Bitter Lessons in Kurdistan

Lesson No. 1:
Don't Ever Trust the U.S.

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Kurdish refugees from Iraq in a camp on the Turkish border

Speaking Truth about the LAPD

Dissin the Disinformation: The War of Lies

People's War in Peru: Fighting Our Way

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Yellow Ribbon

Page 2—Revolutionary Worker—April 14, 1991

UH Students vs. Yellow Ribbon Republicans

Dear RW,

The Vietnam syndrome Bush claims to have "kicked once and for all to save and well at the University of Houston. Since the early days of the Gulf War, organized reactionaries began putting yellow ribbons to trees at the Satellite Hll. But what those reactionaries didn't count on was the fact that no matter how many times they posted their yellow ribbons their cheap symbolism kept failing, and keeps failing. Ribbons have been ripped from trees and torn to shreds and thrown onto the desk of the College Republicans. Despite intense police surveillance, the ribbon-stealers made headline news in the Daily Cougar, the University newspaper. Then two members of the UW committee to promote the Yo! Tour smeared the ribbons with symbolic "blood" during the lunch hour rush. Appalled by the sight of the desecration of their symbol, the College Republicans were forced to rip their own ribbons from the trees. In revenge the College Republicans pressed charges against the two activists, Victoria and Roy, who were taken to the University jail where they were interrogated for three hours. Later "clean" ribbons were put back up, and again they came down.

The Yo! Tour Committee challenged the College Republicans to a debate, Meanwhile, the battle raged on the pages of the letter section of the Daily Cougar. A female student wrote: "The College Republicans to a debate. Give me a break! College Republicans are right. They are about the beginning, not the end of the Gulf War. They want a war that will establish order and stability in the Middle East. The College Republicans are called to the side of the suffering people in the Middle East."

Another student suggested that the College Republicans "should hang their ribbons around something more personal—like their conscience."

One of the thousand students and faculty members who took leaflets that called for opposition to the celebration of this war of shame said, "This is Fascism. I want to be living in a world where I know there is no war."

The venture of the College Republicans to a debate and the ribbons saga are the perfect expression of the way things are as we enter the Gulf War's first year. The University of Houston, like the University of the United States, is full of people who have为您提供了有关此图像的纯文本表示，如果您有进一步的请求，请随时告诉我。
Bitter Lessons in Kurdistan

Lesson No. 1:
Don’t Ever Trust the U.S.

The bloody handprints of the United States are everywhere in Iraq. The U.S. government may have declared the war “over”—but millions of people in Iraq are still being cruelly victimized by the unjust war and backstabbing moves of the U.S. powers. And U.S. troops continue to occupy a large section of southern Iraq.

Turnmoil in Kurdistan

In the northern mountain regions of Iraq, hundreds of thousands of Kurds are fleeing in panic to the borders of Turkey and Iran. The Kurds are an oppressed nation who live in areas of Iraq, Iran, Turkey and Syria. In each of those countries they are looked down on and harshly repressed by the ruling reactionary governements. The leaders of Kurdish resistance groups in Iraq had put their faith in George Bush’s false promises of U.S. help if they rose up against Saddam Hussein. But once the Kurdish forces captured major cities in northern Iraq and possibilities of establishing political power arose, they were abandoned by the United States. The White House made clear that the U.S. would not stop Hussein from attacking the Kurds with helicopter gunships and heavy artillery.

Trying to escape from the attacks of Hussein’s troops, Kurdish refugees are forming solid columns stretching for tens of miles. Some are able to pack themselves and their families into cars, trucks, tractors and mule-driven carts. Many others trudge on foot, with whatever possessions they manage to carry on their backs. Those who are barefoot, especially the children and the old folk, are getting severe frostbite going across the snow-covered mountains between Iraq and Turkey.

There are reports that Hussein’s helicopter gunships are attacking the columns of refugees, including with phosphorous bombs. The media in the U.S. express hypocritical outrage. But it was only a few weeks ago that U.S. fighter-bombers attacked a seven-mile stretch of highway north from Kuwait City and massacred thousands of Iraqi soldiers who had jammed the road as they fled in panic. Where was the outrage then?

The Kurds who survive the ordeal and manage to reach the Turkish border are coming face-to-face with another threat—the Turkish government has closed the border. From time to time Turkish troops fire at the refugees to stop them from coming across the border. Again, the Western governments and media pretend they are shocked and outraged. But the Turkish regime is a member of NATO and firmly backed by the Western powers. The U.S. and other governments have never taken any measures against Turkey for its genocidal oppression of the Kurds in that country. The Turkish rulers do not even recognize the Kurds as a people and call them “mountain Turks.”

In southern Iraq, tens of thousands of Shiite refugees are also fleeing from the helicopter gunships and heavy artillery of Saddam Hussein’s army. Like the Kurds, the Shiite leaders in this area of Iraq put their trust in Bush and hoped for U.S. backing. (They also received encouragement from Saddam regime in Iran.) The Iraqi-Sheite groups led rebellions against the Baghdad government but suffered heavy defeats when the U.S. backing they counted on never materialized. Now large groups of refugees are stuck in the barren desert.

Near-Apocalyptic Destruction from U.S. Bombs

And all over Iraq—from cities like Baghdad and Baghda to the countryside—the people are suffering from devastation of the...
Don't Ever Trust the U.S.

Continued from page 3

massive U.S. bombing campaign. Nobody knows how many Iraqis were killed by the U.S. attack. Iraq's government put the number at 100,000 to many more. A UN mission which visited Iraq after the temporary cease-fire reported "wrought massive destruction... especially severe in the plains and areas heavily polluted with raw sewage, and where there probably was heavy pressure on offer sailors not to come to the defense of the ship." The full story of what happened aboard the Ranger was one of hundreds of acts of sabotage against the Ranger during the Vietnam War. When the sailor was charged, other sailors stopped forward to claim responsibility. They did not deny that sabotage was the cause of the event.

The U.S. rulers lie that there was little resistance in the military during this most recent war. But the truth is that there were thousands in the military who resisted in various ways. The government and the military are after GI resisters. But the real criminals are the U.S. government and the military who waged a genocidal war against the Iraqi people. The Ranger was one of the major bases for carrying out U.S. war crimes. The Ranger was one of the major bases for carrying out U.S. war crimes. The Ranger was one of the major bases for carrying out U.S. war crimes.

