U.S. Hands Off Libya

And the Pan Am Scam

Iraq Journal Part 4
Baghdad Nightmares:
"Bush Is Coming, Bush Is Coming"

Some Straight Talk on the Gender vs. Race Confusion
An Argument with the Final Call by Carl Dix
Akil Al-Jundi Supports 1991 RCP Fund Drive

I am Akil Al-Jundi, an Attica Rebellion Participant/Attica Massacre Survivor (September 9th, 1971—September 13th, 1971), and as one (1) of the plaintiffs in the current 1983 Civil Suit that is being conducted in Buffalo, New York, where Judge John T. Elfvin is presiding, I would like to publicly support the campaign or fundraising efforts of the RCP.

I am a member of a community-based organization known as the Community Self-Defense Program, headquartered in Brooklyn, New York. I have had the opportunity to work with comrades of the party around issues such as the Attica Criminal trials in Buffalo, New York: the campaign against Bernhard Goets, who willfully shot four (4) young Black youths on a New York City subway train, when all they did was ask him for some change; their efforts to organize the poor and oppressed in the South Bronx of New York, where I live, coalition and alliance work around African Liberation Day and Sovereign Day.

The RCP's newspaper, Revolutionary Worker, has published articles around issues that speak relevantly to various struggles affecting Africans (African-Americans, African-Caribbeans, and Africans on the continent, especially Azania). It also makes itself available for free for prisoners, which is vital for knowledge and political education. Because of the things mentioned earlier, plus several others, I think it is critical and important that you support the 1991 Revolutionary Communist Party Fund Drive.

Make your checks payable to: RCP Publications, P.O. Box 3486, Merchandise Mart, Chicago, IL 60654.

In the Struggle for Freedom, Justice and Humanity!

Akil Al-Jundi
Attica Survivor

Three Main Points
by Bob Avakian
Chairman of the RCP, USA

What do we 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 now 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 things this system does, and these protests and rebellions should be supported and strengthened. Yet it is only those with nothing to lose but their chains who can be the backbone of a struggle to actually overthrow this system and create a new system that will end all exploitation and help pave the way to a whole new world.

3) Such a revolutionary struggle is possible. There is a political Party that speaks and acts for those with nothing to lose but their chains: The Revolutionary Communist Party, USA.

This Party has the vision, the program, the leadership, and the organizational principles to unite those who must be united into a viable movement to do what must be done. There is a challenge for all those who would like to see such a revolution; those with a burning desire to be a drastic change for the better, all those who dare to dream and to act to bring about a completely new and better world. Support this Party, join this Party, spere its leadership and the organized strength, and prepare the ground for a revolutionary rising that has a solid basis and a real chance of winning.

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U.S. Hands Off Libya

The New World Order and the Pan Am 103 Scan

The U.S. powers made another vicious New World Order move last week. On November 18, the U.S. government announced that a secret grand jury has handed down indictments against two Libyans for allegedly carrying out the 1988 bombing of Pan Am Flight 103. The Pan Am plane blew up over Scotland while on a flight from England to the U.S. The U.S. claims the accused are members of the Libyan intelligence agency and that responsibility for the bombing reaches the highest levels of the Libyan government.

Cynog疡es of military action needs to be taken seriously by opponents of U.S. aggression and intervention. In 1986, air strikes against Libya ordered by the Reagan administration killed and injured many people. The excuse at that time was the acquittal by the U.S. that Libya was behind the bombing of a disco in Berlin—a charge that the U.S. later admitted might not be true. One U.S. official now says of the new threats against Libya, "It calls into mind the Reagan response of 1986, and that is a powerful signal."

U.S. manipulation of the Pan Am affair is based straight-up on imperialist calculations. For almost two years after the December 1988 bombing U.S. and British investigators claimed they were "narrowing in" on the culprits. They focused on the PFLP-PC and claimed the group had Syrian and Iranian backing for the bombing. But suddenly in October 1990 officials announced a change in their theory—now they claimed Libyan intelligence agents were responsible.

What changed? The reason for the sudden shift was not any new facts in the case, but the political situation in the Middle East and the geopolitical needs of U.S. imperialism. Syria used to be the main client state for the Soviet imperialists in the Middle East. But with the changes in the Soviet Union, Syria has moved closer to the West, and in the fall of 1990 they joined the U.S.-led coalition against Iraq. Now they are involved in the U.S.-directed "peace process" in the Middle East which is aimed at further reducing the Palestinian struggle and "stabilizing" the area for U.S. domination. As for Iran, its reactionary rulers have also been taking a more open pro-West stand, including cooperation with the U.S. in the war against Iraq.

The U.S. included Syria and Iran in the original list of "suspects" as a political pressure tactic against those states. Now that the Syrian and Iranian regimes appear to be more "cooperative" associates in the U.S.-led criminal enterprise in the Middle East, they have been dropped as "suspects." However, the terrorism experts and "families" members who are featured in the media calling for Syria and Iran to be charged along with Libya are a reminder to the Syrian and Iranian government that they could be next (after the "terrorism"") label again if they go against U.S. interests.

The raising of Libya as the main "culprit" is another calculated geopolitical move. It is Bush's New World Order according to Secretary of Defense Dick Cheney, who called for "global" war and "stabilizing" the area for U.S. domination. As for Libya, its reactionary rulers have also been taking a more open pro-West stand, including cooperation with the U.S. in the war against Iraq.

