The War Clock is Ticking...

STOP THE WAR MACHINE, NO MATTER WHAT IT TAKES!

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A Halloween Surprise

FEAR NOTHING, BE DOWN FOR THE WHOLE THING TOUR HEADS FOR ATLANTA See Back Page
YOO! THE WORLD IS BEING TURNED UPSIDE DOWN!

LaRry Eversett—No one concerned about the war danger in the Persian Gulf can afford to miss this talk. Everett tells through the lies and hypocrisy of the U.S. government its propaganda to reveal the real motives behind America's intervention in the Persian Gulf. Insightful, gripping, full of facts. What about what 'dissolution of the American Way of Life' is really all about. Author of the acclaimed book "Behind the Peace Cloud: Inside America's Arsenal of Mass Hysteria," Everett has traveled widely in the Middle East and Asia. He reported from Iran during the so-called "Hostage Crisis" in 1979-80 and visited occupied Palestine in late 1982 to investigate the Palestinian Intifada.

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For more information call: (213) 832-4430

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Three Main Points

by Bob Avakian
Chairman of the RCP, USA

What do we live in the Revolutionary Communist Party want people to learn from all that is exposed and revealed in this newspaper? Mainly, three things:

1) The whole system we live under is based on exploitation — here and all over the world. It is completely worthless and no basic change for the better can come about until this system is overthrown.

2) Many different groups will protest and rebel against this system, and these protests and rebellions should be supported and strengthened. Yet it is only those with something to lose — their main job as revolutionaries — who can be the backbone of a struggle to actually overthrow this system and create a new system that will put an end to exploitation and help pave the way to a whole new world.

3) Such an revolutionary struggle is possible. There is a political Party that can lead such a struggle, a political Party that speaks and acts for those with nothing to lose but their chains. The Revolutionary Communist Party. This Party has the vision, the program, the leadership, and the organizational principles to unite those who must be united and enable them to do what must be done. There is a challenge for all those who would like to see such a revolution, those who have a burning desire to see a drastic change for the better, all those who dare to dream and to act.

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he Middle East war clock took a big tick toward zero hour last week. President Bush announced on November 8 that he had ordered the deployment of 150,000 more troops to the Gulf. And, for the first time, Bush openly said that the U.S. was getting ready for "offensive" attacks against Iraq. Bush's announcement followed a weekend trip by Secretary of State Baker around the Middle East and Europe — U.S. officials told the mission of the trip was to discuss with allies details of a military plan against Iraq.

The forces for an imperialist war of aggression in the Persian Gulf are stepping up their mobilization. All those opposed to the war moves also need to step up their mobilization. NOW is the time to mount determined resistance and STOP the U.S. war machine, no matter what it takes!

**Doubling the Combat Forces**

The deployment of 150,000 more troops will almost double the size of the U.S. combat forces already in the Persian Gulf. The added buildup will more than double the number of U.S. tanks in Saudi Arabia — from about 800 to 2,000. This will give the U.S. an edge in Iraq in the number of "top-of-the-line" battle tanks. Three more aircraft carriers are being sent to reinforce the three already within striking distance of the Gulf. The battleship Missouri, with 16-inch guns and cruise missiles, will join the battle fleet in the Gulf.

As part of this new troop deployment, the Pentagon is calling up major combat units from the reserves to join the forces in Saudi Arabia. In order to increase the time for training the reserve forces, the Congress approved the doubling of the limit on active-duty service for combat reservists to 360 days.

Bush said that the added troops were needed to achieve "an adequate defensive military option" against Iraq. Up till now, the official Bush administration position has been that the U.S. forces were only to protect Saudi Arabia and force Iraq out of Kuwait through economic sanctions — although high-level "leaks" had made it clear that the U.S. was planning and preparing for a war against Iraq. The news talk about an "offensive military option" is a dangerous signal of the criminal plans the ruling class is making to attack Iraq.

**Baker's War Councils with Allies**

A week before Bush made his announcement, he sent his right-hand man, Secretary of State Baker, to the Middle East and Europe. According to news reports in the U.S., he was to discuss with allies "upping the ante" and against what targets military force might actually be used.

At each stop the Baker trip added more momentum to the U.S. war machine. Baker first visited front-line U.S. troops in Saudi Desert. The Pentagon-approved media reports focused in on some GIs who told Baker they were eager to go to war. The New York Times said this "impulse" of the troops is "clearly becoming another factor" as Bush considers taking the "war option." Backward GI's are being used as another excuse for war by the rulers, even in resistance among active and reserve military personnel is growing.

After Bush's trip to Saudi Arabia, the two announced agreement that if the U.S. launched an attack on Iraq from Saudi territory, American forces would be "free to plan and execute the attack entirely under their own commanders, without interference from the Saudi military leadership." Only a few weeks ago the Saudi defense minister was saying publicly that Saudi territory could not be used for offensive operations against Iraq forces.

Meeting the Chinese foreign minister in Cairo and the Soviet foreign minister in Moscow, Baker reportedly got both to agree that their government would not block the UN Security Council from authorizing the use of force against Iraq if the U.S. asked for such a measure. China and Soviet Union are both permanent members of the UN Security Council and have veto power over Security Council resolutions.

"Window" for War

There is talk among high-level officials in the government of a three-month "window" for war opening up between mid-November and February. Several factors are behind this "window."

The U.S. and its close ally Britain have declared that they already have the legal authority under the UN charter to use military force against Iraq. But the U.S. will probably try to get some type of UN authorization for military action. The move to do this might come this month when the U.S. delegate takes a turn as the President of the Security Council; the President has a great deal of influence over the agenda of the Council.

A CIA report on how the economic sanctions against Iraq are working is due to be finished by mid-November.

For the U.S., the ideal weather conditions will be between now and mid-February. After that comes the "khanz" when the temperatures shoot up and strong sandstorms hit the region. This will hammer air attacks, which figure big in U.S. military plans. Visibility becomes so poor that even spy satellites are not able to track movements on the ground. Military experts say that the U.S. commanders will probably begin war on a moonless night when they hope their high-tech night-vision equipment will give them an edge over Iraqi troops.

As the U.S. pours more and more troops into the Persian Gulf, the composition for war is getting stronger. Having made this huge commitment, the U.S. imperialists cannot back out. Their standing as a top superpower is on the line. Either they will have to make Saddam Hussein back down or they will have to throw down with Iraq.

It is possible that even if Saddam Hussein makes a conciliatory move (for example, by withdrawing partly from Kuwait), the U.S. might still launch an attack against Iraq. When Bush claims that the U.S. goal is only to get Iraq out of Kuwait, he is lying. The U.S. has dreams of regaining the position of the undisputed top imperial power in the world and building a new U.S.-led alliance in the strategic Middle East. And the U.S. needs a decisive "victory" over Iraq in order to achieve those goals. The U.S. rulers are even encouraging speculation about dividing up and distributing the pieces among their regional allies. In a recent editorial, for example, the New York Times said that Iraq has no legitimate claims to Kuwait but that Turkey (a member of NATO) has a legitimate claim to the Mosul province in northern Iraq. There are rumors that Turkey has been promised the Mosul province if it joins the U.S.-led forces in a war on Iraq.

