

FIRE THIS TIME

Issue 26/27 - September - October 2005

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SELF DETERMINATION FOR ALL OPPRESSED NATIONS!

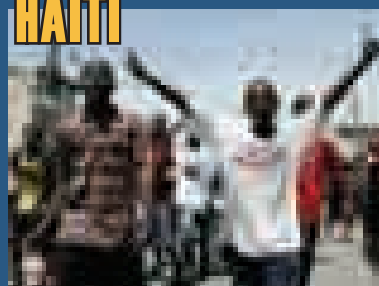
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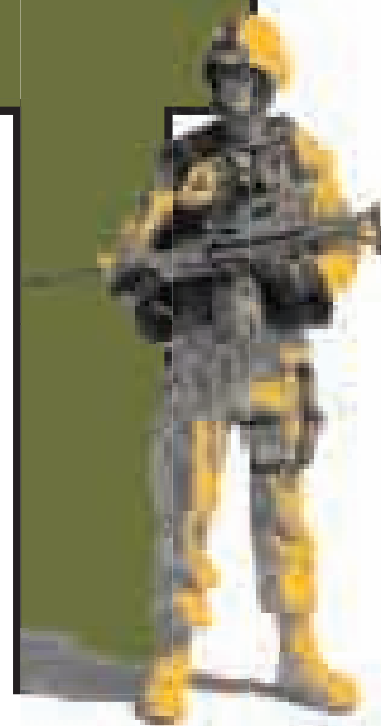


INDIGENOUS NATIONS IN CANADA



CANADA

OUT



OF AFGHANISTAN!



CALL FOR AN INDEPENDENT PUBLIC INQUIRY

CANADA'S OCCUPATION OF AFGHANISTAN: A CHALLENGE TO THE ANTI-WAR MOVEMENT IN CANADA

By Ivan Drury

It's already old news that never made the front page: Canada has begun its war drive in Afghanistan.

When Canadian Chief of Defense Staff, General Rick Hillier, made his July 14th announcement that 2,000 more Canadian troops will be sent to Afghanistan to "kill" "scumbags" and "murderers," Canada had already popped the cork on the third anniversary of the occupation of Afghanistan. This has been done with a new "National Defense" plan (the first in 20 years), a doubled military budget reaching \$24Billion in two years, and a new goal of an 8,000 soldier addition to the military. Hillier's statement was greeted with nods of approval by every single major political party in Canada and, for the most part, the leadership of the anti-war movement said, "I gotta go to the bathroom," and skipped out on voting for or against either way.

Hillier's statements were not isolated ramblings of a racist phantom of the House of Commons who had slipped out of his attic prison long enough to hold a press conference and give the government a black eye. He is the *head* of the Canadian military and in his words we can glimpse at the plans of future wars that his unanimous parliamentary backers were not so bold as to share with the majority of people in Canada. It is here that the anti-war movement in Canada finds its real work, and the groups that head up this movement better prepare for a lot of overtime. In issue #25 of Fire This Time, we proposed, for this task, taking up a call for an Independent Public Inquiry into the Canadian war drive in Afghanistan. Here, we will investigate this question further.

The purpose of an Independent Public Inquiry into Canada's Afghanistan affair is simple: It is to build an effective anti-war movement in Canada against Canadian imperialism. The announced deployment of troops to Afghanistan has been shrouded in secrecy and there is a desperate need for an investigation to be conducted into exactly *how* and *why* this war drive has been started unanimously by the government of Canada. Beyond this, the Canadian occupation of Afghanistan and the Canadian war drive will have a terrible impact on the lives and rights of every single working and poor person in Canada.

At the same time, the Canadian war drive in Afghanistan presents an opportunity to build the effective anti-war movement so badly needed for working and poor people to face this crisis. In order for working and poor people in Canada to mobilize against the Canadian war drive, we all must first understand that it is in our interest

to take on this struggle. People in Canada must stand united against Canadian imperialism. Currently, there is a vast gap between what *must be* and what *is*. We call for an Independent Public Inquiry to bridge this gap.

Problems with the anti-war movement in Canada and the difference between the anti-war movement in the US and in Canada It is true that the occupations of Afghanistan, Iraq and Haiti were, for the most part, "Made in the USA." Because of this, the effects of the occupations of Afghanistan, Iraq and Haiti have been felt most deeply, first by the people of Afghanistan, Iraq and Haiti themselves for obvious reasons, and second, by people in the US. The conditions of poverty and desperation that have accompanied the US war drive in the US itself are nudging up and getting familiar with poor and working people in Canada as well.

Increasingly, people in the US (and the UK) are seeing things from the same perspective as people in Afghanistan and Iraq: that the imperialist ruling class is their enemy. In Afghanistan and Iraq, the imperialists run the show thanks to the power of their occupying armies. In the US, they operate through police forces, offices and congress directly. The difference is that this direct rule is carried out with the "consent" of people in the US. Hurricane Katrina and the disaster in New Orleans unearthed a lot of questions about the meaning of this "consent" and the question of whose interests the US Government really represents, but the lack of representation in the US Government for working and poor people in the US has always been clear. The numbers of those living in deep poverty in the US has increased by more than 1.5 million families since 2000. Forty-five million people in the US live without Medicare. Full unemployment in the US sits at around 5.5%, but that number doesn't tell the whole story when you consider that of the nearly 24 million people over the age of 17 who live in poverty in the US, 88% of them work full time, year round. The war and occupation of Iraq and Afghanistan has not improved the lives of the vast majority of people in the US in any way – actually quite the opposite.

On top of this, since the invasion of Afghanistan and then Iraq, the US ruling class has used the "war on terror" to justify massive attacks on

the democratic rights of immigrants, refugees, non-status people, women and all working people in the US. It is increasingly difficult for people in the US to accept that the occupation of Iraq is in their interest, let alone worth sacrificing the lives of 2,000 young people who have been recruited out of poverty into the army... or the lives of upwards of 150,000 Iraqis.

The result of the connections between the war in Afghanistan, Iraq and Haiti and the conditions for working and poor people in the US has resulted in a widespread anti-war sentiment, the emergence of symbols of the 'regular American' against the war like Cindy Sheehan and the sharp decline of approval ratings for the biggest symbol of the US war drive – President George W. Bush.

Obstacles to building an effective anti-war movement in Canada

From the beginning, the anti-war movement in the US has confronted home-country imperialism directly, whether different political tendencies in the movement wanted to or not; there is no escaping it. However, in Canada, the problems of building an effective anti-war movement have been even more complicated than in the US. Since the first major anti-war demonstrations of the era, November 17th 2002, the focus has been on the US war drive, and for the most part, Canadian imperialism has been overlooked, sidelined or denied.

The main obstacle facing the development of an effective anti-war movement in Canada is that working and poor people in Canada are disoriented over the question of whose rights the government of Canada represents. By and large working people in Canada are confused about the power base of the government of Canada and about the relationship between Canada and the US. This confusion takes shape in the confused brand of Canadian nationalism so common in the anti-war movement and amongst millions of working people in Canada. These (mostly well-meaning) people state, without ever being completely convinced, that Canada is basically good and the US is basically bad; and they search constantly for proof of this conclusion after it has already been made. So where does this idea come from?

The root of this confusion is itself the other major obstacle to the

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TWU members, CMG members, and their supporters gather at a Labour Day Rally, Vancouver . May 5, 2005.



TWU worker at a labour day Rally, Vancouver. September 6, 2005

...THE TELUS LOCKOUT CONTINUES

By Ivan Drury

“I’m going for decertification of the union.” - Telus CEO Darren Entwistle

“One day longer!” - Telecommunication Workers’ Union picket slogan

Telus workers, CBC workers and Hospital workers all have two major things in common. First; they are all workers who are under attack by their bosses. Second; their bosses, all acting under the pressures of seeking greater profits in an international marketplace that is crushing weaker capitalists in fierce competition between monopoly corporations, are carrying out these attacks with their primary goal being breaking the union of their employees.

This struggle for the right to organize and for a strong union, is currently being led by the Telecommunication Workers Union (TWU) but it is destined to be a common struggle of all working people in Canada. And if the defence of the TWU is critical to the future of the labour movement in Canada, and to the rights of all working people; truly we have entered a new era of struggle for the rights of working people. It is no accident either that the very time that every boss in Canada has begun to seek the surest ways to cut costs and increase profits (scaling back wages and benefits of workers), that these attacks would be led by axe wielding maniacs seeking to behead the labour movement. If we allow them to succeed in their mission to decapitate the TWU, then all other unions will fall beneath the guillotine and workers in Canada will be set back



TWU workers rally, Vancouver. August 4, 2005.

by decades, both in the rights, wages and job protections we have won through previous struggle and in our ability to carry out future struggles in our own defence.

The historical fight for the right to organize

The struggle for the right to organize and hold unions is nothing new, but perhaps it is because it was won so long ago, it is difficult to recognize. When the labour movement first stood on its feet 70 or 80 years ago in Canada and the US, it was met with fierce attacks from the bosses and the government. The first strikes

were organized around the simple demands of recognition of the unions by the companies, for the right to collective bargaining and the right to organize. The company would immediately hire, out of the massive leagues of the unemployed, scab workers. Then, when the newborn unions blocked jobsites and beat back the scabs they were met with deployments of company thugs, often made up of armed gangs of deputized businessmen and managers, and government thugs in police and army uniforms. The union workers armed themselves in self-defence and battles shook the streets, all in the name of the right to organize.

The ruling class capitalists were faced with a rising class polarization where, despite massive slander

went on, because workers and their families grew hungry and their confidence would begin to wane. Knowing this, it was critical that the strike be strong, that no scab be allowed to pass, and that the ranks of strikers not be allowed to diminish. The stronger the strike, the faster it would be possible to break the company and win. The bosses also knew this, and would do everything they could to keep business running, to buy time, tire the strikers out, and wear the union down.

For both sides it was a desperate struggle. For the unions and the workers it was a struggle for survival, and for the bosses it was a struggle for more profit off the backs of the workers. The victory of the unions set the entire future of the labour movement in the US and Canada.

Yet the struggle is not over; and now it seems that this dramatic stage in the history of the labour movement is about to be replayed. Faced with an international economic crisis, once again, bosses are attacking workers and trying to strangle unions in pursuit of greater profits. And, in self-defence, workers and unions are struggling for their survival. The TWU lockout sets the opening scenes of this play and, as before, the entire future of the labour movement and all working people hangs in the balance.

“Replacement Workers” are the enemies of workers

campaigns against the unions as “communists” and “gangsters,” support for the strikers spread throughout the entire working class like a prairie fire and massive support rallies were organized. In an effort to break the strike and the unions, the companies issued bonuses to workers who would betray the union and cross the picket line and penalties to those who would not. It was only through following the principles of unity and solidarity that these maneuvers by the bosses were defeated and these critical strikes were won. This was more difficult the longer the strike

“The TWU submits that with that many managers [14,000!] TELUS has the resources and therefore the ability to perform bargaining unit work during a labour dispute. Therefore, the TWU submits that the only reason TELUS is using replacement workers on the huge scale that it is (ie. many thousands) is with the hope and intention of ‘busting the Union’ in violation of Section 94(2.1) of the Code.” - From the TWU complaint to the Canadian Industrial Relations Board (CIRB) against TELUS’ hiring of scab labour

Continued on page 7

By Aaron Mercredi

On August 21st, June Quipp, former Chief of the Cheam nation and long-time activist for indigenous rights, sent an appeal to activists and independent media. She was seeking help to get a straight story out about recent events that have been taking place within her territory on the waters of the Fraser River. Throughout the summer, while Cheam fishers dropped their nets, the waters were heating up with conflict between the fishers and the Department of Fisheries and Oceans and recreational fishermen over their rights to harvest from the fresh water. In all of the major newspapers, a smear campaign was re-ignited to fuel non-indigenous people’s fear and misconceptions about native people asserting their rights.

History of Colonialism vs. Indigenous Fisheries in BC

Like the rest of Canada, the battle over

without a license. This first attack by the Department of Fisheries and Oceans (DFO) of using conservation to restrict indigenous fisheries began a long legacy of keeping tabs on what indigenous people were taking out of the waters.

With the enforcement of new colonial laws, some indigenous people adapted and returned to fishing, while others consciously resisted the new laws. The Saanich people took their reef net fishery outside of DFO jurisdiction, to the San Juan Islands which remained within their traditional territory. The Cowichan and Ned’u’ten people fought against the removal of their fishing weirs, directly resisting and using legal forums to gain support from non-indigenous people. The new colonial laws set the conflicts in motion between the survival of indigenous people and their access to their resources, against the economic prosperity of colonial Canada off of these same resources.

FISHING RIGHTS ARE INHERENT RIGHTS...

the waters in BC is nothing new. It is the same colonial song that has been playing since indigenous people first encountered European settlers, only sung at a higher key. When British Columbia joined the Dominion of Canada in 1871, settlers initially relied heavily on a trade relationship with indigenous people and their fishery. The Hudson’s Bay Company even purchased fish from indigenous people for food, as there were not many non-indigenous people fishing at that time. Contrary to popular belief, the fisheries themselves were not lawless and careless when it came to conservation, but were governed by an intricate web of entitlements, prohibitions and sanctions, allowing certain activities and banning others. Many indigenous nations used a weir fishery, which ran by a sophisticated harvesting technology, allowing them to select which salmon they would harvest and which salmon would be left to continue on their spawning journey. However, as the settler population grew and colonialism strengthened across the country, colonial laws displaced the complex fishery system that had already existed. Of course, the government of Canada denied the legitimacy, and in some cases, even the existence of these fisheries and of their systems of management and resource allocation in order to justify imposing new laws on indigenous people. This method of subplanting indigenous laws and values with colonial rule was not limited to the fisheries. In 1884, the government banned the potlatch, strengthening its hegemony over native land by weakening important native legal and trading spaces, thereby allowing more settler access to land governed by indigenous people. This law, undermining indigenous peoples way of living, relating to one another, and governing, was meant to crush indigenous people’s culture and traditional economy, and push them into the new market economy and wage labour created by the Canadian state.

Canneries were established along the West Coast in the late 1800’s to export sockeye salmon and with their high demand of raw resources, there was now profit to be made off of fishing. These canneries created competition for salmon, and as a result, the colonial government was dead set on destroying indigenous fisheries, and laws were brought against indigenous people’s rights to gather fish for food or for profit. In 1884, under the Dominion government, indigenous people were required to seek permission from the colonial government to fish for their own food, and by 1888, Indigenous people could not sell fish

2005 and colonialism is alive and well in BC...

The Pilalt of the Cheam First Nation have a reputation of continuing to live their traditional way of life in the face of colonial oppression. This reputation comes from the times they have blockaded the CN Rail line (which illegally runs through their territory) where they set up in response to developments on their mountains and attacks on their people. It also comes from the fact that they are still out on the waters of the Fraser River harvesting fish within their traditional territory, despite the intimidation, unlawful arrests and other oppressive tactics used by the DFO and RCMP to suppress the Cheam fishers. In 1999, DFO’s aggression led to support coming in to the community from indigenous activists throughout the province. The Native Youth Movement security force went to defend the Cheam fishers, and the West Coast Warrior Society was formed out of that struggle. In the years since, tensions over the waters have remained, with different community members arrested, their equipment confiscated; all the while keeping up the intimidation and attempt to suppress Cheam people’s right to fish. It has become part of their way of life to spend the summers fishing and dealing with the DFO, and the winters in court, fighting for recognition of their rights to fish. Along with this, smear campaigns were also used to demonize their just fight. In an article in the Globe and Mail on July 25th 2003, Bill Otway, who is a former DFO sports fishing advisor and current president of the Sport Fishing Defense Alliance, called on the Canadian government to send the military in to ‘maintain the peace’ on the Fraser, saying ‘these people have an armed camp in there.’

This summer saw the same escalation of tensions as Cheam people harvested fish from the waters. As the DFO opened and closed commercial, recreational and native fisheries, frustration was felt and the blame game was being played. The most common victim of these games is indigenous people who exercise their inherent right to fish on their waters. In the Vancouver Sun and the Province, there were reports on incidents with natives on the Fraser River taking too many fish, while reports from within the community showed increased aggression by the DFO against Cheam people. We had the opportunity to discuss the recent developments in Cheam with June Quipp. Please read the interview in the special box in this page.

Interview with June Quipp of The Cheam Nation



June Quipp of the Cheam Nation .

By Aaron Mercredi

Fire This Time: Can you tell us a little bit about what’s been going on in Cheam for the past couple of weeks?

June Quipp: Well, actually, it has been more than a couple of weeks. I think something has to be done about the way the DFO has really been racial profiling our community, our people and you know, getting away with it. One of the things they are doing is putting out all this media hype, while what they are doing is really aggressively going after our people, charging them with their boats. Their boats are about twice the size of our boats. And what they do is they’ll go right at high speed against us. They try to push our boats and try to ram them. One of the young boys, they tried to pull him out of the boat while he was still operating the boat. I mean, all of this is real, and in my mind really negligent. They’re acting in quite a dangerous and negligent manner.

FTT: Were these attacks made on people while they were trying to fish on the waters?

JQ: Sometimes they’re not even fishing. A lot of times they’ll watch them fish, or let them finish fishing and then they’ll go after them. Sometimes it’s during regular opens. It’s a real hey-day for the officers. You know, they get to go out and practice being the bullies they are. I think they have to take that kind of job for some reason. It’s not a regular job, you know. The type of thing where one holds a bit of power. It has something to do with their egos, I think. But they are being very aggressive. They have always been aggressive and they’ve always gotten away with it. What they do is get very aggressive, somebody comes to help their partner and they end up getting charged with assault. It doesn’t matter that the DFO has been doing the same thing they are accusing our people of doing.

FTT: There’s a long history of DFO aggression against indigenous people, whether it is just the history in Cheam, with attacking people on the waters there or going to Burnt Church where they were attacking the Miqmaq. Are these new attacks that they are making any different?

JQ: Actually, no they’re not. One of the things, and I’m not sure if it happened in Burnt Church, but they’ve got all this media hype out there about how the Cheam band is the only one that is not complying with rules and regulations, and how Cheam

band is the only one not doing this and not doing that. But you know what? Cheam band is the only band that the DFO even monitors. They don’t go anywhere else. They don’t monitor the sports fishermen. So, how do they know we’re the only ones who are not complying? So that really, really upsets me. Because, you know, they can go out there and say ‘yeah, these are all the charges and this proves that they’re the only ones not in compliance with the rules and regulations,’ but that is not the case. The real case is that we’re the only ones that they monitor, we’re the only ones that they harass, and we’re the only ones that they even bother to check up on.

FTT: Has there been involvement from any other arms of the Canadian government in this recent struggle, like the RCMP?

JQ: There’s been a bit, but what’s happened though, the one night they did call in the RCMP to make some arrests. They do call for RCMP backup, but I know when I see the cop cars there, we had several meetings and they agreed that they were there to keep the peace.

FTT: And how has the media attention that Cheam band has received affected things within the community?

JQ: Well, I’m not sure how it’s affecting things within the community, but I know how it is going to affect things. You know, if they want to come in and shoot somebody, and they’ll have all this media hype already out to the public and have people think, well, ‘they’ve been asking for it and they got it.’ So, I think what they’re doing is just getting all this media hype out there



June Quipp speaking at Mobilization Against War & Occupation forum in Vancouver . July 27, 2005.

leading up to some kind of an incident they may be planning. Maybe they’re planning on capsizing one of our boats. Maybe they are planning on shooting somebody. Maybe they’re planning on, you know, who knows what? But they’ll already have all the coverage there to have the public believe that we had it coming.

FTT: So what’s next, for you, for people going out on the waters? Are there plans to continue fishing?

JQ: I think, when our people go out fishing, they do make plans to have somebody there to help them for when the DFO comes along. It’s not even just during the closed times that they’re doing it. It’s during their regular openings that the DFO is acting like that. Amongst the fishers, they are sort of helping one another.

FTT: Thank-you very much June.



Iraqi youths throw rocks at British soldiers in Basra. September 19, 2003.

By Andrew Malieni

“There have been disagreements amongst the Iraqis about this particular constitution. Of course there’s disagreements. We’re watching a political process unfold, a process that has encouraged debate and compromise; a constitution that was written in a -- in a society in which people recognize that -- that there had to be give and take. I want our folks to remember our own constitution was not unanimously received.”

- US President George W. Bush

“Democracy has never been described as speedy, efficient or perfect.”

- US Secretary of Defense Donald Rumsfeld referring to the Iraqi constitution and the delay of its drafting

The US government and their Iraqi puppet regime are trying to push through a new constitution in Iraq. The US is seeking to establish a reliable proxy regime that can be counted on to serve imperialist interests with of course, at least a minimal amount of perceived legitimacy. This is because the US ruling class is in a quagmire in Iraq. It really has not had any major victories in Iraq since the March 2003 invasion. It is unable to completely control even the capital city, Baghdad, and is faced with popular resistance in Iraq everyday. Anti-war sentiment is growing among the population in the US, there are serious difficulties in meeting recruitment quotas for the military. Along with this more and more US soldiers are deserting the military. Certain tactical splits are even developing among some US politicians over setting a timetable for withdrawal of US forces from Iraq. With the constitution, the US government hopes to relieve some of the pressure caused by the Iraqi resistance on its occupying military. This would enable the US to reduce its deployment of troops in Iraq, to make it easier to focus on other future targets in the Middle East like Syria and Iran. Also, the US is trying to use the constitution to impose divisions and splits among people in Iraq in an attempt to make the Iraqi people lose their focus on the number one enemy facing them: the foreign occupation forces.

Iraqi “Democratic” Constitution: Protected by US Military Rule!

The National Assembly in Iraq, ‘elected’ at the gunpoint of foreign occupation forces, approved the Iraqi constitution on August 28th. The constitution is now set to go for a referendum on October 15th, followed by another election on December 15th if it passes. Under the existing laws established under the occupation, if the constitution is voted down in the referendum, new elections to the National Assembly need to be called and then another constitution needs to be drawn up.

The referendum, whether or not it passes, or even goes ahead, is fundamentally of

little practical importance to people in Iraq. The referendum will not change the fact that Iraq is an occupied country, nor will it advance the interests of Iraqi people. The resistance continues. Really, it is just another one of the many maneuvers that the US has used to seek legitimacy in Iraq, none of which have had any fundamental importance to people in Iraq, either. First there was the Coalition Provisional Authority in Iraq, directly and openly appointed by the US. Next there was the June 28th “handover of power” to the Iraqi Interim Government (also appointed by the US occupiers and led by a former CIA agent, Iyad Allawi) that was supposed to mark a new era of Iraq as a sovereign state. After that were the “elections” in January, and now there is this constitution. One has to ask, what will they do next, as they get more desperate?

No Liberation Possible Without Self-determination

Various people and groups in Iraq have criticized different aspects of the constitution, but the most important feature and problem of this entire Iraqi constitution is that it is the product of foreign military occupation, without which it would never exist. Drafted under the guidance of US Ambassador Zalmay Khalilzad and the US government, how could it have any legitimacy? And what should one expect from imperialist countries that never even follow their own constitutions – countries like the US where, for example, an unknown number of people mainly from the Middle East and South Asia (known to be over 1,200 but quite likely much higher) have been arbitrarily and secretly detained since September 11th 2001, or the UK where a 27-year-old Brazilian electrician was recently shot and killed freely eight times at point-blank range by British police on public transportation?

It is also sufficient to look at the actual record of the foreign occupation forces in Iraq. From weapons of mass destruction (WMDs) to liberation, by now it is clear that the official pretexts for invading Iraq were fake. No WMDs have been found and they are no longer even talked about by the government. Over 100,000 Iraqis have been killed since the March 2003 US/UK invasion and subsequent occupation. Child malnutrition has doubled, basic infrastructure is destroyed, unemployment is around 70% and Iraqi opponents of the occupation are regularly tortured, jailed and/or killed by pro-US Iraqi police commandos and the occupying forces themselves.

Whose Interests: The Case of Us Vs.

Them

Whose interests, then, does the occupation of Iraq intend to serve? Does it serve the interests of the Iraqi people? No, it clearly does not, other than a small number of collaborators that the US is trying to put forward and groom to work on behalf of US imperialism against everyone else in Iraq. Does it serve the interests of poor and working people in the US itself? How could it? Over \$200Billion has already been spent in the war on Iraq while 45 million people in the US go without any health insurance. More than 1,900 US soldiers mainly from poor and working class backgrounds have died in Iraq while fighting for their US capitalist ruling class. The occupation intends to serve the interests of the US ruling class and their corporations. Hit with an economic crisis, imperialist countries, from the US to Canada to France, are forced to extend their tentacles into other parts of the world, to grab resources, shut out rival imperialists as much as possible, and establish bases for further expansion.

What, then, is the solution? The matter of fact is that progress in Iraq is blocked by the presence of 140,000 US occupation forces. The interests of the Iraqi people and the ruling elite in the US are contradictory – both can’t be met, and the occupiers



US Soldiers raid Iraqi homes in Tal Afar. September 6, 2005.