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spent the last years as a slave to the English. Slaves and left smallpox behind. That shoreline had already been killed off. In Mayflower landed on the North American part of the heritage we renounce. That is a lie. Everyone knows there are almost no Indians left in New England—and there are many descendents of European settlers. That alone tells us that the Thanksgiving myth hides many acts of domination and murder. Thanksgiving is part of the heritage we renounce.

In mid-winter 1620 the English ship Mayflower landed on the North American coast, delivering 102 Puritan exiles. The original Native people of this stretch of coast had already been killed off. In 1614 a British expedition had landed there. When they left they took 24 Indians as slaves and left smallpox behind. That plague swept the tribes of New England, destroying some villages totally.

The Puritans landed and built their colony called the Plymouth Plantation near the deserted ruins of the Indian village of Pawtuxet. They ate from abandoned coast, delivering 102 Puritan exiles. The Puritan movement was part of a sweeping revolt within English society against the ruling feudal order of wealthy lords. Only a few decades after the establishment of Plymouth, the Puritan Revolutions came to power in England. They killed the king, won a civil war, set up a short-lived republic, and brutally conquered the neighboring people of Ireland to create a larger national market.

The famous Puritan intellligence was part of a determined attempt to challenge the decadence and wastefulness of the rich aristocratic landlords of England. The Puritans wanted to use the power of state, as well as the power of protestant ethics, to accumulate and prosper, they were quick to oppress the masses of people in Ireland, Scotland and North America, once they seized the power to set up their new bourgeois order. Those who rejected the narrow religious rules of the colonies were often simply expelled "out into the wilderness.

The Massachusetts colony (north of Plymouth) was founded when Puritan stockholders had driven out of England as subversives. They were Calvinists who believed that the vast majority of humanity was predestined to damnation. This meant that while they were firm in fighting for their own capitalist interests, they rejected the narrow religious rules of the settlers and were often simply expelled "out into the wilderness."

In U.S. schools, students are taught that the Mayflower massacre of Plymouth contained the seeds of "modern democracy" and "rule of law." But by looking at the actual history of the Puritans, we can see that this so-called "modern democracy" was (and still is) a capitalist democracy based on all kinds of oppression and serv

Every school child in the U.S. has been taught that the Pilgrims of the Plymouth Colony invited the local Indians to a major harvest feast after surviving their first bitter year in New England. The Thanksgiving story is a myth that teaches the United States was created in brotherhood and tolerance. But that is a lie. Everyone knows there are almost no Indians left in New England—and there are many descendents of European settlers. That alone tells us that the Thanksgiving myth hides many acts of domination and murder. Thanksgiving is part of the heritage we renounce.

One of the principles of historical materialism is that events have to be looked at in their "interconnectedness," meaning that to understand what an event means we have to understand what went before and what went after. To understand the historical meaning of the Thanksgiving harvest festival of 1621, we must understand what the Plymouth and Massachusetts colonies of Puritan pilgrims were about.

A So-Called Shining City

Governor Winthrop, a founder of the Massachusetts colony, said, "We shall be as a City upon a Hill, the eyes of all people are upon us." The Mayflower Pilgrims had been driven out of England as subversives. The Puritans saw this religious colony as a model of a social and political order that they believed all of Europe should adopt. The Puritan movement was part of a sweeping revolt within English society against the ruling feudal order of wealthy lords. Only a few decades after the establishment of Plymouth, the Puritan Revolution came to power in England. They killed the king, won a civil war, set up a short-lived republic, and brutally conquered the neighboring people of Ireland to create a larger national market.

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The Birth of “The American Way of War”

In the Connecticut Valley, the powerful Pequot tribe had not entered an alliance with the British (as had the Narragansett, the Wampumagaw, and the Massachusetts peoples). At first they were far from the centers of colonization. Then, in 1633, the British stole the land where the city of Hartford now sits—land which the Pequot had recently conquered from another tribe. That same year two British slave raiders were killed. The colonists demanded that the Indians who had killed the slave be turned over. The Pequot refused. The Puritan preacher said, from Romans 13:2, “Whoever therefore resisteth the power, resisteth the ordinance of God: and they that resist shall receive to themselves damnation.” The colonial governments gathered an armed force of 210 under the command of John Mason. They were joined by a thousand Narragansett warriors. The historian Francis Jarvis writes: “Mason proposed to attack Pequot warriors which ‘would have overpowered his unseasoned, unreliable troops. Battle, at such, was not his purpose. Battle is only a way to destroy an enemy’s will to fight. Massacre can accomplish the same end with less risk, and Mason had determined that massacre would be his objective.’”

The colonial army surrounded a fortified Pequot village on the Mystic River. At sunrise, as the inhabitants slept, the Puritan soldiers set the village on fire. William Bradford, Governor of Plymouth, wrote: “Those that escaped the fire were slain with the sword; some beheaded with pieces, others run through with their rapier, so that they were quickly dispatched old and very few escaped. It was conceived they thus destroyed about 400 at this time. It was a fearful sight to see them thus flying in the fire. horrible was the stink and scent there of, but the victory seemed a sweet sacrifice, and they gave the prayers thereof to God, who had wrought so wonderfully for them.”

Mason himself wrote: “It may be demanded. Should not Christians have more mercy and compassion? But sometimes the Scripture declares women and children must perish with their parents... We had sufficient light from the word of God for our proceedings.”