Bush recently used the Americans detained in Iraq as an excuse to jack up the war hype. He claimed that they were being "starved" and "mutilated" and said that this was proof of Iraqi aggression. But who are the big aggressors here? The U.S. is using economic sanctions to try to starve the whole population of Iraq. They are making war plans involving bombings of cities that could kill many, many thousands. They are making gangster deals about carving up a whole country.

**Stop the War Machine**

The imperialism take into account weather conditions, relationships with allies, and so forth when they talk about their "window" for war. But they underestimate the masses of people. Especially if they start a shooting war, the Arab people could rise up and a revolutionary storm could sweep the region.

Here in this country there are encouraging signs of rising opposition. Last month thousands of people across the country marched in opposition to U.S. intervention in the Gulf, including 15,000 in New York City. Word about Jeff Paterson, the first active-duty GI to refuse deployment to Saudi Arabia, is spreading, and resistance within the military is growing. The Stop the U.S. War Machine! Action Network has called for nationwide protests at U.S. military bases and recruiting centers on November 17.

The dangerous times require that these determined actions continue and expand. The war criminals in power must be stopped from carrying out their deadly plans.

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**U.S. Hands Off the Persian Gulf! U.S. Troops Out of the Middle East!**

**Hell No, We Won't Go!**

**FUCK the U.S. and All Its Might, Revolutionary War IS the One We’ll Fight!**
The U.S. military, contrary to their Madison Avenue 4-color image, is not a club of thrill-seeking adventurers. It is not vocational school for job skills nor is it an education funding charity group. Its sole purpose is to defend and expand the imperialist empire of a privileged few—the super-rich. To do this, the military requires bodies—lots and lots of bodies—which it churns up and when finished with them, spits out.

As long as he fills his monthly quota of young bodies, he doesn’t have to go to the desert or face the poison gas himself. Living a life that the average GI cannot, he lies, bullies, and does whatever is necessary to meet the ever-present quota and preserve his sports car lifestyle. But in schools and on campuses across the country, students, teachers, parents and others are finding creative ways to drive recruiters off campus.

- In schools and on campuses across the country, students, teachers, parents and others are finding creative ways to drive recruiters off campus.
- In many high schools, students take all the recruiting literature from the racks and throw it away every day. Often, they take the post-paid mailers and send them in with little "messages."
- On some campuses, groups have established recruiter-alerts. As soon as a recruiter shows up, the word is spread. The recruiter is surrounded and booted, heckled, jeered and challenged to debate veterans.

The plan, which has been reported to be successful, is to interfere with the recruiter’s ability to conduct business and thereby drive him off campus.

- We have heard of plans to pour sand, oil, and blood on recruiters’ materials and into or in front of recruiters’ offices.
- VVAW AI has taken up the challenge to drive and keep recruiters off campuses and out of schools. We have made ourselves available for speaking and to debate recruiters if any are ever found who dare debate us. We are putting together a new Recruiter Free Zone kit to aid others in running the recruiters off campus. Contact the Seattle Chapter for further details.

VVAW AI can be contacted at: 4710 University Way NE, #1612, Seattle, WA 98105
Action Network Calls for November 17 Actions

We received this "Statement of Unity" and a call for nationwide protests on November 17 from the Stop the U.S. War Machine, No Matter What It Takes! Action Network:

Statement of Unity

Today a massive U.S. military machine is poised for war in the Persian Gulf. The lives of tens of thousands, Arabs and Americans and many others hang in the balance; the fate of millions could be at stake if chemical and/or nuclear warfare is let loose.

We have been told by the government that the U.S. forces are in the Gulf to stop Iraqi aggression. Yet why then did the U.S. condone Iraq's aggression against Iran? We have been told that one country must not be allowed to invade another—yet this is just what the U.S. did in Panama less than a year ago. We have been told that international law must be defended—yet President Bush served in an administration that consistently ignored and flaunted international law in Central America. We have been told that the U.S. seeks a peaceful resolution of this crisis. Yet the U.S. has rejected numerous Iraqi offers to negotiate and even the whisper of compromise brings pity new denunciations and troop deployments.

HELL NO! WE WON'T GO!

America's deployment and war plans are about oil and power. We won't kill and die to protect an "American Way of Life" based on plundering the world's resources and poisoning the planet. We won't stand by and let blood be spilled for oil and global power politics! And we stand with our Arab brothers and sisters, whose lives are every bit as precious as ours, and their right to choose their own future free from imperial intervention.

The Stop the U.S. War Machine Action Network has issued an emergency call for a national day of protests on Saturday, November 17 at military bases and recruiting centers across the country.

Contact the Action Network at:
Action Network, c/o Box 2139, New York, NY 10108 phone (212) 642-5228

Marines Hold Paterson "Captive" in Hawaii

After Marine Corporal Jeff Paterson refused to board a plane for Saudi Arabia on August 29, the military put him in the brig at the base in Hawaii. Widespread protests forced the military to release Jeff from the brig, but then they kept him confined to base. The military was also forced to lift this restriction on October 26. Now the Marines are trying to keep Jeff in Hawaii.

Jeff had planned to use his leave to go to the San Francisco Bay Area last weekend and participate in some political actions involving Vietnam veterans and others against the U.S. intervention in the Persian Gulf. He was also scheduled to be interviewed by major network news. But in a blatant attempt to restrict Jeff's ability to speak out, the Marines canceled his leave and forced him to remain in Hawaii.

The Marines have openly admitted that they tried to keep him in the brig and restricted to base in order to limit his access to the press and his ability to communicate with supporters. They are still trying to silence Jeff as much as possible. The government has called him a "national security risk." The ruling class is really afraid that Jeff's resistance will spread, especially among GIs, vets, and reservists.

Jeff is now appealing the military's denial of his application for conscientious objector status. His court-martial hearing is scheduled for December 3. Meanwhile the Marines have put him back on active duty status. According to the military, this means Jeff "can be assigned normal combat duties."

Jeff's resistance and continued defiance in the face of persecution by the government is an inspiration to wage determined opposition against the U.S. war plans. Jeff said in a recent statement:

"There was no way of knowing when I publicly announced my intentions to refuse orders to Saudi Arabia two months ago that it would make any impact at all on the government's plans, and was, in fact, being proclaimed by the government to the media. As I knew was that I was doing the right thing at the right time. It doesn't require much imagination to see the farce that will result if we as a nation continue upon our present course. The action I have taken was clear to me, for each and every one of us has the obligation to do everything we can to alert the administration's plans for full-scale war. And this we owe to the vast majority of the Earth's population who have no interest in this conflict.

