U.S. hoodlums and its partners-in-crime and calls on the proletariat and the oppressed peoples to take up arms against it.

The masses in Iraq and throughout the Middle East and the Arab world have understood that this imperialist aggression is against their interests and they burn for the chance to fight for their homeland with their hands. The U.S. has been up to his neck in dealings with imperialists in East and West and his allies have been unable to stem or repel the liberation of the U.S. masses from the yoke of imperialism. The U.S. has failed to help the masses in any way, and so many years have been used to his hip in dealings with imperialists, East and West and his crimes are numerous. He who uses chemical warfare in his own country to suppress the national aspirations of the Kurds will not look and cannot lead the Iraqi and Arab masses in fighting for genuine liberation from imperialism.

Ridding the Middle East of imperialism and Zionism cannot be done unless the proletariat and the peoples hoist their own banners, that of New Democratic Revolution and People's War. They must rely on their own efforts and not count on "help" from imperialists and reactionaries, or plan on "purchasing" liberation with the revenues from oil, that curse on the Middle East.

U.S. imperialism can be defeated. History has shown that the masses of people themselves can defeat the most powerful of enemies, and this same lesson is coming alive again in Peru, where the Communist Party of Peru, a participant in our Movement, has successfully waged war for ten years with weapons captured from the enemy and with the support of the masses, without a drop of aid from reactionaries and imperialists.

Behind the bravado of the U.S. imperialists is a frantic effort to respond to the deepening crisis of the world imperialist system. The U.S. is desperate to repair and strengthen its web of domination, exploitation and murder in order to continue feasting on the wealth produced by the masses all over the world. The Soviet Union, Britain and France feel obliged to take part so as to protect their own interests and not be excluded from the banquet hall. Reactionaries like Mubarak of Egypt have been told that they must have come to pay back the price to their imperialist masters with the blood of their own people.

All of this will mean hardship and suffering for the people, but more importantly, it means better conditions for the people to strike back at the source of hardship and suffering—imperialism and reaction—by waging revolutionary struggle. The revolutionary communists must strive to put themselves at the head of the struggle of the masses against U.S. imperialism and the other reactionaries and to lead the people to strike back at their enemies in the course of battle, and step up their efforts to establish genuine proletarian vanguard parties. Now is the time for the proletariat and the people to start writing their own history.

COMMITEE OF THE REVOLUTIONARY INTERNATIONALIST MOVEMENT

August 17, 1990

Three Main Points

by Bob Avakian
Chairman of the RCP, USA

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U.S. POWER PLAY THREATENS BIG WAR

The U.S. powers have declared a lockdown of a whole region of the world—the Middle East. U.S. ships in three seas—the Mediterranean Sea, the Persian Gulf and the Red Sea—are stopping ships like pirates demanding to know where they are going. Sixty thousand troops are already in the area, with patrols now probing toward Iraqi positions on the northern border of Saudi Arabia. U.S. fighter planes have played chicken with Iraqi jets—even locking their weapons radar onto the Iraqis in moves that could start a shooting war.

This has become the greatest thrust of U.S. military forces the world has seen since the invasion of Vietnam twenty years ago. American armies and navies have been pulled from all over the world to make the point that the U.S., and they alone, are going to call the shots here. The move is so big that U.S. military reserves are now being called to active duty and 38 civilian airliners are being drafted into the military airlift. Every ally and puppet of the U.S. has been pressured to send troops in support.

A major world-sized crime is in the making; everyone needs to check it out.

Small-time gangsters do time for snatching gold chains. But these big time gangsters are threatening to starve and bomb millions of people in their cold power move. This is a big crime, a real crime, a crime against the people—and everyone who is down for change needs to take a stand.

What Are They Fighting For?

They say they should call the shots in the Middle East—even though over 200 million people live there and the United States is 10,000 miles away.

They act like the oil there is American oil—even though it is pumped up in Arab countries by the labor of millions of Arab proletarians.

To them, this wealth should flow into their banks and oil companies—even though the people of the world live in poverty and are robbed by the whole worldwide game of oil.

And most important of all to these gangsters, the power that comes from controlling oil must be in the hands of the U.S. because that power will help decide who runs who on a world scale.

Politically conscious people all over the world call the U.S. powers imperialists. These last weeks show why.

A Look at the Societies That Asked for U.S. "Protection"

The U.S. powers have gone to defend the kingdoms of Saudi Arabia and Kuwait. This should give everyone a picture of what the U.S. is fighting for.

Saudi Arabia is run by one super-rich family called the Sauds. In Kuwait the country was run by local princes headed by the Emir. Everyone else has no say.

The whole culture is dominated by extreme right-wing religious beliefs. Other religions, and especially modern atheist beliefs, are forbidden. Jewish people are rarely allowed into Saudi Arabia. People are often executed for violating these religious laws.

Women in Saudi Arabia are treated like slaves; they are never allowed out of the house unless they are together with a male relative, they are never allowed to drive a car, they are often forbidden to learn to read.

And most important of all, both Kuwait and Saudi Arabia have been run to make oil profits for the handful of rich princes and for foreign capitalists. At one ex---

Continued on page 4
Hawaii Marine Refuses

U.S. Marines stationed at Kaneohe Marine Air Station are being deployed to Saudi Arabia. But instead of being able to say that everyone is passively waiting to see the latest U.S. invasion, radio and TV stations in Hawaii have been compelled to carry a story that's brought little reaction from the people's resistance against the U.S.'s latest outrage.