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A CHALLENGE TO THE ANTI-WAR MOVEMENT IN CANADA

From page 2

building of an independent anti-war movement in Canada, as well as any other movement for social justice and real change. Canadian nationalism is promoted directly from the mouths of the major leaders of working and poor people in Canada. They say that they want to protect “Canadian sovereignty” against the US and they never explain that this sovereignty means the suppression of the rights of Indigenous people and the Quebecois. They certainly never outline how the “sovereignty” of this imperialist country depends upon and demands the routine theft of the products and wealth produced through the labour of every single worker in Canada by the rich classes or the invasion and occupation of oppressed nations like Afghanistan and Haiti.

The Government of Canada is the enemy of working people at home and abroad

The government of Canada is the executive management body of the ruling class of Canada. The governmental actions, policies and laws that have brought the Canadian war drive and occupation of Afghanistan will not contradict the attacks on unions and workers by Telus, Sodexho, Teck-Cominco and so many other capitalist businesses across Canada. In fact, it

Afghanistan; all carried through without a dissenting vote or even a public show of “consultation.”

The more severe the economic cancer, the more deeply the surgical knife of the ruling class must cut into the flesh of working people to extract power and profit. The National Bank of Canada and the chief economist-doctors of all the powerful countries in the world have diagnosed this current economic crisis as malignant and potentially fatal. The ruling class and their governments in Canada, the US and every imperialist country in the world have prescribed the painful blood-letting of working, poor and oppressed people in Afghanistan and in Canada as remedy.

To make matters worse, these are the remedies of a dark ages alchemist. None of the suffering these ‘solutions’ have caused or will stop the growth of the economic cancer. For all the schooling and think-tank institutions of the government of Canada, they have misdiagnosed the source of the disease. *They themselves are the cancer that is bringing war, occupation, death, destruction and suffering to the majority of the people in the world.*

To destroy this cancer is the job of working and poor people in Canada and throughout the world. But before that is possible, we must overcome the barriers to building an effective movement for the rights and lives of working and poor

Second: Their war drive is their central campaign to “further” Canadian-imperialist interests on the “world stage,” the Canadian war drive has been launched as a unanimous campaign of the Canadian ruling class that was passed through the so-called “democratic” parliament in *secret*. Is it probable that *if* they had debated it in public and even engaged in “consultations” across the country that they would have rammed their war drive through anyway? Yes. But if they had made their occupation of Afghanistan and their war drive an issue in Canada, then they would have made the work of the anti-war movement much easier. That is, they would have risked their bombs igniting, along with the remaining homes of people in Kandahar, Afghanistan, with the opposition of working, poor and oppressed people in Canada against them.

This requires an equally unanimous campaign by working and poor people in Canada against this war drive. To do this, the anti-war movement has to correct the deep misunderstanding that exists about Canada as a “peacekeeping” country; that “Canada’s sovereignty” is at risk from the US, and so on. A rigorous education campaign must be undertaken by the anti-war movement to overcome the lies that the US is the only problem in the world or that the wars and occupations that plague humanity can be attributed all to the bad

people who dream of real, revolutionary change could come together *against this central campaign of the Canadian ruling class*. An Independent Public Inquiry takes advantage of the Canadian war drive in Afghanistan to expose the government of Canada as anti-democratic war mongers and could build the movement needed to fill the howling vacuum heard by millions of working, poor and oppressed people in Canada over the question of ““But what can I do?”

The Canadian war drive that begins in Afghanistan comes as a tragedy for the Afghan people who continue to struggle against the occupation of their country, for their self-determination and as a crisis for the millions of people in Canada who demand money for housing, health care, social services, and education, not war and occupation. But we cannot afford to miss the opportunity embedded in this tragedy. The Canadian war drive also comes as a challenge to the anti-war movement in Canada; it is a challenge to act.

CANADA OUT OF AFGHANISTAN!

STOP THE CANADIAN WAR DRIVE!

CALL FOR AN INDEPENDENT PUBLIC INQUIRY INTO THE CANADIAN OCCUPATION OF AFGHANISTAN!



Afghan girls hold signs during a demonstration against poverty in Afghanistan at Nader Khan hill in Kabul, September 13, 2005.

is the symmetry of these simultaneous attacks that we refer to when we say, “Stop the war at home and abroad!”

Within Canada itself, from coast to coast, after the federal government neatly offloaded social services locally, all social programs have come under the knife by reactionary provincial governments. The Liberal government in BC is a perfect example, but the same could be said for Alberta, Ontario, Newfoundland, and even Quebec. Social housing, welfare, women’s centres, legal aid; one by one they have been cut back or eliminated. Then on a federal and provincial level, the attacks began on first the public and then private sector unions. The Hospital Employees Union (HEU), the Telecommunication Workers Union (TWU), Canadian Media Guild have all gone on strike for what? Against contracting out. For the protection of union jobs. Basically, for the right of the unions to exist and represent the workers at all. At the same time, the democratic rights of the most vulnerable people in Canada have been crushed like a rib cage beneath the treads of a bulldozer. Security certificates, secret trials, the new immigration and refugee protection act, the safe third country agreement; all aimed at the rights of immigrants, refugees and non-status people.

Some of these domestic attacks have come under criticism from some of the major political parties, like the NDP, but these criticisms have always been a matter of degree: “Too deep” / “Too much” / “Too fast” etc... The Canadian war drive in Afghanistan was not even subjected to that sort of token criticism. The doubling of the Canadian military budget, the new “*International Policy Statement*” released in May of this year that laid out a policy of “advancing Canada’s position” on the world stage beyond its historic “middle power status”, the planned addition of 5,000 new fulltime and 3,000 new reserve soldiers to the Canadian army, and the deployment of 2,000 more troops to

people internationally, independent of the government and ruling class in Canada. The nationalist ideology of “Canadian sovereignty” blocks the necessary understanding of the government of Canada as being just as opposed to the interests of working and poor people in Canada as the government of the US is. Canadian nationalism tells working people in Canada that the ruling class is “on your side” and the Afghan people are “scumbags,” “murderers” and “terrorists,” who “detest our freedoms, they detest our society, they detest our liberties.” (Gen. Hillier, July 14th) Nothing could be further from the truth. Canadian nationalism also blocks the necessary understanding of the Canadian troop deployment to Afghanistan for what it is: the beginning of the Canadian war drive.

Why an Independent Public Inquiry into the Canadian War Drive in Afghanistan?

First: We maintain that the most important struggle of the anti-war movement in Canada is against Canadian-home-country-imperialism. It is through the demands of “Canada out of Afghanistan,” “Canada out of Haiti,” and “Self-Determination for Indigenous Nations in Canada” that the anti-war movement in Canada can make its most effective contribution to the international struggle against war and occupation and for the self-determination of all oppressed nations. This is just as true as the fact that the anti-war movement in the US can be most effective in fighting against US imperialism. A victory against the Canadian occupation of Afghanistan would put all oppressed people fighting for self-determination in a better position against imperialism. At the same time, a struggle for the right of oppressed nations to self-determination furthers the struggles of working, poor and oppressed people within Canada for self-determination for Indigenous Nations in Canada and for Quebec and for social justice.

character of one or two men, like Bush and Cheney.

An Independent Public Inquiry into the Canadian war drive in Afghanistan would not be a solution to the problem of the occupation or the war at home and abroad, but it would provide a necessary starting point. It is necessary to educate working people across Canada about the occupation. To do this it is necessary to make the occupation of Afghanistan into a major issue for Canada – like Iraq for the US. To make it an issue, it is necessary to bring together all people and organizations against war and occupation into a united campaign to ask the questions demanded by the new Canadian war drive:

Why was the decision to send 2,000 more Canadian troops passed through parliament without public consultation?

Why are \$25Billion tax annually, and currently \$47Million a day, being turned over to the Canadian military while the government cuts social programs?

Who decides how tax dollars are spent in Canada?

Is the occupation of Afghanistan legal? According to who?

Although slow to respond, some elements of the leadership of the anti-war movement in Canada are beginning to ask these questions. The “Canadian Peace Alliance,” the countrywide network of the largely NDP-supporting anti-war movement, has released the program for their annual conference this November and its main theme is, “Canada’s role in empire... and how the movement can stop it.” This may be the positive sign of the beginning of a polarization within the NDP, between the rank and file and the leadership that has pulled too far to the right for the working membership to follow any farther.

Through the call for an Independent Public Inquiry into the Canadian war drive in Afghanistan, all these millions of

CALL FOR AN INDEPENDENT PUBLIC INQUIRY INTO THE CANADIAN WAR DRIVE IN AFGHANISTAN!

...THE TELUS LOCKOUT CONTINUES

From page 3

“The second principle is that an employer cannot use replacement workers for improper and illegal purposes, such as to rid the workplace of union representation, as opposed to pursuing a particular economic goal or bargaining objective. Thus, the employer’s use of replacement workers must not be used to undermine the union’s representational capacity.” - CIRB Decision No. 271, Citing Section 94(2.1) of the Code, pph. 106-107

As soon as it was clear that a lockout would occur, just as in the first strikes for union representation, Telus’s first act was to begin to hire scab labour. At first this was done ‘in-house’ and involved the re-deployment of the army of 14,000 managers and non-bargaining unit members to union jobs. Since August 15th Telus has hired more than 130 “contract workers” to management positions to cover the jobs of some of these managers busy doing union jobs. An August 27th letter to the editor of the Edmonton Journal explained this move in its title alone, “Telus strike [sic.] is taking a toll on non-union workers.”



**Labour Day Rally, Vancouver.
September 6, 2005**

But this has not been enough for Telus’s goal of breaking the union. Since July the company has begun an aggressive hiring spree of so-called “replacement workers” (traditionally known as ‘scabs’) to staff locked out union positions to keep business going and extend the lockout to break the union.

The following ad appeared in the July 24th edition of the Vancouver Province from the Telus Subsidiary “Key Telecom”:

“KEY TELECOM: Immediate openings across Canada. All experienced craft I and R, Cable and Repair, Central Office Toll Desk, DCPower Vehicles / Tools, expenses supplied. Email: Resumes@keytelecom.net

And on August 17th Key Telecom signed a one year contract with “Evolve Technologies” in Surrey BC which stated that Evolve Technologies will provide its employees to Key Telecom to work as replacement workers for Telus at \$34 per hour.

Similar companies that have placed similar ads and begun recruitment of scabs include: “Millenium Telus Services of Canada” in Kamloops and Cache Creek, “Ajlion Communications” through Monster.ca across Canada, “Neutron Telecommunications,” “The

Neutron Group,” “The Bell Group,” “RMH Call Centre,” “Neucomm International” in the Phillipines, “Faneuil Group” in Winnipeg, “Adventis Personnel Group Inc.” in Vancouver, and “Immigrant Services Society” - a government agency that dropped its promotion of scab work when confronted by the TWU.

Job fairs organized by Telus have also appeared at Vancouver universities UBC and SFU. Also targeting students, Telus keeps a posting on their website for “Coop Students” to get work experience through Telus.

On August 29th Telus even issued a press release bragging of \$12Million in contracts through a new initiative of theirs, “CallCentreAnywhere.” This strike breaking method, made possible through the technology developed and built by union workers, has them hiring scores of people (\$12Million worth!) to work in Telus call centres from home.

The benefits of being a Scab: Selling your soul for an MP3 player

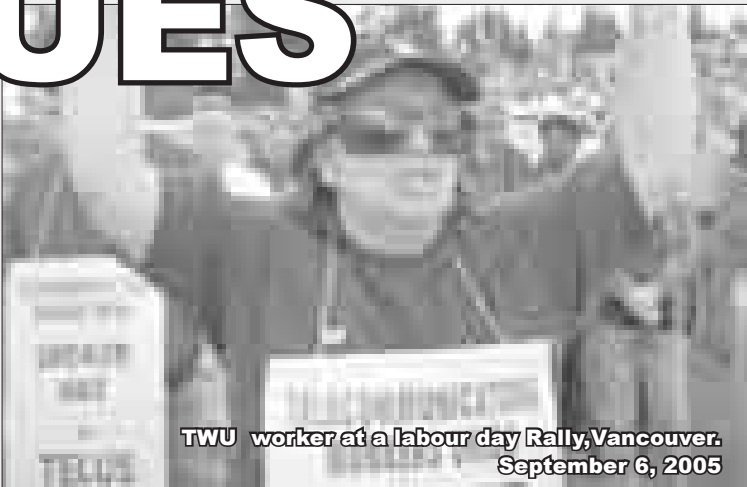
Telus is not particular to non-union members in the recruitment of

“replacement workers” for TWU jobs. They have also launched a campaign to both bribe and intimidate TWU members back to work, across the picket line.

Telus has offered a premium “bonus” of \$30 a day for every worker who crosses the picket line, plus... a free MP3 player AND a free cell phone! (and don’t worry, if you already have a cell phone, Telus will pay for it for you!) Also included in this scab package is a dollar for dollar matching contribution from Telus for workers who cross the picket line to *buy shares* in Telus. That’s right! You too can sell out the struggle of your brothers and sisters at work for a share in the blood sucking profits of Telus! Workers in Ontario and across Canada have been told that if they come to Vancouver to work for Telus as “replacement workers” they will be paid \$35 an hour PLUS \$200 a day to cover room and board costs.

These higher wages and benefits come from the company that has refused workers even a penny’s wage increase almost six years, refused to negotiate a contract with the TWU for four and a half years and have already locked out their employees for two months in order to reduce costs by breaking the union and contracting out jobs for *lower* wages!

have been arrests of TWU members shortly thereafter for “assault” and “harassment”. The union is then tied up in court and Telus is armed with more ammunition to use in slander campaigns against the union. Working people should not be defensive about these charges of so-called “assault” and “harassment”. To the contrary, what is needed is a further mobilization of support from



**TWU worker at a labour day Rally, Vancouver.
September 6, 2005**

Threats against union workers

Honest workers who refuse to cross the picket line receive a different message. They’ve been told, by the CEO, president, vice-president and managers, “The day will come when the company is going to draw a line in the sand and after that day, employees who have not crossed the picket line will be out for a long time.” In small towns in BC and Alberta, company managers have even approached striking workers’ parents to “warn” them that if their son or daughter does not return to work then they will not have a job to return to. One TWU member who was given this message by his parents gave up and went to work for another company. Three days later he was told that Telus had contacted the boss at his new job and had threatened to cut all business with this smaller company if they hired this particular worker. He was fired.

On top of threats and intimidation that honest TWU members will not have a “job to return to,” workers on the picket line have had to face the 21st Century’s version of the armed gangs of thugs that beat up strikers in the 1930s. Telus has spared no expense in hiring one of the most prominent and ‘battle tested’ of these gangs: “AFI International,” a security firm whose main business is breaking strikes and busting unions.

The AFI International home webpage boasts, “Our core business is focused exclusively on services that enable employers to manage work stoppages due to strikes, lockouts or plant closures safely and securely.” Scrolling down the sidebar of this mainpage is a column that features news about risks of unionization in different industries and how capitalists can act to stop them.

Rather than swinging clubs or shooting strikers, which would certainly be considered ‘over the top’ in today’s ‘civil society’ (at least at this point in struggle), these thugs are armed with video cameras *as well as* conventional weapons. Their tactics focus on ridiculing, insulting, prodding and provoking picketers to catch their responses on tape.

While the Supreme Court has issued strict rulings restricting the ability of the TWU to picket, the courts and government have not extended these same limitations to Telus and Telus’s security thugs, who have routinely provoked picketers with verbal threats and intimidation and physical assaults. Everywhere that AFI International goons have been deployed, there

working people in support and defence of the TWU picketers. The heavier a picketline is with TWU members and supporters, the more “intimidating” it will be for scabs to cross, the more easily the picketers will be able to drive the thug squads away and the more quickly the lockout will be won.

WE ARE WITH THE WORKERS!

At the beginning of September the Communication Energy and Paper workers union (CEP) announced that it was taking action against Telus as an unfair employer. The CEP’s refusal to work on jobs for Telus means that they will block Telus from running ads in the Vancouver Sun, the Province and eleven other newspapers in BC. These sorts of solidarity actions are exactly what are needed to bring more pressure against Telus and give a clear message to all

care contract in a bid from the BC Liberal Government last year. After thousands of jobs were privatized out in a vicious attack on the HEU by the provincial government last year, the workers had to fight to gain representation by the HEU against their new, private sector bosses. The attack by the government was made with the intent to destroy the union, which only survived at all thanks to a massive labour mobilization. Today negotiations with Sodexho have been impossible, as Sodexho has said that the union demands are “far too high.” The demands of the union? Pay raises to reach \$14.90 over a four year contract – pay rates that would still fall far below the wages that these same workers made before their jobs were contracted out.

As the lockout of the TWU passes its second month mark, the factor of solidarity from other unions and working and poor people across Canada becomes more and more critical. All the maneuvering of Telus (hiring scabs/bribing workers to cross the picketline/bringing in goon-squads/threatening TWU members jobs/slandering the union in the media) are the tactics used throughout history by bosses who are trying to break unions. The historic and winning response of workers and unions has been to stand their ground against all these attacks, and unite and fight harder.

The original struggles and strikes for the right to organize and hold unions were won by the entirety of working and poor people standing together for their rights against the companies and bosses. In the 1920s and ‘30s these strikes were won against tremendous odds. Today, we are called upon to fight with this same determination and solidarity again, for the TWU workers, hospital workers, CBC workers, and all working people in Canada.

DEFEND THE TWU!

WORKERS UNITE AGAINST TELUS!

SOLIDARITY FOREVER!



**TWU workers rally, Vancouver.
August 4, 2005.**

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CBC Union Workers Broadcast Solidarity and Struggle

By Shannon Bundock

On August 15th at 12:01 am the Canadian Broadcasting Corporation (CBC) launched the most recent and sweeping attack on working people that we have seen in Canada this summer. On that day over 5,500 CBC workers were locked out. Negotiations were abandoned by the CBC saying they had to take this action “...in order to remain relevant and competitive...” This reasoning is a carbon copy of the statements and justifications that millions of working people have shoved down their throats as they lose their jobs to downsizing, contracting out and, as CBC says, changes in the “employment model.”

The CBC branch of the Canadian Media Guild (CMG) consists of one bargaining unit with workers in programming and production, technical and general administration all negotiated under one contract. The CMG represents all non-managerial workers in the CBC, outside of Moncton, NB and the province of Quebec and has been in negotiations on behalf of these workers since May 2004.

The Issues Boiled Down: Workers Rights Vs. “A Modern Market”

The issues at the core of this fight are the same issues facing working people across Canada and the world: fair wages, job security and dignified work. The CBC’s line of defense is to state, “*Canada is one of the toughest environments in the world for any public broadcaster. The market realities facing the CBC are extremely challenging – intense competition at home and abroad, the sea change in technology, new consumer habits and new platforms for content delivery, substantial industry convergence and our increasingly fragile funding structure.*”

Of the roughly 40 issues on the table, a central one in this lockout is “contractual” work versus “permanent” work. On the CBC’s official negotiations website, they have a section explaining that “Contractual Does Not Mean Disposable”. It states that contractual work doesn’t always mean “temporary” work and gives the reassurance that “*contract employees can be – and very often are – renewed year after year.*” It sounds conditional - and it is. Immediately following this ‘reassurance’, the CBC admits a least one problem, “*However, if their position is eliminated, they do not enjoy the same redeployment rights as permanent employees.*” Throughout “Highlights of CBC’s Current Comprehensive Offer to the Canadian Media Guild” the same method is followed. CBC justifies why their offer will have no negative impact on workers – well at least not a negative impact for absolutely everyone in absolutely every case. Then the realistic admission follows; alright, they confess, maybe some will suffer.

One Fight, Many Fronts

Last week while driving downtown with a friend of mine, another driver cut us off. “Honk!” I shouted. Rather than



INTERVIEW WITH LOCKED OUT WORKERS ON THE STREET: CBC IN ITS PUREST BROADCASTING

hearing the commanding sound of a fist laid into a horn, she tapped it cheerily. “Habit...” she awkwardly explained; just a small sign of the amount of solidarity honking that has been necessary on the streets of our city.

Yes, the streets were busy this summer. In downtown Vancouver, where the CBC workers lined Georgia and Hamilton, only a few blocks away Telecommunication Workers Union members marched around the mammoth Telus building on Robson street. (See article on TWU in this issue.)

The connections aren’t limited to proximity or the familiar sound of those lively honking horns. The battle against Telus is another fight with job security at the top of the list. The shared issues allow us to put the CBC fight in the larger framework of labour battles.

CBC is not an isolated example of a company or public service slashing employee benefits, wages and job security. CBC, created as a crown corporation yet independent in its operation, receives about \$60 million dollars in subsidy annually from the Government of Canada. It also survives on a few hundred million dollars from advertising and other miscellaneous funding. When cutting jobs and contracting out, the CBC uses the same arguments used by the government when cutting and contracting out public sector jobs. Arguments such as ‘responsible fiscal management’ and ‘coping with funding shortfalls’. Given that the CBC, though a public corporation, is working in a sector of private

further and further away from workers rights.

Beyond the CBC: Building Unity Among Working People

The annoyance over missing programs and awkward management-types gracing the airwaves is easily forgotten. Turning this lockout from a personal inconvenience into something to fight for is essential for building solidarity with CBC workers. The job of working people in Canada today, and especially when workers are taking action, is to understand the common interest that we have with those on the frontlines. With this understanding the irritation with CBC can be transformed into anger and anger into action.

In some small ways, solidarity for the CMG workers has already spread farther and wider than Canada itself. According to a report from the AFL-CIO, a contingent of US telecommunication workers delivered a letter on Sept 12th, to the Canadian Embassy in Washington demanding the Government of Canada act to stop the CBC lockout. The contingent contained the Newspaper Guild President Linda Foley. “*They’re acting just like any other media private sector corporate - greedy - media company. The Newspaper Guild is the parent union for the Canadian Media Guild. Foley says another major issue is that the CBC is seeking to contract jobs out, hindering the ability of journalists to have a career. It’s a race to the bottom for these jobs. That they’ll do it on the cheap just like any other private media corporation would try to do. That’s bad for journalism and it’s particularly bad for public broadcasting.*”

Winning the battle against the CBC is not simply about preventing the contracting out of CBC work. In Canada, each victory in favor of working people is one more blow to the profit-driven foundations that Canada’s economy is run on. The fact that the CBC, purportedly a ‘public’ corporation, is attacking workers no differently than the ‘biggest, baddest’ companies around, is a testament to the crisis that working people face in this country. The fight of the CMG workers is therefore the fight of all working people.

On August 17th, Fire This Time had the chance to visit the Vancouver CMG workers on the frontlines, right after pickets were set up. On this page of Fire This Time, in a special box there are a series of interviews on the lockout, the impact on CMG workers and the connections to the fight of working people across Canada.

claims on things and they’re going, “How can they be saying that, where is this coming from?” They are realizing that the corporation is not a benevolent parent. They [the corporation] are fully prepared to lock the doors and put us out on the street for an indefinite period of time. So it is a learning experience for them.

The CBC seems to be quite aggressive in their language and their position towards the CMG. What do you think it will take to win this battle?

Well, I think it’s political. It seems to be political. CBC is not a commercial entity, although a lot of the people behind this action of the corporation’s side talk about it being business. They have to operate in a business fashion, but they don’t have the consequences of being a business.

In the past and a lot of times it takes political will. There has to be some political pressure to say that a public broadcaster is not a business. It is something that is for the public and it cannot be allowed to go on like this and put the parties together and hash something out. Let’s get a deal. Unfortunately we might be in the same boat this time.

In BC especially this summer there have been significant labour disputes, with the Truck Drivers and the Telecommunication Workers Union. With CBC this is a struggle happening across the country.

Absolutely, from Victoria, to St. Johns, to Goose Bay, to Iqaluit, to Windsor and Regina. You know it’s everywhere.

Do you think this will have an impact on workers outside of CBC or workers across the country?

I think the Telus situation, I think they are in a worse situation than us. I think their employer is even more recalcitrant. And it does [have an impact]. I think

there is an agenda. I think a lot of us feel that the CBC has people there that have an ideological agenda which is to cut costs, at any cost. To create a floating, flexible workforce that can come and go at their whim. That is happening in Telus. They are trying to get away from anything that is a fixed cost or that is giving any benefit to the working person.

What do you think people within Canada, who are supportive, can do to help in this fight?

I think that the best thing is to get back to the political pressure. It’s writing to your MP’s, write to the minister of Heritage. Put some pressure on the politicians to say that this is not the same as a port strike. This is something that needs some pressure politically. I think that is the best thing.

CBC is not going to listen. Someone called and couldn’t get through. I don’t think they’re even paying attention to the public. They don’t have to because they don’t have direct commercial interests. The only thing that affects them is political.

Thank you Rob

Thank you.

RYAN
CMG worker

Why are you yourself out here on the picket line?