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Harlem Hospital: Critical Condition

Any way you measure it, Black people are still getting a raw deal. According to the New York City Department of Health, the death rate from infant mortality at Harlem Hospital is twice that for whites, while Black women give birth to premature infants at a rate three times that of white women. Medicaid payments now only cover less than 78 percent of the costs of care, down from 90 percent in 1985. Budget cuts due to the economic crisis are putting the health of this community in jeopardy. Harlem Hospital's outpatient clinics and, often, the emergency room at the hospital.

The crisis at Harlem Hospital is directly related to the growing poverty among the Black and Latino people who live in the community. In the past ten years the cost of living has risen dramatically. Unemployment has shot up, and the majority of Black youth are unable to find work. Many social service programs have been cut back. A large percentage of the people in Harlem do not have access to a private doctor or family doctor. In Central Harlem two-thirds of the mothers now receive Medicaid. Most of the rest do not have health insurance. Most private doctors are unable to see large numbers of Medicaid patients because Medicaid only pays doctors $12 per visit. As a result, there are very few private physicians in the community, and people are forced to use community health centers, Harlem Hospital's outpatient clinics and, often, the emergency room at the hospital.

In the past ten years costs of health care have risen—and the Harlem Hospital's budget has not kept pace with these rising costs. The American Hospital Association says that nine out of ten hospitals lose money caring for Medicaid patients. Medicaid payments now only cover less than 78 percent of the costs of care, down from 90 percent in 1985. Budget cuts due to the economic crisis are putting the health of this community in jeopardy. Harlem Hospital's outpatient clinics and, often, the emergency room at the hospital.

The average income of Black people is just over half that of whites, while Black people are hit harder by malnutrition and disease. Even AIDS has Black people harder.

from "Cold Truth, Liberating Truth: How This System Oppresses Black People, And How All Oppression Can Finally Be Ended"

In January the government put Harlem Hospital on notice: unless drastic changes took place the hospital would have its accreditation taken away, forcing it to close down. A report issued by the JCAHO Joint Commission on Accreditation of Health care Organizations, an agency that inspects hospitals for the federal government, pointed to many serious problems at the hospital, including a critical shortage of nurses; overcrowding, with many patients waiting for treatment having to stand for hours, a lack of beds; dangerous, flammable chemicals lying around; a shortage of working fire extinguishers and other conditions that make the risk of fire very large; and garbage and dirt in operating rooms and other treatment areas. The hospital was given a deadline sometime during the late spring.

The terrible conditions at Harlem Hospital are the result of the criminal neglect by those in power in this society for the health of the poor and oppressed people. Now these conditions are being examined by the public only in Harlem hospital in all of Harlem! A look at the situation at Harlem Hospital shows how systemic and deep-rooted the oppression of Black people and other people of color is in this society. It also exposes that the healthcare system itself mirrors the morality of this society overall: everywhere the powers promote and do is to fund mammograms among poor women and women of color. Mammograms are used to detect breast cancer. They find the cancer early and greatly increase women's chances of survival. The city considers it "cheaper" to let hundreds of women get breast cancer and then to take steps to cure it early. So the city considers that women are worth less, literally.

• Harlem Hospital is located in a city which has six medical schools and 11 percent of all the medical students in the entire country. But of the 7,859 residents in the city's hospitals, only 87 are in primary care or family practice. The city has 144 physicians who will treat those who can afford their services, which are mostly white people.

• While 52 cents of every tax dollar is spent on the military, only eight cents is spent on the health care at all for the thousands of Black people who live there. But it's also clear that the critical situation at Harlem Hospital comes from the nature of this whole rotten system which makes people as commodities to make profits off of them and dumps them when no longer needed.

The whole structure of the healthcare system works against the very people it is supposed to be "serving." Profit-seeking and cutbacks is widespread. This especially affects Black people.

City health officials estimate that between 170,000 and 226,800 city residents are infected with the AIDS virus. Harlem and the Bronx have the highest number of AIDS cases in the city.

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SpeaKing truth About

The LAPD headquarters in downtown Los Angeles—the infamous “Glass House”—has been the scene of angry demonstrations ever since the videotaped police beating of Rodney King. The demonstrations have drawn not only middle-class people who had never gone to demonstrations before, as well as youth and people of different nationalities, many from the angrier grassroots movements.

On Friday, March 29 Rev. Al Sharpton spoke at a rally of 400 on the steps of City Hall and led a march through the streets to the Glass House block away. Youth pressed forward to the doors of the pig办公楼 and chanted, “Gates Must Go!”, “Free L.A.!” “We Call Them Pigs!” Many protesters returned the next day for the weekly Saturday demo. The TAW talked to people at both the Friday and Saturday protests about the Rodney King beating and police brutality.

Two Black youth who were in the cops’ faces at the Glass House: A: No, we didn’t run away from them. B: No, beat them at their own game. Fuck the police. Fuck the police. Coming straight from the garbage-street—soldiers—and you can print that.

Black man in his late 20s: I never knew that they were trying to get away from the pig reputation, but it’s back again. I was speaking to that last night. It’s funny, we’re talking, and they know they back to pigs again. We went all the way around and back to pigs.

Black woman in her 30s and a Black man in his 40s: Man: My cousin, he was killed by the shot in broad daylight. They said they were taking him to the County General Hospital, to get him medical help... They didn’t arrest him... They didn’t even arrest him. They didn’t even take him to the hospital to get him some help. They got him up to the 13th floor where the jail ward is, and by the time they got him down to the operating room he was dead. His hands was all busted up, you know, like he was putting his hands up trying to defend himself. And they got away with it. And now they say this is an isolated incident.

I don’t think they [can “clean up.”] I think they have to clean up racism, and racism is tied to white supremacy. Can you clean up while supremacy? You see, it’s not just Gates. It’s from the bottom to the top. It’s not just the white officers; the Mexican officers, the Black officers, the Oriental officers, they’re all the same.

Woman: There’s a sign that somebody’s walking around with that has Daryl Gates on the front of it. I can’t walk down the street. The sign’s behind your back with a black silhouette. So we wonder why cops shoot us in the back. They just enforcing what they’ve been taught, on the rifle range. That right there is racist. Why do they have a black silhouette?

Man: They want to make sure they hit their target.

Woman: That’s what it is. That has a heavy psychological message to it.

Man: This is nothing new. It’s just that they got caught. They beat Black people, Mexicans, poor white people, they beat on every day. In the streets, in the police station.