On Thursday, August 16, Jeff Paterson, a 24-year-old U.S. Marine stationed in Hawaii, appeared at a press conference in public to state:

"I cannot and will not be a pawn in American policy. I won't fight for profits and oil in the Middle East. I will resist my government's attempts to sell the idea of war to the American people.

Many activists in Hawaii know Jeff Paterson. For the past two years he has taken part in dozens of demonstrations. As a member of the Latin America and Caribbean Solidarity Committee, he has protested against intervention in Central America, against apartheid, and in actions defending women's rights to abortion. He took part in the Gay Pride Parade and marched in Earth Day actions. He's helped organize discussions on the repressive moves by the U.S. in Peru and on Iran's occupation of the Western Bank and Gaza Strip. He has worked with the Klan for over a year and played a major role in organizing the recent July 4th "Resist in Concert." In Jeff's words, he did not pay attention to our government's attempts to enforce patriotism through flag display. Jeff says that July 4th does not have to be a day to fly the flag, a day to hold up the red, white and blue mentality of obedience to the fatherland.

In the last few years Jeff has been deployed to Okinawa, South Korea, and the Philippines. When asked at the press conference how he developed his strong opinions about the U.S., he acknowledged the U.S. Marines for giving him the experiences that helped him understand the nature of what the U.S. is doing in the Middle East. Jeff talked about the way his thinking has changed:

"When I enlisted in the Marines, I knew something was wrong. In training they made us hazing baby dolls that had the Soviet red star on them. They had us chant in PT formation about napalming villages and watching them burn, and doing a woman this or that way. That's the move they were trained to do. Throughout the last four years the blatant sexism and racism in the Marines has taken its toll.

I began to question exactly what I was doing in the Marine Corps. The time I began to read about history. I read Howard Zinn's 'People's History of the United States' and learned that the U.S. has a profound effect on the world. I read and studied exactly what type of role I was fulfilling in a historical perspective.

I read up on America's support of the oppressive regimes of Guatemala, Iran under the Shah, and El Salvador. I attended forums at the University of Hawaii and Church of the Crossroads. It was at these gatherings that I realized I had been sitting on the issue.

U.S. Power Play Threatens Big War

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The American empire has nothing to do with "freedom and democracy." It is an empire of ripoff and murder. To function it must prop up "running dogs" like the U.S. Marines for giving him the experiences that helped him understand the nature of what the U.S. is doing in the Middle East. Jeff talked about the way his thinking has changed:

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On August 15, the Wall Street Journal, an influential voice of the U.S. ruling class wrote:

"A sure presumption, the Emir of Kuwait would no longer reject a sustained U.S. military presence in his kingdom. Some of the same people who said the U.S. had no national interests in Vietnam, indeed are now saying it is confronting Iraq only out of materialism. With border wars in the Gulf likely to come, the President and his men should not be embarrassed to assert that this effort unites the materialist goal of oil and the idealistic goal of world order."

The American empire has nothing to do with "freedom and democracy." It is an empire of ripoff and murder. To function it must prop up "running dogs" like here Arab kings, including with the open use of U.S. armies. Why should the people fight and die to defend this gangstrer setup?

We Won't Be Chumps

They want the oppressed within the U.S. to support the attack on the Middle-East—or else shut up. And more—they want oppressed foreign people to become hired killers for the U.S. military. It's a classic game of oppressor.
Saudi Mission

The following statement was given at the August 16 press conference in Hawaii: 

Good Afternoon. My name is Jeff Patterson. I am a CPL in the USMC. I have served three years, ten months in the military. My recent tour in the Gulf has shown me that the United States has twisted reality to make it look like they were the victim in order to justify wars of aggression. They chained a fact on the basis that Iraq was violating UN resolutions, because so-called "intelligence" was fabricated in support of this decision. They lacked the will to win the war.
For over a month there has been an intense armed standoff between authorities and Mohawk people in two communities outside Montreal, Canada. This confrontation started with a gun battle on July 11 when hundreds of Quebec provincial Police attacked a roadblock set up by Mohawks near the Indian community of Kanestakens, about thirty miles west of Montreal. The Mohawks had put up the roadblock to prevent local authorities from stealing Mohawk land to expand a golf course. In the wake of the July 11 battle, new actions were taken by both sides. Mohawks set up additional roadblocks in the area, and the Canadian army was moving its forces into position near Kahnawake and Kaneataske. The U.S. has stopped shipments of rice and equipment. Now they're starting to talk about sending food. Next thing you know we'll be smuggling food.
"My grandmother's property is a good example of that. They had the canal already planned. They dug up the riverbed, threw the bridge and the stone onto my grandmother's property. Then when they changed the course of the canal they just left it. If you look at the other side of the Mercier Bridge, it's all finished in concrete and grass and stone. They left our side looking like a dump."

"My two grandfathers, they were living right along the river. One of my grandfathers, they were dynamiting all around his house. It was just on a little peninsula. He got sick. He had to move him right out of there. They paid them for moving your house from one point to another point but they didn't pay you for the property. It was just for the inconvenience." But the riverfront was gone. That was part of our life, we always had a riverfront. That was sad, very sad for us. The Seaway went right through there; we didn't have access to the river. Just the ships go by now. You have no more riverfront property, it costs a lot of money."