"While the military has decided to put me on trial for refusing to be an accomplice to their war for all I say it's now up to us to put THEIR war on trial!"
Up Against the Censors

One lawyer involved in fighting against the current tide of government censorship in the arts recently remarked, "The most encouraging event in days is the fact that the jury in the 2 Live Crew obscenity case passed a note to the judge asking if they could laugh.

We do indeed live in some absurd—and vicious—times. In the past few months, Florida authorities have arrested:
- a rap crew (2 Live Crew);
- a record store owner who sells their record;
- a white pop group who did cover versions of 2 Live Crew's record;
- and the club owner who hosted the white pop crew's gig.

The store owner has been convicted of violating obscenity laws and perhaps psyching 2 Live Crew into court and getting a jury of bigoted people to hear their case. "The most devastating" is the fact that the jury in the 2 Live Crew's acquittal.

Another (Miami lawyer Jack Thompson, who took 2 Live Crew to court and is now going after the rap group Geto Boys, care nothing about the liberation of women or children. They are for keeping women and children "in their place"—family and husband bound. And their aim is the installation of a full-blown fundamentalist right-wing agenda across the board. They are Christian fascist, straight up. And, the mainstream politicians are basically giving them a license to do the people. These censoring moves in the name of "obscenity" are aimed at making the NEA powerless and more mindless which will allow for the removal of any and all "controversial" art—the most effectively works that expose the criminal and exploitative role of the bourgeoisie. As if to make the point that it is allegiance to the whole system that is on trial, the prosecutor actually put the question to the jury pool in 2 Live Crew's trial, "Does anyone NOT believe in pornography? Does anyone dare to believe that the U.S. government should be300 million?"

(1) He also gave some helpful hints on how to be a perfect American juror for our times. Complaining about one juror who helped acquit 2 Live Crew, he said, "I could just pardon the expression:·

The refusal of this jury to convict 2 Live Crew in a people's victory. It would really be a people's victory if 2 Live Crew also summed up the negative role of their oppressive anti-women lyrics, stopped dazzling the sisters and really stand fighting the power.

The 2 Live Crew verdict comes on the heels of the victory in Cincinnati where another jury acquitted Dennis Barrie, the head of an art museum who had been accused of promoting "pornography" by showing Robert Mapplethorpe's photographs. (See RW 8576). These developments are a testament to the fact that when
financial support for the arts. But the dogs are still in the streets, and the censoring authorities (who reach far beyond the obvious types to the highest offices in the land) are hardly giving up. In fact, the New York Times reported that Thompson and others were launching new campaigns against other groups and records immediately after the 2 Live Crew verdict came in. And in Cincinnati, three days after museum director Dennis Barrie was ac-cused, a public school announced the can-cellation of a production of Leonard Bernstein’s “Mass” on grounds of its “anti-Church” content. These censorship battles must some-times be fought in the courts, but they will not ultimately be won there. Because this is not the people’s turf.

In the music industry, the forces for the censors are trying to skin the cat many ways. The latest maneuver is now coming from the owners of malls who are forcing record store owners to sign “anti-obscenity” clauses in their leases, promising not to sell “offensive” products. This has led some stores to refuse to carry ANY stickered product for fear of irritating some neighborhood reactionary. Meanwhile, it’s reported that some stores won’t accept UN-stickered records unless they’re accom­panied by a lyric sheet (for review)!

Although 2 Live Crew got off, the cases involving the group are being looked at carefully by recent executors. It’s becoming clear that defending outlaw artists from the fundamentalist bloodhounds could cost them tens of thousands of dollars in these recession days. Anyone who thinks all this will not lead to a chilling of the atmosphere for musicians is crazy. The major record companies have all gone along with stick­ering “commercial” records, even if it only amounts to a few swear words. And some companies reportedly have estab­lished informal “lyric access­ing commit­tees” to “want” the artist about “problem” lines even before they’re out of the studio.

For many musicians and listeners, these heavy matter maneuvers are having the opposite effect from what the powers de­sire. As the radical rapper 2 Black 2 Strong told the RW last week, “That’s just gonna make the music more controversial. Cuz people want to accept the challenge. Now there’s always some self-righteous who are scared to make controversial music out of the censorship thing, but there’s a lot that’s not scared.” And of course when the authorities attack an artist or record, the response of many people is to check it out—as soon as they find out about it. But those who run this system have many ways to kill a thing and bury it. What the people have are millions of hearts and minds to fight for our art and our artists. Now is the time to go into battle on all the fronts.

Joseph Papp vs. NEA Censors

To further ensure the most provocative “community standards” are enforced on the artists, the new NEA budget shifts more funds to the individual states to disburse (from 20 percent to 25 percent by 1993), which will make it easier to apply backwoods “community standards” to more art projects. As with most demands for “states rights,” the subtext here is “Let the crackers decide.”

The process by which grants are reviewed is also tightening up. After they are accepted by the peer review panels, The NEA chairman must still approve or reject the projects. The culture czar who currently occupies that post, John Frohnmayer, was appointed by Bush and has recently distinguished himself by rejecting proposals from four controversial and progressive performance artists on openly political grounds—translation: not respectful enough of the patriarchal traditional family.

The peer panels themselves are being tampered with. Before, the peer panel was selected from the art field they were judging. Now they must be “individuals with wide geographic, ethnic and minority range” who do not have any “conflicts of interest” with those applying for the grants. This might sound good, but it is inten­ted to allow more political meddling in the judging process by the very cur­sors who are up in arms with the “controversial” grants. As one helpful colorized observed, the “conflict of interest” clauses insure that Joe Papp—who rejected his grant—is the only institutional theater person in America who qualifies for the theater panel.

On top of this, artists who receive grants must file reports after report WHILE they’re making the art, to assure the government they’re doing what they said they would—s.t to make sure everyone learns how to follow government rules and isn’t tempted to deviate from the approved plan toward taboo subjects.

All these new NEA rules will affect the arts in a far more profound way than simply restricting who gets funding. Labeling artists and works as “obscene” or “incident”—or even the threat of this—is a virtual invitation to the witch-hunters like those in Cincinnati who put the head of the 1st museum on trial and forced the museum to cough up over $300,000 to prove Dennis Barrie innocent of dis­playing pornography.

There is another dirty little secret involved in the current NEA federal grant

program—another “truth,” but one which almost no one has commented on. It seems that for the past couple of years, arts organizations receiving NEA funds have also been required to sign a pledge to turn in any employee with a “drug problem.” This is part of the fascist War on Drugs whereby federal employers be­come nanes, and encourage other employees to snatch on any suspected prob­lem employee, or anyone somebody wants to get rid of—all to ensure a drug-free workplace.

THE WAR FOR ART THAT PROMOKE ART THAT LIBERATES

Papp refused to accept the NEA money and stands out in these times when the government is using the NEA as a kind of fascist battering ram to tame the rebel artists. Some theaters are taking the money and openly self-censoring, including some theaters who refused to go by the rules · and tradition in the past.