Woman: As far as I’m concerned, I think that beating of Rodney King was plotted and executed. I think they said, “We gotta go into L.A., and that’s what they did. And it was a “Welcome Home.” It’s a well-known fact that when American soldiers are going back from World War 2, they lynched them in their uniforms. That’s what they did to our Black soldiers. World War 2. Not only just a sign, but a sign that shows you what they think of us. We go over there to fight for them, but we can’t fight for ourselves. We’re gonna go over there in the name of the “land of the free and home of the brave.” We ain’t free. And this is not the land of the brave. Bunch of cowards.

Black man in his 30s: They’ve been there to fight for it. And when they come across, they don’t have it. You’re gonna find us in the back out of the car. This is on January 17. At will, this year 1991.

Black homeless man in his 20s: When I see it, I don’t even think about beating, I’m gonna tell you the truth, it’s about time somebody caught on to the show, because it’s happened to me a few times. When I was arrested two weeks ago, I got arrested for walking down the street, and me and my girlfriend were having an argument—and the police jumped out of the car and he hit me upside the head with his radio. And then, when I was on the ground, they kicked me in the back and took me away. Put my head on the ground. Then when I got to the police station, I seen the Sherriff’s department take a dude out of the lineup, take him to a cell and just beat him up. The other day I was walking down the street. I seen him walking down the street. I got arrested. The cop hit him with a forearm to the head, just because he wouldn’t drop to his knees.

You ever been arrested? They’ll hogtie you. You ever been hogtied? They’ll do that in these jail cells up, they hogtie you. They put your knees behind your back and leave you there. I don’t think they’re going to hogtie you? They scared of you?

Young Asian woman involved in the anti-war movement: I’m concerned that it’s tied up with this war that’s a go. It’s male violence and paranoia—the extreme of patriarchy. It’s their yellow ribbon. It’s the same thing that the military are doing over in Iraq right now, and elsewhere in the world like El Salvador, Nicaragua, Guatamala and the southeast Asian countries.

Department of White Supremacy

The beating of Rodney King showed the whole world what the basic people in L.A. have always known— that LAPD is racist through and through. More exposures of the LAPD, including in this newspaper, of the LAPD’s police department are coming out recently through demonstrations by many of the American Peace Officers Association.

One woman cop said that she had a KKK card when she was recruited. Another cop said that LAPD cops are individuals who have racist attitudes regardless of their race. The LAPD is still an organization of racist pigs, of the South Central neighborhood of Black and Latino people, openly displayed a South African medallion on a police car. “Here’s the cops are enforcers for the powers and the powers that be.”

And that’s what it is. That has a heavy psychological message to it. "It’s got a white background, it’s got a black silhouette. So we wonder why cops shoot us in the back. They just enforcing what they’ve been taught, on the rifle range. That right there is racist. Why do they have a black silhouette?"

Woman: There’s a sign that somebody’s walking around with that has Daryl Gates on the front of it. I can’t walk down the street. The sign’s behind your back with a black silhouette. So we wonder why cops shoot us in the back. They just enforcing what they’ve been taught, on the rifle range. That right there is racist. Why do they have a black silhouette?

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Male graduate student active in a Black church

People had already been tired, but I think that for a number of reasons people have been moved to action. Part of it is because it’s been validated that what we’ve been saying exists in our communities for so many years—has been validated by an ac
tual image. People also have been moved to action because of the fact that now that the whole world knows, it shows you’re a coward if you’re afraid to stand up.

One of the things I think is most telling about this situation is that maybe the City Charter says that they can’t do anything [to fire Daryl Gates]. Even if they have control over their police, they have a god brother and other friends who are in the Marine Corps. The first thing I thought about is that it could be them, coming home, perhaps just in a hurry to get to a celebration, and maybe going a few miles over the speed limit, and they get beat. The second thing is, in terms of the war, that was born here, this home is where the
The LAPD is still attacking Rodney Glen King. They have been telling more lies about him than anyone else. They attacked Rodney King because he is Black and they want to frame him and send him to prison.

The Los Angeles Police Department (LAPD) is still attacking Rodney Glen King. They have been telling more lies about him than anyone else. They attacked Rodney King because he is Black and they want to frame him and send him to prison.

The LAPD said they did some tests and supposedly found that King's blood alcohol level was over the legal limit of .08 percent when he was stopped. They claimed that this was evidence that King was untruthful when he said he only had one beer. This is just a smoke screen. Rodney was not beaten because of his blood alcohol level. He was almost killed because he was Black and was caught by racist white cops.

Gestapo Chief Daryl Gates and the media have played up Rodney's one conviction. He did a year in prison for an armed robbery in 1980. He was unemployed and desperate. He got out just 10 days before the Rodney King beating. The LAPD has been looking for some sort of sneaking revenge on Rodney King.

Gates said he was a "parolee" and paint him as a "criminal." When Gates supposedly "apologized" about the behavior of the cops caught on videotape, he said he hoped that the beating would "turn around" King's life. Even when he is in the process of getting up a front to try to fool people, he can't help but come out with racist, reactionary words.

The attacks on Rodney King took a new leap the week of March 25 when the LAPD announced they were "gathering evidence" to accuse him of an armed robbery in February. The LAPD office is taking up the investigation.

Rodney's aunt angrily denounced these allegations as more lies. She said that King was at work when the alleged robbery took place. A reporter from the local CBS radio station did his own investigation of the LAPD allegations. In just 20 minutes, he confirmed that Rodney was at work at the time of the alleged robbery. He was working for a construction subcontractor at Dodger Stadium.

The LAPD was caught in the latest of its many lies. But even if Rodney King had committed a robbery, what justification does he give the pigs to beat him? Absolutely none!

A protester who was at the March 29 demo at the LAPD headquarters said: "If they hadn't got caught with that film, Rodney King would be on his way to the penitentiary. They would have violated his parole, and say he 'assaulted some officers.' What they're appealing to is the masses of whites, cause if they can throw somebody, then the masses of ordinary whites will say, 'Hey, he deserved what he got.' I don't care how bad the police beat him. That's what the media's gonna focus on.

The real criminals are those at the top who hold power in this country and their pig enforcers. The LAPD is trying to frame Rodney King and get him back in their clutches. They're still attacking him in their cowardly way. They must not be allowed to carry out some sort of sneaking revenge on Rodney King.
From the first U.S. troops sent into the Gulf until now, every official reason for U.S. actions in the Gulf has been a lie.