As we swung toward the bridge, I drove by a lumber yard, one of the few Mohawk businesses in Kahnawake. The Mercier Bridge rose above the canal and the river in the distance. In front of it was another bridge. Al told us this was called the C.P. Bridge. It's a railroad bridge that works like a drawbridge: when it's up trains can't get through and boats can pass through the canal. When it's down, the train goes through and the boats have to wait. Railroad tracks that bring goods back and forth from Montreal to the U.S. cut right through Mohawk land. The same way they did with the Seaway and the power lines, the government just came in, took the land and built the tracks. We all laughed when Al said these trains go to New York. And someone else who was showing us around shot back, "Not anymore they don't." The Mohawks control the bridge now. And since they were attacked in July they've had it raised so that no train can pass through.

LAND FOR THE RICH

The Mercier Bridge loomed in the distance. It connects Kahnawake with Laval on the south shore of the island of Montreal. The Mohawks put up a roadblock on the bridge on July 11, after Quebec police attacked their brothers and sisters in Kaneastake. We were about 200 yards away. Squatting in the afternoon sun, we could see the Warrior flag flying over the Mohawk barricade in the middle of the bridge, a few hundred feet above the water.

The history of how the bridge got there is itself testimony to the oppression of the Mohawk people. They were dynamiting around the houses and people wouldn't move. They didn't want to put the bridge in Chateauguay because they said the land was too valuable. The town of Chateauguay had plans to build a bridge there. But they don't want it because they'll have to put up with the inconveniences. We all set up for generations—appropriation of their lands, traffic tie-ups in a nice little area. Too much traffic. But really what stopped them was it was all right to appropriate the land right here but when you got to the other side in Dorval and Lachine, there were too many powerful people that lived there. It was all owned by doctors, lawyers, congresspeople. It would have cost them a fortune.

As we drove by the base of the bridge where it touches Mohawk land, Al pointed to a huge golfing green with lush fields of green grass. Rich Canadian golfers call it the Kamawaki Golf Club. We had heard about this from Carol the night before: "They have a golf club here with a house of 99 years—Kamawaki Golf Club, which is a millionaire's golf club. All the corporate heads belong to that golf club. It is one of the best golf clubs in the country. It's a private millionaire's golf club. All the Scotch, Irish, English belong to it. And we're not allowed in. Well, we work there, carry their clubs for them." We all laughed when Ann joked about a more appropriate use of the club: "If push comes to shove and we don't have no food, we'll plant corn on that."

A CHALLENGE TO THE STATE

The Mohawk women and men we talked to spoke with anger of past generations who had either seen no way to defeat the imperialist powers or who were trying to crush them, had been afraid to go up against the powers, or had been bought off in some way and actually helped the government. "Yeah, they were able to do what they wanted years ago. The St. Lawrence Seaway, the hydroelectric towers...for years, generations, they could do what they wanted. In 1948 they gave away 80 percent of our territory here. The whole Ministry of La Pargue, they just gave it away. People are tired of it."

One of the main ways the powers went after the Indian peoples was through the Indian Act. This law was used by the Canadian governement to steal the different Indian peoples' land, culture and language, and to assimilate Indians into Canadian society. Similar laws were also passed for the same reasons in the United States.

It was under the Indian Act that the land that remained in the hands of Indian peoples was declared federal land and held in "reserves." Before the Indian Act, Mohawk stamahcers had nominated the chiefs, which the people then agreed on. The Indian Act set up a system of elected chief's with a grand chief and ten councilors. The Canadian government recognized only the elected chiefs as the official government and they gave a lot of money to these "band councils" to administer the Indian lands. Through this, they were able to control and influence many of these Indian officials to go along with their plans to systematically rip off the Indians' land and assimilate their way of life.

There is a growing traditionalist movement among the Mohawk people, as well as among other Indian peoples. We talked with some of these Mohawks while we were in Kahnawake. They are determined to fight to keep their identity as a distinct people—their land, culture and language. One woman spoke for many of these people when she summed up her view of the current struggle: "This is a challenge to the state, the state's power. The way the state worked it out was that over several generations they were going to get rid of their obligations to Indians by controlling the Indian peoples through essentially just discriminat- ing and absorbing them into the mainstream. They were not ever gonna pay their obligations to Indian peoples. Both countries—the United States and Canada—lost their Indians. But in both countries it's not been successful. We've hung on and we've suffered a lot and we're still here as nations. We still have our ties with each other. They didn't disseminate us."

To be continued.
Part 1

Coming Up: Fried, Dyed and L

Recently the Revolutionary Worker had the opportunity to talk with a leading comrade in the BCP who started out as a street youth and became a revolutionary leader in prison. His story is of definite interest to the sisters and brothers who are facing a way out of this racist and downpressing system. Over the next few weeks the RW will present this brother's life story in a Black youth coming up in the early 1960s, through two prison rebellions, to the present.

RW: You spent a lot of time in prison when you were coming up and you become a revolutionary in prison—and a revolutionary leader. So we'd like to go down on that whole story. And we know that your experience can shed some light for the brothers and sisters—who are right now up against some heavy fire from the powers that be—on why they should become revolutionaries.