This day after Papp’s announcement, a full-page ad appeared in the New York Times promoting Papp’s Shakespeare Festival. But covering the ad copy was an internal “memo” from the NEA detailing the surreptive content of each program for the coming season. (“THE BIG FUNK—a tragedy, adapted by full­fron ted male nudity...” “BLACKOUT—comedian buzzword in African-American manner- full, Infor­matory content, Black cast, depicts ‘decadent’ status of black man in America. 2 Live Crew all over again...” ) Below the ad Papp ran the mes­sage: “The correspondence above is imaginary, but the threat of censorship is very real. When you ‘Use Public’ you are supporting a theater that refuses to yield to the demands of government agencies and their officials, even if it means passing up hundreds of thousands in government grants...”

There are two roads out there. And no one should fool themselves about where the node of cooperating “just a little” with the authorities on these ques­tions will lead. In the late 20s in Germany a lot of job openings turned up for the polite landscape artist and museum director who would shut up as the Nazis closed down the Bauhaus and drove the radical playwrights out of the country.

The choices people make today will matter too—and even more so. The stakes may be even higher.
Palestine:
Fearless Under the Occupation

The oppressors in Israel and their backers in the U.S. keep saying the intifada, the uprising of the Palestinian people, has died down. But there is a new anger in Palestine. A wave of struggle followed the October 8 massacre at the Al Aksa Mosque in Jerusalem when Israeli security forces used live ammunition to gun down Palestinian protesters. There is outrage in the West Bank and the Gaza Strip at the huge U.S. military intervention in the Persian Gulf.

TheRW was able to talk with a progressive photographer who recently traveled to occupied Palestine. The following are excerpts from that interview:

RW: When you came back you told me you wouldn’t believe anything the media said anymore and that you were really angry. What did you mean?

There’s a lot of talk about the intifada being over, that the situation at the Al Aksa Mosque was a contrived event to bring the focus back on the Palestinians and that it was also initiated by Saddam Hussein. From what I saw over there I don’t believe any of that stuff. The Islamic places of worship were violated daily by the Israelis. I saw mosques with their windows blown out. They were smashed by the soldiers. There was absolutely no need to use live ammunition on the Mount. The Israelis went up there and used live ammunition for an hour. To them it’s just another attack on an Islamic holy place.

When I was there before—this was ’82, right before the invasion of Lebanon—Jerusalem was open for business. It was really busy. You could go anywhere you wanted. Now when I go back it’s a divided city. The Old City is populated mostly by Palestinians. A green identity card and they can’t go into the Old City now. Strikes take place everyday. The stores are opened about three hours a day, and then they’re closed. Everything’s closed. So the streets are deserted apart from Christian tourists, and they travel in packs. It’s so ironic that the New York City Council has just passed a motion to rename a street by the Israeli UN Mission as United Jerusalem Place. When Jerusalem is ever reunited. And Israelis are afraid. I don’t know why they want to keep this place and live in such fear.

RW: Can you talk about the places that you visited and what the people’s lives are like there?

The West Bank and Gaza are very different. On the West Bank you have a lot more freedom of movement. It’s a larger place. And the people are generally better off. The homes are nice.

The person I got to know best there was a schoolteacher. Her husband worked in the Gulf and sent them back money, and they lived very well. She had brothers in jail for being members of the DFLP (Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine). She lived with her father-in-law. The little kids played soccer. And the girls were interested in playing guitar. I asked them what kind of music they liked and they said national songs, Palestinian folk songs. That’s what everyone wants to play, national songs. The little boy was really proud—his pencil case was in the colors of the Palestinian flag.

Most people spoke fluent English. Their grandfather had been to America. And they were interested in learning English. They were interested in learning English because of the British. The teacher I was with, she taught English because that was her occupation.

RW: The majority of Palestinians are laborers. Could you describe their situation?

A lot of people no longer work in Israel. Some people are still doing this out of necessity, otherwise their family would starve. Laborers who don’t go into Israel now are looking towards other ways of earning a living. People set up tiny factories in their garages. Often they are being involved in agriculture. With the help of agricultural committees they are learning how to work the land. There’ll be maybe a group of six people who are taught how to do irrigation. They’ll build a reservoir with pipes, and they’ll grow certain different crops from what they did before. Their neighbors will look on and see what’s being done and do the same thing. It’s like a greening of Palestine. The community is very close. No one seems to go without. There’s always food to share. Their generosity is just overwhelming.

RW: Did you visit refugee camps? What were those like?

I spent a day and a half at Bureij in Gaza. It’s one of the most militant camps there. It’s the day after I left, an Israeli army mortar drove in by mistake. No one knew he was there until he knocked over two kids and backed into them. Then everyone realized he was there. They took cock­tail his car, and they stoned him to death. The reports in the American newspapers said that he went in there and, as he was trying to escape, he knocked over these two kids. In fact it was the other way around. I wondered many times how these kids didn’t die. The Gazan Strip is very stupid. There’s lots of sand and dust. It’s really crowded. I think there’s about 20,000 people in two square kilometers. When I stayed, there was five of us sleeping in one room. It wasn’t an unusual occurrence. I don’t think, because the situation was so desperate, that the civilians were there already. The only other thing was there was a TV. You’d wake up and there’d be this little kid, he’s like seven. And he’s just out in a rubber bullet. There was another kid, he was about 14. He’d lost the power of speech because he’d been shot in the mouth by a live bullet. He’d lost his teeth, his tongue, and he was scarred. My friend’s mother bought us tea. She had both arms broken by Israeli soldiers.

They’re under curfew all the time. After eight o’clock at night they have to be indoors. Their houses are demolished. Most people are getting involved in political work. And they’re involved in political work. And they’re involved in political work. And they’re involved in political work. And they’re involved in political work.

RW: You told me that the youth basically lead the intifada. Could you talk about that?

Something like 60 percent of the Palestinian people are under the age of 18. In Gaza every young man I spoke to had been in jail. Everywhere I went the young men took me on a tour. He learned English because of the British. When I went into Bureij not to tell them that I was English or lived in America. Because America and Britain are very much hated. They want to know why America continually vows UN decisions about Palestine. Why America supports Israel so strongly when all this repression’s going on. Why it’s so hypocritical. Why America is in the Gulf.

RW: What does the graffiti say?

Some of it was justRegistering different factions. Other graffiti I saw would be calling a martyr. Others was just praising someone who’d killed a collaborator in the past, but there was so much graffiti. It just gets whitewashed over and written over again.

RW: You told me that the youth basically lead the intifada. Could you talk about that?

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RW: Where were actions to protest against the U.S. in the Gulf?

There were actions in support of Saddam Hussein. Their support for Saddam Hussein is as a man who’s going to talk the two problems together. Support isn’t for the invasion of Kuwait. There were popular protests, marches. Mostly marches, raising of flags, chanting.