Official Lie: The Iraqi invasion of Kuwait was unprovoked.

Reality: To make the U.S. look like the good guys, it was necessary to paint Iraq as a profound and ominous evil. One of the ways this was done was in the U.S. media to wipe out all but the most mention of any real grievances Iraq had against Kuwait.

The following few paragraphs from a January 20 article in Newsday show that the mainstream press knew the truth but suppressed it.

"President George Bush and Secretary of State James Baker have often referred to Iraq's August 2 invasion of Kuwait as 'unprovoked.' The invasion may well have been unjustified, but in the view of some administration Middle East analysts it was not unprovoked.

"For months prior to the invasion, Hussein and top Iraqi officials had publicly and privately complained to Kuwait that it was cheating on its OPEC oil quota, and therefore driving the price down in Iraq, deeply indeliberated after an eight-year war with Iran, was trying to rebuild.

"Hussein repeatedly charged that Kuwait's cheating had cost Iraq billions of dollars and the action was tantamount to war.

"Kuwait and Iraq had been allies in the eight-year war against Iran, because they (like the United States) did not want a strong fundamentalist Iran in the region. Iraq did the fighting against Iran, and Kuwait basked in much of the cost. After the war, Iraq was many billions in debt to Kuwait. By dropping the world price of oil through over-production, Kuwait was undercutting Iraq's ability to repay.

"To add insult to injury, Kuwait was drilling into an oil field claimed by Iraq in order to get the oil it needed to cut world prices.

"This means Kuwait was trying to dominate Iraq, using economic warfare. After major negotiations got nowhere, and after Iraq protested loudly in the world community including the U.S., Iraq responded with military means.

Official Lie: The U.S. resolutely opposed Iraqi aggression, and when moved anyway, the U.S. had to act to protect its Kuwaiti ally.

Reality: On July 25, as Iraq was preparing to invade Kuwait, April Glaspie, U.S. ambassador to Iraq, met with Saddam Hussein. Transcripts released by Iraq show that Glaspie told Hussein, 'We have no opinion on the Arab-Arab conflicts, like your border disagreement with Kuwait.' When the transcripts were released by Iraq, the U.S. government did not deny them, and even said they were 'essentially accurate.'

Many people believe this was a deliberate setup. The U.S. would appear disinterested in an Iraqi threat to invade Kuwait, get an excuse to set up a U.S. military presence in the Gulf—a situation that raised the reasons—the facts show the U.S. gave a green light to invade.

These facts never reached the masses of people in the U.S.: In one poll, people were asked what they thought of the August 2 Indian invasion of Kashmir. A majority of 80 percent answered that the United States had informed Hussein that it would not take any action.

This was confirmed from above. During the war, U.S. press nearly mentioned these facts. The U.S. State Department helped keep the lid on by forbidding Glaspie from speaking in public.

After the generally April Glaspie was given national attention when she reversed the government's previous statements and denied that the transcripts were Iraqi disinformation.

Official Lie: The U.S. had to send troops to the Gulf—because Iraq was moving its troops toward the Saudi border and preparing to invade the oil-rich eastern provinces of Saudi Arabia.

Reality: Evidence suggests that the Iraqis did not move their troops to that border until after U.S. troops started pouring into eastern Saudi Arabia.

Throughout the U.S. buildup in the fall of 1990, top U.S. officials said that this was "Desert Shield" a defensive operation to protect Saudi Arabia, from any certain aggression. On September 11, 1990, George Bush said Congress that with three days of the August 2 Iraq invasion of Kuwait—120,000 Iraqi troops with 850 tanks had poured into Kuwait and headed south to threaten Saudi Arabia. It was then decided to check that aggression.

On December 10 Defense Secretary Cheney said that had Bush not moved aggressively as he did last August...Saddam Hussein would control not only Kuwait, but also our own firm conviction is, he'd also control the eastern provinces of Saudi Arabia. (Newsday, 1/20/91)

Evidence suggests that this is a complete fabrication and that the warmakers knew it was a fabrication.

On March 3, 1991 the New York Times finally reported that all the diplomatic maneuvers and deadlines of December and January had really been an intelligence setup in Kuwait. This evidence had also been available to major U.S. TV networks, who refused to report it.

Other evidence leaked out in Newsday (January 20) where reporter Knut Royce wrote: "The CIA analyses, right at the early part of this thing, said that Iraq didn't intend to invade Saudi Arabia, said an administration official with the intelligence flow from the region."
Iraqi offers were blacked out to the U.S. media—or denounced (in Bush’s words) as “a cruel hoax.” However, the heads of the U.S. media were well aware that it was the United States, not Iraq, that was rejecting negotiations. As early as August 22, New York Times chief diplomatic correspondent Thomas Friedman pointed out that the U.S. White House rejected “a diplomatic track” because it was afraid that negotiations might “define the crisis” at the cost of “a cruel hoax” to Kuwaiti “for the Iraqis like “a Kuwaiti island or minor border adjustment.”

From the beginning, Iraq offered a basic compromise settlement that would resolve the key disputes: They would withdraw from Kuwait if they could be promised that Kuwait would no longer steal their oil from the Rumailah oil field, and if Iraq could be given one of the unoccupied gulf islands between Iraq and Kuwait—so that the country would no longer be landlocked.

These offers were made directly by Iraq, and they were also made through intermediaries like Algeria. Sometimes they included other suggestions—like the withdrawal of U.S. troops from the region and an international conference on other unresolved regional issues like the Palestinian question. But the basic underlying offer was always clear.

These offers started ten days after the invasion of Kuwait, on August 12. Iraq proposed a settlement that linked its withdrawal from Kuwait with withdrawal from other occupied lands: Syria and Israel from Lebanon and Israel from the 1967 territories. Two weeks later a second Iraqi offer was delivered to Enric Scowcroft on August 23. It called for Iraqi withdrawal from Kuwait in return for the lifting of sanctions, full Iraqi control of the Rumailah oil field (which extends two miles into disputed Kuwaiti territory), and guaranteed Iraqi access to the Gulf which involved the strings of two unoccupied islands that had originally been assigned by Britain to Kuwait in the imperialist settlement that left Iraq’s economy virtually landlocked. There was no mention of U.S. troop withdrawal or other preconditions. Professor Chomsky of MIT says that the New York Times did post this offer but suppressed the news.