There's some lines in the rap by Public Enemy. Don't believe the hype. They put you in jail for having a sip of water. On the other hand, they can flog a brown youth and put him in jail for years. How this song relates to your situation when you were coming up in the 1960s?

Comrade X: A lot of what's captured there speaks to what it is for a Black youth and other oppressed youth coming up in this society, not just now, but when I was coming up too. One of the main differences is that now coming up in this society, not just now, but when I was coming up in the 1960s, that's the character of it. Malcolm X used to talk about how there was a minimum security and maximum security. He'd be talking and saying he had been in prison and he'd tell people, 'Well you don't believe that now, you're in prison too—it's a question of maximum versus minimum security prison.'

But increasingly from what I can see, the distinctions are getting blurred. I mean, when you have people getting stopped like these youth stopped in Boston and strip-searched out in public and shit, and they're even looking at the whole state apparatus and in the name of the war on drugs actually conducting a war on the people and the people that I'm coming up in. That's the character of it.

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and walking around with pieces of cloth under our feet so we wouldn't scratch the floors. We couldn't wear shoes or anything.

It was also very segregated. The Blacks were in certain cottages and the whites were in certain cottages. And the whites, to the extent that this could be the case, had more privileges than the Blacks. When I got out of quarantine I went into this cottage—and everybody was going into what we called the scullery—I guess it's some English word for the kitchen—and I was the last to go in. As I walked past the cottage supervisor he said something to me and I said, "No," and all hell broke loose. He knocked me down, threw a chair on top of me, and hit me with a chair, pulled out a whip and whipped me, and all of this was because I didn't say, "Yes SIR."

They only let you wear your hair so long, so in order to keep your hair long you had to put on a woman's stocking. You'd take it and put it on your hair so that it would be pressed down and it wouldn't be too long. Otherwise they'd make you get it cut off, because when you first go in there it's just like the army. They cut your hair off, it's very regimental, very humiliating. They make you march in formation and say the Lord's prayer and pledge allegiance to the flag and all this kind of regimentation and strict control over everything you did. There were certain areas in the cottage where you could talk and where you couldn't talk and if you were caught talking, there were snitches and whatnot that would write your name down. And if your name came on the list then you would get the strap. For all this talk about child abuse, they would make you lean over a chair and make you pull your pants down and beat you with a razor strap. For talking in the dining room, you'd get ten licks—but if you let go of the chair before the cottage supervisor got to ten then you had to start all over again, so this could go on for quite a long time. It was just very fascistic in that kind of way. And that was not at all that inconsistent with the atmosphere in the country in the '50s and early '60s—that was the way things were carried out. Later on when I got out and got a little older and came back, I rebelled against some of that—including challenging the cottage supervisor himself.

RW: Where were most of the guys from, what kind of background?

Comrade X: Overwhelmingly proletarians. A lot of the people I met in reform school—and these people came from all throughout the state—later, when I was older and went to prison, there was the same people. This was the track you were on and the people you met there were frequently the same people you met when you got to prison later on in life.

RW: Some people treat the whole question of crime in the inner cities and youth gangs like it never existed before, when in reality the oppressed people have always been in a situation where it was allowable to brutalize each other but crossing that line to fight the system was something different.

Comrade X: That's definitely true. In fact that was a point the Chairman made in the interview about the Black Panther Party. Where I grew up it wasn't like there was organized gangs as such, but it was more that there was turf, which is more or less the same. It was the East side versus the West and the North side versus the South. If you went on the wrong side of town then it was your ass. Or if you went on to a bar on the wrong side of town and you stepped on somebody's toes or something, these minor kind of things like this, it very often went over to violence. And in some other places like Chicago, not only did they have gangs, but they were like empires. Thousands of people were in them and in fact you were forced into them. So it is definitely the case that this has existed for a long time.

And also, too, this whole point of it being "allowable" in a certain sense if you are doing it to another. It is different than if you even step out and start committing violence and violent crimes against whites, to say nothing if you begin to go over to become a revolutionary and start attacking the system. Then there is a whole different ballgame.

RW: Getting back to your story. Clearly when you were in...
you, it did not work. It did not achieve the results that they desired.

...stave eight hours a day like I'd seen my parents do and from where we lived it was like a whole rich section of town. And you'd think about these things. Why was it that way? Why was the food that people had to go hungry and why was there a certain style of going up against things, not in a conscious way, but there was a certain edge to that style that was not respectable, that was not the way up to your chest. And they wore their Kadies on their laps, on their jacket, and they were the outlaws. They would wear their outrageous clothes and they would stand on the corner and they would croon and those kinds of things. And that's who I admired and who I wanted to model myself after. And later it was that was out there like that.

...There was also contempt for the pigs. When I first began committing robberies and burglaries, I would go into a place and start burglarizing it and just in terms of the fearlessness I had of the state, I would go in and start cooking myself a meal. Like I figured they had the same thing that I had and I probably had more heart than they did, so if they came I was ready for them. And that was the spirit that I had and in fact a lot of the youth had, and it's not all that different than what exists now. I was just not long ago rereading some of Malcolm X, and he talked about coming up — this whole thing about "face". It's like a street code and also it's a similar type of code in prison. In other words, the way he put it in his book is that for a hustler in our sidewalk jungle world, "face" and "honor" were important, no matter what. No hustler could have it known that he had been hyped, meaning outnumbered or made a fool of, and worse a hustler could never afford to have it demonstrated that he could be bullied, that he could be frightened by a threat and that he lacked nerve. It just basically comes down to machismo — that you can't let people do anything that would offend your manhood or offend your face. And if that happened then you had to go down, or you weren't down.