“Three hundred and fifty years later the Puritan phrase “a shining city on the hill” became a favorite quote of Ronald Reagan’s speecheswriters. Looking at history, you can see why: The Puritans were filled with a self-righteousness that saw divine justice in capitalist mass murder.”

Discovering the Profits of Slavery

The war trophies were still handsome profits. Some Puritans argued that the land was a “Curse of them that were disobedient.” The British plantation colonies in the West Indies were enormous profits. These early merchant capitalists “enjoyed the profits they made from the slave trade,” one historian has written. “The salve trade, like an in-born talent in the hands of great men, quickly became a backbone of New England merchant capitalism.”

Thanksgiving in the Manhattan Colony

In 1641 the Dutch governor Kieft of Manhattan offered the first “scalp bounty”—his government paid money for the scalp of each Indian brought to them. A couple of years later, Kieft ordered the massacre of the Wappingers, a friendly tribe. Eighty were killed and their severed heads were stuck on poles and put on the streets of Manhattan. One captive was decapitated, skinned alive, and forced to cut off his own flesh while the Dutch governor watched and laughed. Then Kieft hired the notorious Chief W. H. who had commanded in the Pequot war to carry out a similar massacre near Stamford, Connecticut. The village was set fire, and 300 Indian residents were put to the sword.

This day of thanksgiving was proclaimed in the churches of Manhattan. As we will see, the European colonists declared Thanksgiving Day to celebrate mass murder more often than they did for harvest and friendship.
New York Flagburners Fight to Overturn Conviction

Shawn Eichman and Joe Urgo, Times Square Recruiting Station, September 1990.

On November 13 oral arguments in the case of Shawn Eichman and Joe Urgo were heard at the U.S. Court of Appeals, Second Circuit. Shawn and Joe were convicted earlier this year on the charge of felony arson for burning a U.S. flag when they protested the Gulf war in September last year. They were acquitted of reckless endangerment—a charge made by the government in an attempt to portray the two revolutionary arsonists as "terrorists." The article "High Tide in Cleveland—Flag Burning Case" in RW No. 360 (incorrectly stated that Shawn and Joe were acquitted of the felony arson charge and not of reckless endangerment.) Because of widespread support for Shawn and Joe, the government was not able to put it off indefinitely. In the words of Shawn, "we had no one but ourselves to blame if we upheld it would set a dangerous precedent. It will allow prosecutors to charge political dissidents with criminal offenses like terrorism, treason, and sedition. "

The defense lawyers in the appeal are William Kunstler and Barrett Fields. Shawn and Joe's defense committee is calling for people to send letters of support. They can be contacted at (212) 969-0665.

Shawn is a revolutionary artist and Joe is a revolutionary artist who lives in New York City. They are both supporters of the RCP. The following is a letter we received from Joe Urgo:

Shawn Eichman and I are writing this letter to alert readers about the status of our case.

The article on the Cheryl Lesean flag burning which appeared in RW (July 1990) was full of explaining why the government is pursuing our case. The newsprint in or out of print about political prisoners and the need for political prisoners is critical. They especially need to stop printing political actions that expose the crimes of the state and italiane for political reasons.

This is also true in our case where Shawn and I climbed on top of the Times Square Recruiting Station in New York City on September 1990 and poured cordite into the building. We were arrested and charged with which is a felony under 18 U.S.C. Sec. 844(f)—a law written in 1934 to put an end to terrorism and insurance fraud cases. Our lawyers have to go to trial on terrorism charges. The FBI Joint Anti-Terrorist Task Force also argued that we were not convicted of any crime.

The original charges were misconduct in government, misdemeanor reckless endangerment, or the government tried to punish us as "terrorists" and felony burglary. Because we are revolutionaries, the government is pursuing a simple case of flag burning. We are being charged with vehicular manslaughter because we were not following the laws of the state and inspire the people to act as a collective against the government in an attempt to portray us as "terrorists." We are trying to hug down the recruiting station because we are trying to hug down the recruiting station and earn the respect of the people. The main body of the government's case was spent trying to portray us as dangerous threats to the people. Our defense committee mobilized broad support. Many came to fill the courtroom during our four-day trial. Our lawyers—William Kunstler, Ron Kuby and Ian Weinstein—repeatedly expressed the political nature of the government's case. All of the state's witnesses either contradicted the facts, other witnesses and even themselves. The jury did not believe the lies of the government on the reckless endangerment charge and did convict on the felony charges of the flag and the misconduct charge of deprecation of property.

In a letter received after the trial of one of the jurors said that he and other jurors did not believe that we should be punished for flag burning. They saw the government's case as "vindictive" but were forced to convict on the charge of flag burning because they were forced to follow the judge's narrow instructions.

Overall, it was a victory for the people that Shawn and Joe were not convicted of reckless endangerment. We were able to败demonstrate at demonstrations and in the press that we were trying to hug down the recruiting station and not the government. We were able to show the people the acts of the government and why we were trying to hug down the recruiting station and the whole system. The defense committee developed widespread support that kept the government from railroad ing us. It was a further victory that support for us forced the government to back off from giving us any jail time. We were sentenced to two years probation and 200 hours of community service.