Such offers were made repeatedly in the next months, including an important one on January 2—well before the famous “deadline” of the sand. U.S. officials later blacked out an Iraqi offer “to withdraw from Kuwait if the United States pledges not to attack as soldiers are pulled out, if foreign troops leave the region and if there is agreement on the Palestinian problem and on the banning of all weapons of mass destruction in the region.” (Kosov Royce, Kuwaiti, January 3) The same day, Asif Ali made it clear that neither he nor Saddam Hussein “insisted that the Palestinian problem be solved before Iraqi troops get out of Kuwait.” (New York Times, January 3) This was a signal to everyone that the Palestinian part of the Iraqi proposal was just for show and would be immediately dropped once the United States started shooting.

U.S. officials later said the proposal was a major change in Iraq’s position because it demanded that the United States recognize the Iraqis as the legitimate owners of all their islands in the Gulf and the Rumailah oil field. According to Saul Royer of Necessity, the U.S. White House immediately dismissed the proposal. Neither the New York Times nor other major news sources even mentioned this offer.

The media did quote a Christian Bush everywhere when on January 4 he said he was “going that extra mile to achieve a peaceful solution.” And all during this period the press was repeating the official line that Hussein was refusing to back down because he was a madman. Time magazine said, for example, at the start of the war, “There is in Baghdad the feeling of a huge Jonestown, with another demented preacher leading his flock to death.”

Meanwhile, as the bombing intensified, Iraq was actually starting to withdraw if only the U.S. would agree not to kill their retreating soldiers. There was no longer even a mention of the Palestinian question. Just a request for a cease-fire.

The U.S. response to this was that a request for a cease-fire in order to withdraw was a request for “preconditions.” And they were demanding an “unconditional” cease-fire. It is, however, impossible to withdraw from a battlefield zone by “cease-fire” especially when the largest air force in the world is bombing the entire front. When the Soviets tried to negotiate such a cease-fire and withdrawal, the U.S. again refused.

All through this period the official U.S. media put forward the official U.S. line that any peace proposal was a hoax and a danger to U.S. interests. On February 21, PBS’s McNeil-Lehrer News Hour quoted the Soviet peace proposal a “tragedy” NBC’s Tom Brokaw called the proposals a “negative scenario”. CNN’s Wolf Blitzer called rumors of peace “a false alarm.” Then, about three weeks later, in the “long-awaited ground war.” CNN’s co-respondent L.A. Cherenson claimed that this made any efforts for a peace plan “pointless.”

The U.S. rejected any negotiations for six months. They denounced any peace proposals. They dictated their own terms like Algeria and the Soviet Union that tried to broker a peace. And finally, when Iraq started to withdraw without a negotiated cease-fire, U.S. ground and air forces systematically drove Iraqi units down one of the most brutal wartime massacre ever. On the highway leading out of Kuwait City were hundreds of defenseless Iraqi soldiers and civilians were systematically killed from the air.

Iraqi children collecting water because U.S. bombs destroyed Baghdad’s water and sewer systems.

Official Lie: The United States tried every means to reach a peaceful settlement.

Reality: Iraq constantly offered compromises for a peaceful settlement of the conflict. The U.S. refused any negotiations. It wanted war—and a chance to crush the Iraqi military. And they saw anything that might lead to a peaceful Iraqi withdrawal from Kuwait as the “military nightmare scenario.”

In the formative of Lies

Iraqi children collecting water because U.S. bombs destroyed Baghdad’s water and sewer systems.

Official Lie: President Bush said, “America stands where it always has, against aggression, against those who would use force to replace the rule of law.”

Reality: When you look at the facts, it is clear that this was a naked imperialist power grab. Everything else is a lie.

It is also true that almost nobody in the media really believed that the U.S. was ever going to negotiate.

On August 20, 1990, right as the confrontation started, Time magazine quoted a top Bush adviser saying that the U.S. understands the principle of freedom, but Kuwait and Saudi Arabia are not exactly democracies, and if their principal export were oranges, a mid-level State Department official would have made a statement like this: “We would have closed Washington down for August.”

On August 9 the financial editor of the Chicago Tribune, William Neikirk, wrote that the U.S. must use its “virtual monopoly in the security market...as a lever to gain funds and economic concessions” from Germany and Japan.

On September 16 the editor of the London Sunday Telegraph wrote that the “challenge of the New World Order is to help build a world order stable enough to allow the advanced economies of the world to function without the state intervention from the Third World” —a task, he said, that would require “an instant intervention from the advanced nations.”

On Jan. 13, right before the bombing started, a Reuters Globe reporter wrote that “Perhaps most immeasurable for Bush in his efforts to create a new world order,” is the fact that “a surprising number of Europeans believe that the United States is in the Gulf not to free Kuwait or punish Saddam Hussein but to bolster its own influence and power.”
**Excerpts from A World To Win**

**People’s War in Peru: Fighting Our Way**

The U.S. war against Iraq showed how the U.S. and its allies are prepared to use massive bombing of civilians from high in the sky, massacre of defenseless and fleeing civilians, and torture and fakery. A war of terror was unleashed against Iraq. But the war in Peru is much more brutal. The U.S. and its allies are using massive bombing from high in the sky, massacre of defenseless and fleeing civilians, and torture and fakery. The U.S. and its allies are ready to use massive bombing of civilians from high in the sky, massacre of defenseless and fleeing civilians, and torture and fakery.

In Peru, the war by the United States and its allies has led to massive bombing of civilians from high in the sky, massacre of defenseless and fleeing civilians, and torture and fakery. The U.S. and its allies are using massive bombing from high in the sky, massacre of defenseless and fleeing civilians, and torture and fakery. The U.S. and its allies are ready to use massive bombing of civilians from high in the sky, massacre of defenseless and fleeing civilians, and torture and fakery.

In the last several years, the People’s Guerrilla Army (PGA) has carried out actions in the U.S. and its allies are using massive bombing from high in the sky, massacre of defenseless and fleeing civilians, and torture and fakery. The U.S. and its allies are ready to use massive bombing of civilians from high in the sky, massacre of defenseless and fleeing civilians, and torture and fakery.

The People’s War first arose in 1980 in the south-central Andes in the department of Ayacucho. The People’s War is backed up by the imperialist powers, particularly the U.S. and its allies. But the war in Peru is much more brutal. The U.S. and its allies are using massive bombing from high in the sky, massacre of defenseless and fleeing civilians, and torture and fakery. The U.S. and its allies are ready to use massive bombing of civilians from high in the sky, massacre of defenseless and fleeing civilians, and torture and fakery.