That was a whole part of existing on the street is that you had to have that nerve, not be able to be backed down by someone else if it came to a confrontation. That's part of the whole psychology of the streets that goes on, and some people from the '60s who are getting down on the youth today forget that. This is not something that even just existed in the '60s, it's part of the whole psychology of the streets and also something that exists in prison.

...looking back on it you said you see positive and negative things in the '60s. The '60s was a time of change and a time of upheaval. We had to fight against the system and to bring about the change that we wanted. But there was also a certain style in opposition. And it was just a certain style that was not respectable, that was not the way up to your chest. And they wore their Kadies and they would stand on the corner and they would croon and those kinds of things. And that's who I admired and who I wanted to model myself after. And later it was that was out there like that.

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A Message From Veterans to the Troops at Fort Saudi Arabia

The U.S. government is dressing you up in poison gas suits to play Rambo for them in the Persian Gulf. You are sitting out in the middle of the desert with your ass on the line, wondering what's going to happen next. We suspect you are a decoy to draw the gas attack which would be used as an excuse for a U.S. invasion of Kuwait or Iraq.

We know what you are going through, because we spent some time in the same situation when we were killed, maimed or sent to the hospital. You have no more interest in fighting in the war the U.S. is preparing for today than we did in the war they were waging in the '60s. Vietnam-era GIs were told that we were bringing Asian people democracy. We wound up killing 2-1/2 million of those people in a war that seems to have lasted forever. You are in the Middle East supposedly to protect "our" oil. You could wind up killing hundreds of thousands. AND FOR WHAT? So that the Pentagon can finally establish Fort Saudi Arabia, like they have been wanting to for so long? So they, by extension, can control their main economic competitors like Japan and Europe who depend on oil? The bottom line seems to be expanding the U.S. empire as the motive, and hair-trigger political and massive troop deployments as the tool to do it.

The situation is volatile. When the orders come to Rambo out, your response will profoundly impact the lives of millions of people in the Middle East and have unknown effects on world history. The politicans say they are there to stop naked aggression. That hypocrite has no more interest in fighting in the war the U.S. is preparing for than we did in the war they were waging in the '60s. Vietnam-era GIs were told that we were bringing Asian people democracy. We wound up killing 2-1/2 million of those people in a war that seems to have lasted forever. You are in the Middle East supposedly to protect "our" oil. You could wind up killing hundreds of thousands. AND FOR WHAT? So that the Pentagon can finally establish Fort Saudi Arabia, like they have been wanting to for so long? So they, by extension, can control their main economic competitors like Japan and Europe who depend on oil? The bottom line seems to be expanding the U.S. empire as the motive, and hair-trigger political and massive troop deployments as the tool to do it.

The Brass want you to obey, we want you to think. We feel that our experiences may have an effect on your decisions. Those of us who sat in the jungles of Vietnam learned that we could see no bravery in indiscriminate attack or in killing hundreds of thousands. You undoubtedly will have many of the same experiences we did. Ghosts march through our dreams every night. Your nightmares have just begun.

CHECK OUT THESE FACTS:

- It's one thing to kill, die or get maimed for a worthy cause. But once you are choking in a poisoned atmosphere, remember that you are there to stop naked aggression. That hypocrite has no more interest in fighting in the war the U.S. is preparing for than we did in the war they were waging in the '60s. Vietnam-era GIs were told that we were bringing Asian people democracy. We wound up killing 2-1/2 million of those people in a war that seems to have lasted forever. You are in the Middle East supposedly to protect "our" oil. You could wind up killing hundreds of thousands. AND FOR WHAT? So that the Pentagon can finally establish Fort Saudi Arabia, like they have been wanting to for so long? So they, by extension, can control their main economic competitors like Japan and Europe who depend on oil? The bottom line seems to be expanding the U.S. empire as the motive, and hair-trigger political and massive troop deployments as the tool to do it.

- Vietnam Veterans Against the War Anti-imperialist

Action Oppose U.S. Intervention

Seattle

On Monday, August 13 a spirited demonstration against the U.S. escalated in the Middle East wound its way through downtown Seattle. Called together by a new coalition of forces, the Ad Hoc Coalition Against U.S. Military Intervention in the Middle East, an estimated three thousand people took part, including punk youth, activists around Palestine and Central America, members of the Young Lords, the Youth Brigade, Vietnam Veterans Against the War Anti-imperialist, plus many other groups from the Middle East.

The marchers took over the streets, spelling out their demands for a "Stop Gulf War" with no more bombs, no more war! Kuwait, Palestine, El Salvador! "Hell no, we won't go!" And "U.S. Out of the Persian Gulf! George Bush, Go Fuck Yourself!" The revolutionary youth burned draft registration cards to enthusiastic cheers from the crowd.

Cleveland

An outdoor teach-in was held Saturday evening at a popular youth street scene near Revolution Books. One hundred people were hanging out that evening when the teach-in started up, and the crowd grew from there. Speakers included an MCP spokesperson and an activist from the Puerto Rican protest movement.