I’m out here mainly in support of a situation where I want to make sure that the legacy that I leave – I’ve been here for 30 years – is a legacy that will protect the people with permanent staff positions. I’ve had one for 30 years, the one that I’m going to leave will be a permanent position and will be filled rather than a contract position. I think that is only fair. We’ve been here for so long there are jobs where we develop a lot of expertise and those jobs that should not be filled lightly. They are positions that need experience and they should always be treated as a permanent position. Some positions can be contract. Some positions can have more of a casual character. I don’t think the one that I am in for example needs to be filled that way. That is one of the reasons.

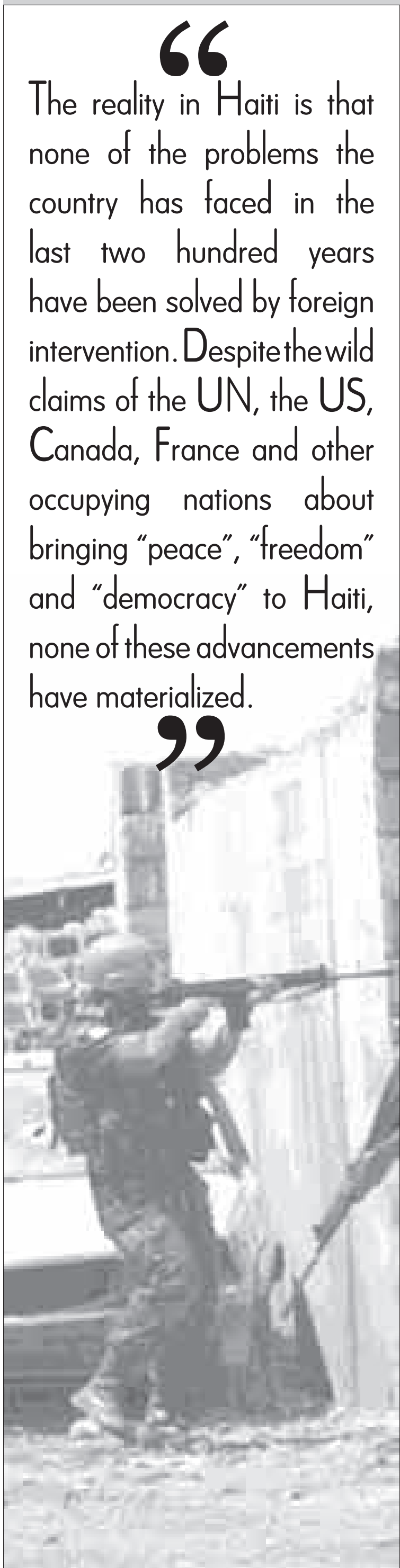
In the Telus strike a huge issue is contracting out and a huge issue is job security. That also seems to be an issue with the CBC lockout in its own way.

Continued on page 11



competitors, they also get to use the arguments forwarded by their private counterparts. These are the ones of ‘remaining competitive’ and ‘responding to the changing global economy’.

While major corporations, like Telus, wage a campaign to break unions, the CBC is riding on the rightward wave. They are taking advantage of the anti-worker, anti-union climate in this country to push



“The reality in Haiti is that none of the problems the country has faced in the last two hundred years have been solved by foreign intervention. Despite the wild claims of the UN, the US, Canada, France and other occupying nations about bringing “peace”, “freedom” and “democracy” to Haiti, none of these advancements have materialized.”

Haiti

Restoring Democracy: Imperialist Style

By Shannon Bundock

“Canada is closely following ongoing preparations for the elections to ensure that they take place in a fair and transparent way,” said Mr. Coderre. “After the elections, Canada will continue to accompany the Haitian people in the development and reform of their governmental institutions, particularly in the sectors of security and justice.”

- Canada’s Foreign Affairs Ministry Press Release September 7th 2005

Rewind to February 29th 2004. As the Canadian Military’s Joint Task Force 2 secured a Haitian airstrip, elected Haitian President Jean Bertrand Aristide was forced onto a US jet and flown out of the country. On February 29th, with the aid of government of Canada, the US and France a coup was performed in Haiti. Military forces moved in and set up the most recent round of invasion and occupation of the poorest country in the Western Hemisphere.

On March 12th 2004 Gerard Latortue was summoned from his residence in the US and installed as the Prime Minister of the new “transitional” government of Haiti. The coup was sealed and a new chapter of imperialist assault opened in Haiti.

What are the foundations of this attack on the sovereignty of Haiti? Why can Canada, the US and France under the UN-led occupation not bring “democracy” to Haiti? In order to fully answer these questions we must explore what was behind the 2004 coup and what the impact of 19 months of occupation have been.

War, Occupation and Destruction from the Middle East to the Caribbean



UN Soldiers fire on anti-occupation demonstrators. September 13, 2005.

As the pressure of economic decline bears down on the most powerful imperialist countries in the world, an aggressive and criminal strategy has emerged amongst these countries. The strategy has been developed to deal with rising unemployment, overproduction and the symptoms of a failing capitalist economy. For imperialist countries all over the world, the past four years have meant a hard shift to the right in military and foreign policy. The character of this shift has shown itself in increased war, occupation and plunder of oppressed third-world countries.

Following September 11th 2001 a US-led coalition of forces invaded Afghanistan. March 2003 brought the invasion, war and occupation of Iraq. The past four years have seen an increase in brutality by Israel with aggressive moves to steal more Palestinian land. In 2004 the era of war and occupation reached its bloody hands over to the Caribbean and descended upon Haiti.

Why Haiti?

Haiti has been a country in turmoil ever since colonialism reached its shores. Haiti has been devastated on all levels through colonial wars, genocide against the indigenous population, slavery and continued imperialist attack. In recent years, Haiti has suffered from US imposed sanctions in 2001, the freezing of humanitarian projects and insurmountable unrelieved debt. Despite improvements from the preceding Duvalier regimes, by the time Aristide was overthrown in 2004, Haiti had reached a critical point. Rightist gangs were running rampant, poverty was still widespread, and the country was in turmoil. The fact that this critical situation was created by

persons. ...Witnesses to the Aug. 20 massacre said about 6,000 spectators were packed into the soccer stadium when police officers ordered everyone to the ground. Shots rang out, and people ran for the walled field’s only exit. Police fired wantonly into the crowd, witnesses and relatives of victims said. Outside, they said, civilians armed with machetes and more police officers attacked people trying to flee the chaos.”

“Massacre Erupts at USAID Game” - August 30th 2005, Washington Times

Today Haiti is under UN-led occupation. Bullets plow the fields in Haiti and with each day, death grows. Conditions are deteriorating far beyond



Haitians demonstrate against the Elections in Haiti. September 13, 2005.

decades of imperialist intervention, propping up of rightist factions and economic attack was suppressed by those responsible and Haitians were blamed for their so-called “failed

the crisis in February 2004. Like many of the massacres that have occurred in Haiti over the past 19 months, the Haitian National Police Force (HNP) had primary responsibility for the August 20th murders. Less reported however, is the fact that the UN stood by outside that soccer field, as they stood by many times before, without making a single move to prevent the bloodshed. The HNP works closely with the occupation forces is trained by the Royal Canadian Mounted Police (RCMP) and other international police forces, and does the occupiers’ dirty work. This in most cases allows the foreign militaries to deny that there is any Haitian blood on their hands.

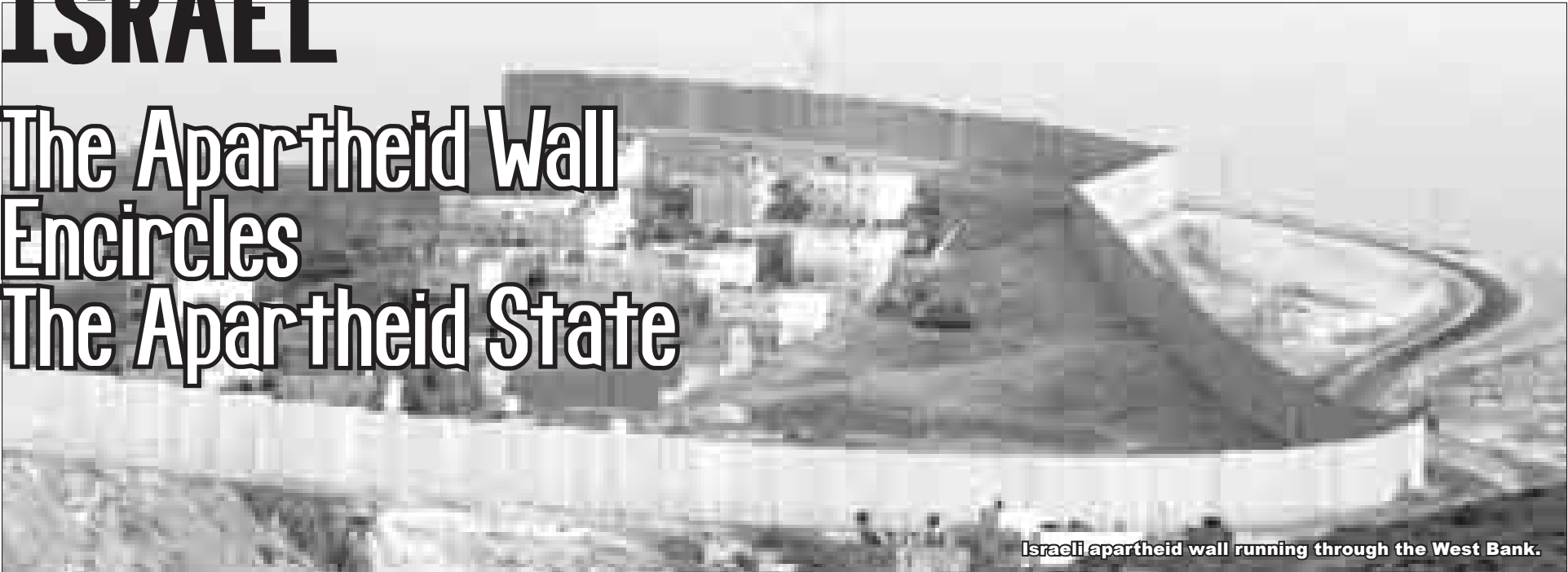
The job of suppressing the Haitian people is a large one, and besides supporting the HNP, the UN forces also bear direct responsibility for many brutal military operations against Haitian civilians. Reports state that over 10,000 Haitian people have been killed since the occupation began. July 6th 2005 brought with it a raid on the shantytown of Cite Soleil by 350 UN troops. Despite claims of targeting “armed bandits”, reports including one from Haiti Information Project stated that the raid attacked civilians. *“Lying in blood on the floor of the modest home were Mr. Romelus’s wife, 22 year-old Sonia Romelus who was killed by the same bullet that passed through the body of her 1 year-old infant son Nelson. She was apparently holding the child as the UN opened fire. Next to them was her four-year-old son Stanley Romelus who was killed by a single shot to the head.”*

Adding to the violence and instability facing the Haitian people the new “transitional government” has repealed the former government’s increase in minimum wage and abolished the Ministry of Literacy. Beyond this, Haitian people face widespread unemployment, which is growing

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ISRAEL

The Apartheid Wall Encircles The Apartheid State



Israeli apartheid wall running through the West Bank.

By Brennan Luchsinger

On August 23rd Israel finished its “withdrawal” from the Gaza strip, and Gaza is now contained within the walls established by Israel. Palestinians living in Gaza are subject to what Israel claims is independence, but in reality is a life controlled by Israel. Within the pullout plan, Israel has maintained its control of the borders, airspace

and sea surrounding Gaza, and promised that it will be the only ‘authority’ in the region. Goods entering and exiting Gaza will be under the ‘jurisdiction’ of Israel as well as control over electricity and water, which will not be handed to Palestinians. By withdrawing, Israel has reserved all the power it holds to repress Gaza, and further reinforces its borders with the Israeli Defense Force. Along the border of Gaza and Egypt, Israel has been preparing to hand over some authority to the Egyptian military, but Israel refuses to hand over any control unless Israel can maintain security control over the ‘traffic’ entering and exiting Gaza.

The Strategy of Containment in Gaza

Gaza is well known as the world’s largest refugee camp, home to 1.3 million Palestinians that live on less than 400 square km, are suffering from a strategy of containment. Largely, the withdrawal from Gaza has served as a cover for Israel. It has provided Israel with the myth that it is willingly participating in a “peace process”. But peace comes in many forms, and is afforded to some, at a great cost to others. The suffering of Palestinians in Gaza strip may have a new appearance, but the cause of the oppression of Palestinians has not changed: Z i o n i s t Occupation.

The Relocation of Israeli Settlers is a strategic

move designed by Sharon to enforce specific settlements and territories in the West bank. Settlers have been offered Compensation for relocation, with huge discrepancies and incentive to relocate to specific areas. settlers that agree to relocate to the areas that Israel considers strategic receive an additional 30,000 USD bonus on top of regular compensation.

While the world watched Israel’s “withdrawal” performance, behind the stage in the West Bank Palestinians saw the true nature of the withdrawal. On August 23rd Israeli Prime Minister Ariel Sharon declared that he would be expanding settlements in the West Bank. Gaza and the haze left from the theatrical “withdrawal” are providing

more Palestinian land. The wall is an 8 meter tall concrete barrier, with a 30-100m wide buffer zone enforced with armed watchtowers, electric fences, trenches, cameras, sensors, and military patrols. This is what is separating Palestinians from their lands, jobs, families, and lives.

Palestinian villages like Abu Dis, and Eizarya, located west of Jerusalem in the West Bank, are examples of the direct oppression that Palestinians are suffering. Abu Dis is surrounded on all sides by the apartheid wall, severing it’s connection to 10,000 dunums (2,472 Acres) of agricultural land, Abu Dis has lost 26,000 dunums (6,425 Acres) of land to the apartheid wall. Eizarya has lost 2,000 dunums



Demonstration in Eizarya against the apartheid wall. September 1, 2005.

a smokescreen for Israel to continue to slice up the West Bank with the rapidly growing apartheid wall.

On August 23rd in an address to the Israeli government Ariel Sharon stated, “Each government since 1967, right, left and national unity, has seen strategic importance in specific areas [in Palestinian territory] I will build.” This is the fact behind the withdrawal. It is nothing but a tactic in the racist strategy of the Israeli state.

Through the entire process of withdrawal this expansion and theft of Palestinian land has sped up, and the apartheid wall has been cutting it’s path of segregation and destruction through the West Bank. In early August, Israel began delivering house demolition orders, seizing land, and constructing the wall. The wall is basically meant to achieve a many-pronged attack on the rights and lives of Palestinians in favor of Israel. While Israel is consolidating the land it has already stolen, it is using the construction of the wall to expand its control, to isolate Palestinians, and attempt to launch a stranglehold on Palestinian resistance.

The Strategy of Containment in the West Bank

In the West Bank the apartheid wall runs a weaving 730 km path through Palestinian land, pushing the boundaries of Israeli settlements outwards, and squeezing Palestinians onto smaller and smaller pieces of land. The construction of the wall itself has been a theft of Palestinian land. The sheer size of the wall Israel is constructing has made it an opportunity for Israel to plunder

(495 Acres) of agricultural land and access to the main water supply of the village.

The route of the wall has been strategically placed through the west bank, dividing areas most densely populated by Palestinians, and surrounding smaller villages and cities. The apartheid wall effectively chops the Palestinian population of the West Bank into 3 major sections, ensuring that the movement of Palestinians is severely restricted.

In Jerusalem, the intentions of Israel’s wall are clearly seen. The wall through Jerusalem is being built on Palestinian land, maximizing the amount of land Israel takes, while pushing a larger population of Palestinians into a smaller territory. 55,000 Palestinians will be cut off from jobs, schools, hospitals, and families by the wall. For Palestinians living in Jerusalem, the humiliation of being forced to pass through Israeli military gates for basic human necessities will provide a stronger push for Palestinians to relocate to other areas in the West Bank. Sharon and the Israeli government are hoping to build as much pressure on Palestinians as they possibly can in order to force this movement of Palestinians.

Jerusalem is a strategic point for the Israeli settler state and the Zionist drive to gain more control over the land is intensifying. The tactic of the apartheid wall exposes Israel’s hope of establishing their hegemony over the region, and complete lack of interest in any “peace process”. What Israel does hope to achieve is a forced division of highly populated

Palestinian areas in the West Bank, restricting Palestinians to constantly shrinking plots of land where they live under severe repression, and the subjugation of Palestine to the constantly expanding borders of the Israeli settler state.

Israel is a Racist and Apartheid State

For Israel the greatest problem is the resistance of Palestinians. Through two Intifada’s Israel learned that Palestinians will respond to Israeli oppression with strength, and that they pose a threat to ending the occupation of Palestinian land. The wall that slices across Palestinian land now characterizes the West Bank, isolating Palestinians from each other, restricting movement, and attempting to prevent mass resistance to Israeli occupation.

The repressive force that Israel uses to carry out attacks on Palestinians is nothing new; the apartheid wall is a physical representation of the military barriers Israel has used for decades. In Jerusalem alone, 50 Palestinian homes have been demolished since January 2005. Another 65 homes have been scheduled for demolition since the Gaza withdrawal. By removing all access Palestinians have to basic human rights, Israel engages Palestinians in a struggle for their own survival. They try to keep Palestinians down so they cannot fight against the occupation, and have to fight simply to live. But historically, as Israel increases its repression the struggle for Palestinian self-determination has only grown, within Palestine and internationally.

Sharon’s tactical moves in Gaza and in the West Bank are a part of the Zionist land grab that has been going on for over 50 years. The more Sharon talks of a “peace process” the more land he steals. Right now Palestinian territory is being taken from underneath their feet.

Heroic Palestinian Resistance Continues

For all Palestinians, the smoke from the Gaza withdrawal will not last long, and when it clears, there will be nothing left but the Zionist occupation. Despite the increasing severity of the attacks that Israel is waging against Palestinians, there is a strong resistance. In mid-August Palestinians from the villages of Azzun and Kufr Tulth joined in a mass protest against the apartheid wall. The protestors joined forces to send a clear message to the Israeli government; that the apartheid project, and Israeli occupation will never defeat them. As Palestinians struggle for the right to self-determination, we must follow their demands, and organize in solidarity with resistance to the Zionist Israeli occupation of Palestine!

Self-determination for Palestinians!

Israel out of Palestinian Land!

Dismantle the Apartheid Wall!

Right of Return for All Palestinians!



Palestinian women shout at Israeli forces near Bilin, in the West Bank. September 13, 2005.



Palestinian homes being demolished by Israeli Defence Forces. September 3, 2005.

INTERVIEW WITH LOCKED OUT WORKERS ON THE STREET:

From page 8

I'm wondering if you see an impact on workers outside of CBC.

It is really a reality of the times. We are seeing a major contraction of union protection. The reality seems to be more now than ever that there are businesses that want to hire when the work is there and when the work is not there, they don't have people around. It's really a hire as needed approach. Maybe there needs to be a compromise. Maybe a percentage of the workforce can be that way, but it shouldn't swing drastically. If maybe 10% of a workforce is that way, but it shouldn't suddenly swing to 15%, 16%. You have workers that contribute to pension plans and benefits over a long time. If you don't have that permanent workforce, then who is going to be contributing into that pension plan down the road. The people who put in the 30 years, the 25 years, the 20 years, by the time they hit 75 years of age there might not even be a fund to draw from. Something has to be protected and at least some kind of a compromise has to be made.

FTT: What do you think it will take to win this struggle?

Some kind of a compromise. Some kind of a middle ground where if management says that right now there is only 6% of contracting out and we say no realistically there is 30%. We have to get on the same wavelength. What really is contracting out. What really is permanent. If we agree on the numbers then there has to be some sort of mid-point.

FTT: What should people in support of the CBC workers do in order to help your battle?



CBC IN ITS PUREST BROADCASTING

dispute and we all work together. In the interest of working together copasetically in the future one should be out here.

FTT: What can people do to support the locked out workers?

Beyond the beeping of the horns in the cars? Well, I think there is a website that management is heading that is the most

when there has been cut backs and so we figured that we are flexible already and they don't need anymore room for flexibility.

FTT: Given that this is a fight going on across Canada do you see it having an effect on other working people in Canada?

I hope so! I hope that people will realize that having people on contract forever is not a good thing. I've been working with the CBC for over 15 years. But I was a contractual worker, a freelancer for 8 of those 15 years. It took me 8 years to have a certain amount of stability. I'm willing to be flexible, but at one point they have to say "we like the work that you're doing and hopefully we can hire you on. So hopefully this sort of fight will have an influence for everyone else. So that people will know that contracting out may be ok for certain things, but you cannot do it for your entire workforce. We will have no stability for anyone and it is not good for the corporation, it is not good for the product we are putting out. Having stability helps people be more creative and have a better workforce. Can I ever own a house, or maybe a car and not have my parents co-sign for me? If you are contractual it is hard to get a loan because they don't know where your next paycheck is coming from.

When you have a good job/life balance then you can do a better job and produce better material for our audience. That is what we want to do. All the people at CBC, what we love doing is producing good, creative shows for the audience. That what we want to get back to doing. That's basically it. To have good job security and a good life balance.

FTT: What is the best way to support you in this strike?

The best thing for people to do is call your MP's. Put pressure to get back to the negotiating table. The important thing is to push them so they will negotiate. Right now the employer is sticking to their offer that they had from the start. Push them to have a little more flexibility.

Thank you Annick.

Thank you.

DIANA

FTT: Why are you out on the picket line today?

Probably for the first time in my life I really believe that the company that I work for is making a big mistake. They don't seem to want to keep full time employees and I'm a full time employee. They don't want to hire any more full time employees and I think that that is wrong. I think that full time employees are more loyal, more dedicated and they know the scoop. If you get someone to do something and they are

not full time, then they are going to wander off to something else and forget everything that they learned.

That is sort-of it in a nutshell for me. I believe in the cause more than I ever have. I've done this four or five times now and this time it feels like "Hey, this is it!" It has gotten more vital too because there are way more people involved.

FTT: What do you think it is going to take to win this battle?

I really don't know! If I knew the answer then I'd be in there with the negotiators! (laughs) It is beyond me I really don't know...

FTT: What do you think people who aren't CBC workers can do to help and support?

That is a very good question. Coming down here and encouraging... writing to your MP. The things that probably everyone else has told you. It is a little overwhelming, it is the end of my shift and I'm a little bit bagged. But anything that could in anyway make us feel like people are behind us is good.

I keep hearing about the Telus workers and I somehow think that their fight is just as hard as ours. They are sort of in the same scenario, maybe worse because they have been fighting for a contract for five years.

MARIEHELEN

FTT: Why are you out on the picket line today?

Well, because we have no choice. The doors are locked. We cannot go back to work... it's a lockout.

FTT: What are the issues at the center of the lockout?

The issues are very old. There are ones that are very precise, but there is also a global issue. There is a lack of funding for arts and culture. You take the small issues and try to make links and find out who is responsible, right? At the end is the source that every year they cut funding, I know it is millions of dollars cut every year in culture. In Canada if it health or education people care because it is considered essential needs. But art and culture are not considered vital.

The more precise points about the conflict right now is that the contracts are really loose – say I was hired and they said "just until we don't need you anymore." These people are creative and they are intelligent and they still believe in Radio Canada and CBC and public radio and public television. They [the workers] are super qualified, but it is very ungrateful work because we give and give and we have to be generous. It is ungrateful to not give us good working conditions.

FTT: What can what people outside the CBC do to support you in this lockout?

I don't know? Complain... but then you cannot really call the CBC, you just get an answering machine saying that there is a labour dispute. People don't seem to be noticing that much because they are playing repeats.

What you are doing is very helpful! (laughs) It would be good if it gets in your newspaper and the Georgia Straight and other radio.

I hope things go well, thank you Mariehelen.



Locked out CMG workers during a Labour Day rally in Vancouver. September 6, 2005.

Probably it's the same as anywhere else. You get a hold of your MLA provincially, you get a hold of your MP federally. You send a letter into the Friends of Canadian Broadcasting. Call into radio shows, or anywhere there is a chance to voice your opinion and say "You know what? CBC is relevant to a large part of this country." Maybe not some much in the urban areas, but there is more than just urban Canada to deal with. I mean CBC takes care of everybody. I think a lot of people realize that and are in support of that. So hopefully they continue and express their views.

Thank you very much.

Alright have a good one.

SCOTT REGEHR

CBC radio's "Early Edition"

FTT: Why are you out on the picket line today?

For the simple reason that it is a labour

direct means available for people to express their displeasure if they are indeed displeased with this labour dispute. I think that we bar none we have the best quality broadcasting in Canada and it would be great if people took a very direct means to voice their support.

ANNICK

FTT: Why are you out on the picket lines today?

Basically because we've been locked out. Within the negotiations going on what is being offered by the employer is just not enough. Especially for the new generations coming in. They want us to be disposable workers, they want contract workers, temporary employment rather than giving them security by giving them permanent jobs. There is already about 30% of our staff that is temporary or contractual. We think that is enough. We are flexible and we have always shown flexibility over the years

President Chavez's Speech to the United Nations

On September 15th 2005 Venezuelan President Hugo Chavez addressed the United Nations World Summit in New York. After delivering his fiery speech Chavez received the loudest applause of any of the speakers at the General Assembly meeting. FTT would like to share Chavez' inspiring and educating words with you. We believe this speech reflects the voice and interests of oppressed people around the world.