We are now in the appeal stage of fighting to reverse these convictions on the ground of prosecutorial vindictiveness because the government sought throughout the trial to portray us as "terrorists" in a simple case of flag burning. We are saying the government was vindictive because our service was powerful. I enlisted at that recruiting station to go to Vietnam, and my blood and oil around the edge of the building. We are saying the government was vindictive because our service was powerful. I enlisted at that recruiting station to go to Vietnam, and my blood and oil around the edge of the building. We are saying the government was vindictive because our service was powerful. I enlisted at that recruiting station to go to Vietnam, and my blood and oil around the edge of the building.
In an earlier statement on Clarence Thomas's nomination to the supremacist court (see PRI 9563), I said that too many Black people were buying into Thomas's charge "that the hearings on his nomination amounted to a high-tech lynching of an uppity Black man" and asking why "that same help so those white folk to drag that brother down." The November issue of the Final Call, the newspaper of the Nation of Islam (NOO), in its coverage of the hearings played out both these themes.

The NOO's feature article—titled "Thomas Survives "High-Tech Lynching""—quotes Thomas supporters extensively on how bad he was the victim of such a "lynching" and states that those who opposed Thomas were suckered by white forces, especially women. "Harry Single- ton, a longtime friend of Thomas, was quoted by the Final Call as saying, 'What we have here is the white women's groups have used a Black woman to stop the confirmation of this Black man.'"

In an interesting sidelight, this article and another in the same issue, "Support Pay Thomas Backs Civil Rights Leaders," quoted the Final Call as saying, "It is important and correct for a broad array of people to oppose Thomas's nomination. The opposition that developed to Thomas's nomination was not a matter of white forces using Blacks to further their own agendas. Instead it was an important indication of the possibility to unite many different kinds of people in the struggle to get rid of this rotten setup once and for all through revolution and the necessity to go on to build something new and different in its place." The article adds, "There was a lack of nationalities and races represented at the handling of Anita Hill's charges against Clarence Thomas. There was an indication of whether the RCP means when we say "Unleash the Fury of Women as a Mighty Force for Revolution. Nobody had to use any imagination to see that this system forces people all over the world into classes—and seeking in the Final analysis to get your part in this."
Baghdad Nightmares: "Bush Is Coming, Bush Is Coming"

By Larry Everest

Larry Everest, a contributing editor to the Revolutionary Worker, made a three-week investigative trip to Iraq this summer. He saw firsthand the suffering and destruction caused by the U.S. bombing during the Gulf War. In this article, he talked to Iraqis about the hunger and diseases which are continuing to kill many people. He has brought back a vivid picture of the results of a vicious imperialist war against a Third World country. Previous articles in Everest's series appeared in RW 167, #5632 and #5633.

Men from construction industry in Baghdad now unable to find building materials.

"I have a son 5 years old. During the air raid he was shaking, shivering, saying 'Bush is coming, Bush is coming.' After the cease-fire, American airplanes were flying over Baghdad, crossing the sound barrier, making this explosive sound, frightening the children, and writing with blue smoke, 'USA.' What was the purpose except frightening Iraqi children?"

Dr. Ahmed Hamid, Iraq's Red Crescent Society.

"The message is loud and clear that they are involved in a war and it's not going well."

Lt. Gen. Charles A. Horner, overall commander of the U.S. air war on Iraq, explaining that terminating elections was a "side benefit of the bombing campaign."

During the Gulf War the U.S. destroyed Iraq's infrastructure, killing tens of thousands and endangering millions more; thousands of innocent civilians were killed by U.S. bombs; and the Allies slaughtered thousands more recruiting Iraqi soldiers. Attempting to terrorize a population was yet another aspect of the U.S.-led war on Iraq and its people. And it is one more exposure of the lie that the U.S. and its Allies waged a "humanitarian" or "surgeon's" war on Iraq.

I asked most everyone I met in Iraq what it had been like to live under 43 straight days of U.S. bombing. In this report I go into conversations I had with two Iraqis last year. She soon returned to Bagh- dad and began keeping a journal of her experiences during the war.

"There are five at my home: me, my father, a retired ambassador, my mother, a schoolmistress; my sister, a lecturer at the university; and my brother, who was drafted during the war. Most of us weren't expecting the war. The rumor was nothing was going to happen, and the beginning of the war took us by surprise. We were more on the hope of a last-minute settlement. Even if the U.S. were imperialists, we didn't think they would go to the extent of doing what they did. We started to think that something might happen about three weeks before the war when there was a series of TV programs explaining civil defense precautions. We bought and tossed newspapers and made a room with supplies and blankets to help us against a chemical attack. But until the night of January 14, we were still talking it seriously."

"At 2:10 a.m. the bombing started. I was awake to the sound of bombs—there was thunder and lightning. It sounded like it was the whole sky was red—like on a mid-summer's night."

"The worst is yet to come." Zaineb Zaineb is a very expressive, outgoing and courageous young Iraqi woman of 25. The daughter of a progressive woman of 25. The daughter of a father, a retired ambassador, my mother, a schoolmistress; my sister, a lecturer at the university; and my mother, a schoolmistress. She was studying for her degree in progressive education in Brazil. During the Gulf War, the U.S. destroyed Iraq's telecommunications programs undertaken by the Iraqi government. These programs were based on selling oil in order to purchase Western technology and equipment, and they deprived Iraq of links with Western imperialist nations. Many in this class have strongly contradictory feelings about both the Hussein regime and the West. Arab nationalism is a major political trend; many want to see a peaceful Iraq and Arab world and are opposed to U.S. bullying in the region. At the same time, however, they often admire the West's wealth, power and bourgeois "freedoms."

These two Iraqis lived in Baghdad throughout the bombing, and their experiences were shared by many of the four million people living there. What they went through not only illustrates the criminal nature of the U.S. air war but also how many Iraqis dealt with the bombing and some of the lessons they learned.