A Cleveland student from Kuwait read a statement from the Executive Committee of Arab-American Action Committees in Cleveland. "We, the Arab-Americans, believe that the United States is making a mistake in getting involved in this internal situation concerning the Arab world. America's threats of military intervention in Iraq's internal situation will only increase the current crisis and bring further increases in the already high number of Arab refugees in the Middle East.

Many youth took materials to organize "Out of the War!" in their schools. One young Black man said, "People here will wake up tomorrow morning and think deeply about these issues and what side they are on. It will leave them with ideas they never had considered, because of the intensity of the debate."

A dozen of left activists demonstrated outside the recruiting center in downtown Cleveland. The action was called by Vietnam Veterans for Peace and Justice and by the Committee Against U.S. War in the Persian Gulf.

New York

"Out of the Middle East!" came the demand from a diverse demonstration on Friday, August 17 as 100 people marched from the Armed Forces Recruiting Station in Times Square to the world headquarters of Exxon, spewing both histrionic jells and fists of protest.

Statements protesting the U.S. intervention were given by representatives from the War Resisters League, Radical Women, the Revolutionary Communist Party, Paper Tiger Television Collective, activists from Dorothy's House, the Long Island Movement and others. Speakers generally expressed uncompromising opposition to U.S. moves in the Middle East, and several pointedly denounced U.S. plans to massacre Arab brethren and sisters.
Anti-U.S. Tide Rises in Middle East

For almost fifty years the United States has dominated the region, but it has done this mainly by backing various local oppressors like Israel and the Shah of Iran. For the first time, the United States is inserting its own massive firepower against its own interests in the region. It is doing this in open alliance with the hated feudal monarchies of Saudi Arabia and Kuwait, the U.S. backer of oppression in the region. And these first images of war are being projected as a possible collapse and overthrow of pro-U.S. regimes throughout the Arab world.

In the Middle East, there is a brutal struggle between two forces: the U.S. and the masses of people in the Arab countries who want to oppose U.S. actions with words alone. Many thousands are burning for a chance to fight the United States and its various agents with fire in their hands. This was shown by a mass movement of volunteers in several countries signing up to fight alongside Saddam Hussein's forces. One week into this crisis, around 400,000 people had signed up in Jordan, creating a force almost as large as Jordan's own army. Similar recruitment brought volunteers in Lebanon, Algeria and Tunisia.

In a worried report, the voice of U.S. Finance, the Wall Street Journal, said that most of the Jordanian volunteers are young men with some form of military experience, including Palestinian fighters, and that they are all worried about their own safety. The government is in the hands of a wealthy and corrupt few who have everything to fear from the masses getting out of control. One worker said, "These other Arab leaders who are against Saddam, they are all worried about their own seats. They don't have support of 1 percent of their people."

Already Jordan's King Hussein is twisting—everyone knows he is in a long-time U.S. bootlicker. U.S. spokespeople openly worry how long he will last and what might replace him. But other lackeys may be in the fire next. For example, Egypt has reportedly not been infected by this outburst of anti-Americanism—but that could easily change. Pro-U.S. forces like Egypt's Mubarak and the Saudi royal house have enlisted their troops in the American cause, that is to suppress anger among the masses of people.

An university sociologist in Jordan commented, "I have never seen such collective rest"—adding that if war breaks out, "the whole region could erupt, and God knows where that will lead."}

For all of this threat to ignite a firestorm of mass hatred and resistance throughout the Arab countries, in fact, the flames have already started. This past week hundreds of thousands of people in the Arab world have vented their hatred of the U.S. From desert villages to capital cities across the Middle East, masses of people are standing up. Many eagerly enlisted to fight against Yankee imperialism.

This anti-U.S. wave has spread throughout the Arab world. It is doing this in open alliance with the hated feudal monarchies of Saudi Arabia, Egypt, British and France and is growing determination to actually confront the U.S. itself. Such support for Saddam is a mistake, because he is himself a creature of imperialism, he is an oppressor, he has committed atrocities against Iraqi and Kurdish people who oppose him, and he is totally immersed in conducting a revolutionary armed struggle to impose its will on the masses of the Arab people.

And, finally, Palestinians hate the rulers of Israel and the other rich oil Gulf states. They believe these monarchies have hoarded the wealth that should be used for the liberation struggle against Israel. And they have themselves become subjects of these same regimes. Al- most 400,000 Palestinians live and work in Kuwait, mostly as skilled laborers—when they return to their villages in Palestine with angry stories of being treated like dirt. A man in a West Bank village told the New York Times, "What these other Arab leaders are doing is selling cheap oil to America so the Americans can improve their economy and use it to support our enemy, Israel."

Burning for a Chance to Fight Imperialists with Guns

These are not the actions of people who want to oppose U.S. actions with words alone. Many thousands are burning for a chance to fight the United States and its various agents with fire in their hands. This was shown by a mass movement of volunteers in several countries signing up to fight alongside Saddam Hussein's forces. One week into this crisis, around 400,000 people had signed up in Jordan, creating a force almost as large as Jordan's own army. Similar recruitment brought volunteers in Lebanon, Algeria and Tunisia.

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Throughout the crisis in the Middle East, the U.S. government and their closest allies have reached new levels of hypocrisy and double-think.