Your Excellencies, friends, good afternoon:

The original purpose of this meeting has been completely distorted. The imposed center of debate has been a so-called reform process that overshadows the most urgent issues, what the peoples of the world claim with urgency: the adoption of measures that deal with the real problems that block and sabotage the efforts made by our countries for real development and life. Five years after the Millennium Summit, the harsh reality is that the great majority of estimated goals- which were very modest indeed- will not be met.

We pretended reducing by half the 842 million hungry people by the year 2015. At the current rate that goal will be achieved by the year 2215. Who in this audience will be there to celebrate it? That is only if the human race is able to survive the destruction that threatens our natural environment.

We had claimed the aspiration of achieving universal primary education by the year 2015. At the current rate that goal will be reached after the year 2100. Let us prepare, then, to celebrate it.

Friends of the world, this takes us to a sad conclusion: The United Nations has exhausted its model, and it is not all about reform. The XXI century claims deep changes that will only be possible if a new organization is founded. This UN does not work. We have to say it. It is the truth. These transformations – the ones Venezuela is referring to- have, according to us, two phases: The immediate phase and the aspiration phase, a utopia. The first is framed by the agreements that were signed in the old system. We do not run away from them. We even bring concrete proposals in that model for the short term. But the dream of an ever-lasting world peace, the dream of a world not ashamed by hunger, disease, illiteracy, extreme necessity, needs-apart from roots- to spread its wings to fly. We need to spread our wings and fly. We are aware of a frightening neoliberal

And the fourth; we need to strengthen the role of the Secretary General; his/her political functions regarding preventive diplomacy, that role must be consolidated. The seriousness of all problems calls for deep transformations. Mere reforms are not enough to recover that “we” all the peoples of the world are waiting for. More than just reforms we in Venezuela call for the foundation of a new United Nations, or as the teacher of Simón Bolívar, Simón Rodríguez said: “Either we invent or we err.” At the Porto Alegre World Social Forum last January different personalities asked for the United Nations to move outside the United States if the repeated violations to international rule of law continue. Today we know that there were never any weapons of mass destruction in Iraq. The people of the United States have always been very rigorous in demanding the truth to their leaders; the people of the world demand the same thing. There were never any weapons of mass destruction; however, Iraq was bombed, occupied and it is still occupied. All this happened over the United Nations. That is why we propose this Assembly that the United Nations should leave a country that does not respect the resolutions taken by this same Assembly. Some proposals have pointed out to Jerusalem as an international city as an alternative. The proposal is generous enough to propose an answer to the current conflict affecting Palestine. Nonetheless, it may have some characteristics that could make it very difficult to become a reality. That is why we are bringing a proposal made by Simón Bolívar, the great Liberator of the South, in 1815. Bolívar proposed then the creation of an international city that would host the idea of unity.



Venezuelan president Hugo Chavez Frias delivers a speech at the United Nations. September 15, 2005.

20 years what humanity has used up to now. This means that more carbon dioxide will inevitably be increased, thus warming our planet even more.

Hurricane Katrina has been a painful example of the cost of ignoring such realities. The warming of the oceans is the fundamental factor behind the demolishing increase in the strength of the hurricanes we have witnessed in the last years. Let this occasion be an outlet to send our deepest condolences to the people of the United States.

Their people are brothers and sisters of all of us in the Americas and the rest of the world.

It is impractical and unethical to sacrifice the human race by appealing in an insane manner the validity of a socioeconomic model that has a galloping destructive capacity. It would be suicidal to spread it and impose it as an infallible remedy for the evils which are caused precisely by them.

Not too long ago the President of the United States went to an Organization of American States' meeting to propose Latin America and the Caribbean to increase market-oriented policies, open market policies-that is neoliberalism-

adopted, as well as the States Economic Rights and Duties Charter by an overwhelming majority, 120 votes for the motion, 6 against and 10 abstentions. This was the period when voting was possible at the United Nations. Now it is impossible to vote. Now they approve documents such as this one which I denounce on behalf of Venezuela as null, void and illegitimate. This document was approved violating the current laws of the United Nations. This document is invalid! This document should be discussed; the Venezuelan government will make it public. We cannot accept an open and shameless dictatorship in the United Nations. These matters should be discussed and that is why I petition my colleagues, heads of states and heads of governments, to discuss it.

I just came from a meeting with President Néstor Kirchner and well, I was pulling this document out; this document was handed out five minutes before- and only in English- to our delegation. This document was approved by a dictatorial hammer which I am here denouncing as illegal, null, void and illegitimate.

Hear this, Mr. President: if we accept this, we are indeed lost. Let us turn off the lights, close all doors and windows! That would be unbelievable: us accepting a dictatorship here in this hall.

Now more than ever- we were saying- we need to retake ideas that were left on the road such as the proposal approved at this Assembly in 1974 regarding a New Economic International Order.

Article 2 of that text confirms the right of states to nationalizing the property and natural resources that belonged to foreign investors. It also proposed to create cartels of raw material producers. In the Resolution 3021, May, 1974, the Assembly expressed its will to work with utmost urgency in the creation of a New Economic International Order based on- listen carefully, please- “the equity, sovereign equality, interdependence, common interest and cooperation among all states regardless of their economic and social systems, correcting the inequalities and repairing the injustices among developed and developing countries, thus assuring present and future generations, peace, justice and a social and economic development that grows at a sustainable rate.”

The main goal of the New Economic International Order was to modify the old economic order conceived at Breton Woods. We the people now claim- this is the case of Venezuela- a new international economic order. But it is also urgent a new international political order. Let us not permit that a few countries try to reinterpret the principles of International

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Hugo Chavez meets with residents in the Bronx. September 17, 2005.

globalization, but there is also the reality of an interconnected world that we have to face not as a problem but as a challenge. We could, on the basis of national realities, exchange knowledge, integrate markets, interconnect, but at the same time we must understand that there are problems that do not have a national solution: radioactive clouds, world oil prices, diseases, warming of the planet or the hole in the ozone layer. These are not domestic problems. As we stride toward a new United Nations model that includes all of us when they talk about the people, we are bringing four indispensable and urgent reform proposals to this Assembly: the first; the expansion of the Security Council in its permanent categories as well as the non permanent categories, thus allowing new developed and developing countries as new permanent and non permanent categories. The second; we need to assure the necessary improvement of the work methodology in order to increase transparency, not to diminish it. The third; we need to immediately suppress- we have said this repeatedly in Venezuela for the past six years- the veto in the decisions taken by the Security Council, that elitist trace is incompatible with democracy, incompatible with the principles of equality and democracy.

We believe it is time to think about the creation of an international city with its own sovereignty, with its own strength and morality to represent all nations of the world. Such international city has to balance five centuries of unbalance. The headquarters of the United Nations must be in the South.

Ladies and gentlemen, we are facing an unprecedented energy crisis in which an unstoppable increase of energy is perilously reaching record highs, as well as the incapacity of increase oil supply and the perspective of a decline in the proven reserves of fuel worldwide. Oil is starting to become exhausted.

For the year 2020 the daily demand for oil will be 120 million barrels. Such demand, even without counting future increments- would consume in

“We will fight for Venezuela, for Latin American integration and the world. We reaffirm our infinite faith in humankind. We are thirsty for peace and justice in order to survive as a species.”

when it is precisely the fundamental cause of the great evils and the great tragedies currently suffered by our people. : The neoliberal capitalism, the Washington Consensus. All this has generated is a high degree of misery, inequality and infinite tragedy for all the peoples on his continent. What we need now more than ever Mr. President is a new international order. Let us recall the United Nations General assembly in its sixth extraordinary session period in 1974, 31 years ago, where a new International Economic Order action plan was

Discurso del Presidente Hugo Chávez Frías ante la ONU



Presidente venezolano Hugo Chavez con presidente cubano Fidel Castro. De septiembre el 5 de 2005.

Discurso del Presidente Hugo Chávez Frías ante la ONU

17 de Septiembre del 2005

Excelencias, amigas y amigos, muy buenas tardes:

El propósito original de esta reunión ha sido desvirtuado totalmente. Se nos ha impuesto como centro del debate un mal llamado proceso de reformas, que relega a un segundo plano lo más urgente, lo que los pueblos del mundo reclaman con urgencia, como lo es la adopción de medidas para enfrentar los verdaderos problemas que obstaculizan e impiden los esfuerzos de nuestros países por el desarrollo y por la vida.

Cinco años después de la Cumbre del Milenio, la cruda realidad es que la gran mayoría de las metas diseñadas, pese a que eran ya de por sí modestísimas, no serán alcanzadas.

Pretendimos reducir a la mitad los 842 millones de hambrientos para el año 2015. Al ritmo actual la meta se lograría en el año 2215, ve a ver quién de nosotros estaríamos allí para celebrarlo, si es que la especie humana logra sobrevivir a la destrucción que amenaza nuestro medio ambiente.

Habíamos proclamado la aspiración de lograr en el 2015 la enseñanza primaria universal. Al ritmo actual la meta se alcanzará después del año 2100, preparémonos pues para celebrarlo.

Esto, amigas y amigos del mundo, nos lleva de manera irreversible a una amarga conclusión: las Naciones Unidas han agotado su modelo, y no se trata simplemente de proceder a una reforma, el siglo XXI reclama cambios profundos que sólo son posibles con una refundación de esta organización. Esto no sirve, hay que decirlo, es la pura verdad.

Esas transformaciones, a las que desde Venezuela nos referimos, al mundo, tienen para nosotros, desde nuestro punto de vista dos tiempos: el inmediato, el de ahora mismo, y el de los sueños, el de la utopía; el primero está marcado por los acuerdos lastrados por el viejo esquema, no le rehuimos, y traemos, incluso, propuestas concretas dentro de ese modelo en el corto plazo. Pero el sueño de esa paz mundial, el sueño de un nosotros que no avergüence por el hambre, la enfermedad, el analfabetismo, la necesidad extrema, necesita –además de raíces– alas para volar. Necesitamos alas para volar, sabemos que hay una globalización neoliberal aterradora, pero también existe la realidad de un mundo interconectado que tenemos que enfrentar no como un problema sino como un reto, podemos, sobre la base de las realidades nacionales, intercambiar conocimientos, complementarnos, integrar mercados, pero al tiempo debemos entender que hay problemas que ya no tienen solución nacional, ni una

nube radioactiva, ni los precios mundiales, ni una pandemia, ni el calentamiento del planeta o el agujero de la capa de ozono son problemas nacionales. Mientras avanzamos hacia un nuevo modelo de Naciones Unidas que haga cierto y suyo ese nosotros de los pueblos, hay cuatro reformas urgentes e irrenunciables que traemos a esta Asamblea, la primera, la expansión del Consejo de Seguridad tanto en sus categorías permanentes como en las no permanentes, dando entrada a nuevos países desarrollados y a países en desarrollo como nuevos miembros permanentes. La segunda, la necesaria mejora de los métodos de trabajo para aumentar la transparencia y no para disminuirla, para aumentar el respeto y no para disminuirlo, para aumentar la inclusión. La tercera, la supresión inmediata, seguimos diciéndolo desde hace seis años desde Venezuela, la supresión inmediata del veto en las decisiones del Consejo de Seguridad, ese vestigio elitescos es incompatible con la democracia, incompatible con la sola idea de igualdad y de democracia.

Y en cuarto lugar el fortalecimiento del papel del Secretario General, sus funciones políticas en el marco de la diplomacia preventiva, debe ser consolidado. La gravedad de los problemas convoca a transformaciones profundas, las meras reformas no bastan para recuperar el nosotros que esperan los pueblos del mundo, más allá de las reformas reclamamos desde Venezuela la refundación de Naciones Unidas, y como bien sabemos en Venezuela, por las palabras de Simón Rodríguez, el Robinson de Caracas: “O inventamos o erramos”.

En la reunión de enero pasado de este año 2005 estuvimos en el Foro Social Mundial en Porto Alegre, diferentes personalidades allí pidieron que la sede de Naciones Unidas saliera de Estados Unidos si es que continúan las violaciones a la legalidad internacional por parte de ese país. Hoy sabemos que nunca existieron armas de destrucción masiva

en Iraq, el pueblo estadounidense siempre ha sido muy riguroso con la exigencia de la verdad a sus gobernantes, los pueblos del mundo también: nunca hubo armas de destrucción masiva y sin embargo, y por encima de Naciones Unidas, Iraq fue bombardeado, ocupado y continúa ocupado. Por eso proponemos a esta Asamblea que Naciones Unidas salga de un país que no es respetuoso con las propias resoluciones de esta Asamblea. Algunas propuestas han señalado a una Jerusalén convertida en ciudad internacional como una alternativa. La propuesta tiene la generosidad de proponer una respuesta al conflicto que vive Palestina, pero quizás tenga aristas que hagan difícil llevarlo a cabo. Por eso traemos aquí otra propuesta, anclada en la Carta de Jamaica, que escribió Simón Bolívar, el gran Libertador del Sur, en Jamaica, en 1815, hace 190 años. Ahí propuso Bolívar la creación de una ciudad internacional que sirviera de sede a la idea de unidad que planteaba. Bolívar era un soñador que soñó lo que son hoy nuestras realidades.

Creemos que ya es hora de pensar en la

combustibles fósiles. Comienza a agotarse el petróleo.

Para el 2020 la demanda diaria de petróleo será de 120 millones de barriles, con lo cual, incluso sin tener en cuenta futuros crecimientos, se consumiría en 20 años una cifra similar a todo el petróleo que ha gastado la humanidad hasta el momento, lo cual significará, inevitablemente, un aumento en las emisiones de dióxido de carbono que, como se sabe incrementa cada día la temperatura de nuestro planeta.

Katrina ha sido un doloroso ejemplo de las consecuencias que puede traer al hombre ignorar estas realidades. El calentamiento de los océanos es, a su vez, el factor fundamental detrás del demoledor incremento en la fuerza de los huracanes que hemos visto en los últimos años. Valga la ocasión para transmitir una vez más nuestro dolor y nuestro pesar al pueblo de Estados Unidos, que es un pueblo hermano de los pueblos de América también, y de los pueblos del mundo.

Es práctica y éticamente inadmisible sacrificar a la especie humana invocando de manera demencial la vigencia de un modelo socioeconómico con una galopante capacidad destructiva. Es suicida insistir en diseminarlo

Pues bien, nosotros lucharemos por Venezuela, por la integración latinoamericana y por el mundo. Reafirmamos aquí en este salón nuestra infinita fe en el hombre, hoy sediento de paz y de justicia para sobrevivir como especie.

creación de una ciudad internacional ajena a la soberanía de ningún Estado, con la fuerza propia de la moralidad de representar a las Naciones del mundo, pero esa ciudad internacional tiene que reequilibrar cinco siglos de desequilibrio. La nueva sede de Naciones Unidas tiene que estar en el Sur. “¡El Sur también existe!”, dijo Mario Benedetti. Esa ciudad que puede existir ya, o podemos inventarla, puede estar donde se crucen varias fronteras o en un territorio que simbolice al mundo, nuestro Continente está en disposición de ofrecer ese suelo sobre el que edificar el equilibrio del universo del que habló Bolívar en 1825.

Señoras, señores, enfrentamos hoy una crisis energética sin precedentes, en el mundo, en la que se combinan peligrosamente un imparable incremento del consumo energético, la incapacidad de aumentar la oferta de hidrocarburos y la perspectiva de una declinación en las reservas probadas de

e imponerlo como remedio infalible para los males de los cuales es, precisamente, el principal causante.

Hace poco el señor Presidente de Estados Unidos asistió a una reunión de la Organización de Estados Americanos, a proponerle a la América Latina y al Caribe incrementar las políticas de mercado, la apertura de mercado, es decir, el neoliberalismo, cuando esa es precisamente la causa fundamental de los grandes males y las grandes tragedias que viven nuestros pueblos: el capitalismo neoliberal, el Consenso de Washington lo que ha generado es mayor grado de miseria, de desigualdad y una tragedia infinita a los pueblos de este continente.

Ahora más que nunca necesitamos, señor Presidente, un nuevo orden internacional, recordemos que la Asamblea General de

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Visitas de Hugo Chavez con los trabajadores en la planta hidroeléctrica central de Garuachi en Puerto Ordaz, Venezuela. De Septiembre el 20 de 2005.

Característica Especial

Discurso de presidente Chavez a

los Naciones Unidas

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las Naciones Unidas en su sexto período extraordinario de sesiones, celebrado en 1974, algunos de quienes están aquí no habían nacido, seguramente, o estaban muy pequeños.

En 1974, hace 31 años adoptó la declaración y el programa de acción sobre un nuevo Orden Económico Internacional, junto con el plan de acción la Asamblea General adoptó el 14 de diciembre de aquel año 1974 la Carta de Derechos y Deberes Económicos de los Estados que concretó el Nuevo Orden Económico Internacional, siendo aprobada por mayoría aplastante de 120 votos a favor, 6 en contra y 10 abstenciones –esto era cuando se votaba en Naciones Unidas–, porque ahora aquí no se vota, ahora aquí se aprueban documentos como este documento que yo denuncio a nombre de Venezuela, como irritó, nulo e ilegal, se aprobó violando la normativa de las Naciones Unidas, ¿no es válido este documento!, habrá que discutir este documento, el Gobierno de Venezuela lo va a hacer conocer al mundo, pero nosotros no podemos aceptar la dictadura abierta y descarada en Naciones Unidas, estas cosas son para discutir las y para eso hago un llamado muy respetuoso, a mis colegas los Jefes de Estado y los Jefes de Gobierno.

Ahora me reunía con el presidente Néstor Kirchner y bueno, yo sacaba el documento, este documento fue entregado cinco minutos antes, ¡sólo en inglés!, a nuestros delegados y se aprobó con un martillazo dictatorial, que denuncio ante el mundo como ilegal, irritó, nulo e ilegítimo.

Oíganme una cosa, señor Presidente, si nosotros vamos a aceptar esto, es que estamos perdidos, ¡paguemos la luz y cerremos las puertas y cerremos las ventanas! Sería lo último: que aceptemos la dictadura aquí en este salón.

Ahora más que nunca –decíamos– requerimos retomar, retomar cosas que se quedaron en el camino, como la propuesta aprobada en esta Asamblea

en 1974 de un Nuevo Orden Económico Internacional, para recordar algo, digamos lo siguiente, el Artículo 2 del texto de aquella carta, confirma el derecho de los estados de nacionalizar las propiedades y los recursos naturales que se encontraban en manos de inversores extranjeros, proponiendo igualmente la creación de carteles de productores de materias primas. En su Resolución 3.201 de mayo de 1974, expresó la determinación de trabajar con urgencia para establecer un Nuevo Orden Económico Internacional basado –oíganme bien, os ruego– “en la equidad, la igualdad soberana, la interdependencia, el interés común y la cooperación entre todos los estados cualesquiera que sean sus sistemas económicos y sociales, que corrija las desigualdades y repare las injusticias entre los países desarrollados y los países en desarrollo, y asegure a las



Hugo Chavez que entrega un discurso a los Naciones Unidas. De septiembre el 15 de 2005.

generaciones presentes y futuras, la paz, la justicia y un desarrollo económico y social que se acelere a ritmo sostenido”, cierro comillas, estaba leyendo parte de aquella Resolución histórica de 1974.

El objetivo del Nuevo Orden Económico Internacional era modificar el viejo orden económico concebido en Breton Woods.

Creo que el Presidente de Estados Unidos habló aquí durante unos 20 minutos el día de ayer, según me han informado, yo pido permiso, Excelencia, para terminar mi alocución.

El objetivo del Nuevo Orden Económico

camino.

Hoy reclamamos desde los pueblos, en este caso el pueblo de Venezuela, un nuevo orden económico internacional, pero también resulta imprescindible un nuevo orden político internacional, no permitamos que un puñado de países intente reinterpretar impunemente los principios del Derecho Internacional para dar cabida a doctrinas como la “Guerra Preventiva”, ¡vaya que nos amenazan con la guerra preventiva!, y la llamada ahora “Responsabilidad de Proteger”, pero hay que preguntarse quién nos va a proteger, cómo nos van a proteger.

Internacional era modificar el viejo orden económico concebido en Breton Woods en 1944, y que tendría una vigencia hasta 1971, con el derrumbamiento del sistema monetario internacional: sólo buenas intenciones, ninguna voluntad para avanzar por ese camino, y nosotros creemos que ese era, y ese sigue siendo el

Yo creo que uno de los pueblos que requiere protección es el pueblo de Estados Unidos, demostrado ahora dolorosamente con la tragedia de Katrina: no tiene gobierno que lo proteja de los desastres anunciados de la naturaleza, si es que vamos a hablar de protegernos los unos a los otros; estos son conceptos muy peligrosos que van delineando el imperialismo, van delineando el intervencionismo y tratan de legalizar el irrespeto a la soberanía de los pueblos, el respeto pleno a los principios del Derecho Internacional y a la Carta de las Naciones Unidas deben constituir, señor Presidente, la piedra angular de las relaciones internacionales en el mundo de hoy, y la base del nuevo orden que propugnamos.

Permítanme una vez más, para ir concluyendo, citar a Simón Bolívar, nuestro Libertador, cuando habla de la integración del mundo, del Parlamento Mundial, de un Congreso de parlamentarios, hace falta retomar muchas propuestas como la bolivariana. Decía Bolívar en Jamaica, en 1815, ya lo citaba, leo una frase de su Carta de Jamaica: “Qué bello sería que el istmo de Panamá fuese para nosotros lo que el de Corinto para los griegos, ojalá que algún día tengamos la fortuna de instalar allí un augusto congreso de los representantes de las repúblicas, de

los reinos, a tratar y discutir sobre los altos intereses de la paz y de la guerra, con las naciones de las otras tres partes del mundo. Esta especie de corporación podrá tener lugar en alguna época dichosa de nuestra regeneración.” Urge enfrentar de manera eficaz, ciertamente, al terrorismo internacional, pero no usándolo como pretexto para desatar agresiones militares injustificadas y violatorias del Derecho Internacional, que se han entronizado como doctrina después del 11 de septiembre. Sólo una estrecha y verdadera cooperación, y el fin de los dobles raseros que algunos países del Norte aplican al tema del terrorismo, podrán acabar con este horrible flagelo.

Señor Presidente:

En apenas 7 años de Revolución Bolivariana, el pueblo venezolano puede exhibir importantes conquistas sociales y económicas.

Un millón 406 mil venezolanos aprendieron a leer y a escribir en año y medio, nosotros somos 25 millones aproximadamente y, en escasas semanas el país, dentro de pocos días, podrá declararse libre de analfabetismo, y tres millones de venezolanos antes excluidos por causa de la pobreza, fueron incorporados a la educación primaria, secundaria y universitaria.

Diecisiete millones de venezolanos y venezolanas –casi el 70% de la población– reciben, por primera vez en la historia, asistencia médica gratuita, incluidos los medicamentos y, en unos pocos años, todos los venezolanos tendrán acceso gratuito a una atención médica por excelencia.

Se suministran hoy más de 1 millón 700 mil toneladas de alimentos a precios módicos a 12 millones de personas, casi la mitad de los venezolanos, un millón de ellos lo reciben gratuitamente, de manera transitoria. Estas medidas han generado un alto nivel de seguridad alimentaria a los más necesitados.

Señor Presidente, se han creado más de 700 mil puestos de trabajo, reduciéndose el desempleo en 9 puntos porcentuales, todo esto en medio de agresiones internas y externas, que incluyeron un golpe militar facturado en Washington, y un golpe petrolero facturado también en Washington, pese a las conspiraciones, a las calumnias del poder mediático, y la permanente amenaza del imperio y sus aliados, que hasta estimula el magnicidio. El único país donde una persona se puede dar el lujo de pedir el magnicidio de un Jefe de Estado, es Estados Unidos, como ocurrió hace poco con un reverendo llamado, Patt Robertson muy amigo de la Casa Blanca: pidió públicamente ante el mundo mi asesinato y anda libre, ¡ese es un delito internacional!, ¡terrorismo internacional!

Pues bien, nosotros lucharemos por Venezuela, por la integración latinoamericana y por el mundo.

Reafirmamos aquí en este salón nuestra infinita fe en el hombre, hoy sediento de paz y de justicia para sobrevivir como especie. Simón Bolívar, padre de nuestra Patria y guía de nuestra Revolución, juró no dar descanso a su brazo, ni reposo a su alma, hasta ver a la América libre. No demos nosotros descanso a nuestros brazos, ni reposo a nuestras almas hasta salvar la humanidad.

Señores, muchísimas gracias.



Hugo Chavez meets Bronx residents at the Point Community Center in South Bronx, NY. September 17, 2005.