Zaineb

Zaineb studied at international high schools in the United States, England and France. She was on her way to Oxford University in the United States when the war took us by surprise. We were more on the hope of a last-minute settlement. Even if the U.S. were imperialists, we didn't think they would go to the extent of doing what they did. We started to think that something might happen about three weeks before the war when there was a series of TV programs explaining civil defense precautions. We bought and tossed newspapers and made a room with supplies and blankets to help us against a chemical attack. But until the night of January 14, we were still talking it seriously.

On the 15th we were prepared for the worst, when it fell into schedule: it would start at 7:30 p.m. and go on 24 hours. In the last two weeks it fell into a second pattern: it would start at 7:30 p.m. and go on 4 a.m. Then in the day there would be no bombing. There was a lot of bombing at night, mostly beginning at about 1 a.m., but there was no set time. Often it started late in the night, and lasted until 4 a.m. Then in the day there would be no bombing. Many people got insomnia and the noise never stopped being terrifying.

"First, we didn't really fully realize what it meant to have power at all. After all, the second day Mom realized the food in the freezer was gone. We were completely out of food. We were very scared of each other, and no one was talking. We couldn't do anything at all."

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A Brother in the Army

"Ahmed, my brother, is the eldest, two years older than me. We have a love-hate relationship. He’s the only son and is used to getting his needs taken care of. He’s the only one soon you splash water after them. So he gets used to getting his needs taken care of. so he gets quite a lot of water ready to splash. And we cied verses from the Koran for protection. We tried to hide our feelings so he won’t worry. But at night when the bombing started and we were in two different places and I didn’t know if he was being hit or not. I’d start reciting verses. If I ever allowed my imagination to run away, I’d get a cold sweat.

"A few hours wasn’t much time (for his visits), but for the first time in my life. I intended to his needs—washed his clothes, mended, cooked food for him wholeheartedly. I went so far as to wash his hair in a basin without asking—I never thought I’d do it and wouldn’t do it now. Once I was hysterical. We heated water before he came, but you have to mix it to get it warm. I forgot and added some semi-boiling water to the basin and scalded him. He yelled, ‘why not test it with your finger!’"

The War of Propaganda

I began a conversation with one middle class professional in Baghdad by focusing on his experiences during the bombing. But it soon turned to the impact of Allied propaganda—another weapon the U.S.-led coalition unleashed on the Iraqi people. Out of the corner of our eyes it became clear that the Iraqi people’s ability to resist the imperialist onslaught had been seriously crippled by the Hussein regime’s unwillingness and inability to politically prepare and mobilize the masses. The weakness of the U.S. coalition and the suffering of the country made the U.S. coalition ruthless in exploiting.

"Every day the planes would come. We’d hear them before we’d hear the sirens because the radar was blacked out by the American coalition forces. The raid would finish and then the sirens would come. They’d come on sometimes ten times if you count one for the start of the raid and one for the end of the raid. So you’d stay awake all night; we didn’t sleep very much and just the possibility of getting bombed for about 40 days was pretty frustrating.

"We didn’t go around very much, you stuck to your house. There was a lot of psychological pressure, immense pressure. We had relatives at the war front, and a couple of them were missing at the front line. We didn’t know anyone’s news because the telephone system was cut off. We didn’t know if they were alive or dead. We’d hear some news about once a week and we’d ask their relatives what their situation was, but they didn’t know. So it was enormous psychological pressure.

"Then there was the immense pressure of radio. People were just weeping because the world all saying one thing, and then they were saying something else. There was Voice of America, BBC (British Broadcasting Corporation), Radio Cologne, Radio Monte Carlo, and many other stations in Cyprus, Egypt, Israel, and Saudi Arabia. Everybody was listening to our internal propaganda machine and starting to believe that the war was going well and that the others were just talking about things. This was partly because the internal propaganda machine with all its slogans. You couldn’t tell what was happening with the war—they were extremely vague, they wouldn’t tell you what was happening at the front, and they couldn’t say anything because they were very threatened at the war front.

"The Allies were getting enough information from us, but our radio couldn’t really say anything other than the standard. Yet at the same time this made people lose confidence in their internal propaganda machine. The old radio stations were saying some truth and some lies, but everybody would believe everything they would say.

"I think the purpose was to demoralize the soldiers at the front and the people at home. The soldiers were forced to report back home saying, ‘We’re all right, you are all right!’ They would not believe people in Baghdad were all right. So it made the soldiers worry about what was behind them, it demoralized them.

"During the war I lost confidence in VOA. VOA was like a Middle Eastern radio. It was in the garden. They were just quoting Saudi Arabia radio most of the time—all they would do was quote Coalition forces’ talk. For example, they would say there was a revolution somewhere in Baghdad which was only a couple of kilometers from where I live. All I would do is walk there and find out there was nothing happening. And many times they said the Iraqi government was finished and the leaders had gone to Kuwait. How many times did they say that? VOA said it. BBC, Syrian radio, Radio Tokyo, Radio Cologne, they all said about three times that Saddam Hussein had gone to Kuwait. They were like a fire with gasoline so there would be chaos.