On “Killing His Own People”

The United States points out that “Hussein used chemical weapons against his own people” and says this is an extreme example of his brutality. True enough—but the United States and its western allies were backing Hussein at the time! Now suddenly there is much news footage available of Saddam’s use of chemical weapons. But there was no major protest from the Western powers at the time when Saddam used chemical weapons against the Iranians or the Kurds. In fact Western powers helped him create the chemical weapons. West Germany, for example, provided most of the ingredients! The protests only started when he developed the long-range capacity to send these weapons against Israel and now, when he threatens to use them against U.S. forces.

The United States has no right to pretend horror at the way “Iraq treats their own citizens” when its history is rooted in the mass murder of Native peoples and the massive enslavement of African people. American expansionists even created the first bacteriological weapons against Indian populations—distributing blankets infected with smallpox germs.

In the ’50s, U.S. germ warfare experts reportedly tested their techniques by releasing viruses in the Washington, D.C. subway and by San Francisco’s Golden Gate Bridge. In the 1960s, U.S. police murdered hundreds, perhaps thousands (the exact numbers are unknown), in their attempt to crush the Black liberation struggle and other uprisings that rocked the country. They fired into crowds during black rebellions, they assassinated leading figures, they shot at student demonstrations, they raided movement offices. In the last few years, the U.S. actually bombed inhabitants of this country—when the MOVE commune was murdered by Philadelphia police in 1985.

On “Madmen with Nukes and Chemical Weapons”

The United States singles out Iraq’s chemical weapons for condemnation. It warns the world that Iraq may get nuclear weapons and that Saddam may be “crazy enough” to use them. They say Saddam “should be stopped now before he gets those weapons.”

However the truth is that the United States has already been “crazy enough” to use nuclear weapons—twice against the civilians of Hiroshima and Nagasaki. And they have been brutal enough to threaten nuclear destruction constantly ever since—including now in their confrontation with Iraq.

The United States has had many different kinds of chemical weapons for over eighty years since it first used them in World War I. It dropped Agent Orange (with the super-poison dioxin) all over Vietnam and used poison gases in tunnel warfare.

There is no modern war crime that the United States has not threatened, used, refined, exported and promoted when it was in American interests. Those who run the U.S. have no right to criticize anyone for being a “ruthless madman.”

Honorable Mention: Britain’s Margaret Thatcher

When U.S. President George Bush called for a blockade of food to Iraq, Britain’s Margaret Thatcher was right by his side. Britain has been hand in hand with the United States in calling for this war-by-starvation.

But when the issue was economic sanctions against the white racist apartheid regime of South Africa Margaret Thatcher argued (for years!) that such sanctions were immoral because she claimed that sanctions harm the masses of African people, not just the racists on top.

The truth is that Thatcher will not undermine the Apartheid regime of South Africa but she is willing to starve millions of Iraqi people when it is in the interests of British imperialism.
**Straight Talk on the Central Park Rape**

In April 1989 a woman jogger was found badly beaten and left for dead in New York City's Central Park. The press reported she'd been brutally gang-raped as well. Governor Cuomo called the attack the “ultimate shriek of alarm.” Donald Trump took out full-page ads demanding the death penalty.

The masses of people should be—and were—outraged at this brutal attack. But when the powers-that-be start acting like the ‘defenders of women,’ the people have to start asking, “What’s up?” And when the authorities act “concerned” about a woman that’s been raped, the people have to expose what’s behind such hypocrisy.

This system is thoroughly anti-woman and promotes the whole ideology behind rape. Every six minutes a woman is raped in this country. Every six minutes passes without a trace of outrage from the powers-that-be. But this time the rulers saw a chance to do some political dirty work. They looked at this horrible incident and saw the opportunity to advance their war on Black youth and their war on women.

Immediately the atmosphere got heavy and ugly as the authorities and media churned out racist and sexist poison. The woman jogger is white, highly educated, and an investment banker. Those accused of the crime are Black and Latino teenagers from housing projects in Harlem. So a finger of blame was thrust into the faces of Black people. Black youth were portrayed as “animals” and “wolf packs.” The city was polarized even more along racial lines. And this is what this happened is contained in an ambulance record which indicates that they weren’t sure if she was white or Hispanic. But when authorities learned she was a white investment banker—they responded differently.

- When receiving a report of a group of youths attacking a homeless woman in the park the police admitted they went after the first group of Black youth they saw. These youth were simply walking in the park, but the police say they ran off when they saw the cops. This is supposed to make them guilty. But people know, in a city where the police have shot Black and Latino youth with impunity, not to run can be fatal. Two youths who didn’t run were arrested. And the rest of that night and into the next day the police conducted a “hunt” where any Black or Puerto Rican youth was beaten and murdered in police custody, that the cops made them up and never signed a statement to that effect. In the case of one youth (who was not on trial), the cops claimed he had a legal guardian present during his alleged confession. But their parents testified that the statements were coerced, that the cops made them up and got the youths to repeat their words. In the case of one youth who (who was not on trial), the cops claimed he had a legal guardian present during his alleged confession. But the youth’s guardian, his Spanish-speaking grandmother, was unable to understand what was going on because the cops stopped translating for her. Still, the cops claimed the youth had a guardian present and that his “confession” was valid.