From page 12

Law in order to impose new doctrines such as “pre-emptive warfare.” Oh do they threaten us with that pre-emptive war! And what about the “Responsibility to Protect” doctrine? We need to ask ourselves. Who is going to protect us? How are they going to protect us? I believe one of the countries that require protection is precisely the United States. That was shown painfully with the tragedy caused by Hurricane Katrina; they do not have a government that protects them from the announced nature disasters, if we are going to talk about protecting each other; these are very dangerous concepts that shape imperialism,

interventionism as they try to legalize the violation of the national sovereignty. The full respect towards the principles of International Law and the United Nations Charter must be, Mr. President, the keystone for international relations in today’s world and the base for the new order we are currently proposing. It is urgent to fight, in an efficient manner, international terrorism. Nonetheless, we must not use it as an excuse to launch unjustified military aggressions which violate international law. Such has been the doctrine following September 11. Only a true and close cooperation and the end of the double discourse that some countries of the North apply regarding terrorism, could end this terrible calamity.

In just seven years of Bolivarian Revolution, the people of Venezuela can claim important social and economic advances. One million four hundred and six thousand Venezuelans learned to read and write. We are 25 million total. And the country will-in a few days-be declared illiteracy-free territory. And three million Venezuelans, who had always been excluded because of poverty, are now part of primary, secondary and higher studies.

Seventeen million Venezuelans-almost 70% of the population- are receiving, and for the first time, universal healthcare, including the medicine, and in a few years, all Venezuelans will have free access to an excellent healthcare

service. More than a million seven hundred tons of food are channeled to over 12 million people at subsidized prices, almost half the population. One million gets them completely free, as they are in a transition period. More than 700 thousand new jobs have been created, thus reducing unemployment by 9 points. All of this amid internal and external aggressions, including a coup d’etat and an oil industry shutdown organized by Washington. Regardless of the conspiracies, the lies spread by powerful media outlets, and the permanent threat of the empire and its allies, they even call for the assassination of a president. The only country where a person is able to call for the assassination of a head of state is the United States. Such was the case of a Reverend called Pat Robertson, very close to the White House: He called for my assassination and he is a free person. That is international terrorism!

We will fight for Venezuela, for Latin American integration and the world. We reaffirm our infinite faith in humankind. We are thirsty for peace and justice in order to survive as species. Simón Bolívar, founding father of our country and guide of our revolution swore to never allow his hands to be idle or his soul to rest until he had broken the shackles which bound us to the empire. Now is the time to not allow our hands to be idle or our souls to rest until we save humanity.

Translated by Néstor Sánchez

Revolutionary Heritage

This article-interview appeared in the March/April 1965 issue of the Young Socialist, in the United States.

Young Socialist: What are the aims of your new organization?

Malcolm X: There are two organizations. There's the Muslim Mosque, Inc., which is religious. Its aim is to create an atmosphere and facilities in which people who are interested in Islam can get a better understanding of Islam. The aim of the other organization, the Organization of Afro-American Unity, is to use whatever means necessary to bring about a society in which the twenty-two million Afro-Americans are recognized and respected as human beings.

Young Socialist: How do you define Black nationalism, with which you have been identified?

Malcolm X: I used to define Black nationalism as the idea that the Black man should control the economy of his community, the politics of his community, and so forth.

But when I was in Africa in May, in Ghana, I was speaking with the Algerian ambassador who is extremely militant and is a revolutionary in the true sense of the word (and has his credentials as such for having carried on a successful revolution against oppression in his country). When I told him that my political, social, and economic philosophy was Black nationalism, he asked me very frankly: Well, where did that leave him? Because he was white. He was an African, but he was Algerian, and to all appearances, he was a white man. And he said if I define my objective as the victory of Black nationalism, where does that leave him? Where does that leave revolutionaries in Morocco, Egypt, Iraq, Mauritania? So he showed me where I was alienating people who were true revolutionaries dedicated to overturning the system of exploitation that exists on this earth by any means necessary.

So I had to do a lot of thinking and reappraising of my definition of Black nationalism. Can we sum up the solution to the problems confronting our people as Black nationalism? And if you notice, I haven't been using the expression for several months. But I still would be hard pressed to give a specific definition of the overall philosophy which I think is necessary for the liberation of the Black people in this country....

Young Socialist: What were the highlights of your trip to Africa?

Malcolm X: I visited Egypt, Arabia, Kuwait, Lebanon, Sudan, Ethiopia, Kenya, Tanganyika, Zanzibar (now Tanzania), Nigeria, Ghana, Liberia, Guinea, and Algeria. During that trip I had audiences with President Nasser of Egypt, President Nyerere of Tanzania, President Jomo Kenyatta (who was then prime minister) of Kenya, Prime Minister Milton Obote of Uganda, President Azikiwe of Nigeria, President Nkrumah of Ghana, and President S'ou Tour'of Guinea. I think the highlights were the audiences I had with those persons because it gave me a chance to sample their thinking. I was impressed by their analysis of the problem, and many of the suggestions they gave went a long way toward

broadening my own outlook.

Young Socialist: How much influence does revolutionary Africa have on the thinking of Black people in this country?

Malcolm X: All the influence in the world. You can't separate the militancy that's displayed on the African continent from the militancy that's displayed right here among American Blacks. The positive image that is developing of Africans is also developing in the minds of Black Americans, and consequently they develop a more positive image of themselves. Then they take more positive steps—actions.

So you can't separate the African revolution from the mood of the Black man in America. Neither could the colonization of Africa be separated from the menial position that the Black man in this country was satisfied to stay in for so long. Since Africa has gotten its independence through revolution, you'll notice the stepped-up cry against discrimination that has appeared in the Black community.

Young Socialist: How do you view the role of the U.S. in the Congo?

Malcolm X: As criminal. Probably there is no better example of criminal activity against an oppressed people than the role the U.S. has been playing in the Congo, through her ties with Tshombe and the mercenaries. You can't overlook the fact that Tshombe gets his money from the U.S. The money he uses to hire these mercenaries—these paid killers imported from South Africa—comes from the United States. The pilots that fly these planes have been trained by the U.S. The bombs themselves that are blowing apart the bodies of women and children come from the U.S. So I can only view the role of the United States in the Congo as a criminal role. And I think the seeds she is sowing in the Congo she will have to harvest. The chickens that she has turned loose over there have got to come home to roost.

Young Socialist: What about the U.S. role in South Vietnam?

Malcolm X: The same thing. It shows the real ignorance of those who control the American power structure. If France, with all types of heavy arms, as deeply entrenched as she was in what then was called Indochina, couldn't stay there, I don't see how anybody in their right mind can think the U.S. can get in there—it's impossible. So it shows her ignorance, her blindness, her lack of foresight and hindsight; and her complete defeat in South Vietnam is only a matter of time....

Young Socialist: In a recent speech you mentioned that you met John Lewis of SNCC [Student Nonviolent Coordinating Committee] in Africa.¹ Do you feel that the younger and more militant leaders in the South are broadening their views on the whole general struggle?

Malcolm X: Sure. When I was in the Black Muslim movement I spoke on many white campuses and Black campuses. I knew back in 1961 and '62 that the younger generation was much different from the older, and that many students were more sincere in their analysis of the problem and their desire to see the problem solved. In foreign countries the students have helped bring about revolution—it was the students who

MALCOLM X



Youth More Filled With Urge to Eliminate Oppression

brought about the revolution in the Sudan, who swept Syngman Rhee out of office in Korea, swept Menderes out in Turkey. The students didn't think in terms of the odds against them, and they couldn't be bought out.

In America students have been noted for involving themselves in panty raids, goldfish swallowing, seeing how many can get in a telephone booth—not for their revolutionary political ideas or their desire to change unjust conditions. But some students are becoming more like their brothers around the world. However, the students have been deceived somewhat in what's known as the civil rights struggle (which was never designed to solve the problem). The students were maneuvered in the direction of thinking the problem was already analyzed, so they didn't try to analyze it for themselves.

In my thinking, if the students in this country forgot the analysis that has been presented to them, and they went into a huddle and began to research this problem of racism for themselves, independent of politicians and independent of all the foundations (which are a part of the power structure), and did it themselves, then some of their findings would be shocking, but they would see that they would never be able to bring about a solution to racism in their country as long as they're relying on the government to do it.

The federal government itself is just as racist as the government in Mississippi, and is more guilty of perpetuating the racist system. At the federal level they are more shrewd, more skillful at doing it, just like the FBI is more skillful than the state police and the state police are more skillful than the local police.

The same with politicians. The politician at the federal level is usually more skilled than the politician at the local level, and when he wants to practice racism, he's more skilled in the practice of it than those who practice it at the local level.

Young Socialist: What is your opinion of the Democratic Party?

Malcolm X: The Democratic Party is responsible for the racism that exists in this country, along with the Republican Party. The leading racists in this country are Democrats. Goldwater isn't the leading racist—he's a racist but not the leading racist.² The racists who have influence in Washington, D.C., are Democrats. If you check, whenever any kind of legislation is suggested to mitigate the injustices that Negroes suffer in this country, you will find that the people who line up against it are members of Lyndon B. Johnson's party. The Dixiecrats are Democrats. The Dixiecrats are only a subdivision of the Democratic Party, and the same man over the Democrats is over the

Dixiecrats....*

Young Socialist: What part in the world revolution are youth playing, and what lessons may this have for American youth?

Malcolm X: If you've studied the captives being caught by the American soldiers in South Vietnam, you'll find that these guerrillas are young people. Some of them are just children and some haven't yet reached their teens. Most are teenagers. It is the teenagers abroad, all over the world, who are actually involving themselves in the struggle to eliminate oppression and exploitation. In the Congo, the refugees point out that many of the Congolese revolutionaries are children. In fact, when they shoot captive revolutionaries, they shoot all the way down to seven years old—that's been reported in the press. Because the revolutionaries are children, young people. In these countries the young people are the ones who most quickly identify with the struggle and the necessity to eliminate the evil conditions that exist. And here in this country, it has been my own observation that when you get into a conversation on racism and discrimination and segregation, you will find young people are more incensed over it—they feel more filled with an urge to eliminate it.

I think young people here can find a powerful example in the young simbas [lions] in the Congo and the young fighters in South Vietnam.

Another point: as the dark-skinned nations of this earth become independent, as they develop and become stronger, that means that time is on the side of the American Negro. At this point the American Negro is still hospitable and friendly and forgiving. But if he is continually tricked and deceived and so on, and if there is still no solution to his problems, he will become completely disillusioned, disenchanted, and disassociate himself from the interest of America and its society. Many have done that already.

Young Socialist: What is your opinion of the worldwide struggle now going on between capitalism and socialism?

Malcolm X: It is impossible for capitalism to survive, primarily because the system of capitalism needs some blood to suck. Capitalism used to be like an eagle, but now it's more like a vulture. It used to be strong enough to go and suck anybody's blood whether they were strong or not. But now it has become more cowardly, like the vulture, and it can only suck the blood of the helpless. As the nations of the world free themselves, then capitalism has less victims, less to suck, and it becomes weaker and weaker. It's only a matter of time in my opinion before it will collapse completely.

Notes: * The Dixiecrats were the openly segregationist and racist wing of the Democratic Party dominant at the time in most of the U.S. South.

**This Man is in Charge of the Canadian
Army and Wants our Kids to Join Now**



GENERAL RICK HILLIER On the Afghan People:

"These are detestable murderers and scumbags."

"They detest our freedoms. They detest our society. They detest our liberties."

On the Canadian Military:

"We are not the public service of Canada. We are the Canadian Forces and we KILL PEOPLE."

MOBILIZATION AGAINST WAR & OCCUPATION - MAWD

www.mawovancouver.org

MAVO

Fighting the Theft of Indigenous Resources in Northern Canada:



Arctic Youth Oppose the Mackenzie Gas Project

By Aaron Mercredi

From August 12th to 15th, over 40 young Dene, Inuvialuit and other indigenous people gathered at Radilih Ko (Fort Good Hope) in Denendeh (Northwest Territories), for a gathering organized by the Arctic Indigenous Youth Alliance. The gathering brought people together around the theme of “*Youth Empowerment through elder’s guidance and connection to the land*,” and focussed on youth and elders discussing challenges in their communities, and specifically ways of fighting the proposed development of the Mackenzie Valley Gas Pipeline.

The Mackenzie Valley Gas Project (MGP) is a project involving Exxon-Mobil, Imperial Oil and other multi-national oil and gas companies to transfer the natural gas from underneath the Mackenzie delta and valley through a pipeline that will link it to the oil sands of Northern Alberta. This natural gas is needed to help steam-heat the oil out of the sands so that it can be sold on the market. The US government estimates that there are approximately 24 trillion cubic feet of natural gas in the Mackenzie Valley, a sizeable amount to expropriate.

Corporations Vs. Indigenous People

When we consider the effects that this development could have, we should take a look at what the MGP would look like if it goes through:

1,900 kilometres of pipeline will be installed, stretching from the tip of the Northern coast all the way down to Northern Alberta. Surrounding this, 1,400km will be cleared as a right of way for this pipeline, creating what will look like a giant highway stretching from North to South. Twenty new barge landings and 16 airstrips will be built to accommodate the shipping in of workers and resources for a rapid construction phase.

Not only will there be devastating environmental impacts from this hyper-development, but the magnitude of this project will bring destruction to the communities of the Northwest Territories as well. The pipeline groups estimate that around 13,000 jobs will be created out of construction phase of this project. For the small communities contained within the project’s scope, this will mean a short-term population boom of primarily non-indigenous and transient labour from the South. The Northwest Territories Council on the Status of Women predicts that this short-term swelling of communities will create a large number of unwanted children, single parents, increased sex traffic and gender-based violence. The MGP is trying to convince indigenous people of benefits for their communities through the mass employment this project will provide. Of course, they are not mentioning that these are all short-term positions and will be ended once the construction phase of the project is complete. By that time,

only 50 positions will be available, and will most likely come from the South, leaving the local workers who will have become dependent on those jobs out in the cold.

Of course, beyond the issues facing the environment and the effects on communities is the over-arching matter of colonialism. This pipeline is essentially a land grab. It is a highway being cleared on the land of indigenous people to take their resources. By installing the pipeline, multi-national resource corporations and the government of Canada are trying to dig their heels in to the land and resources of indigenous people. Like all highways, on-ramps and off-ramps will veer off here and there, and this development opens the gate to further exploration. By holding a firm grip over the land and resources of the immense Northwest Territories, the colonial government is trying to further consolidate its theft of the resources of indigenous people all over Canada.

Imperialist Government of Canada: Colonialist Abroad, Colonialist at Home

The struggle over the rich resources of the Northwest Territories is not a new phenomenon shaking Northern Canada. It is at its very foundation. Much of the consolidation of that area as a territory of Canada was through the discovery of rich mineral deposits. Probably one of the most significant incidents involving destruction of indigenous life through the theft of resources took place around Great Bear

Lake in the 1940s. The world’s first uranium mine was built on its Eastern shores in a Dene community called Deline, and the material extracted was the source that was used for the atomic bombs used in Hiroshima and Nagasaki. Not only were the Dene people whose land was being used and whose people were hired to work for the mine never informed about what their resources were being used for, but they were also never warned about the dangers of working in the mine. Men who worked for the mine carried radium in burlap sacks on their backs, they drank the contaminated water from around the area and as a result, generations of men from that community perished creating a ‘village of widows.’ The government of Canada was involved in a cover-up over the deaths of those men who worked in the mine, and inquiries are still being pursued to hold those responsible accountable for the genocide committed against the community of Deline.

The goals of the colonial government and corporations have not changed since the 1940s. They still rely on the resources of indigenous people for control and profit. We see this today in BC with the amount of attacks that the BC Liberals have made on indigenous people throughout the province. Are we to think that the Mackenzie Valley Gas Project is going to be any different than Weyerhaeuser stealing trees from Haida Gwaii or Cheam? Or that somehow it will not affect the environment in the territory like

what has happened through Sun Peaks Ski Resort on Secwepemc mountains? It is no different and is an issue facing all indigenous people in Canada.

Injury to One is Injury to All: Indigenous People Unite Against Colonial Canada

In response to the huge push by the MGP, grassroots organizing against the MGP began in areas of the Northwest Territories. The Arctic Indigenous Youth Alliance, formerly the Dene Youth Alliance, formed in 2002 to raise awareness with indigenous communities and other people in the Northwest Territories about the effects that a pipeline would have and are building resistance to it. Over the last few years, they have been working with communities all over the Northwest Territories and created dialogues among the indigenous people of the area, who live very far away from each other. As a result of the gathering that took place on August 12th, chapters of AIYA are now springing up in different areas of the Northwest Territories, building a unified voice against colonial development. For poor, working and oppressed people, we need to stand in solidarity with the fight against this colonial development. Please for further understanding of the issue at stake read the two interviews in the special boxes in this page.

STOP THE MACKENZIE VALLEY PIPELINE!

NO GAS DEVELOPMENT ON STOLEN INDIGENOUS LAND!



Youth and elders gather for a summit at Radilih Koe.

Interview with Deh Cho Grand Chief Herb Norwiegan

By Aaron Mercredi

Deh Cho Grand Chief Herb Norwiegan attended the summit in Radilih Ko on August 12th and gave words of support to the young people who were coming together to discuss the Mackenzie Valley Gas Pipeline. The Deh Cho have been one of the strongest opponents to the Mackenzie Valley Gas Project and took legal action against it, refusing to be extinguished as a nation.

Fire This Time: Can you tell me your

name and where you’re from?

Herb Norwiegan: Ok, my name is Herb Norwiegan. I’m from Fort Simpson.

FTT: Ok, and what brings you here today?

HN: Well, it’s always been part of my job as Deh Cho Grand Chief to take part in any gatherings that I am invited to. And this one here is the Youth Alliance people that have gotten together. They have been together for the last couple years, and they’ve invited me to come

stuff that we’re doing with our land and what’s in store for us in the future.

FTT: Why do you think it’s important for indigenous people in the North, the Dene and other indigenous people, to come together like this?

HN: Well, you know, numbers is probably the most powerful thing. And of course, getting people to work together and try to bring some commonality, trying to bring people together and trying to get them to understand what it is that we are

here and to speak, and so that’s basically what I do. I speak and try to give a solid message to young people about the

up against. And it’s mobilizing and organizing people to get them to deal with some of the big-ticket items that are coming our way.

FTT: What effects will the Mackenzie Valley Gas Pipeline development have on the Dene and other indigenous people in the area?

HN: Well, the Mackenzie Gas is a big project. You know, it’s totally a colonial-style development. It’s something that other countries in the world, you know, when multinational corporations come in to their territory start talking development, the Mackenzie gas pipeline is no different. They are very brutal. They are ruthless, and they have no respect. So, when they talk about building a pipeline down the territory of the Dene, you have to be careful and you have to make sure that you understand what exactly it is they are saying, and the best way to deal with them is to stand up to them with your numbers, and make sure that our people are all united, and that you deal with them collectively. Otherwise, they will just use the old corporate tactic of divide and conquer to get their way. That worked in some cases, but people are just so frustrated that people come back together and say, “To hell with it, let’s deal with it once and for all!”

FTT: What do you think is the next step forward for Dene and other indigenous people in the area to fight for their rights against this project and for sovereignty over their land and resources?

Herb: Well, I think we should still continue to take the position that we don’t really support it. It’s not in the

best long-term interests of First Nations to actually cater to a multi-national corporation. There are more important things here that need to be dealt with. For instance, the first big issue for us is to make sure that good land and governance agreements are in place. Making sure that our people are able to stand on their two feet, being able to make some good decisions, and that they are able to prosper. Until then, you know, large multinational projects like the gas pipeline, all they do is create a problem. They create a diversion and its really hard to talk about government and how you want to structure it while in the meantime you’ve got bulldozers ready to go on the sidelines. It’s a terrible way to negotiate.

FTT: Being Grand Chief, you get to travel around a lot and hear perspectives from different communities. What is the overall perspective and overall position of the Dene people around here about this development and about what these multinational corporations are planning?

Herb: I think people are hesitant and a lot of them are uncertain about what this project is going to mean to them at the end. But, at the end, people are wanting to say “let’s stand together and act together” and that’s what this whole trip is about for me. To come here, to talk to our people about uniting, standing firm, and just dealing with these guys once and for all.

FTT: Ok, thank you very much.

Herb: Mahsi Cho (thank you).

Interview with AIYA activist Michael Francis

By Aaron Mercredi

Michael Francis was one of the young grassroots activists who attended the Arctic Indigenous Youth Alliance gathering from August 12th-15th. He is vocal in his community about the effects that the Mackenzie Gas Project will have.

Fire This Time: We can start with you telling me your name and where you’re from

Michael Francis: My name is Michael Francis and I’m from Fort McPherson in the Northwest Territories. I’m 19 years old, and I’m Gwichin.

FTT: So, what brings you to Fort Good Hope, to Radilih Ko?

MF: Well, I went to another conference with the Arctic Indigenous Youth Alliance (AIYA) in the middle of June and they told me about this summit. So, I thought I should come and represent the Gwichin people of Fort McPherson and really speak my mind on how serious this pipeline is for the youth of not only Fort McPherson, but throughout the Northwest Territories. It really goes to show how our people can come together and work as one and really have a strong voice and show that our people can also be up there with all of those political business people throughout the world, internationally, really. So, I want to come here and express my feelings on how I feel about the pipeline and how I’m personally scared to see this pipeline come through. Because behind this pipeline, there is going to be so much change that I don’t know how our elders and our young people are going to adapt to this change. Like, there’s going to be so much money, and so much everything that comes with the money. These social problems will really be a problem for our people. Like even now, there’s basically drinking problems and drug problems throughout the North. It’s something that is hard to speak about, hard for people to really take action on, but it is out there and our young people are starting to realize that drugs and

alcohol are starting to take over our young people, our future leaders. It’s a hard thing to talk about, but we’re really going to have to work on it and show that we do care and we want to make a difference in people’s lives throughout the Northwest Territories.

FTT: Why do you think it’s important for young indigenous people from around the Northwest Territories to come together here with all the elders of the area to discuss these new developments and ways of moving forward?

MF: Well, as the youth, we’re really still learning. We’re learning our traditions, the values of the people of the north and with these elders here to help us, they guide us and show us ways to work around working with all these developing people. Like imperial oil and all these gas companies that want to develop in our land. Our elders aren’t used to these companies coming on to our land, and just going in there for oil and gas and taking what we have from our land, and just up and leave once it is done. I think that with the elders here, with the youth, it really shows that elders are here to help. They want to help the youth and want to make a difference in the North. They are really 100 percent standing behind the youth that want to make a difference. This support really inspires more youth to really go further in life and help our people.

FTT: What do you see as the next step after this summit in the way of fighting for your rights, or reclaiming your rights, against these huge developments that are being planned? What do you see as the next step for indigenous people in the North?

MF: Well, I think first of all, we’d have to really go forth and educate these business people and show them that we own this land, and really show them what they’ll be doing to our land, to our culture, to our tradition, our lives of the Northwest Territories. Like, if this pipeline does go through, it is really going to change the land, the people. It’s not going to be the



same how some people live out on the land and how people go out on the land in the summertime and go fishing, or in the wintertime to go ice-fishing, or just for a weekend campout. It’s not going to be like that. There’s going to be too much change for our people and we’re not going to be able to adapt to this change so fast. Even with the diamond mines, you really see how much change comes out of it. You see how much drugs and alcohol are coming in to these tiny communities and it really saddens me that all these drugs and alcohol are coming in to our small communities, which is affecting our youth. And then from that, it really makes the youth think that drugs and alcohol are really for everyone in the NWT. But, there are youth out there that want to make a difference and are trying to help, and really show that there is a world out there to explore. There’s a world out there that can

be anybody’s. It can be yours, it can be mine. It can be anybody’s in the NWT, as long as they have their education and training to go far in life. But, it just depends on the person and the choices they make. Some people make the right choices and some people don’t. It takes longer for others to realize what they are doing. It goes to show that some people in the world really follow others, and for me it really saddens me to see that people are taking that route instead of learning their traditional lifestyle or trying to make a difference to really change and work together as one.

FTT: What specific problems, or challenges, face young people in your community?

Michael: Well, you can’t really focus it on one community because it is throughout the Northwest Territories. You go anywhere in the Northwest Territories, and you know who

these bootleggers are and who these drug dealers are. It’s something that can’t be kept a secret. A small town is a small town. Word gets around really fast anywhere you go in the Northwest Territories. You really can see that there are so many problems not only with drugs and alcohol, but also with other things such as suicide and dropout rates in school. I mean, so many kids drop out of school and they think that there’s nothing out there for them. But, there’s lots of other things. There are sports you can attend. Like, in McPherson really, hockey is a big thing, and every winter, everyone’s always in to hockey and you see that all over the north. Soccer, volleyball, basketball, anything it’s just really finding people that want to volunteer and really help and really get people involved. Get the community involved. Get the youth involved. I think once you get the youth involved, I think the adults really come and support our people in any way they possibly can. I think that’s a big thing that you see in the North, when people who really want to make a difference, its hard at first that some people don’t agree with it, or some people just think, “Oh, they’re just trying to make a name for themselves, or they’re just doing this because they want to make a name for themselves out there,” but really they want to help. They want to help their people. They want to help strengthen our communities. That really goes to show how strong our people are in the North. They really do all that they can and really go all out with themselves to help better their community. I heard a comment yesterday sitting around the fire, “It takes a whole community to raise a child.” That’s so true. Sure, your parents raise you, but also you really gain a lot of knowledge from elders and from other people in the community. I really believe in that.