"When a country is fighting a war, if you want to win you have to encourage the soldiers fighting. But nobody was encouraging the soldiers fighting for their country, even the merchants in Baghdad. Even if you were a soldier, if you wanted a lift in Baghdad it would cost you a lot, and if you want to buy food on the streets it would cost you quite a bit. Any country fighting a war should try to know better. But the whole infrastructure of the country collapsed, and I think the Americans calculated this very well."
Detroit: Where They Smile in Your Face and Take Away Your Place

Cedric described a recent night, standing on line at this center, when people got angry and the manager said, "We're gonna rob and kill and steal." The crowd got bigger and bigger, he said, "they wanted to strike a blow at the rich and make a statement. They feel they're being kicked in the ass and they're ready to kick some ass back."

The battle of Detroit's homeless people and their supporters, reported in the last week, has continued to rage and has gained more support. After a tent city was torn down from a vacant lot next to the Jefferson city housing project, another had been set up at a new encampment on a lot owned by a church in the hard-hit Cass Corridor section of the city. They called it "Engleville," named after restless Michigan governor John Engler. And twice in the past week, with no reasons offered, the police have come and torn down Engleville, only to see it restored within hours. Ten more people have been arrested.

Students and others have expressed support for the homeless in this battle. Hundreds of high school students at Cass Tech (an inner-city "magnet school") yelled and jeered at Governor Engler during a talk he gave there. Across the river in Canada, at the University of Windsor, Ontario, students came out at the center of campus to dramatize the plight of the homeless. An hour away, University of Michigan students picked homeless people in Ann Arbor—which has its own dive housing shortage—in taking over a room at a closed low-income rooming house. Four people were arrested.

Recently, a team of UM reporters made a couple of visits to one of the recreation centers being kept open for the homeless in the Cass Corridor by order of Mayor Coleman Young early this month. These "warming centers" are kept open from 3 p.m. to 7 a.m. and offer a place on the floor to sleep.

By 6 p.m., some 40 or 50 people are already gathered, waiting to get in, sitting by the door and lined up down the sidewalk. The crowd is all Black people and includes only one or two women. They are listening to R&B music from someone's headphones, talking among themselves, and trying to keep warm. Each night between 150 and 200 homeless stay at this one center, spread out like seashells on the gym floor. They are fed a small dinner and breakfast.

A black man in his 30s sitting by the door explained it to us: "You have to get here early or you might not get in. They might turn you away or send you to another shelter. If you go in, you just eat and go to sleep. You can't come in and sit, can't go around, can't even talk about that.

We asked him what was the worst part of all this. He pointed to the people lined up and waiting. "The waiting is the worst part of it all. It's bad out here. You have to just try and keep to yourself. Everyone is for themselves out here." He looked at one of us, a woman, and said, "It's tough for women. I wouldn't want to see you out here.

Many of these people became homeless when the state government eliminated General Assistance (GA) welfare two years ago. Over 90,000 poor people in Michigan, half of them in Detroit, were suddenly told in late September that their GA or Job Start checks would stop coming. By November 1 they received cold eviction notices from their landlords. When a court case contested the aid cuts, some of these evictions were postponed, but the Appellate Court rejected the challenge early in November, and thousands more were forced onto the streets. The case is now before the Michigan Supreme Court.

A young man explained to us that he had recently stayed at a Salvation Army shelter for 1-1/2 months undergoing a drug treatment program. He was told his GA would still be available when he got out, but it was cut 30 days later and he became homeless. Rogier, 25, said he was going to college and living in an efficiency on the east side until his GA was cut and he was evicted on November 1. He had never been homeless before, but now he sleeps in a Salvation Army shelter where he has been staying. Andrew is one of the few here who have jobs. He works at a fancy restaurant, but has been fired four times and living in an efficiency on the west side while letting housing for the rich on the riverfront, while letting housing for the rich on the riverfront. He earns a G.E.D and was looking to studying mental health, but there's no change of that now that he's homeless.

Andrew said he is angry that the city builds fancy apartments for the rich on the riverfront, while letting housing for the rich on the riverfront. He feels the message to homele


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Food line at Salvation Army headquarters, Detroit.
predicts that crime and substance abuse will go up now in such miserable conditions. As the cuts mean the homeless are just statistics on an accounting sheet. "And I'm not gonna go hungry if it comes to that. I'm not gonna starve, I'll do whatever I have to do. A number of people told us that if they were to get caught stealing, at least they'd have a warm jail cell to stay in..."

Recently, one city jail announced that homeless people could stay there overnight—and they got a few takers.

A couple of days later, they returned and picked people up for unpaid tickets, bench warrants and the like.

"We're not as bad as they thought we were," the mayor told us. "We just get by."

But Larry argued that the politicians weren't just targeting Black people but all poor people, and he expressed anger at the treatment of American Indians, Pakistanis, and Asians. We asked how he saw the solution, and he replied, "Eventually, we're gonna have to revolt. How we gonna do this and when it's gonna happen, I don't know. But it's gonna build to the point where there's a revolution."

Another man piped up, "What do you expect when the Kike Klan is running things?"

But Larry asked what did he think was the reason for the welfare cuts. "You really want to know what I think? Racism," he said. "Why are half the people on welfare Black? Michigan is mostly white, but half the people on welfare are Black. I think the governor figures we're expendable."

Another man pointed out, "What do you think, the Ku Klux Klan is running things?"

"We have a mayor who doesn't give a damn," another man replied. "How can we do what he wants when he doesn't think about us?"