The other Arab countries really haven’t done very much for the Palestinians over the last 20 years, except for financial. The people feel very betrayed by the fact that Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak and the Saudis are towing
such a U.S.-dominated line. They say it's a betrayal of their own nations. They see it as a betrayal of the Palestinian cause.

**RW:** What about the young women? Are they also in the forefront of the fighting?

Yeah, the women have taken on a completely different role now as far as I can see. There's a lot of different women's things going on, the women's committees. They're illegal now. I was told that they're getting stronger all the time. I told you that story about the women's committee that met in this West Bank house. They thought maybe the political discussion they had was too boring for the older women, that maybe they should have something domestic, like bottling fruit or something. The old ladies protested. They said, "We don't come here to form a battle front. We came here for the politics."

Very often the women will be out on the streets too. Because they know they can get away with a lot more than the men. A mother I know was out trying to rescue her son who was being beaten by the Israelis. They broke her arm and her daughter's too. It's total support. The women are out there too.

**RW:** You talked about some of the ways the Israelis tried to crush the intifada. Could you go into that some more?

The people, especially on the West Bank, they've been on a tax strike since the intifada started. The Israelis turn up and they stop their shops so that they have absolutely nothing left. Even down to the fixtures. I'd walk down the streets and so many shops would be closed because they haven't got anything to sell. They'll turn up in people's homes. I know one person, they took her lunch off of the stove. They took the stove away and said to her, "Let's see how you feed your children." And the next month they'd be back again, saying, "We collected taxes last month for one thing. Now we want these for another thing." The taxes are far and above the amount that they owe and it's a form of punishment. I spoke to a bank clerk whose tax rate was 56 percent of their income.

People involved in the intifada are being assassinated now. The Shabdet (Israeli security force) is assassinating prominent Palestinians. They still demolish houses. At Bureij, where I was, I think they demolished something like 30 houses two days before I left. It's a common practice to uproot trees, olive trees, citrus trees, when people throw stones in an area. When that's someone's economy, when that's their only income, it's pretty hard.

The place where I was, they were growing seedlings in the greenhouse. They sell it to farmers so they don't have to buy it from the Israelis. Out in the back they had that same greenhouse. It had been touched earlier that year by the Israelis. They'd fixed gas canisters and they knocked it. I was up in the mountains. These two women were sowing on the machines. A few weeks before another set of machines had been destroyed by the Israelis. They had been burned. I was in this quiet village. I asked, "Are you saying the Israelis come up here?" He said, yeah, they come up here the other week. They took everything out of the mosque and beat people. I was up in one village that had been under curfew. Aurora. It had been under curfew 23 times in three years.

The longest time was six weeks. When they're under complete house curfew, if you look out the window and they happen to see you, they'll smash your window. A lot of people now have birds, chickens, pigeons, rabbits, either under their house or in the backyard so that when they're put under curfew they'll have something to eat. It's also another form of self-sufficiency. The Israelis are tapping West Bank springs too. The Israelis are basically stealing the water. They're stopping them from irrigating their land. I saw one greenhouse under Israeli 'cause they couldn't get the water to it. They'll dig down to an underground spring and then tap the water.

They cut off electricity for days at a time at refugee camps. They cut off water. Very often they just have water for one hour a day. There's also deportations from the West Bank and Gaza to Jordan and Lebanon. If you travel abroad, a lot of kids don't have enough money to come back every year. And if you don't come back every year, you lose your citizenship. You lose your papers. Therefore you're no longer entitled to come back to the country to live. They want to dispense people off the land as much as possible. They would like to empty the West Bank and Gaza of Palestinians as much as they could. In the refugee camps the Israelis will block the alleys with concrete-filled barrels to stop the youth from running away. But the barrels are knocked down within a real short time. The kids were laughing about it and saying, "It doesn't really matter what they do, it doesn't matter how hard these things are to knock down. It just makes us stronger." And if they can't get the barrels down, they'll knock a hole through the wall.

I was reading the excerpts from the report that the Israelis finished about the Al Aksa Mosque massacre. There was one story about how some women and children were injured because a gas canister was fired into a hospital. And the explanation was that a soldier was running along and tripped. The gas went off accidentally and the gas canister flew into the hospital and he immediately went up and apologized. It's totally illegal for gas to be fired into enclosed places. I think it's illegal under UN-type illegal. But they did this uniformly. Old people and young children die. The women spontaneously shout. Every week you read in the newspaper about women spontaneously shooting from their gas.

**RW:** In the face of all of this—you look at the pictures, you see the expressions on their faces—people seem very proud and determined to fight for their freedom.

Definitely. The more oppressed they are the stronger I think that makes them. People talk of martyrs. It's like everyday talk. A martyr to us, it means something different. To them it's an everyday occurrence. There's a strength in that. I guess. It's an honor to fight for the millennium. People that don't, I don't think they're held in high regard. The culture to me is really generous. They are very proud. They don't want any dishonor. And I think they feel disheartened enough that they won't take it anymore.
No Peace for Racists!

Amerikkkan Education

The Campus Chronicle newspaper on University of Illinois Circle campus November 5, 1990, reported the following incidents in the campus housing:

- On October 4, a group of males repeatedly knocked on the door of a Latina female yalling. "You're a Mexican, aren't you? She pretended not to be home.

- On October 16, five white males accosted a black female and grabbed her from behind. When she went to report the incident, the clerk told her that they could not help her because she could not identify them.

- On October 17, graffiti was found on the elevator doors reading "Niggers die."

- On October 25, six white males formed a circle around a black female RA (Resident Adviser). When she asked them to quiet down, they sexually harassed her with comments such as "nice ass."

- On October 27, a note was found on a black female RA's door stating "Let the niggers clean it up," with trash strewn over the hall.

- On that same day, three white males were seen writing on a bulletin board: "No niggs."

- When a white female RA approached them, they pushed her down and ran away.

Also, binders are being sold separately at $6 each, so you can bind your own set and keep your back issues of the RW organized and readily accessible. Indecision is in preparation and will be available separately.

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The Mohawk people and their supporters were arrested as they left the treatment center will go on trial Wednesday, November 14. Over 60 people were arrested. Four men (Warriors) are still being held by the Canadian government at Partheny prison, including Lasagna who faces 50 different charges. They are looking at jail time that could total life in prison. The government has refused to release them on bail. us in g with another person. And one of the RCMP grabbed a hold of her by the neck and choked her. Pulled her right off the bike by the neck. So all these kids were out trick-or-treating. And there was a bunch of 12 to 14-year-old kids out there. And they all had masks on. So they went over and they started along the cops. When the kids were throwing these rocks around, they [the cops had] muders up on the building. They had muders up ready to shoot these kids. Halloween night. If something would have happened they would've said, "Oh, we're mistaken for the adult Warriors. In Halloween costume?" Well, most of the kids basically had fatigues on anyway, they all go out as Warriors. That was the favorite Halloween costume around here. 