FTT: Thanks Michael.

Michael: Thanks.



UN soldiers interrogate a man in Cite Soliel, Port-au-Prince, Haiti. September 9, 2005.

UN soldiers arrest residents of Cite Soliel. August 30, 2005.

HAITI RESTORING DEMOCRACY IMPERIALIST STYLE

From page 9

from the pre-occupation 2002 statistic that over two-thirds of the population was without formal jobs.

The reality in Haiti is that none of the problems the country has faced in the last two hundred years have been solved by foreign intervention. Despite the wild claims of the UN, the US, Canada, France and other occupying nations about bringing “peace”, “freedom” and “democracy” to Haiti, none of these advancements have materialized. The reaction of Haitian people, despite all the pressure and assault they face, has been a fierce determination in their fight to kick the occupiers out and determine their own fate.

The Next Maneuver to Gain Legitimacy: Elections in Haiti

“Democracy is a fundamental right and Canada is committed to promoting democratic values in Haiti,” [International Cooperation] Minister Carroll said. “The international committee will bring credibility to the democratic process during the upcoming elections in Haiti, which will be a turning point in the country’s history.”

– News Release June 16th 2005 from CIDA, announcing that Elections Canada will be leading the International Mission for Monitoring Haitian Elections.

Now we can come back to September 7th 2005. Remember that on September 7th, Denis Coderre stated Canada’s commitment to ensuring “fair and transparent” elections. After weighing the evidence, looking at the reality of Haiti today and the impact of Canada’s role, it is absurd that one could believe what Ministers Coderre and Carroll are claiming. But perhaps we put all evidence aside and give them the benefit of the doubt.

Now without questioning Canada’s intentions, let’s examine the troubles with the “elections” process thus far and see just how smoothly it is sailing along.

FIRST: On June 14th 2005, Canada’s Foreign Minister Pierre Pettigrew stated, *“...preparations for the elections are nearly two months behind schedule...”*

SECOND: In May 2005, only 14 registration offices were set up. By July the Provisional Electoral Council announced that 213 were set up and the goal of 424 would be reached soon. Admittedly bumpy, but it generally sounds good, right? Well, contrast that with the fact that in the 2000 elections there were upwards of 2,000 registration centers.

THIRD: According to a July 7th article on the coming elections in Black Commentator, *“Observing this logistical nightmare, the National Council of Electoral Observers expressed grave doubts about the feasibility of registering Haitian voters: “It would take 6 months to register 4 million voters in the 436 registration offices projected across the country – that is assuming that the offices were functional today, open 7 days a week, 10 hours a day and staffed by competent technicians.”*

FOURTH: There are no registration

centers in the poor neighborhoods, and no plans to open any.

FIFTH: There is no way to verify the stats being announced by the Provisional Electoral Council of the number of voters registered this far.

SIXTH: The party that was in power in Haiti prior to the coup, Fanmi Lavalas, has many members in exile – including President Aristide, Prime Minister Yvonne Neptune has been imprisoned for over a year without charges, and hundreds of members have been persecuted, jailed, or killed by the HNP and occupation forces.

So, with all of this, Canada is stating that things are running well - a veritable picture of democracy! On September 4th 2005, the Provisional Electoral Council announced that the first and second rounds of the legislative and presidential elections are now scheduled for November 20th 2005 and January 3rd 2006, while municipal elections in Haiti are scheduled for December 11th 2005.

But again, we can ignore these facts. We can ignore the completely inadequate registration process, the corruption and the failures, and with doing that, we can find a yet bigger hole in this entire election sham.

The most basic and fundamental problem with the Haitian elections is one simple, blatant and impossible to ignore thing: Occupation. The Haitian streets are lined with foreign troops, Haiti’s “transitional” government is run by foreign governments, the election process is controlled by foreign countries and the Haitian people have no say. Conclusion: these elections have no legitimacy.

Venezuela and Haiti: Comparing the Results of a Successful Coup vs. a Failed Coup

On April 12th 2002 Venezuela’s President, Hugo Chavez, was removed from office in a coup. Like in Haiti, it was announced that he had “resigned” and a new government was quickly

installed. The US immediately recognized the “new government” and the “new president”, businessman Pedro Carmona. It has also since been revealed that the US administration played an important role in assisting the coup-plotters in their detailed planning and in determining the probability of success. Unlike in Haiti however, after a combination of massive protest by the Venezuelan people and intervention by the Presidential Guard, within 48 hours the coup was overturned and Chavez was restored to presidency.

In Haiti we have seen the results of a successful imperialist backed coup: death, destruction, instability and chaos. In Venezuela we can see the results of a failed imperialist backed coup. Since April 2002, Venezuela has continued to fight against foreign intervention and has continued to make advancements in the favor of the poor majority in Venezuela. To name a few of these gains: universal health care, dropping infant mortality by 25% in four years, founding special pharmacies which sell drugs to the poor 30% to 50% cheaper than market price, creating hundreds of local clinics in poor and working class areas, 3,000 new schools with two million more children in the education system, free food in schools, creating more than 500,000 jobs, building more than 200,000 new units of social and public housing, a massive literacy campaign that reduced illiteracy substantially and still is continuing, forming and creating new mass organizations including unions such as the National Union of Workers (UNT), and setting up more than 130,000 grassroots-community groups called Bolivarian Circles to educate and politicize poor communities with the goal of raising

the level of consciousness of poor farmers and working people. More importantly President Chavez has turned Venezuela from a country of despotic dictators and coup-plotters to a country of masses in motion through education, organization and mobilization. Chavez successfully and skillfully has used the mass mobilization as a tool for social and political advancement, not by decree from above by an elite ‘progressive’ government but with the deep social change from the below using both mass education and mass mobilization.

While the world for Venezuelans was becoming brighter, a dark cloud, which had always been looming within sight, came to the center of the sky. In the midst of progress, the coup threatened to send Venezuela back to page one, however, it failed. It was because of the advancements that the coup against Venezuela failed. Venezuelan people were mobilized, activated and not willing to give up the path they were traveling on for final liberation and revolutionary social transformation.

The successful coup and occupation in Haiti has completely smashed the possibility of anything like the Venezuelan process from happening. The only light at the end of the tunnel for the Haitian people and the only possibility that progress could happen in Haiti, is the successful defeat of the occupation forces, who have only brought with them suppression. The Haitian people know this and have shown the world 19 months of fighting for freedom and fighting for the possibility to build a Haiti that works for Haitian people.

What is the Solution for Haiti? Occupiers Out Now!

This last 19 months of resistance is building on decades of resistance to colonialism in Haiti. The history of Haiti is a history of struggle between

the poor and oppressed majority against intervention and exploitation flooding in from across the globe. Through constant demonstrations, protest and action against the occupation, the people of Haiti have shown their resolve to achieve self-determination.

Days after the July 6th massacre in Cite Soleil 5,000 Haitian people took to the streets against the occupation.

“...they [the UN troops] were firing on Cite Boston...and they killed three children...we can’t find their names yet but we will. They also fired upon the church, Notre Dame Immacules, and the front door made of steel blew up. And certainly they attacked the people to intimidate them in order [to get them] not to participate in the demonstrations. But the people threw bottles and rocks at the MINUSTAH so they had to drive back and the people cut [off] the roads so the tanks could not enter Cite Soleil. Finally, the demonstration started around 10:30 A.M. and they were like five thousand strong and protesting against, asking for the illegal government to leave the country so that President Aristide could return and finish his mandate and organize free, fair and democratic elections.”

From a July 14th 2005 Berkeley California-based Flashpoints Radio interview with Haitian journalist Georges Honorat

This is not uncommon in Haiti. Further on in the interview Honorat is asked how the Haitian people manage to overcome the fear of repression and come to the streets to mobilize. He answers simply “...the people in Haiti finally see that they don’t have any choice but to fight.”

Self-determination is the beginning of Liberation

Haitian people are not alone in this fight. In occupied countries, sharing the same daily struggle against foreign troops, the Haitian fight is fought. Iraq, Afghanistan and Palestine are but a few of the oppressed countries that reflect the same battle which shakes the streets of Cite Soleil, Port Au Prince, Cap Haitian, Bel Air and every inch of the west side of Hispaniola.

The fate of the most powerful militaries that this world has ever seen, now rest in the united hands of each Haitian, Iraqi, Afghan and Palestinian. But it is not by accident that the giants will fall. It is with the resistance from across the globe which presses down, steadily and painfully on these imperialist aggressors and war mongers. Adding the weight of internal resistance and opening the anti-war movement as another front against imperialism is the foremost responsibility that we have as people living in Canada.

The cries in the streets of Haiti ring out with clarity: NO ELECTIONS UNDER OCCUPATION! UN OUT! OCCUPIERS OUT! LET ELECTED PRESIDENT ARISTIDE BACK TO HAITI! For dignity, for freedom, for justice, for a better world, we have no choice but to join them: SELF DETERMINATION FOR HAITI NOW!





UNITE AGAINST WAR & OCCUPATION

By Nicole Burton

“... The world’s imperialist forces, with the United States (US) government in the frontline, have undertaken an aggressive and despicable offensive, indiscriminately trying to remove all obstacles in their way to consolidate their global power. This Festival took place at a historical moment for mankind, ... reaffirming its firm position between the two main trends confronting each other: on the one side, imperialism with its interventionist and war policies and, on the other, the peoples who struggle for their inalienable rights.”

- Final Resolution from The 16th Annual World Festival of Youth and Students in Caracas Venezuela in August 2005

Outlined above is an identification of the two primary forces that are polarizing the world today. While these forces are coming to affect the daily lives of billions of people internationally, youth and students around the world have increasingly distinguished themselves as some of the first, not only to recognize the conflict, but to understand it and position themselves on the side of other oppressed people. Nearing the end of a week in discussion, debate, and massive mobilizations in the streets of Caracas, this final resolution was the voice of the 17,000 delegates from over 140 countries. This was their contribution to the World Festival of Youth and Students, and to the growing movement of students and youth globally for a strengthened movement against war.

The Festival in Caracas was itself only an indication of a larger and growing momentum of students and youth globally, positioning themselves in this battle between haves and have-nots. In very recent years, we have looked on from our homes and classrooms to see the bombings, invasions, and occupations of Afghanistan (2001 – present), Iraq (2003 – present), and Haiti (2004 – present). Some of us, like myself, saw it all within their four years of high school. The so-called “war on terrorism” is on every TV screen and newspaper. The US –and Canadian— recruitment officers call on poor and unemployed youth to join the occupation forces abroad in order to “finish the job”

for them, and to “find a job” for us. Soldiers ship off while body-bags return, just as the crosshairs re-adjust to include new horizons like Iran, Syria, even Cuba and Venezuela. Many young people are already very familiar with the era of war and occupation that we are growing up within, and the fact that these years are just the beginning.

The Rise of Student and Youth Activism

The rise in student activism in response to this is therefore no surprise. It has come directly in relation to the course of a world-scale drive for war and occupation, led by the United States after September 11, 2001, and followed by other powerful imperialist countries in a race for the land and resources of the world. By 2002, international resistance to this war drive was culminating around the impending US/UK invasion of Iraq. While community and regional networks were being forged, some of the strongest and most coordinated organizing was being done by students. The formation of campus groups working in coordination with national and international student networks became most visible in the emergency actions that took place on a daily basis in March of 2003. The city of Vancouver saw students come out by the thousands to lead a march



Student protest against the invasion of Iraq. Montreal, Canada. March 2003.

downtown that blocked the Burrard Street Bridge for hours.

As the invasion and war in Iraq led to occupation, the changing political situation brought many important political developments for the anti-war movement, also recognized by students and youth. In 2004, protest banners began to read not only “No

To War on Iraq!” or “US/UK Out of Iraq!”, but also “No to UN Occupation in Iraq!”, “Canada Out of Afghanistan!”, “Canada Out of Haiti!”, “Israel Out of Palestine!” and “Self-Determination for Indigenous Nations!” Within 3 years, the movement against the invasion of Iraq began a transition into a movement against all imperialist attack on oppressed nations – a movement for self-determination of all oppressed nations.

Occupation

As students living in the world’s most powerful countries like Canada and the United States, we must understand what students and youth are struggling against in occupied territories first in order to understand our own role within this struggle.

Within the first 2 months of the US/UK assault on Iraq in 2003, 84% of Iraq’s higher education system was destroyed beyond use. In 2005, there is still no dedicated budget for higher education in Iraq through either the US-backed Iraqi puppet government or any of the gilded “reconstruction” projects. Out of more than 27 million people, 40% of Iraqis are youth who would all logically be entering

one to go up, the other must come down.

Conditions for Students Within Imperialist Countries

Colleges and universities in BC are reporting a significant decrease in enrollment for the 2005-2006 school-year. Some post-secondary schools across the province are seeing drops up to nearly 10% of the student body. Accompanying these reports are statements on behalf of student unions citing the primary reason for this dropping-off (or complete dropping-out) of so many students is the staggering increase in tuition fees. In spite of record-sized youth populations maturing across the world, and beginning to enter into the public life of colleges, universities, the floodgates of the education system in Canada have ensured that students will be increasingly turning to part and full-time work while they study. Despite this, students continue to stagger out of the education system with some the highest rising debt among people in Canada.

When the Canadian national budget was released in June of 2005, some highlights included a doubling of the military budget over the next 5 years, which will include increasing the Canadian military by 5000 soldiers and 3000 reserves. Education as well as housing, healthcare, and other essential social services, were visibly missing. The Canadian Government was silent on the question of tuition fees, which have doubled since 2001. As a result, we have watched student debt triple in the same time, leaving millions of students sunken into irreversible debt. Money



Student protest against the Vietnam war. September, 1967.

The characteristics of student involvement in the transition open important questions about this historical development. Why have students been so active in this movement? Why are students on the frontlines of the anti-war movement, even if we’ve never done so before? How is our response to war and occupation related to our specific situation as students in society? Was

into schools and universities this fall or within the next few years, if those schools were there. With their education system remaining in rubble at a time of “youth explosion” in the population, millions of former, “should-have-been” students, in growing numbers, will be out of school and looking for work—a necessity for life that is also in short supply. As schools remain closed and the opportunities for jobs dwindle, the one remaining job left for every young person in Iraq is to fight the boulder between them and their futures – the US/UK occupation.

2005 is a year already highlighted by sparked student protest in occupied territories, particularly in Afghanistan during April and May when tens of thousands of university students led anti-occupation protests across 6 provinces for 2 weeks. For Afghanistan, where 4 years of US/Canadian/NATO occupation has degraded the country’s social development to the point of generating the worst education system in the world, Afghan students share their fate with Iraqi, Palestinian, and Haitian students and youth. Under the destruction of imperialism and colonialism, large portions –if not all – of a society’s infrastructure is destroyed. Civilization as a whole, including culture, is damaged, and social development is put to a halt. For young people, this means their future is literally blocked by occupation soldiers and tanks, until that occupation ends. Together with their nations on a scale, the opportunity to continue their education and social development rests on the opposing side of imperialist occupation. For

that could be filtered into bursaries, grants, and other funding able to alleviate the full-swing student crisis of mounting tuition, is instead furnishing the coffers of government plans for military and economic expansion. Not coincidentally, military recruitment is highest among this struggling section of the population. Recruitment officers in both the U.S. and Canada offer quick financial solutions to this struggle for students if they enlist: paid tuition, mortgages for homes, and job opportunities. Some campuses even have permanent military recruitment offices. While students’ educations are not valuable enough to be invested in, the Canadian government will nonetheless invest students in their future plans for war.

The fight for students to stay afloat financially is coupled with the struggles that they face overall as young people in society. Every student familiar with the hours of seemingly useless busy work in high school on through the drone of college and university lectures reciting pages from a textbook, understands the education system as

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Privatization of Higher Education in Canada:



Concordia Students protest cuts to education. March 12, 2005.

By Ian Beeching

As the iron boot of Canadian imperialism falls on the heads of Afghans, so too does the overbearing weight of oppression fall on the shoulders of those young people in Canada who are working and going to school, now faced with the reality of debt and increasingly degrading working conditions. Canadian students return to school as the government which administrates them sends 2,000 soldiers to “kill People” in Afghanistan. The government of Canada wages a ruthless war against working people, through attacks on CBC workers to the complicity in Telus’ battle to send jobs overseas where it can oppress working people, to levels not yet possible in Canada, for more profit. Education is being swept from the poor masses in Canada by becoming increasingly inaccessible in favour of an elite system for the sons and daughters of the ruling class and rich people.

War Drive vs. Education Drive

It is an outrage that tuition has more than doubled, at a rate four times faster than inflation, in less than five years. As the average student will now have a debt of \$25,000 after a four-year program (a 300% increase from 1990) the government of Canada doubles the military budget increasing it by \$12.8Billion. There has become only two options for students wishing to continue their schooling, debt or join the army. With the average student working low paying unskilled jobs without union protection, tuition consumes an unliveable proportion of their income. The average tuition for a full-time university student is above \$4,000 a year and when a person earning just above minimum wage couldn’t hope

to make more than \$15,000 a year if they were working full-time which full-time students cannot do, we begin to see their financial reality. The cost of education throws most students well below the poverty line making them some of the poorest people in Canada. The disparity of students opens the doors for the military, which promises to pay students’ tuition for their services. The military requires educated people to wage their high tech warfare capable of bringing death to third-world countries with just the pushing of buttons and thus turns to poor people who have a post-secondary education, students.

Students as the Underdog

With an economic crisis for the Canadian ruling class around the corner reflected in their imperialist expansion, the Canadian government needed to find more dramatic ways to convince working people that occupation is acceptable. Their solution is ignorance. The same ignorance that allows Canadians to forget that Canada is occupying the lands of the indigenous people. By striping the Canadian working class of the tools which education affords they effectively stunt criticism allowing only the ruling class into the intellectual debates. Not only on an economic level are students being attacked but also on an intellectual level. As an increasing stranglehold is being placed around academic freedom, graduate students who choose to research independently of corporate sponsors often find their work minimalized, under funded and shut out of the academic



Students march through downtown Vancouver protesting increasing tuition. February 4, 2003.

Poverty Among Students is a result of Neo-liberal Policies

community.

Freedom of speech is also under attack. On January 20th students protesting Bush’s inauguration were severely beaten by police while protesting at Vari Hall in York University, Toronto. These students were exercising their democratic right in the university’s main hall when they were met with violent repression. This incident is not an isolated to York, during the student strike in Quebec the police arrested students involved in actions against the governments that was trying to cut \$103Million dollars in bursaries. In Quebec workers and students stood united for their interests two are inseparable.

In BC, Gordon Campbell has eliminated 10,000 summer jobs for students through cutbacks, lowered the minimum wage to \$6 an hour, raised tuition and lowered labour standards. The attacks on working standards further separate working people from post-secondary education. When a student has to work while going to school their grades usually suffer for it, they are less likely to have access to expensive private tutors and often survive off of poverty level foods.

Public Education System Under Attack

At the same time as post-secondary education is under attack so is grade school. With increasing class sizes and less individual attention, young students are finding it harder and harder to succeed. Universities are raising standards to let only limited selections of students have access to education. With worse high school programs and higher enrolment standards as well as higher tuition many students are choosing not to go to university. Rich parents can also afford to send their children to expensive private schools increasing their children’s odds at success.

Cuba: A Positive Example

Attacks on students always coincide with attacks on workers. As tuition is raised the wages of hospital employees are slashed and as the voices of students are silenced so to are those of working people. We must demand an end to the elitist system of tuition and private schools. We must call for universal and free post-secondary education. Free universities and colleges can work in Canada and has worked in Cuba in decades.

In Cuba education is for everyone. Its purpose is truly to benefit society and not an elite few. Everyone in Cuba has access to education from small children

to seniors. Intellectual debates are encouraged amongst common people and in Cuba the people steer their own country. In Cuba there are special universities set up for seniors. Students get paid to study and every year 12,000 students from around the world study free of charge in the Latin American School of Medicine. The only condition for studying in Cuba is that you return to work in your home country.

If Cuba a third-world country under blockade for more than forty years by the world’s largest imperialist power can send its citizens to school for free as well as accepting foreign students for free then surely an industrialized wealthy country like Canada could do the same. If Canada spent the money it does on its military on education there would be no tuition fees. Canada is spending billions of dollars killing people in Afghanistan, in places we have no right to be, all so a few elites can get really rich all the while students are living below the poverty line. All working and oppressed people of this country and the world must stand and demand: Free Schooling for All! No to private schools! Abolish tuition fees in Canada!



Students demonstrate against the occupation of Iraq during the Republican National convention in New York. August 30, 2005.

From page 21

an environment that is disconnected from the reality of the outside world. While the subject has been the centre of countless teen movies and comic strips, their creators are only half-joking; according to a 12 year study concluded in 2003 in which 10,000 students were surveyed in over 100 colleges and universities in the United States, depression among post-secondary students has doubled since 1989. “Stress” and “financial difficulties” were listed as primary contributing factors.

Real and Unreal World

The intensity of this conditioning comes into sharp contrast with the exceptional position that young people are in as students. Despite obstacles, schools have become open doors for information unreachable to other sections of people in society, creating endless opportunities for students’ intellectual development by connecting to the world through education. This and the isolating environment of the educational institution eventually become juxtaposed, encouraging students to come to grips their isolation as a block in contradiction with their pursuit of knowledge.

Historically, this atmosphere becomes even more pronounced when social movements are in upheaval around the

world, and societies are in periods of radicalization. In the 1960s, the world political situation created by war and anti-colonial resistance in Asia, Africa and Latin America gave way for an unprecedented upsurge in student-run, student-led organizing on campuses and in streets across North America and Europe—taking after the example of young people in the Third World. At that time, the block of isolation for students was broken down, giving way for exponential social growth among people who have never held any meaningful control over their own lives. Suddenly, students’ confused interests in cars, clothes, and careers were readjusted--away from individual interests, and thrown into a global context. These movements were following the leadership of students and youth in oppressed nations—who despite all odds were leading movements for social justice in their countries. From South Africa to Vietnam to Cuba, students internationally began to understand that they shared common interests in the world.

Since the U.S. invasion of Afghanistan in 2001, this dynamic has been the basis for understanding why the majority of students and young people in the world have been against war and occupation – and are becoming increasingly active against it in the 21st Century. As both the energy and

determination of young people drives students into the anti-war movement, their political development in this struggle puts oppressed people as a whole in a better position to fight against the cause of war – from Washington D.C. to Ottawa.

The fight for self-determination led by Iraqis, Afghans, Palestinians, Haitians, and Indigenous people under colonial occupation becomes the example for students in the anti-war movement. Student participation in this movement is made against all of the offers young people are given to join in the rat race for individual success through school and on into society. Steeped in debt, devoid of social, political, and economic power, youth don’t risk losing any privileges in society by joining a movement that fights for social justice – because, in reality, we don’t have any privileges to lose.

Building the Student Movement Against War and Occupation

“The organization, awareness and mobilization of world youth and students have been on the rise. Wherever imperialism has intervened, encroaching on liberties and rights of the peoples, it has met with worthy resistance. ...Despite imperialism’s ideological offensive, progressive and peace-loving forces grow stronger and

emerge again with more determination. We, conscious young people and students of the world, are aware of the historical role we play... for the liberation of humanity from all types of oppression, discrimination and imperialistic domination, to have justice and freedom prevail for all peoples.”

- Final Resolution of the 16th Annual World Festival of Youth and Students, August 2005

Life in Canada is changing, and students are becoming some of the first to recognize it. But still, at a time when every post-secondary student in Canada could finish their education twice on the new \$26 Billion military budget, we don’t yet know our own stake in this imperialist war drive. From tuition fee hikes to the colonial foundations of the country in its occupation of Indigenous land, the Canadian government is not representing us through war and occupation. As students living in Canada, our task is to organize against war and occupation as the axis of struggle in the world today, while fighting for our own rights as students at the same time. In this, we can help to unite people in Canada with oppressed people internationally while sharpening the lines between oppressed and oppressor at home. Our specific role in Canada is to take on the government of Canada. They are

responsible for the bloody occupation of Afghanistan, assisting US-UK occupation of Iraq and are using billions in tax dollars to soak it up—without a word of public debate or discussion.

In an era now defined by the crisis of war and occupation, the future is determined by how this crisis unfolds. The international anti-war, anti-occupation movement is the largest mass movement ever seen in history. Student leadership in this movement – both in oppressed nations and imperialist countries-- is a sign of the tremendous potential students have in developing and advancing this struggle. But this is not enough. It is impossible to see this struggle on only one campus, but must be seen in the context of what is being built nationally and internationally. In the months and years to come – from “Student Weeks”, into the streets – we will see this engine turn and pick up the pace. It will lead in an example to set that we have nothing to lose, and everything to win in the fight against imperialist war and occupation, for self-determination of all oppressed nations.