"Do you think that a lot of people have gotten screwed for years but didn't really realize what a dog-catch-dog system this is until they were homeless? "Now we don't have anything left to take from one another," he said. "In the past, we would steal from and kill one another, but for the first time we're actually together. We don't have nothing and we're all on the same page, and we're directing it toward the people who smile in your face and take away your plate. "I've been low before, but never this low," Cedric continued, a bundle of AW's in his hand. If he had a two-year degree in electronics and had worked most of his life, most recently as an electrician at a tool and die shop. Two months ago a co-worker was playing around and knocked a machine over, crushing the middle finger of Cedric's right hand. The two started fighting and were both fired that day. He's been unable to get any unemployment benefits.

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Canada Trials: Defend the Mohawk Warriors!

The stakes in this trial are very high for the Mohawk and other oppressed people on both sides of the U.S.-Canadian border. The Canadian government (known in Canada as the Canadian authorities) is trying to try the Mohawks like criminals. The crown’s legal argument is that the Mohawks are common criminals and should be tried as such. They have continued to deny the fact that the Mohawk people have any sovereignty rights to their lands.

By convicting these rebels, the governo wants to send another message to the Native peoples of Canada and others who oppose the crown since Native land claims total over 1/3 of the total land mass of what is now Canada. And the province of Quebec is right now building the largest hydroelectric dam in the world in James Bay—forcing the Cree people off their land to do it.

The crown fought to split off the cases of Lasagna, Noriega and 2020 from the other forty or so people who will be tried in connection with the events at Kahnawake. At a result, these three will be tried separately from the other people arrested at Kahnawake. These three Warriors, and in particular Lasagna, became powerful symbols of the Mohawk people’s heroic refusal to bow down to the Canadian authorities. Lasagna became a role model for many Native and Canadian youth, and the “Warrior look” was the biggest selling Halloween costume last year.

The crown has brought down very heavy charges on Lasagna, Noriega and 2020. They face jail time that could total life in prison. Lasagna alone is facing 39 different charges on Lasagna. Noriega and 2020 are facing hundreds of charges on Lasagna. Noriega and 2020.

The legal battle is a deadly serious one, which needs to be fought just as hard in the battle to defend the barricades last summer. But this case won’t be won on the strength of the legal arguments alone. The people cannot rely on the same system responsible for non-Native people to step out and stand against this outrage. The Mohawks are calling for supporters to come to the trial at the main courthouse in St. Jerome, Quebec, Canada. Mohawk spokespeople have told the FW that letters of support for the Mohawk defendants can be sent to Gild Remillard, Minister of Justice, 1 East Notre Dame, Montreal, Quebec, Canada. Contributions can be sent to Liberation of the Mohawk Nation Fund, P.O. Box 10, St. Jerome, Quebec, Canada JOL 1B0. For more information, call Liberation of the Mohawk Nation Office at 514-638-4750.
Demonstrators Raise the Banner of Revolution and Denounce "The Madrid Conspiracy"  

The following press release was received from the Information Bureau of the Revolutionary Internationalist Movement:  

On Thursday 31st October an international contingent of demonstrations from various countries of Europe, the Middle East and Asia marked the 20th anniversary of revolution in front of the Spanish Palace and denounced "the Madrid Conspiracy" of imperialism, reactionaries and capitalists for trying to bury the struggle of the Palestinian people. Despite the efforts of numerous sharpshooters which were trained on them, the demonstrators defiantly proceeded to burn the U.S. and Israeli flags as well as effigies of Gorbachev, Bush and Shackle. The demonstrators read a statement by the Committee of the Revolutionary Internationalist Movement, which stated: "Madrid is not a symbol of revolution, but they held two huge red banners which declared, "Free the Complete Liberation of Palestine!" and "People's War Will Defeat the Madrid Conspiracy!" and they burned a huge red banner of Mao Tsetung.  

Many of the 4,000 reporters who were in Madrid filmed the incident and collected statements by the group's press spokesman, Abdul Karim, who, wearing a Palestinian Kaffiyah, declared that the Madrid East would not be peace but only bloody war as long as the imperialists dominated the region and the Zionist state of Israel existed. He also pointed out that, despite the capitulation of the official Palestinian leaders gathered in Madrid, the Palestinian revolution would never die—and he pointed to the example of the people's war in Peru as a model of how the masses could begin to liberate themselves when led by a genuine revolutionary party carrying out Maoist people's war.  

Although the official leaders in the PLO and the tremendous efforts of the entire world imperialist media, it has had to be admitted that at least 40% of the Palestinians in the occupied areas of the Gaza Strip and West Bank already oppose the Madrid Conference. The Revolutionary Internationalist Movement is proud that a contingent of Maoists was there to represent the genuine aspirations of the Palestinian People and the oppressed of the region.  

Information Bureau, Revolutionary Internationalist Movement, 2nd November 1991  

Berkeley: Protest Disrupts Peru President's Speech  

Alberto Fujimori, president of the reactionary government of Peru, spoke at Zellerbach Auditorium on the University of California's Berkeley campus on November 18. He is traveling around the world to beg the U.S. and other powers for more aid for his crisis-ridden regime. His talk at Berkeley was sponsored by the university, which promised university employees time off with pay for attending the speech. The audience also included the Bay Area's upper crust and others from the "respectable" sections of the Berkeley community. But there were others who responded to a call by the Committee to Support the Revolution in Peru to protest Fujimori's talk. They came to oppose Fujimori's role as a frontman for U.S. counterrevolution in Peru and to expose his lies about how U.S. military aid to his government is aimed at "combating drugs."  