The powers have been desperately trying to crush the struggle of the Mohawk people. But on Halloween they got a surprise. Mohawk youths at Akwesasne and Kahnawake took advantage of the fact that they were continuous to deliver some defeats against the imperialist police. At Kahnawake youth broke the windscreens of three police vehicles. They stood on top of the Mercur Bridge and threw huluses filled with paint at police cars below them. At Akwesasne, the RCMP (Royal Canadian Mounted Police) pulled a ten-year-old Mohawk girl off a four-wheeler. Youths stole the police and then destroyed one of the police cars with a molotov cocktail. The RCMP did a telephone interview with a spokesperson for the Warrior Society at Akwesasne. What follows are excerpts from the telephone interview. 

RW: Can you tell me what happened at Akwesasne last week? 

Warrior: It was the night after Halloween and there was a kid, she was about ten, riding in the back of a four-wheeler with another person. And one of the RCMP grabbed a hold of her by the neck and choked her. Pulled her right off the bike by the neck. So all these kids were out trick-or-treating. And there was a bunch of 12 to 14-year-old kids out there. And they all had masks on. So they went over and they started along the cops. When the kids were throwing these rocks around, they [the cops had] muders up on the building. They had muders up ready to shoot these kids. Halloween night. If something would have happened they would've said, "Oh, we're mistaken for the adult Warriors. In Halloween costume?" Well, most of the kids basically had fatigues on anyway, they all go out as Warriors. That was the favorite Halloween costume around here. 

The kids were in Halloween costumes even though it wasn't Halloween anymore. 

Warrior: Yeah, they were still running around in masks and stuff. There's actually two nights to celebrate it. One night is called Beggar's Night and the other night is called something else. With the atmosphere around here it's kind of carnival night every night. The cops were telling me about, "Oh, look what we did for your kids, we went out and spent $200 on candy. They could have broken this girl's windpipe by choking her like that! They wanted the kids to come to them and they'd say, "oh, we got ready for you, why are you treating us like this? I'm not sure if it come out of their pockets or it come out of petty cash from Quebec City or wherever the hell this thing is being or chanismed from. 

RW: Where did all this happen? 

Warrior: There's a two-mile stretch going down there which is a peninsula. And the end of it, the last quarter mile of this peninsula would be Quebec. Across the river is New York State and Quebec. And then across the river is Ontario and New York. That little area is like a little triangle, the tip is the peninsula. That represents St. Regis in Quebec. And this is where this all took place. And the SQ and RCMP have their headquarters right in the community building. You get to the village. You get to the little village. And right at the split in the road a hundred yards back from the split is where the police commandeered the tribal building and they have a lounge set up there. A big screen TV, You can see that when you're driving in. They have chairs and more. 

Continued on page 14
DON'T DIS THE SISTERS!

This letter was given to an RCYB organizer in Baltimore by a new Brigader who had volunteered in New York for the CD year, where the struggle around the question of workers was fresh and where the ideas of winning strategies were discussed till the wee hours.

A Letter to Revolutionary Youth:

Dear Comrades,

The things I'm about to say are that women will play an equal part in winning this war. How are we going to fight as human beings for a better society if we don't come together as a team or a family? Because if we are unable to live together, to unite an army would be impossible. A lot of brothers are not aware that they are dissing the sisters, and then there are a lot that do. And to the brothers that don't know they're dissing the sisters, they are the ones that should ask themselves are they dissing the sisters, and not fighting the power. And brothers who know other brothers like that, struggle with them about the question of women being equal in every aspect in society.

I am a woman and to win a world series or a championship game or whatever you want to call it—me personally, I call it freedom for all brothers and sisters all over the world. Just think of all these teams with no women. We would be the first team to win a world championship with men and women in the starting lineup—because nobody on the team rides the bench. But what we will win is more important than just a game. Instead of playing, we would be fighting side by side, men and women, for the freedom of oppressed people of all nationalities in the U.S. and all over the world. I know this is a touchy subject, but we have to deal with this, comrades. Brothers, we have to respect our sisters as human beings, as well as women. Before I joined the RCYB, I wasn't aware I was dissing the sisters. Until I was confronted with the common question: I denied and struggled with the brigade about women watching my back, I didn't feel they were capable of doing that. The reason I felt like that was never worked side by side with women before. So I always thought women had their jobs and men had theirs. But that wasn't true. That's how this Asshole of a System trains our brothers to help diss the sisters and keep them from being equal in this society we're living in. What I learned about being in the RCYB is that struggling helps solve problems.

We can solve these contradictions between ourselves as revolutionaries, because no matter how you look at it, we are all proletarian revolutionaries. That's why we have to struggle, and when you do have consciousness, think of them as a step forward to the revolution, because the truth is what we're about. What else can I say? Words are cool but actions with words and words with actions are better. So to all the comrades in this struggle for freedom, real freedom, find out what is right, then fight for it. In this case freedom is right for men and women at equal now as we fight together for our future society. Let's win this war together.

Fight The Power! Seize The Power!

A young Black Revolutionary from Deep in the Ghetto. Comrade: D. Death

For the Oppressor!!!

We are opposed to everything that oppresses and degrades women. We are opposed to the 'end-of-the-empire' decadence that is so common in the U.S. today and we are also opposed to 'traditional morality' that binds people in 'tradition's chains.' We are fighting for a future where there will not be any of this. A future without any degradation and oppression of women in any form. A future where no longer are people treated as property, where human beings no longer use and abuse other human beings. A future where humanity as a whole relates and cooperates freely. This is our mission, and we are moving to make it real.

Bob Avakian
Chairman of the RCP

IF YOU'RE DISISSING THE SISTERS, YOU AIN'T FIGHTING THE POWER

"Is Ice Cube really such a ladies man? Not according to the Revolutionary Communist Party. If you're dissing the sisters, you ain't fighting the power."

"The pamphlet stresses, however, that these references in the 'bitches' and 'hos' that run rampant through rap songs... The pamphlet stresses, however, that these references are simply glorifying 'naked and cruel power over women,' and that the men portrayed 'don't even want the sisters to have a good time.'"

Mark Blackwell
Spin Magazine, October 1990

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The powers in New York are making a major move against the people. In early October, Mayor David Dinkins announced the creation of the "Omnıous Criminal Justice Programs—Cops & Kids." The plan is about putting thousands and thousands more cops on the city's streets and proletarian neighborhoods. This plan is about making the biggest pig force in the country bigger than it's ever been before. It's about intensifying a war on the people under the cover of a "war on crime."

Do the city officials think that putting "Cops & Kids" on this program will make everyone think that youth are the problem? Oppressed people know that the New York Police Department (NYPD) murders our youth. If more killer cops are put on the street today, more youth and others will be murdered. No mistake about that.

The city's plan calls for adding 8,000 to 10,000 cops to the current force of 26,000 over the next two years. The plan also aims to take 1,000 cops off desk jobs and put them on foot patrol. Right now about 6,400 cops are on the street on any given day. Under the new plan there would be a daily count of 10,000 cops on patrol. This plan is a serious restructuring of New York's police department. It is a step by the powers in the city to get in position to head off serious challenges to their rule from the masses.