The People’s War has continued to be a main battleground of the People’s War. The PGA is on the threshold of a new offensive against them. The commander of the PGA has issued the call to organize and prepare for the seizure of power, with a third of Peru’s total population. The PGA has issued the call to organize and prepare for the seizure of power, with a third of Peru’s total population. The PGA has issued the call to organize and prepare for the seizure of power, with a third of Peru’s total population. The PGA has issued the call to organize and prepare for the seizure of power, with a third of Peru’s total population.

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counter-revolutionary war and undermining specific government projects. For instance, the state-owned mining industry in the center of the country, upon which the government depends for much of its legal foreign exchange earnings, has been repeatedly attacked, and train lines that carry minerals to foreign buyers have been cut. Foreign-owned enterprises such as the giant Bayer chemical plant and domestic monopolies such as the Hogaq department stores in Lima have been burned down. Explosions and sabotage of electrical pylons and powerlines they carry have completely blacked out whole cities and regions innumerable times, to the delight of the revolutionary masses and the consternation of the impotent government, which reveals still more its class nature as it scrambles to restore electricity to banks and industry while leaving the people in darkness. Tourist installations, such as the government-owned hotel at Machu Picchu, are sabotaged to wreck the tourist industry.

though it is not Party policy to destroy the ruins that represent the people's history or attack foreign tourists.

One of the first acts of the people's war was to hang a dead dog in front of the Chinese embassy in Lima, with a sign around its neck that read "Deng Hsiao-ping." Since then the PGP has continued to publicize its foreign policy with quite a few attacks on various embassies—the Indian embassy, for instance, in solidarity with the Indian revolutionary movement, and the Israeli embassy. In October 1989, car-bombs went off in front of the U.S. consulate, and also the Soviet and Chinese embassies, to dramatise the PGP's opposition to what it calls "the world-wide revisionist offensive headed by Gorbachev and Deng" and the Peruvian revolution's stand with the Chinese people who rose up against the Deng regime.

There has been the selective annihilation of well-known enemies of the people (Armed Forces officers, government officials, mayors of villages and towns who ignore the Party's invitations to resign, etc.), as well as the informers on whom the government depends to direct the murder of revolutionaries. In September 1990, in Lima, a top military counter-intelligence officer was shot, and a car-bomb exploded in front of the home of a U.S. Drug Enforcement Agency officer in a district inhabited by high Armed Forces officials. There are Europeans working as volunteers on various "governmental" projects in the rural areas; the fact that such schemes are part of the efforts by the government and its imperialist backers to smother the revolution is explained to them, and they are warned to leave or risk the consequences.

Agitation and propaganda constitute a major part of the work of the People's Guerrilla Army. This includes painting slogans on walls (or rocks, in the countryside); hanging Party banners (in June 1990, 70 red flags appeared simultaneously one morning at key intersections and other spots in Lima); setting huge fires in the shape of a hammer and sickle on the hillsides, especially during blackouts; launching swarms of red balloons carrying banners; putting up Party posters; giving out the pictorial leaflets that are important for reaching illiterate masses, as well as regular leaflets; distributing Party pamphlets (in quantities of as many as 100-200,000 each) and Party reprints of selections from the Marxist classics; agitating at illegal "lightning" demonstrations that appear and disappear on city streets without warning; holding mass meetings in the countryside; conducting people's schools (clandestine courses for political education in the outlook and line of the Party); and many other ways of creating the public opinion without which it is impossible to seize power.

The People's Guerrilla Army takes part in production (usually farming), so as not to be a burden on the people. Furthermore, it is mainly through the PGA that the Party conducts its mass work, including organizing the new political power in the countryside and developing mass revolutionary organizations that serve the people's war. A journalist described the PGA as "a youth movement supported by their parents," since so many of its members are in their early and mid-teens or twenties at most. A large percentage of the fighters and commanders of this army exchanged with carrying out the political tasks of the revolution under the leadership of the Party are women. The patriarchal ruling classes find this rather threatening. In fact, what most is threatening Peruvian reactionaries and their foreign bosses into a mortal panic is that the PGA represents the political awakening, organization and arming of the masses of people themselves, especially the poor peasants.
Life Under Operation

Last week the RW published excerpts from a fact sheet put out by the RCP, Los Angeles Branch to oppose the new Gestapo program put out by the LAPD to put entire neighborhoods under total police control. The program is called Operation Cui-de-Sac—It should be called Operation Police State. The LAPD has picked a neighborhood in south central L.A. as the first site for the permanent barricades, snitch networks, and other Nazi-style features of this program.

The LAPD has already tried out this operation on a supposedly "temporary" basis in four "target" neighborhoods in L.A. It is being watched closely by officials nationwide because it is exactly the kind of repressive program they want to put into effect all over the country.

As the fact sheet put it: "What time is it? Right now is the time to bring the police-state plans out into the open and go straight up against them. It's the time to organize everyone you know and a lot of people you don't know yet to challenge the police and the politicians and their Nazi-style program and let them know that the people won't go out like that. It's time to Fight the Powers and DEFEAT the POWERS, and all their fascist plans."

The following is another excerpt from the fact sheet.

According to the LAPD, "a scaled-down version of Operation Cui-de-Sac (that) has been applied in four areas of the City...is very popular with the residents." That's not what the people in the "target areas" have told the Revolutionary Worker newspaper.

Chicano youth (about 12 years old) in "target area":

"Every time they come they be hitting us and shit like that, and hitting the people!... You can't even have visitors over here... They just go after anybody, hammer you up, bit you, and make you say that you gang-bang and call that. Like if you say I don't gang-bang, they say, 'From now on you from the 4-deuce, you from the 4-grey, you from this, anything...'

Thirty-five-year-old Black woman in "target area":

"I seen the police stop too many of them (youth) and harass them for no reason, like me and you standing here... You might have on the wrong color and you might look like you a gangbanger. They gonna ask you, they gonna harass you, they gonna call in and check you... I have my own sister call me and ask if it was okay for her to come here and visit. I don't think anybody have the right to change who you can associate with and not to.