Demonstrators outside Zellerbach distributed leaflets opposing U.S. intervention against the advancing Marxist revolution in Peru led by the Communist Party of Peru. The Revolutionary Communist Youth Brigade brought a huge picture of the great revolutionary Mao-Tsetung. Pedestrians held up red flags and a banner saying "Yankie Go Home," "U.S. Out of Peru," and "1991—Year of Solidarity with the People's War in Peru." Statements were made by Herberto Osorio, national spokesperson for the CSRP; Lawrence Phillips of the Peace and Freedom Party and Movement of Alameda County; Karlina from Roots Against War (a Bay Area group that includes Berkeley students and people from the Black and Latino communities); the RCP, Bay Area Revolutionary Communist Youth Brigade and the Network of Solidarity with Latin America. The CSRP called for a demonstration in San Francisco on December 7 to denounce U.S. intervention and show solidarity with the people's war in Peru.  

Inside the auditorium Fujimori was three minutes into his speech when a young woman stood up in the balcony to shout him down. She held up a banner that read "U.S. Out of Peru!" His speech was interrupted three times, and 15 people had to be dragged out by the secret service and university security. The disruption was re-enacted by two Bay Area groups: the Spanish-language TV station, Fujimori also spoke that same day to the Commonwealth Club and the World Affairs Council at Hotel Nikko in San Francisco. There he was met by a protest called by the Network of Solidarity with Latin America. Amnesty International played a very negative role during the Fujimori visit. It espouses the Peruvian government's atrocities against the people, but they also accuse the oppressed who take up arms and rise up in revolution of being "too violent." For example, AI often labels the revolutionaries' "defeat of "civilian patrols" as "killing of innocent civilians." In fact, these "civilian patrols" are organized by the government military in order to attack the people's war and are part of the counterrevolution. Still, Fujimori has accused the AI of being "tools of the terrorists." The AI's response to this during Fujimori's visit to the Bay Area was to ask him not to target their organization. In fact, at the same time as others were enraged at the counterrevolution. At the Revolutionary Internationalist Movement is proud that a contingent of Maoists was there to represent the genuine aspirations of the Palestinian People and the oppressed of the region.

Cleveland: Flag on Floor Uproar at People's Art Show  

A new version of the "Flag on the Floor" controversy erupted in Cleveland on November 15 when three artists entered an American flag "welcome mat" in the People's Art Show at Cleveland State University. Some local reactionary war veterans were outraged that art show visitors could be walking on a flag and threatened a human blockade at the show's opening. Bomb threats were aimed at the university's art gallery and art ilçe, but the would-be flanists never showed up to protest. Instead, 3,600 people attended the opening of the uncensored, non-juried show of 440 works, many of which were anti-war, anti-Washington. An installation called "Clarence Thomas Dealt" (complete with a Confederate flag, pornography and the First Amendment in the waste basket) won the viewer-selected award of "Most Politically Correct."  

Danyel Chambers, Scott Summerville and Robert Smirnica won the "Jesse Helms Award" for the flag welcome mat, which was enthusiastically walked on by hundreds of feet. Summerville told the BW, "I am letting people trounce on the American government and all the things this icon represents."  

Diagram of a slave ship  

Guns are supposed to be on the deck of a U.S. Coast Guard cutter after they were picked up from the sea.

Then and Now: Coming to America  

At least 135 Haitians died in rough seas on Nov. 19 when the boat they were riding sank in the Caribbean. They were part of the thousands of people trying to flee Haiti by boat since the Sept. 30 coup overthrew former President Aristide. In the past the U.S. government has forcibly returned Haitian refugees to Haiti, claiming they were "economic refugees." After the coup the U.S. stepped up the forced returns. But in a cold-hearted move, the U.S. government resumed the forced returns on Nov. 18, and over 500 Haitians picked up at sea were sent back in two days. Because of widespread international outrage over these "cruel and unusual" actions, a temporary stop to the forced returns on Nov. 19. Hundreds of Haitian refugees are now being held at the U.S. base at Guantanamo Bay in Cuba.
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IN ISSUE NO. 16

GULF WAR

The lead article, "The U.S.-led Aggressors Will Not Go Unpunished!" exposes the predatory aims of the U.S.-led powers in the war against Iraq and explains why Iraq's rulers were incapable of waging a war of resistance with a real chance of defeating this aggression. The coverage also includes statements by the Committee of the Revolutionary Internationalist Movement against the war; a call by CORIM to the people of the Middle East and the Arab World to take the path of Maoist people's war; statements by participants of RIM; coverage of worldwide protests against the U.S.-led aggression.

PERU

"Our Red Flag is Flying in Peru" reports on the great advances in the people's war led by the Communist Party of Peru: "The prospect of nationwide political power is now in sight, not in the sense that it will inevitably happen very soon, but in the sense that the people's war has developed mightily, that the balance of forces could tip very quickly, and that the Party and the revolutionary masses must now prepare to do something that oppressed people have done for too long now-run their own country, in the service of world revolution." Also, CORIM calls for "1991-A Year of International Solidarity With the People's War in Peru" under the slogan "Yankee Go Home!" And messages of solidarity and support to the people's war by participants in and supporters of RIM.

AND MORE...

FROM A WORLD TO WIN

"...A World to Win has been inspired by the formation of the Revolutionary Internationalist Movement announced on March 12, 1984, which has regrouped many Marxist-Leninist parties and organisations from around the world. A World to Win is not an official organ of the RIM and its pages are open to all those on the same side of the barricades in the fight against imperialism and reaction."

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