Check it out. The city has been on the brink of a major open rebellion among Black people more than once recently. A lot of social contradictions that the rulers can't solve are straining their rule. Homeless people starting to take over buildings. Artists defying censorship. Women getting over attacks on abortion and being dogged everywhere they go. Youth fed up with being stopped, searched, clubbed, ruffled, even murdered by cops.

The cops have caught some hell from everyone think that youth is the problem. If more killer cops are put on the street today, more youth and others will be murdered. No mistake about that.

One reason for the island-taking exercise has to do with what went down on Rikers Island prison in August. A reactionary strike by prison guards on Rikers closed off the island from the rest of the city for almost two days. The strike ended when the guards were assured they'd have more freedom to brutalize prisoners. And they went right back into Rikers and did just that. But during the strike the police faced the possibility of having to storm through the striking guards (who had dug a trench in the prison's only access road) to make Rikers Island before the prisoners took it over. Training for the possibility of the people gaining control of things is at the heart of these kinds of drills by the enemy.

In the 1970s, the NYPD had swelled up to a massive force of 65,000 officers. The city was forced to lay off thousands of police because of the fiscal crisis of the '70s. As the city was hit with a big crisis in the mid '70s, New York City was on the brink of financial collapse. The city was forced to cut many important social services like fire stations, schools, and hospitals. It was also forced to cut back on one area where they really hate to make cuts: their armed enforcers. Coming off the upsurge of struggle of the late '60s and early '70s, the NYPD had shrunk to about 30,000 pigs. When the financial crisis hit, the city was forced to lay off thousands of cops. Now the rulers, DeNaples, and the new police commissioner, Lee Brown, aim to restore the department to its full strength and then some. This plan isn't only about adding more cops. It's also about changing the way the enemy organizes and works their pigs.

As big and bad as they try to make themselves sound, the Mar's police are not in good shape. They are like a boxer who is 30 pounds overweight. He can throw some strong punches but is too fat and slow-moving. Out of a force of 25,000, only about 6,000 are on city patrol. The rest are tied up in bureaucratic entwined little police units or special units or court appearances. Some of the proposed changes call for emphasis on "community policing." Lee Brown wants a bigger force directly in the communities to carry out repressive measures and to develop a more sophisticated network of snitches.

Many cops now on the force live in places like Long Island, mainly white suburbs. The restructuring plan calls for newly hired cops to live inside the city limits. This is a step to try and get recruits from among the oppressed themselves, as well as to make it possible for the cops to respond to disputes among the people faster. Brown also wants to make cops who now ride patrol cars to be more involved in "solving the beat." He says this will help the police win the "confidence" and "respect" of the community. But this is just another way of increasing police presence in the neighborhood and recruiting more snitches. And the Village Voice recently quoted a criminal who said that cops out of patrol cars are more likely to engage in corruption, harassment and brutality.

What the People Should Do

The police plan has received a lot of praise from the powers-that-be. When the fiscal crisis of the '70s hit they were forced to...
Justice for Mary Mitchell!!

On November 7, family members of Mary Mitchell, a 42-year-old Black woman, called the police to settle an argument. The pigs settled the argument by beating Mary with their nightsticks, dragging her from room to room and shooting her dead. COLD BLOODED MURDER. THIS IS AMERIKKA. THE RED, WHITE AND BLUE AMERIKAN NIGHTMARE.

Pig Herwerth, the police who shot Mary down like a dog, stands over 6 feet tall. He says that another cop, who is barely over 5 feet, was swinging it at him. He says he had to blow Mary away to stop her from hitting him with the nightstick. Pig Herwerth is a lying motherfucker! He murdered Mary because she is Black and because the police badge is a license to do, best, brutalise and murder Black and other minority people.

When you get right down to it, this is why they want 8,000 more of these pigs on the streets.

But what we need is revolution in the streets. How many Mary Mitchells have to be murdered, how many streets will be set on fire, before the pigs try to stop these Black murderers? From the blood-suckers who rule us and their hired killers, take the guns out of their hands, and put the guns and the power in the hands of the people at the earliest opportunity. Then we can wipe out the oppression of Black and other minority people.

And to get ready for that, what we need today is to make the powers and the people run in fear from the beat of revolution. Basta Ya! Enough! No More! Justice for Mary Mitchell!

JAIL PIG HERWERTH FOR MURDER DOWN WITH THE OPPRESSION OF BLACK PEOPLE STOP THE MURDERING DOGS IN AND OUT OF UNIFORM

Super Oink Hits New York

Continued from page 13

To lay off pigs. Today this is a move supported by the reformers—who are trying to expand their police force. This is a move supported by the people—who are trying to beef up their forces of repression can have the effect of identifying the crisis they are already in. They are in a tough spot, and that's too fucking bad for them. Since this is a move that the people got some work to do in taking on these repressive moves by the powers.

A local column by Newtyn's Sydne Schanberg raised the call for repression to another level and gave a clear message on what time it is. Schanberg wrote: a communications revolution, which is what we have here, we might have to suspend some civil liberties. This is the only thing they can do, since they've been here, that's it. Some people might have to be detained. Some young people might have to be held. They are trying to create a dangerous and destructive environment. No one who believes in civil liberties wants ever to say these things, but we have come to realise and the restoration of order cannot be accomplished without them.

Schanberg suggesting that oppressed youth automatically be jailed once they reach a certain age? This fascist rating is awesome and frightening, but it is not far from what's happening now. The U.S. already imprisons Black people at a higher rate than South Africa does. Housing projects are being put under lockdown. Police regularly sweep up young people off the streets and jail them in the name of "drug raids." How many more of our youth will be victims of police murder if the powers are allowed to put thousands more pigs on the streets? How many more of our youth will be thrown in jail if they are allowed to do this? The people need to see this plan for what it is and oppose it.

From a recent column by X, the people are allowed to do what they want and not let them carry out their plan to pen us in, lock us up, run us down, and kill us. They're putting up that front, telling that Big Lie that this is what we want. And more than that, while we're bittering them back, politically like that, we get to make this part of getting ready for The Time and the coming soon—to a real revolutionary war.

Mohawks vs. Mounties: A Halloween Surprise

Continued from page 11

thing else in there. And they drink a lot of beer in there. Out! I've had friends who went over and stole the empties from the dumpster in back.

There's so many out there all the time cause they're worried about attack, you know what I mean. They got the wagons circled and stuff. One of the funnest things was, before this went down, a couple nights before. See, the cops don't have enough bathroom facilities in that room for a hundred people. So they have "johnny on the spots," you know what I mean? Portable outhouses. So one cop, he was in there and tipped it over on the door side.

But he was there because twp sisters are associated with the cops all the stuff and the parents were out there trying to calm them down. They started tearing the cops and the cops all fled into their area and got their pigs ready. And the car got tore.