A group of youth in the "target area" last summer:

"They (the police) make you hang out on the gate road, as long as these crew are now, they make you spread over the head. 'Or sit on your knees, man, like for almost an hour. Your knees be hurtin': 'We can't stand out in front of our own house.' That's where they point (the driveway). If we stand out in the front, they pull us over. They think we all be gangbangers or selling dope or whatever." "The first thing they ask you is—when was the last time you was arrested. What makes you think I was arrested?" "No, the first thing they ask you is what gang you from. If you ain't with no gang, they put you with one, they just put you with somebody." "The police is devils, man. They take you down to the station for nothing, and then they talk to you into a gang, they want you to get buck.

RCYB Flaco Is Free

On April 2 the people won an important victory in the political trial of RCYB member Flaco. All charges against Flaco were dropped!

As the RW has reported, Flaco was arrested on September 1 during a demonstration against the war at the army recruiting station in a busy shopping area in the Bronx. The original charges against Flaco included "partial obstruction of justice" under the terms of the police complaint against him read: "The defendant struck police officer Norman Brugman across the face with his back and elbow that required medical attention and caused substantial pain and suffering to him."

The trial took place when the powers are in the forefront of those exposing the war crimes of those who are angered by the war crimes of the U.S. It is growing outrage in New York City over the police murders of three Black and Latino brothers in the last three months. To go for a conviction would have meant that the people would have been exposed. Flaco has been in the forefront of those opposing and hounding the enemy. He is well known and loved among the people in the South Bronx. In short, the powers backed down because they were afraid of the people’s response to a guilty verdict.

A week before Flaco’s trial, Shawn Eichman and Joe Uroo were found guilty on the felony charge of attempted arson—for trying to burn the U.S. flag on top of the Times Square recruiting station in a protest against the war in the Persian Gulf. There was outrage over this conviction, and many people stepped forward to join the Committee to defend Shawn and Joe. A few days before Flaco’s trial, Shawn, Flaco and James Peterson, a Vietnamese veteran from the
Police-State

murdered that they are grabbing.... Lots of people say they get put in jail on suspicion just because they live in this area."

Of course, these people might not be willing to express themselves in this way to cops armed with guns, batons, tasers, nam-chucks and computers—those who conducted LAPD's "special survey."

Are There Historical Precedents for Operation Cul-de-Sac?

We've seen operations similar to Cul-de-Sac before; operations where the authorities put people in "artificial communities" where they can be watched over and controlled. The U.S. called them "strategic hamlets" in Vietnam, in U.S.-backed Guatemala today they are called "model villages," and in El Salvador's security forces' death squads have their own version.

Perhaps the most notorious of all of them are the ghettos run by the German Nazis during World War II. The Nazis' ghettos were also "artificial communities," and the authorities drew the boundary lines where they wanted to isolate off and control the Jewish people, Gypsies, homosexuals, and rebel elements. At the time a lot of people claimed they didn't know what the authorities were doing to the people behind those walls—they didn't know because they didn't want to know. The Nazis had declared war on Jews and anyone else that didn't fit or might rebel against their Aryan dream, and millions of "good Germans (or Poles or Czechs, etc.)" joined in the patriotic program or looked the other way.

The Nazis didn't only use their Gestapo and soldiers to accomplish their aims. Children were encouraged to turn in their parents if they helped the "criminal" Jews. Neighbors were encouraged to spy on each other. Youth groups were organized by the state, and so were gangs that were unleashed on the Jews and other "aliens."

The Nazis told the "community leaders" that the ghettos would help protect the Jews from the daily violence they were subjected to. Those "leaders" and the Jewish police were then relied on to make their ghetto operations run smoothly. They were utilized by the Nazis to get the people to go along with being herded into ghettos, paying taxes to build the walls that imprisoned them, and even for getting slave labor for the Nazis to use. In many instances, the "community leaders" organized life inside the ghettos to run orderly and almost "normally"; in at least one instance, they even organized regular concerts as if nothing were wrong.

These collaborators had "promises" from the Nazis that they would be able to "review" the repression and make sure that it was carried out "fairly." They worked to suppress anyone who opposed the Nazis or tried to organize resistance to the Nazi program. They called on people to go along with it and hope for the best, while they negotiated with the powers. They ended up negotiating the mass murder of thousands.

Hundreds of millions of people hate the Nazis for the mass murder and atrocities they carried out over forty years ago. But it is a fact not so well-known in this country, admitted to by the Nazi leader Adolf Hitler, that the Nazis got the idea for the ghettos and concentration camps from similar programs that the U.S. had carried out against Native Americans.

The Killing of Bill Gandall

Federal police officers in Los Angeles killed Bill Gandall, an 82-year-old life-long political activist, Bill was beaten on the head, neck and stomach at a sit-in at the downtown L.A. Federal Building on January 16—the day the U.S. started bombing Iraq. He died on March 23.

In 1926, as a young Marine during the U.S. invasion of Nicaragua aimed at defeating the forces of Augusto Sandino, Bill witnessed the rape and pillage of a Third World country. After that he dedicated his life to struggling against imperialism. As a labor organizer during the '30s and '40s, he and other veterans used their experience to organize workers' strike defense teams. In 1959 he joined the International Brigades that fought against fascist Generalissimo Franco in Spain and was wounded twice. In 1988, as part of the Veterans for Peace Convoy with Vietnam vet Brian Willson and others, Bill defied the U.S. government and returned to Nicaragua—where the authorities arrested him on suspicion of organizing protests during the Reagan administration's invasion of the Central American country.

When he came to L.A. in January, Bill was on his way to the Kuwait Peace Camp. He was arrested on January 15. On January 16 the Federal police in riot gear viciously attacked the nonviolent sit-in at the Federal Building and arrested 158. One pig rammed the end of his club into Bill's stomach. He was operated on at County-USC Hospital—the authorities claimed that the operation was for a duodenal ulcer. People who know Bill point out that he had no history of ulcers and have denounced his death as a police killing.

A memorial meeting is scheduled. Bill's friends say that during his final days he never lost his political convictions, and his spirits rose whenever he heard news of the continuing struggle in the streets against the war.
Saddam Hussein's use of chemical weapons against the Kurdish people of Iraq was one of the major justifications used by the U.S. government to intervene massively in the Persian Gulf and wage a genocidal war against Iraq. But the U.S. stand on Hussein's chemical weapons and the situation of the Kurdish people has been nothing but lies and hypocrisy!