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- A high-ranking cop admitted, “In the rush to collar these kids, they were treated, but the judge still decided to use this rape as a showcase to pose as ‘defenders of white womanhood’ and in order to stop up their attacks on Black youth overall.

The Central Park case reveals twin horrors of this system: the oppression of Black people and the oppression of women. The fight to expose and oppose the way the powers are using this trial should help to forge the kind of unity among different sections of the people that’s needed to topple this system. But instead positions are being taken that undermine that. And these positions got to be spoken to and defeated because they will not lead to genuine liberation. The powers have worked to try and get people to look at this whole case from a racist and sexist perspective. And because to some extent people have gone for this kind of thinking—and not clearly undermined the SYSTEM in this battle—a situation has developed where Black people are being pitted against women. And this is hurting the struggle and preventing people from really taking on the enemy.

1. **Attacking the Woman, Not the System:** People remember the case of the Scottsboro Boys in 1931 when nine Black youth were framed up on charges of raping a white woman and were sentenced to death. And people remember Boston in 1990 when a white man murdered his wife and said a Black man did it. America’s history is full of examples of Black men being set up on charges of raping and murdering white women. And so for good reason a lot of Black people have felt this is what’s happening with the Central Park case. Some people are charging that a railroad is underway and many feel—correctly—that the accused youths are not getting the same treatment they would get if they were white.

But a lot of the focus of this anger has...
2. Joining the System's Racist Railroad:

There have also been some feminist forces who have spoken out about the Central Park case. They say the rape of the woman jogger is being excused because the accused perpetrators are Black, Puerto Rican and poor. Some feminists say race has no role in this case because rape is "colorblind." They say that liberals are being wishy-washy in their support for the jogger because issues of race and class are always treated as more important than women. For this reason very few feminists have taken any action to protest the railroading of these youth. And in fact, some feminists have picketed the courthouse demanding justice for the jogger. Ironically, on at least one occasion they found themselves marching right alongside the vigilante, propellor Guardian Angels.

WOMEN'S OPPOSITION IS THE ENEMY'S WEAPON

The system's racist railroad cannot be opposed by adopting the system's anti-woman thinking.

The fight against the racist railroad of the youth cannot be turned into an attack on another victim of this system—the woman who was raped. People have to learn: The brutalization of ANY woman cannot be tolerated. Rape is the oppressor's way, period.

Some forces attack the woman because she's white and upper middle class. But whoever attacked the woman didn't know she was an investment banker or how much money she had. She was not attacked because she's part of the power structure. She was attacked because she's a woman. Oppressed people have to fight the power that be. But raping a woman CANNOT be justified by saying the woman is rich—nor even that she is part of the ruling class. The rape of a rich white woman by oppressed Black youth cannot be justified any more than a poor white can justify a racist attack on a black man.

Some people have argued the jogger wasn't raped because there's "unidentified semen." But there have been many cases of women being raped where no semen has been found at all. Such "evidence" is frequently used to further humiliate a woman who has been raped by questioning her about her "sex life" and treating her like the rape is just a figment of her imagination. Isn't this what the powers did to Twanna Brawley?

Raping women is one of the most violent expressions of male domination over women. It is an all-American activity, committed ten times an hour in this country. Just because the time system is using this victim, acting like they own her, to attack another section of the people, doesn't mean that Black people should then hate and attack the woman. This only details the real struggle that has to be waged against the powers.

There must be firm opposition to every attempt by the powers to conduct a racist railroad in the Central Park case. But it is wrong to deny that rape is a big problem among the oppressed themselves. In this racist and sexist society people are pitted against each other in the most brutal ways. And this is something the people have to fight against. And those who are attacking the woman jogger have to take a hard look at the ideology behind what they are saying. Aren't they just parroting the reactionaries who say women are the property of men? Isn't this the same source: this white supremacist, racist male chauvinists this system produces in places like Bensonhurst. The race mob that shot down Yunaf Hawkins for being Black was angry because one of "their women" was stepping out of line. They were angry that Gina Feliciano had dared to invite Black and Latino youth to her birthday party. And they went on a racist hunting spree.

Mumia Abu-Jamal is a revolutionary journalist, MOVE supporter, and former Black Panther Party spokesperson. In 1981 he was framed up and railroaded for the death of a Philadelphia cop. Mumia has been on death row for over eight years now, but the powers have not been able to silence him or turn him into an inspiration to the struggle of the oppressed. In February 1990 the State Supreme Court of Pennsylvania denied Mumia's petition to re-argue his conviction—the court in turn has turned down Mumia's legal challenge of his death sentence.

The need for people to step up efforts to free Mumia is now even more urgent. It would be a tremendous blow to revolutionary and oppressed people to lose this brother. The system must not be allowed to murder him!
Get Down with Carl Dix:

I'm not going to tell you to chill out.
I'm not going to tell you some never-gonna-happen fantasy about doing something positive with your life in this rotten system. I am going to tell you the truth like nobody else will. I'm going to tell you why you need to live, die, and fight for revolution for the oppressed here and around the world. Ain't nothing else worth living for.

Support, Sustain, Join the Revolutionary Communist Party, Dix, and Dix Down with the Youth Crew, the Revolutionary Communist Youth Brigade.

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CHICAGO - September 22
NEW YORK - October (to be announced)
& other cities