They're trying to pin it on the Warren Group, which is a blatant outrage. They're trying to cover it up.

But you can certainly understand why these kids are angry.

Warrior: Oh yeah, you can really understand why they are so angry. This has been going on since they've been here. The kids are tired of the cops presence one bit. That girl who was pulled out of the house, her father was arrested and beaten right to his front yard, right in front of the whole family.

What happened was the guy got his wife out of the house and was chasing her. So he jumped out of the car and ran to the house. They ran to the house and dragged her out by the hair and beat him up right in the front yard. Another one of his friends came in with his daughter and seen him and there was a woman cop out there kicking the guy in the face. So the guy went over and washed the woman. Then she got out the folly club and about ten of them beat the hell out of this guy. There were two of them arrested. This date back to September.

They're after this one family down there, because two sisters are associated with the Warrior Society. They targeted these people. They rule by and they take pictures of the house. And they take pictures of the people standing by there. You know, people come by to visit and stuff. And they give the cops all the crap and say they are going to take pictures of them and everything. They basically just harass them.

RW: So the family has basically been harassed by these pigs for awhile. Warrior: Oh yeah. They've even got their phones tipped. All the Indians got their phones tipped.

RW: Do you have that documented?

Warrior: Yeah. What happened? Our people went up to make a complaint to the duty officer. So X a member of this family went into another house, and this guy, one of the cops, come running out and he said Jesus Christ, just called up the fucking Warren's Society for backup. You'd better get everybody out here.

The police in Quebec knew about it right away. While she was on the phone the guy came running out and said they're calling up the Warrior Society, for backup right now. He told them to the duty officer, whatever they call them. They had three people standing there, talking to the guy at the door. He knew who the ladies were, they were speaking people. That's proof. You take it for granted that they tap the phones. But when they come across and did that. It wasn't from one of our people's homes that was called. She was at somebody else's house. It was another family member's home. We suspect all the members of the Society are all bugged.

RW: Anyone else from out of town there and she said that some new warriors came down this week?

Warrior: Yeah. More warriors have come out. They gave us a list. That's when they went up on some guys in the front yard of this property, so everyone just went crazy. All we got is tickets numbers and stuff. But there's different charges on several different people. We don't really know what they are for when they hand us something to the legal effect it will written in French. And we don't speak French here. I can just read the times and date of birth and stuff. That's it. This is part of the order of the day as you know. Any other person in the country, I mean in the province of Quebec, you can tell them, but I don't know the thing that I can't read and I'll send it to you in English. But here they don't, they slam it to us in French. You might as well send it to me in Russian.

RW: So since the police have occupied Akwesasne, there's been constant confrontations going on there?

Warrior: Oh yeah. Especially with the kids. Cause the kids have a real strong determination on what they're going to do. They're really tough and it's like, they're the ones that will continue the fight. The generation that they're gonna bring up behind them's gonna be even more powerful.
Seattle Flagburners Sentenced

On October 28, 1989 the federal Flag Protection Act containing derision of the American flag went into effect. At midnight on that very day, police arrested Shawn Eichman and Joe Collins, members of the New York City RCYB and the U.S. Postal Office flagpole. People who had gathered to watch the flag burning were arrested on charges of violating the Flag Protection Act. The two face up to 10 years in jail for burning the flag.

The four had pleaded guilty at their trial on October 18. After the sentencing, Carlos said: "I pleaded guilty because of the pressure I got from the federal probation officer. I wanted it all to be over. Then I thought that $225 is worth it. Colin and I were in jail at the time, and I believed them when they said we wouldn't get any jail time. I thought they might finally leave us alone. Every time we turned around they were beating or jailing us. Looking back, I don't think it was correct to plead guilty, but the pressure was high."

Throughout this battle, Carlos and Colin have been especially singled out by the authorities for attack. They have been harassed, beaten, and arrested by the police many times on phony charges.

According to Colin, every time the cops arrested him they would ask, "So why'd you burn the flag?" He recently spent six weeks in jail for missing a job hearing, unable to pay the $62,000 bail. Colin, who joined the RCYB in the midst of the flag battle, is known citywide for his fearlessness in the face of cops and reactionaries. He says: "They know I'm not gonna just stand there and throw a flower in some cop's face that's stuck right into my face. Not just me, all millions of people around the world." Carlos is a proletarian Chicano from the streets of Los Angeles, a former gang member turned revolutionary. At the time of the sentencing he was in jail, held for five weeks without a bail hearing. He had been arrested for missing a court hearing, which his lawyer had forgotten to notify him about. After the arrest he brought the sentencing hearing handcuffed to two other prisoners. In the year since the flag burning at the Festival of Defiance, he has been incarcerated a total of eight months! But every time Carlos was released from jail, he would attend demonstrations and boldly speak out, talking about flag burning and the need for revolution. After the October 18 trial he said: "As a minority, that flag doesn't stand for me. It's not my flag! I don't regret burning the flag. I'm glad I burned the flag!"

There was broad support for the four flagburners before the sentencing. Statements to the judge were sent by attorney William Kunstler, a member of ACT-UP, a spokesperson for the Center on Contemporary Arts (COCOA), KTI multimedia center, the Seattle Peace Heathens, the four D.C. flag defendants, and the Seattle chapter of the RCYB.

Collin and Carlos have remained firm and defiant. Supporters in Seattle have vowed to go to the people to raise the funds to pay the fines. They are calling on all opponents of forced patriotism to stand with the defendants.

Times Square Protesters Face Heavy Charges

Shown Eichman and Joe Urso, revolutionary activists who staged a dramatic political action on the New York Times Square recruiting station, have been charged with serious felonies. On November 8 Shawn and Joe were indicted in federal court on the following charges: destruction of federal property, burglary (two counts) and inciting a riot. The two face up to 30 years in jail for their opposition to the U.S. war machine.

On September 11 Shawn, a revolutionary woman artist and a member of Refuse & Resist, and Joe, a member of the Vietnam Veterans Against the War Anti-Imperialists, climbed on top of the recruiting center at Times Square. This is the same recruiting station where Joe enlisted in 1966. They raised banners reading "Hell NO! We Won't Cut!" and "U.S. Out of the Mid East!!", "retired" the U.S. flag (and attempted to burn it), raised a red flag, and dripped oil and fake blood off the recruiting center's signs.

The government first said it was going to charge the two with "vandalism" and even called them "terrorists." As Shawn said in a statement before the indictment hearing, this "is an act of severe resistance by a government desperately trying to silence all opposition to war. The U.S. attorney is now trying to go after them with charges like "destruction of federal property." There should be much protest against this outrageous attempt by the government to punish Shawn and Joe for their determined opposition to the U.S. war moves in the Persian Gulf. But it is also a sign that the powers were very upset by the action at the recruiting station. The Free Shawn and Joe Defense Committee can be contacted at:

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