March 1988—during the Iran-Iraq war, the reactionary Hussein regime launches a chemical attack on the mountain Kurdish town of Halabja, which had just fallen to Iranian troops. Thousands of villagers are killed or horribly wounded by cyanide, mustard gas and nerve gas. August 1988—Saddam Hussein takes the opportunity of a cease-fire in the war with Iran to launch even more massive chemical attacks on the Kurdish areas in northern Iraq. More thousands die, and over 60,000 refugees flee to Turkey where they are thrown into barbed-wire compounds and city slums.

At the time of these attacks, the Revolutionary Worker closely followed the events, including through information directly from Kurdistan, and exposed the bloody hands of the U.S. and its lackeys in the region.

**What the RW reported:**

**What the U.S. said:**

RW, Apr. 25, 1988

"The latest series of poison gas attacks began on March 16 of this year when Iraqi planes dropped chemical bombs on Halabja, a town of 45,000 in northeastern Iraq. The attacks against Halabja and other surrounding villages in this area of Iraqi Kurdistan continued for nearly a week. Hundreds, perhaps thousands, of people were killed and injured. Bodies of men, women and children, seized by instant death, lay huddled together in the streets. Blasted animal carcasses rotted in the fields, and the injured suffered from agonies of chemical burns on skin, eyes, and lungs.

The Reagan Administration has opposed any sanctions against Iraq on grounds that they would interfere with delicate diplomatic negotiations. As Pei put it in his Senate speech, "Unfortunately, special interests got into the act.""

New York Times, Sept. 9, 1988

"Officials at the State Department and the White House, speaking privately, said there were technical ambiguities in international law regarding the use of such [chemical] weapons by a sovereign nation within its own borders. "There's nothing in international law that prohibits that," said an Administration official. "There's not much we can do.""

Los Angeles Times editorial, Sept. 12, 1988

"These events also give a bitter and impotent feeling of having to watch the actions of the big powers. The only road to genuine liberation for the Kurdish people and other oppressed peoples is revolutionary war led by the class-conscious proletariat to overthrow the imperialist bourgeois-feudal order and the imperialists banking it. And past history has shown that various national oppression against the Kurds by the big powers and their lackeys has only helped to bring about a formidable enemy with a long history of waging armed struggle against oppression and enslavement. In all parts of Kurdistan... The intrigues and repression against the Kurds by the imperialists and their lackeys show how afraid they are that advances in the Kurdish struggle, and especially the emergence of red political power in any part of Kurdistan, would rock their fortresses in this part of the world and beyond. "The best songs are sung to the tune of rifle," says one popular revolutionary song.""

New York Times, June 22, 1988

"A流氓 ethnic group does not make a nation. In the era of the large national state, it is impossible for every distinct ethnic group or region to achieve its own independence. The Civil War, America's bloodiest, was fought precisely over the issue of secession. Whether or not the struggle by the Kurdish people for independence and autonomy is legitimate is difficult to judge.""

Los Angeles Times editorial, Sept. 12, 1988

"These attacks should make clear the moral bankruptcy of the U.S. and its lackeys in the region. The White House has killed thousands of people and has no right to say that they were "humanitarian" reasons. But the Kurds were hardly welcomed by the Turkish rulers or offered a "safe haven." Kurdish refugees in for "humanitarian reasons. But the Kurds were hardly living conditions.... Turkey has refused to give the Red Cross permission to feed and house their relatives from Iraq—all such requests have been turned down.... Such behavior comes as no surprise. Turkey has a long record of brutal, often genocidal, suppression of Kurdish people within its own borders.... The U.S., along with other Western powers, has sent hundreds of millions of dollars worth of weapons to Turkey, a big part of which is used by the fascists to suppress the Turkish Kurds.""


"Turkey took on the unaccounted role of championing human rights when it opened its borders to 60,000 desperate Kurds.... Its chances for admission into the European Community will surely be improved. To be sure, Turkey has come a long way from its late 1970s lawlessness, its early 1980s military regime and repression... Fortunately, special interests got into the act.""
HYPOCRISY

The U.S. government at the most put out a few token words of criticism of the Hussein regime for the use of chemical weapons against the Kurds and certainly took no action to help the Kurdish people. The U.S. supported Iraq in the war against Iran, and the U.S. rulers worried that even criticizing Hussein would hurt his war effort against Iran and harm the ties with his regime. Meanwhile, the U.S. and other Western countries were giving Hussein military advice and supplying his regime with large amounts of weapons, including chemical weapons.

When Iraq invaded Kuwait in August 1990, the U.S. government suddenly "discovered" that Saddam Hussein is "a war criminal," "a brutal dictator like Hitler" who "gassed his own people." Some officials talked about U.S. support for Kurdish "autonomy." This war hype was aimed at preparing public opinion for the carpet bombings and massive destruction that the U.S. unleashed on the Iraqi people. The hypocrisy and war crimes are still going on—the U.S. imperialists first encouraged rebellions against Saddam Hussein in the Kurdish and Shiite areas of Iraq, and now they are stabbing the rebels in the back in order to prevent the "fragmentation" of Iraq.

Current U.S. hypocrisy:

George Bush to U.S. troops in Saudi Arabia, Nov. 25, 1990

[Saddam Hussein is] a dictator who has gassed his own people, innocent women and children, unleashing chemical weapons of mass destruction, weapons that were considered unthinkable in the civilized world for over 70 years.


The U.S. position is that we will never be the first to use chemical weapons. On the other hand, if chemical weapons are first used on us, or on our immediate allies in a conflict, we reserve the right to retaliate with chemical weapons, and this applies in the Persian Gulf today.

The [Bush] administration, which based its gulf military operations in part on upholding the principle of self-determination for Kuwait, appears determined now to put other considerations ahead of the question of self-determination for Iraqi religious and ethnic communities. "I feel frustrated any time innocent civilians are being slaughtered," President Bush said today. "But the United States and these other countries with us in this coalition did not go there to settle all the internal affairs of Iraq." Administration officials say the priority for them is to prevent Iraq from fragmenting and to speed the withdrawal of American troops from the region. They believe these ends can best be realized by not intervening in the Iraqi civil conflict.

Detroit Free Press, Feb. 5, 1991

[Kurdish refugees in the U.S.] said they are puzzled by the U.S. government's apparent lack of interest in Iraq's Kurdish population, since Kurdish conscripts are believed to comprise about a fourth of Hussein's army.... The Kurds suspect the U.S. posture has something to do with the alliance between the U.S. and Turkey, which has military bases used to launch bombing raids on Iraq.
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