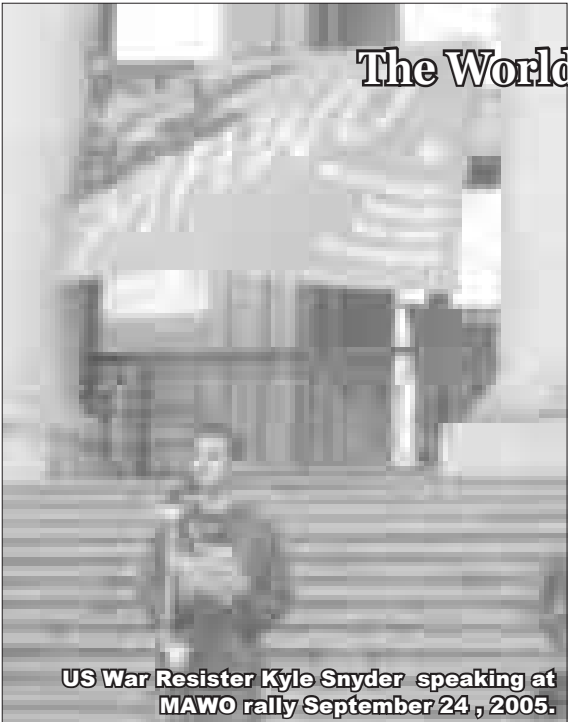
EDUCATE, ORGANIZE, MOBILIZE!

US / UK OUT OF IRAQ!

CANADA OUT OF AFGHANISTAN!

“New Great Depression in America”

The World from the Point of View of a Soldier of Humanity: A War Resister



US War Resister Kyle Snyder speaking at MAWO rally September 24 , 2005.

By Kyle Snyder

Kyle is a 21 year old veteran of the US occupation of Iraq. In the late spring of 2005he jumped ship from his station in Mosul, in Northern Iraq, and landed in Prince George, BC. He is now living in Vancouver and pursuing a refugee claim in order to avoid prosecution and up to five years jail time, or a penalty as high as execution for “desertion” in the US.

On Tuesday September 20th Kyle spoke at a forum in Capilano College organized by Mobilization Against War and Occupation (MAWO) and the Capilano Students Union as part of MAWO’s Student Week Against War and Occupation. The forum was titled, “Capilano Students Defend War Resisters” and was attended by more than a hundred students. His speech, which is printed here, received a standing ovation.

Fire This Time is proud to support Kyle in his refugee claim and in his struggle against the injustice of the occupation of Iraq. We encourage all our readers to get involved in the struggle in defense of war resisters, for the democratic rights of soldiers in the US army, against the generals and US government and against the occupation of Iraq. In the question period that followed this talk, Kyle responded to the question, “How many soldiers in Iraq feel the same way that you do?” by saying, “A hundred and fifty thousand of them.”

Fire This Time is proud to print here

Cindy Sheehan Boosts American Anti-war Movement

By Alison Bodine

“We all know by now that that’s not true, and I want to ask George Bush, ‘Why did my son die? What was the noble cause that he died for?’ I don’t want President Bush to use my son’s name or my family name to justify any more killing or to exploit my son’s name, my son’s sacrifice, or my son’s honour to justify more killing. As a mother, why would I want one more mother to go through what I’m going through, Iraqi or American? And I want to tell him that the only way to honour my son’s sacrifice is to bring the troops home now.”
- Cindy Sheehan

Casey Sheehan died April 2nd 2004 in Sadr City, one of the almost 1,900 soldiers killed in Iraq since the war began. On November 4th 2004 Cindy Sheehan, his mother, wrote a letter to US President George Bush, asking him why her son died. From this sprung protest and inquisition on the floor of the US Congress, a ‘Bring Them Home Now’ speaking tour and Camp Casey, a 24-hour vigil outside George Bush’s ranch in Crawford, Texas.

Grown out of a mother’s love, the cry of Cindy Sheehan has given the anti-war movement a boost. Under the clear demand “Bring Them Home” over 100,000 people have come to 1,600 vigils all over the US. On August 27th 2,500 people, celebrities and working families alike, joined Cindy on the Texas stage to speak out against the war.

Anti-war groups all over the United States have also responded to this, by becoming increasingly more active and uniting for stronger actions. Gold Star Families for Peace, Iraq Veterans Against War, Military Families Speak Out, International ANSWER and United For Peace and Justice, all visibly support Cindy and echo her demands.

the words and thoughts of the growing US soldiers’resistance to the occupation of Iraq.

De>pres>sion /di-‘pre-shen, de-/ n (14c) **1 a:** the angular distance of a celestial object below the horizon **b:** the size of an angle of depression **2** an act of depressing or a state of being depressed: as **a:** a pressing down: L O W E R I N G **b** (1): a state of feeling sad: DEJECTION (2): a psychoneurotic

or psychotic disorder marked esp. by sadness, inactivity, difficulty in thinking and concentration, a significant increase or decrease in appetite and time spent sleeping, feelings of dejection and hopelessness **c** (1) a reduction in activity, amount, quality, or force (2): a lowering of vitality or functional activity **3:** a depressed place or part: HOLLOW **4:** LOW **1b 5:** a period of low general economic activity marked esp. by rising levels of unemployment

To understand the state of Americas depression today in economy, in religion, in povertized areas, in suburbs just outside of these areas, and all over the United States. We need to first understand America and how it came to be this way, as nations have long before America, lands and countries have been in one state of depression or another, with the help of US forces since Vietnam, and decades before.

I am only twenty-one and directly out of a povertized area of America, recruited directly out of completing a government program called “Job Corps”. I do not know every single issue, as it was not taught to me properly in the United States, I always believed and grew up believing we were the good guys, we were the GI Joes of the world, we were the heroes who could bring light to a world that cannot see the way the world can be. I honestly believed that load of shit. Anyhow that is a completely different story.

I watched on September 11th, as two

commercial airlines crashed into two towers in New York and one at the Pentagon. Thousands of people would die that day, three thousand to be exact according to Fox News, the only news channel I received where I lived at the time. I looked over at my friend as it was being replayed, over, and over, for almost two months straight, and now advertised like a super-bowl on aired television.

Joining the US Army

When my friend told me he was planning on joining the military I looked at him and laughed. I wonder where he is now. Who knows maybe he got caught up in it just like me, only it took two years after the fact for a recruiter to come to where I had just received my high school diploma in Clearfield, UT. “Join the military son we have work for you in any field you’d like” and I can quote those words, only because I had went with the man to the malls where he recruited at in UT. SSG Williamson, Or I called him J.T.

His first name was Joel. It had to have been his favorite phrase. Sad thing is it worked, people bought into his charismatic approach and elegant military uniform. A true professional right? I mean c’mon look at him he’s in the military he has to be the best.

If I only would have known that no more than a year after meeting Joel Williamson, I would find myself in a desert doing the exact opposite of what I was told, with no one left in my life that I had cared for because I couldn’t even keep in contact with her. I did join the military for a better future for my fiancé and our unborn child, I did want a future with her and we were happy, she had loving parents and all, we had it. I wanted to prove to her and her parents I could provide for my child. So it was no question that the military was right for me.

However through basic training a 20 week course of studies in war, studies in field training, basic combat procedures, fitness training, bio hazard warfare training, rifle and small arms, well you get the point, once your in you are truly a machine, you have no control of your life, you are a government tool, statistic, Mr. 8009658A, please step into my office.

The Militarisation of My Life

No phone calls could be made except a 5-minute telephone conversation I received at 9:00 in the morning in Fort Leonardwood Missouri. And she was not home. Here I am in Missouri wearing a

camouflaged uniform thinking I am doing the right thing, yelling and singing about killing the Nazi troops in Germany, and the gooks in Vietnam, but I can’t even check on my pregnant fiancé? This cant be right, I mean I am willing to die for this country right? Why can’t I get a phone call, why can’t I buy a beer at the bar? What is this about oil for the war? And why am I being trained with C4 now? This wasn’t in the job description of Engineer...

I left Iraq on April 15th 2005, I knew when I got on the airplane that I would not be coming back to those who I fought with and cared for, would have given my life for. But how do you tell someone that you are not coming back to him or her? How do you tell someone that you are frightened with what the world is becoming, not indirectly changing but rather in front of your eyes. Like a child, who has just discovered the difference between a bouncing ball, and a flat excerpt of the same ball. How do you bring up normal conversation opening up with “I was 21 when I first went through Israel”?

I left Mosul with very mixed feelings and a constant question in myself if what I was doing in Iraq was right. I could no longer stay knowing that in my heart this was genocide. Knowing that children were dying and being put into statistics formed by the US government to later control what they call “prioritized casualties”, just outside of where I rested my head.

I left with no idea how I was going to live if I stayed in British Columbia, all I knew was I wasn’t going back, no matter the consequence. I met a woman over the Internet while stationed in Vilseck, Germany. I told her how I felt about the deployment orders to Iraq, more so as a release of feelings than anything at the time. She wrote to me handwritten letters while I was in Iraq, and I kept in contact with her via e-mail when I had access to Internet (about once to twice a week). The e-mails turned into something I poured my heart into, after all when you are in war and someone acts like they care you want to care as well. Sometimes all we have are the handwritten letters we keep in our helmets, or pictures of loved ones, children, family members, brothers, sisters, whomever or whatever gives you comfort for five minutes of the day. Her letters and pictures kept me moving forward.

I now face a government that views my actions as cowardly and denies me of the fact that I was even over in a combat zone, “Red Zone”. Denies me the simple ability

of human rights. Denies me the ability to become something more, and sits back in a comfortable lambskin sofa in a business suit laughing as the world moves slowly into chaos. They deny me now of simple human freedoms and condemn my actions and my feelings about the occupation of Iraq. (I will forever call it an occupation mind you.) I now find myself in a foreign country, not being shot at by bullets, but by regulations of the Republican Government in my birth country. I cannot help that I was born on American soil, and grown into a statistic for the US military programs.

I call this “Products of Environment”

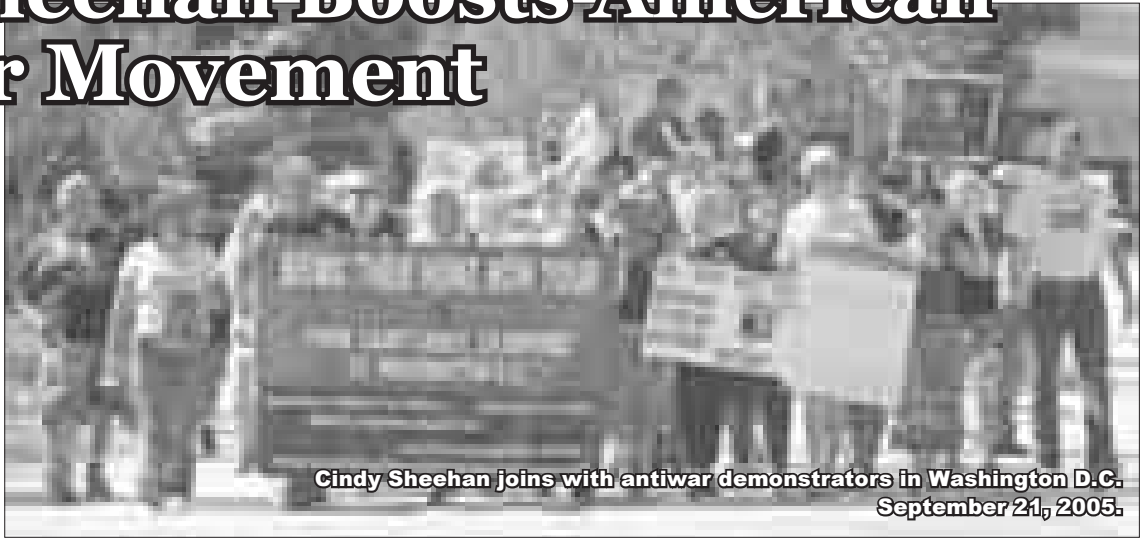
Stationed in one of many hostile areas in Iraq (correct numbers in January 2005 would be 1 of 15) camp Merez, whose breach was slipped through in December 2004 killing 15 soldiers and destroying food supply to the supposed coalition, in a suicide bombing at the chow hall, whether direct or indirect, attached to a unit doing the killing in the city, or being the unit doing the killing in the city. I often felt ambushed by the everyday thought that my government isn’t at all what I had grown up to believe it was. I saw the aftereffects and stress that the bombing had on the soldiers who had been there for almost a year already, and here I was coming fresh into the war. The random men in uniform, no older than I, sharing similar stories of question after a mission, but the question almost guaranteed to come forth in conversation in Iraq from a soldier was, “Why are we here?” “What has our President done?” not “We really made those children smile today building a school for them Huh?” or “My unit really went all out today fixing that road huh?”

As a supposed engineer, in the beginning of my active duty time, I was told I was going to help create a world, of hope and dignity, not destroy and raid, and kill, injure, all the things that walk, run, swim, crawl and fly. Corrupt civilizations that have grown since before Christ, with thoughts and influence of a westernized civilization founded in the 1700’s.

Give Peace a Chance

I believe they are asking me to forget that the world’s societies have a past, and I took it as a direct threat to my intelligence, and a direct threat, mocking America’s intelligence and dignity of the world today. Americans first need to open their hearts and minds to the fact that there is a world outside of America.

The Poets of the world who reach others through spoken word, the Musicians who speak as a bard would in the Middle East, The Writers who touch our hearts, The Actors whom make us smile, and The thinkers of the world who care to look deeper. I am truly grateful for all of you who are here today to hear my story. You are all truly free, and I envy you.



Cindy Sheehan joins with antiwar demonstrators in Washington D.C. September 21, 2005.

Although Cindy herself is just one person, her story is repeated everyday in military families throughout the US, and beyond this Cindy’s questions and demands are reflections of the entire US population. According to recent statistics by most US media not only do the people of the United States overwhelmingly support the right of people to protest, but recent polls show that when asked about the war in Iraq a majority of the population want the US to leave Iraq in one year at most. Also the majority of the population no longer feels that the war on Iraq was any bit justified.

Cindy Sheehan, the Voice of Conscience

So the question now is why. Why has the plight of one woman been able to boosted the National anti-war movement now? The answer is no further than Iraq itself. The Iraqi resistance has been waging a fight for self-determination, a fight to reclaim the dignity that they lost when the US invaded over 2 years ago. With the handover of power June 30th 2004, the election in January and now the bait of a constitution

created under gunpoint, the US government has been attempting to make the American people bite into the idea of a justified war and occupation. With such phony excuses as bringing “democracy” and “liberation” to Iraq, the US government has had to constantly battle for international support and to stabilize public opinion. However, it isn’t working anymore. It is incredibly apparent as everyday more voices add to the argument that the US is losing in Iraq.

Anti-war Sentiment is Growing

This specific boost in the anti-war movement is much like the boosts seen during the movement against the Vietnam War. When the bodies of American soldiers come home in large numbers, the movement grows. When people in the United States can no longer ignore the reality that their sons and daughters are dying in Iraq for lies, the movement grows. When the military increases the aggressiveness of its recruitment tactics, especially in the poorest high schools, mothers all over the country cannot afford to stay silent.

There is also increasing anti-war sentiment within the ranks of the US military. Soldiers are refusing to fight, and some US soldier’s are coming to Canada to demand refugee status. Soldiers are laying down their guns and refusing to fight, facing military courts and going to jail. A report released by the US military in July 2005 showed how psychological stress is weighing heavy in Iraq and how morale levels are extremely low. This reaction from the troops, most of them who joined as the only way to pay for an education and viable future, is also the product of the Iraqi resistance.

As a direct reaction to the growing quagmire in Iraq and the recent boost to the anti-war movement, the rifts in strategy of the US government are constantly growing larger. The ruling class is divided over how best to control a radicalizing population. As President Bush responds to Cindy and the movement behind her with his speeches declaring that there is no way the US can leave Iraq, Congresswoman Barbara Lee proposes a resolution to congress that will

release the documents exposing the lead-up to the war. There is debate about a timeline and exit strategy for Iraq within the US ruling class. What does this prove to anti-war activists? An increasing crisis in Iraq and the strengthening of the anti-war movement at home.

Supporting Cindy Sheehan is Building the Anti-war Movement

Cindy Sheehan stands as the face of an increasing anti-war movement in the US. She has so eloquently expressed her demands and been given a platform to do so. Still more and more American people are joining in. On September 24 there is an international day of action demanding “Stop the War on Iraq!”

International ANSWER and United for Peace and Justice, two American anti-war coalitions have united for this action. Mobilization Against War and Occupation (MAWO) in Vancouver together with hundreds of antiwar coalitions around the world is also in preparation for this major march and rally in Vancouver.

In the US there will be thousands and thousands of people of all backgrounds gathered at the White House demanding an end to the War on Iraq. Whether or not the US government is united on a clear strategy on how to deal with it, Cindy Sheehan and the US population behind her are responding to the crisis in Iraq in a way that is stronger, bigger and more threatening to the ground the US government stands on.

US-UK OUT OF IRAQ!

IRAQ FOR IRAQIS!

Student Week Against War & Occupation 2005 - SWAWO:



Students & Youth in Vancouver Stand in Solidarity with Students & Youth Internationally

By Kira Koshelanyk

“It is the teenagers abroad, all over the world, who are actually involving themselves in the struggle to eliminate oppression and exploitation. (...) In these countries, the young people are the ones who most quickly identify with the struggle and the necessity to eliminate the evil conditions that exist.”

- Malcolm X, January 1965

From the struggle in the flaming jungles of Vietnam, to the defence of the shores of Cuba, to the streets of South Korea teeming with students during the days of the Kwangju uprising, struggles against foreign intervention and in defence of the self-determination of sovereign nations have historically been led by young people, either working class or students.

In this era, increasingly characterized by imperialist war and occupation, the need for an effective movement in defence of the sovereignty of oppressed nations is evermore pressing. Youth and students need to take the reigns of this movement. Particularly, in order to do so they must realize their connection to, and affinity with, students, youth and all people under attack by imperialism across the world.

Between September 12th and 23rd 2005, Mobilization Against War & Occupation (MAWO) sought to follow in the proud tradition of developing effective youth-led movements for social justice. MAWO aimed to mount an effective opposition to war and occupation with the organizing

of the Student Week Against War & Occupation (SWAWO) 2005 in the Lower Mainland. The third annual SWAWO is two weeks jam-packed with events coordinated among campuses across the Lower Mainland involving thousands of students in antiwar actions. The goal of SWAWO is educating, organizing and mobilizing more youth and students to get involved in antiwar organizing. As an expansion of the SWAWO 2004, this year has taken on twice as many events on twice as many campuses, many outside of the Lower Mainland and some outside of BC, extending SWAWO 2005 across Canada. Target campuses include the University of British Columbia, Simon Fraser University, Capilano College, Langara College, Douglas College, Vancouver Community College, Kwantlen College, the University of Victoria and more.

30 Events, 20 Campuses, 10 days

Events on campuses this year focused on the main demands of the antiwar movement in Canada. Firstly comes the demand for “US/UK Out of Iraq!” as Iraq remains the axis of imperialist aggression in the world and the central point of further polarization between poor and oppressed people in struggle against imperialism. In response to the imperialist war drive of the “Canadian” type, students and youth have been organizing against the government of Canada’s increased troop deployment to Afghanistan and very escalated role in the occupation of Afghanistan announced in July of this year. Confronting the Canadian war drive is necessary for emphasizing the role of the government and military of Canada as an aggressor, a destroyer,

and an imperialist counter-posed to the decades of old lie of Canada as a “peacekeeper”. Alongside the demand for Self-Determination for Haiti, Palestine, Iran, Syria, Indigenous Nations in Canada and all oppressed nations, comes the demand for “Recruiters Off Our Campuses!” – a direct student response to the recent 5000-troop strong increase in the Canadian military’s ranks.

Building an Effective Movement Against War and Occupation

In order to build an effective movement, starting now when we are only really seeing the beginnings

of this era marked by imperialist expansion of war and occupation, we must appeal to and activate every young person. If we learn correctly from history, even recent history, and the massive student action taken during the antiwar movement in 2003, many of these elements are found among the students and youth who politicize and radicalize quickly. The perspective and vision of youth and students is still unfazed and energetic. We must seek them out, educate and mobilize together in order to build a long-term movement for the self-determination of oppressed nations and to end this era of imperialist accelerated criminality against humanity.

STUDENTS, YOUTH: MOBILIZE AGAINST WAR & OCCUPATION! US/UK OUT OF IRAQ! CANADA OUT OF AFGHANISTAN! RECRUITERS OFF OUR CAMPUSES!

Get involved in the SWAWO 2006! Get more info and contact us at: www.mawovancouver.org, info@mawovancouver.org or 604.322.1764.

MAWO Mobilizes in Vancouver Against Canadian Occupation of Afghanistan and War & Occupation in Iraq!

By Kira Koshelanyk

In the midst of the mercury rising in the Canadian war drive and the remaining high heat of the summer in Vancouver, on Saturday August 27, over 250 people rallied in downtown Vancouver at the Art Gallery to protest the Canadian military’s involvement in the occupation of Afghanistan and the continued US/UK occupation of Iraq. This rally followed three consecutive pickets in previous weeks at the Canadian Armed Forces recruitment center, targeting the increased Canadian troop deployment to Afghanistan.

Speakers at the rally addressed the crowd in a show of the wide variety of grassroots community support for an

Schools not for War, OCCUPATION NO MORE!”

The rally honored the struggles of Indigenous people in Canada for a second time and was reminded again of the never-ending attacks by the colonial government of Canada on Indigenous Nations when Coast Salish elder Kelly White took the stage. Kelly’s words enveloped the crowd and emphasized the connection between all human beings in the fight for self-determination and justice and an end to war and occupation.

The final speaker before the resolution was Nicole Burton, Coordinator of MAWO’s “Operation: Canada Out!” Campaign and a student at Douglas College. Nicole gave a powerful speech condemning the government



end to the occupations of Afghanistan and Iraq and for self-determination for Haiti, Palestine, Iran, Syria and Indigenous Nations in Canada. The speakers represented youth, students, immigrants, refugees, people of color and organizers within the Indigenous community.

The program opened with a welcome and a moving speech by Cease Wyss of the Squamish Nation. Cease welcomed the rally’s participants to the occupied territory they were standing on and spoke of her experience growing up under colonial rule and attacks on Indigenous people by the colonial government of Canada.

Bringing the perspective of a student organizer was Ben West, Chairperson of the Capilano Student’s Union. Ben spoke about the lies used by the US administration to justify the invasion of Iraq. He made the connection to the lies and manipulation of the BC Liberal government toward students in their attacks on students and cutbacks to funding for education in the past 4 years. Ben’s contribution ended with the crowd chanting “Money for

of Canada’s racist and murderous war drive and calling for an independent public inquiry into their participation in the occupation of Afghanistan, which came without any consultation or approval from people in Canada in how their resources are spent.

The rally closed with MAWO organizer Shakeel reading the resolution that was passed by cheers of the crowd. Through this all of the participants resolved to continue mobilizing and organizing for an end to the occupations of Iraq and Afghanistan and for full and unconditional self-determination for all oppressed nations!

The August 27 rally was an important step for the antiwar movement in mobilizing with a focus on war and occupation by the Canadian military. To build an effective and genuine antiwar movement in Canada, alongside the rest of the world, it is necessary to target the Canadian war drive by demanding “Call for an Independent Public Inquiry!” “Canada Out of Afghanistan Now!” “Canada Out of Haiti Now!” “Self-determination for Indigenous Nations!”

MAWO Protest: 3rd Picket Against the War Drive at Canadian Forces Recruitment Center

By Kira Koshelanyk

On Thursday August 11 Mobilization Against War & Occupation (MAWO) and more than 30 supporters came out to the Canadian Armed Forces Recruitment Center for the 3rd time in 1 month to protest the occupation of Afghanistan by the Canadian military.

The series of pickets are a

Canadian troops for the occupation of Afghanistan.

On August 11, the picketers assembled outside the recruitment center, chanted, carried signs and banners and distributed informational newsletters on the Canadian occupation of Afghanistan and their expanding plans for Canada’s “role on the world stage”.

The picket was successful on the

struggling Afghan people. Nicole Burton, Coordinator of MAWO’s “Operation: Canada Out!” campaign and student at Douglas College, read out statements on the deteriorating living conditions for people in Afghanistan since the 2001 invasion by US and UK and then NATO and Canada. In response to the fact that the life expectancy has dropped 4.5 years since the occupation started, that Women’s conditions have worsened and that so-called liberation and democracy haven’t been realized for even one minute, the protesters shouted in one strong voice “Canada Out of Afghanistan!”

The picket action brought out high school students from all over greater Vancouver. University and College students came from across the Lower Mainland to join with youth, working people and immigrants and refugees from different communities and ethnic backgrounds to call for “Canada Out of Afghanistan! Bring the Troops Home Now!”

CANADA OUT OF AFGHANISTAN! CANADA OUT OF HAITI! NO TO HILLIER’S RACIST WAR MONGERING! STOP THE WAR DRIVE BY THE GOVERNMENT OF CANADA!

streets and created a strong spirit of solidarity as protesters chanted “Canada Out!” – the words resonating through the streets of downtown and the solidarity felt around the world with the



grassroots response, organized by MAWO, to the increased Canadian war drive. Canadian Chief of Defense Staff General Rick Hillier announced this increase on July 14, with the deployment of 2000 more

Ecuador's Continuing Strikes and Protests: A Sign of Growing Confidence for Change

By Tamara Hansen

AWAKEN

By: Antenor Peralta (Andean poet)
Translated by: Ada Gibbons

*Wake up! Children of the Incas, Shout!
Turn your eyes this way with your head held high;
so we can be heard around the world.*

*The new day is beginning, The sun greets you, as a father looking upon his children gathered below him.
His sparkling light shines upon you as it had in the good times of our glorious Kingdom of Tawantinsuyu.*

*Upon you workers who have suffered too long!
Here it is! Our victorious day has arrived.
Obtained by the blood of our brave fighters,
who sacrificed their lives and were hung by their necks,
because they fought their exploiters in the past.*

*Around the world millions of oppressed workers will remember this happy day;
It is necessary to bring back the consciousness of our ancestors,
Wakeup from our nightmare of shame.*

WAKE UP HARD WORKING MAN! BREAK THE CHAINS OF OPPRESSION!

On April 18th 2005, amid social unrest and demands for his resignation, Ecuadorian president Lucio Gutierrez said, “I was elected with 59 percent of the vote, three million votes, not by the 3,000 or 5,000 who shout: ‘Out with Lucio’.”

Through their popular protests, Ecuador’s workers and farmers were ready to respond to Gutierrez’ over-confident statement. Only two days later, on April 20th 2005, their protests led to Ecuador’s military removing their support for Gutierrez and Ecuador’s congress voted to fire him from office. Basically, due to mass pressure from poor and working people in Ecuador, Gutierrez was forced out of his post as president and later to flee the country. Gutierrez was the third president to be toppled by popular protests in Ecuador in the last 8 years.

The overthrow of Gutierrez was a major victory for poor and working people in Ecuador against the government, which since coming to power in 2002 has been expanding US military presence in Ecuador, opening a deeper relationship with the IMF (International Monetary Fund) and Washington, as well as refusing to increase social spending. Gutierrez was also involved in opening Ecuador for further oil exploitation despite protests by different indigenous communities. His administration also led attacks on the media, and forced several media outlets that were critical of his administration to shut down.

Vice President Alfredo Palacio, who had become ‘increasingly critical’ of Gutierrez, was sworn in as the new president on April 20th 2005. Since coming to power Palacio has been tip-toeing a thin line between pleasing the United States, the Organization of American States (OAS) and oil investors in Ecuador while trying to quell ongoing protests by granting certain concessions to poor and working people in Ecuador.

Can Palacio bring stability for corporations and the ruling class?

“A terrible social discontent has exploded, which is difficult to manage. So now there would have to be a dictator to hold power securely in this environment.” – Magdalena Barreiro, Ecuador’s new Minister of Economy, September 9th 2005.

Since coming to power in April

2005, Palacio has opened up workers pensions to be spent before retirement; he has settled new wages for doctors; he supported the Brazil and Venezuela backed candidate for secretary-general of the OAS over the US and Mexico backed candidate; and he did not sign the

around fighting for the interests of poor and underemployed people in the two oil-rich provinces. According to Prensa Latina, a Latin American news agency, “Residents of the Sucumbios and Orellana provinces took over two airports on Sunday and on Monday started blocking roads, overrunning oil camps and sabotaging oil facilities. Backed by regional officials, the demonstrators are demanding, among other things, that oil companies hire more local workers, provide greater investment in roads and public works in the zone and make income tax and royalty payments directly into local government coffers.

The strike crippled the petroleum industry in Ecuador and brought exports from the national oil corporation Petroecuador down from 201,000 barrels a day to only 33,167 barrels a day

World Court treaty that would have granted immunity to US military and civilian officials working in Ecuador who commit crimes against humanity. Overall these moves have been viewed by many as a show of independence from imperialists by Palacio in an effort to win the confidence of oppressed people in Ecuador.

However, despite all of his ‘progressive’ moves Palacio has not proved to be a popular president to the dynamic poor and working masses in Ecuador. In the six months since coming to power his approval ratings have fallen drastically from 78% approval in April 2005 to 38% at the beginning of August. This simmering discontent was ignited on August 15th 2005 when workers and indigenous peasants in the provinces of Orellana and Sucumbios led an 11-day-long strike against the government and international oil corporations in Ecuador.

The Oil Strike: A sign of discontent and willingness to continue struggle

On August 14th and 15th protests and then a strike began. The demands of the strikers were vast, but all focused

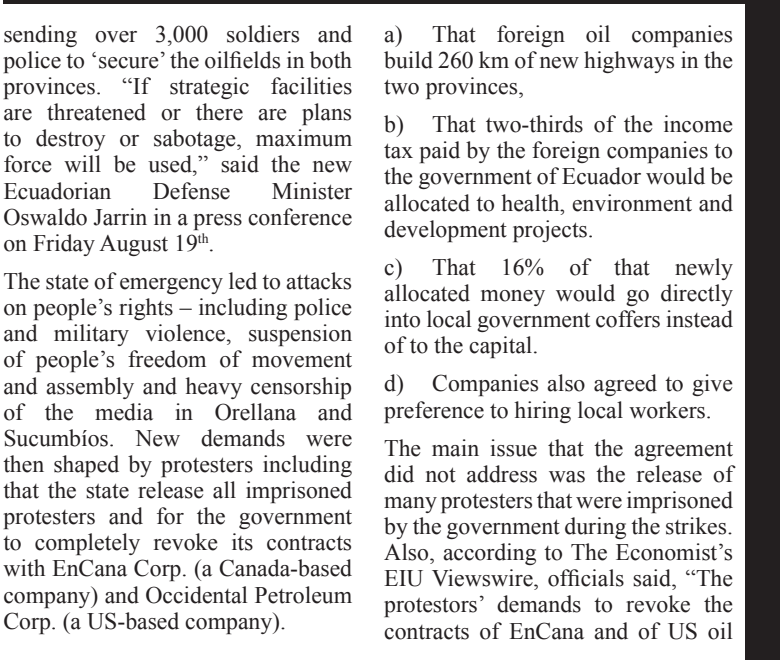
by Saturday August 20th. Because of this immense drop the company was forced to halt its exports half way through the week on Thursday.

The Oil Strike: The government responds

On August 17th the government responded to the strikers by declaring a state of emergency and



A Ecuadorean military officer patrols an oil refinery in Nueva Loja.



Protesters block roads against military.

sending over 3,000 soldiers and police to ‘secure’ the oilfields in both provinces. “If strategic facilities are threatened or there are plans to destroy or sabotage, maximum force will be used,” said the new Ecuadorian Defense Minister Oswaldo Jarrin in a press conference on Friday August 19th.

The state of emergency led to attacks on people’s rights – including police and military violence, suspension of people’s freedom of movement and assembly and heavy censorship of the media in Orellana and Sucumbios. New demands were then shaped by protesters including that the state release all imprisoned protesters and for the government to completely revoke its contracts with EnCana Corp. (a Canada-based company) and Occidental Petroleum Corp. (a US-based company).

a) That foreign oil companies build 260 km of new highways in the two provinces,

b) That two-thirds of the income tax paid by the foreign companies to the government of Ecuador would be allocated to health, environment and development projects.

c) That 16% of that newly allocated money would go directly into local government coffers instead of to the capital.

d) Companies also agreed to give preference to hiring local workers.

The main issue that the agreement did not address was the release of many protesters that were imprisoned by the government during the strikes. Also, according to The Economist’s EIU Viewswire, officials said, “The protestors’ demands to revoke the contracts of EnCana and of US oil



Ecuadoran high school students demonstrate in the streets of Quito. April 20, 2005.

On Sunday August 21st some of the protest leaders who had been arrested were freed from prison after agreeing to negotiate with the government. After days of discussion and ongoing strikes the protest leaders and government reached an agreement on August 25th.

The agreement included:

company Occidental Petroleum are not ...on the negotiating table.”

The Roots of Struggle: Poverty and imperialist exploitation

Ecuador is the United States’ second largest oil supplier in Latin America. Today Venezuela, which is the US’

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A Sign of Growing Confidence for Change



Ecuadoran high school students demonstrate in the streets of Quito. April 20, 2005.

or that tries to maintain power by granting small concessions to them.

Throughout the oil strike in August and since the strikes ended there has been a lot of government shuffling. Ministers and officials have been resigning under pressure from Palacio who is again trying to maintain a balance between Washington, his administration and poor and oppressed people in Ecuador. The country continues to be unstable and protestors vowed to continue strike action if these agreements are not quickly implemented.

What is the context of this struggle? The example Cuba & Venezuela for Latin America

Growing resistance and pressure by the working class on the ruling class in Latin America is forcing the ruling class and imperialists to abandon the use of dictators and move instead to granting concessions, like so-called ‘democracies’, to oppressed people in Latin America. These concessions have worked to calm resistance in some Latin American countries however it seems that working and poor people in Ecuador have not been fooled by the concessions of Palacio and Ecuador’s ruling class.

From page 26

number one oil supplier in Latin America, is consistently threatening to cut off or reduce US oil supply should the US continue its interference in that country. Washington cannot afford to lose Ecuador, so it is using Palacio to do the job of stabilizing and negotiating between its imperialist interests and poor and working people in Ecuador.

As mentioned above, Palacio has done some small maneuvers to combat the idea that he may be a lackey of US imperialism, but overall his administration has only given working and poor people in Ecuador the concessions it has been forced to give in order to maintain power.

To better understand this recent history in Ecuador we must not only look at the latest news but also into the daily conditions of people living there. Today there are more than a million Ecuadorians leaving on a dollar a day, which means that over 1 in 14 people in Ecuador live on a dollar a day. Even according to the CIA world handbook only 11.1% of the population is unemployed, while 45% of the population lives below the poverty line.

According to UNICEF statistics averaged between 1992 and 2004, the government of Ecuador spends 11% of its yearly expenditures on health, 18% on education and 13% on defence. These numbers must be compared with those of Cuba, which has been spending 23% of its yearly expenditures on health, or Venezuela, which has been spending 21% of its yearly allocation of funds on education and only 6% on defence.

It is important to remember as well when reading these statistics that there is a large difference between urbanized areas and rural areas in Ecuador. Many statistics on health, poverty, etc. are an average for the whole country and do not show the true story behind what is happening in poorer provinces like Orellana and Sucumbíos. Guadalupe Llori a governor in Orellana commented on rural poverty and the lack of resources in rural communities. “Ecuador’s crude oil, which is mainly pumped in the Amazon, has brought the country \$60 billion over the past 35 years. But between 1993 and 2005, local governments in the Amazon jungle region received \$569 million - a tiny amount compared to \$60 billion.”

The Struggle continues

After the agreement with protestors was reached on August 25th the people’s discontent and dissatisfaction with the government. On August 28th protestors threatened to resume strikes should the government and corporations not quickly begin to implement their agreement

and increase local investment.

On Sept 7th Palacio and Ecuador’s ruling class responded to this threat and announced further concessions to the protestors with promises to end the 80% profit sharing with corporations while Ecuador is receiving only 20% profit. Palacio said, “We have set ideas that at least are 50-50 percent.” This change would almost double the government of Ecuador’s oil revenue, which is very significant considering



Ecuadoran high school students demonstrate in the streets of Quito. April 20, 2005.

that today oil revenue already accounts for between 40-50% of Ecuador’s national budget. With his new announcement Palacio made a bold move in order to maintain ruling class stability in Ecuador, however, it is still unclear how or when these measures will be implemented and how or when the United States will respond.

Despite the goals of Palacio’s concessions, on Sept 14th there was a 48-hour work stoppage in emergency wards in hospitals across Ecuador. Over 14 thousand people walked off the job in protest and to warn the government that it must keep its promises to the public health sector. This protest was the fifth public health sector strike this year.

This is another sign that the concessions put forward by Palacio to calm the masses are not working. Working and oppressed people in Ecuador are poised to struggle until they see a leadership that truly represents them, not one that will send in 3000 troops to repress them

Poor and working people in Ecuador are showing in their struggle that they will not accept corporate or government led exploitation of their lands or labour power. It has been reported that many Bolivarian Circles have formed in Ecuador and that Ecuador is looking for change similar to that in Venezuela. With 3 presidents having been rejected by oppressed people in Ecuador and run out of office in the last 8 years, the people are showing their willingness to fight for real change. Cuba and Venezuela are continuing to set a positive and revolutionary example for oppressed people in Latin America and unstable countries, like Ecuador, are beginning to see new hopes and alternatives in finding their own revolutionary working class leadership.

Until Victory, Always!
Hasta la Victoria Siempre!
US Hands Off Ecuador!

US HANDS OFF ECUADOR!

LITTLE BLOCKADE! ABAJO EL BLOQUEO!

Goods for Cuba Protest at the US Border at the Peace Arch!

By Alison Bodine

Activists from both sides of the Canada/US border gathered at Peace Arch border crossing on Aug 20th to demand the release of computers destined for Cuba held at the US border in Hidalgo, Texas. Members from Vancouver Communities in Solidarity With Cuba (VCSC) joined with Goods for Cuba Victoria and Pastors for Peace, holding signs and chanting “Cuba Si!, Bloqueo No!,” “What do we want? Free the computers!,” People acted on the idea that it is important not only for Americans, but for Canadians to support Cuba and demand an end to the blockade. As the cars in the line up to enter the US waited to go through the border check, Cuba solidarity activists gathered outside of the main office behind Randy Caravaggio, from Goods for Cuba Victoria, who handed a letter to a border patrol official. This letter was signed by numerous pro-Cuba organizations questioning the hypocrisy of letting computers, knowingly destined for Cuba, into the US and not out of it and demanding their release. This action was a very loud and visible display of international support for Cuba. As put by Patty Moss, the Vancouver Organizer for the Pastors for Peace and a member of various Cuba solidarity organizations:

“This year, when the Commerce Department would not let the computers that the Caravan collected on its way through Canada and the United States over the Mexican border, the blockade became a local issue. It was British Columbians who had donated those computers. On July 3, we were told in the US Customs Office at the Peace Arch Border Crossing that they were allowing them into the US to pass through on their way to Cuba. Obviously, the assumption was that they would then be leaving the US and go on to Cuba. That they were not allowed to become an issue of importance to us here in BC - Vancouver and Victoria. That is why on August 20, it was so important to return to the border to ask why our computers had not been allowed exit from the US, and to formally demand that they now be allowed to continue on to Cuba.”

Every year Pastors for Peace sends caravans of people and goods to Cuba from Canada and the US without the appropriate licenses, in direct defiance of the US blockade. For the past 13 years Victoria Goods for Cuba has sent humanitarian aid as part of the Caravan, and every year with a large procession at the Peace Arch border crossing. Continuing actions like these, international protests demanding an immediate end to the blockade, are an important part of Cuba solidarity, of the fight to end the immoral and devastating blockade on Cuba.

Cuba Si! Bloqueo No!

By Tamara Hansen

On May 14th Vancouver Communities in Solidarity with Cuba (VCSC) launched their petition campaign demanding: ‘No Asylum for Anti-Cuban Terrorist Luis Posada Carriles in the United States! Extradite Posada to Venezuela!’ This campaign began in the United States in May 2005 in response to Posada requesting asylum from his terrorist activities and crimes against the people of Cuba.

Posada, a former CIA agent, is a self-admitted terrorist with a long history of attacks on the people of Latin America, especially Cuba. His terrorist resumé includes: assassination attempts on Cuban president Fidel Castro, involvement in a string of bombings at tourist locations throughout Cuba in 1997, and the 1976 bombing of a Cubana airliner flight which killed 73 people.

Posada’s request for asylum in the United States was immediately opposed by Venezuela and Cuba. Through protests and demonstrations in both countries as well as campaigns building up around the world against Posada pressure was mounted demanding the US government to take action against the self-admitted terrorist.



On May 17th Posada was arrested. The reason for his arrest? Having entered the US illegally. Since his arrest the US administration has attempted to completely ignore the fact that he is a known and proud terrorist with a history of working with the CIA. However with pressure from the international community: From Venezuela, to Cuba, to the Organization of American States, to the Canadian Labour Congress, to grassroots social justice and Cuba solidarity groups- the media and US administration haven’t been able to sweep this case under the rug.

From May through the summer the case against Posada has been built up internationally. On both of Posada’s court dates, June 13th and August 29th, international days of action were called. VCSC endorsed both of these calls and organized mobilizations in Vancouver.

On August 27th in building up for the second international day of action against Posada, Vancouver Communities in Solidarity with Cuba sent over 1,000 signatures to George Bush demanding Posada’s immediate extradition to Venezuela.

August 29th, the Second International Day of Action against Posada

On August 29th, with Cuban flags flying high at the Vancouver Art Gallery in Downtown Vancouver, chants of “Extradite Posada NOW!” rung out

Building a Campaign Against Anti-Cuban Terrorist Luis Posada Carriles

loud and clear, for the international day of action against Posada.

Vancouver’s demonstration opened with Vancouver City Councilor Tim Louis, who was followed by Marysol Torres of Vancouver’s Internationalist Bolivarian Circles. Laura Albert of the Capilano Students’ Union Social Justice Committee then spoke. Noah Fine, an organizer with the Free the Cuban Five Committee - Vancouver, followed Laura, with a poem by Antonio Guerrero one of the five anti-terrorist Cubans currently being held in

other families.”

Since August 29th people around the world fighting in solidarity with Cuba have continued to education and organize around the case of Posada asking: *How can the United States be leading a supposed “war AGAINST terrorism”, while protecting a well-known terrorist from facing his crimes?*

US double standard on ‘Terrorism’

“We have a solemn obligation to stop terrorism at its early stages. We must do all we can to disrupt each stage of planning and support of terrorist acts.” - US President George Bush at the UN Security Council session, September 14th 2005

“Those who threaten the whole world in the name of a hypocritical campaign against terrorism, have been protecting convicted, confessed terrorist Luis Posada Carriles in their own territory for six months.” - Speech by President of the National Assembly of the People’s Power of Cuba, Richardo Alarcon, delivered September 9th 2005, by Cuba’s ambassador to the UN Orlando Requeijo

Cases that can be used to expose the United States’ phony “War on Terror” are abundant, so abundant in fact that we could fill hundreds of pages with incidences and events outlining the violent and hypocritical policies of the US administration over many years. Do you remember the ‘weapons of mass destruction’ the US used in



to be seen publicly with such a well-known terrorist. They want to help Posada, because he helped them so many times, but they cannot afford to have Cuba, Venezuela and social justice organizers around the world breathing down their necks and using this case to further expose their false ‘war against terrorism’.

We Must Continue the Campaign Against Posada!

On August 31, Posada withdrew his request for asylum in the United States. Posada’s lawyers claimed Posada dropped the request because he feared if he was asked certain questions on the stand during his trial he might expose some confidential US or CIA secrets. His lawyers also said that if Posada faced the order of extradition to Venezuela, they would fight to have the extradition deferred to another country. Posada will also be applying for citizenship in the United States and using his time in the US army as credentials to bolster his application.

Posada’s next court date is on the 26 of September. Through buying time with different maneuvers the US government will most likely try to find a legal way to delay a potential extradition order for years to come. This, they hope, will effectively wipe the case of Posada out from the public’s memory. In the mean time they will

try both legal and illegal avenues to get Posada’s citizenship papers processed with positive results. These possibilities might comfort Posada for now, but whatever they do it does not change the fact that even if Posada is successful at getting citizenship in the US, he is still an international terrorist and is subject to extradition to Venezuela. What is clear is that the US and Posada are trying to strike a deal that will work for both groups, and a deal that will not be a victory for Cuba or Venezuela. Until there are further developments, and whether he is granted citizenship in the United States or not, Vancouver Communities in Solidarity with Cuba will continue its campaign against Posada with the demand, “Extradite Anti-Cuban Terrorist Luis Posada Carriles to Venezuela NOW!”



US jails. Noah was followed by Tamara Hansen, coordinator of Vancouver Communities in Solidarity with Cuba (VCSC), who recently arrived back from traveling in Cuba. She talked about the importance of the fight of the Cuban people for dignity and justice. The climax of the demonstration came with messages from Gloria La Riva of the National Committee to Free the Cuban Five, and Rosa, a woman whose brother was killed in Posada’s 1976 airliner bombing. Both women were in El Paso Texas for Posada’s trial that morning, and brought two important messages of solidarity on this international day of action. “Thank-you,” said Rosa, “it is very important to me to know that there are people around the world who are against Posada and are demanding justice for my brother and so many

Vietnam? Or the atomic bombs they dropped on Japan? Or the torture they are using right now in Abu Gharib prison in Iraq or Guantanamo in Cuba? We must expose the United States support for terrorism – which is when terrorism is helping them win wars.

Luis Posada Carriles served in the US military, was a CIA operative, and helped anti-Cuba terrorist groups in the United States carry out terrorist attacks against Cuba. Posada and the United States are on the same side; they are both promoters and defenders of US imperialism. But right now Posada is being held in a US prison while they negotiate with him how to solve their problem.

What is their problem? Their problem is that the United States cannot afford

The Fight for the 5 Cuban Heroes in US Jails Continues...



Put On the Pressure for the Final Victory!

By Noah Fine

On August 16th, 2005 the Free the Cuban 5 Committee Vancouver (FCSC-Van) and Vancouver Communities in Solidarity with Cuba (VCSC) organized an event at El Cocal restaurant on Vancouver's Commercial Drive to celebrate a victory for the case of the 5 Cuban heroes held in US prisons. Speakers at the event included Sophie Ziner coordinator of the Free The Cuban 5 Committee-Vancouver who had just returned from a trip to Cuba with Pastors for Peace, Claudio Ekdahl of La Surda Latin American Collective, Pat Moss from the Canadian-Cuban Friendship Association, and Tamara Hansen coordinator of Vancouver Communities in Solidarity with Cuba, speaking via telephone from her trip with a work brigade in Cuba. The night reflected a true feeling of celebration with the exciting news of victory for the 5 Cuban heroes, for Cuba, and for Cuba solidarity fighters around the world.

On September 12th 1998, after collecting facts and information pin pointing specific organizations and individuals that have committed and planned many terrorist attacks against the people of Cuba and after presenting this evidence to the FBI, these 5 anti-terrorist ambassadors to the US were jailed. Among the information they collected was proof against Orlando Bosch and Luis Posada Carriles, who the US is trying desperately to protect, in planning the bombing of the Air Cubana tourist flight in 1976 that killed 73 people. The Cuban 5 had an important task in Miami, unarmed and unprotected to end these half-century-old attacks on Cuba. What were they met with for their honest and heroic efforts? More attacks and more terrorism from the US government and their anti-Cuba terrorist gangs which they created and have trained since the Cuban

revolution in 1959.

“Now they are five kidnap victims of an administration that rides roughshod over the law everywhere. Not just in Abu Grahیب and Guantánamo. Within US territory as well.”

- Ricardo Alarcon, President of the Cuban National Assembly

While CIA trained and funded terrorist, Luis Posada Carriles lives with Martha Stewart style treatment in jail, receiving his own private cell, and unlimited access to the phone, the Cuban 5 have faced 17 months in solitary confinement, and remain in cells that allow one to make only 3 paces from wall to wall. The 5 were immediately spread across all corners of the United States to divide them and their attorneys solely by distance, to make contact between the 5 and their representation almost impossible. The families of the Cuban 5 are not able to see their brothers, fathers, and sons. The US still denies visas to Olga Salaneuva and Adriana Perez, the wives of Rene Gonzalez and Gerardo Hernandez. All evidence allegedly collected by the prosecution has been classified as confidential, to the 5, to their attorneys, and to the people of the world. What is so secretive about evidence condemning these men? The Cuban 5, Gerardo Hernandez, Ramon Labanino, Antonio Guerrero, Fernando Gonzalez, and Rene Gonzalez have been living for seven years in some of the worst conditions the US has imposed against human rights this side of Iraq. This has all been done without evidence, only the fact that the US ruling class's interests were at stake in the hands of these men.

“United States of America (plaintiff-Appellee), versus Gerardo Hernandez, Luis Medina, Rene Gonzalez, Antonio Guerrero, Ruben Campa (Defendants-Appellants)”

-Appeals from the United States District Court for the Southern District of Florida

“They appeal their convictions, sentences, and the denial of their motion for a new trial arguing, inter alia, that the pervasive community prejudice against Fidel Castro and the Cuban government and its agents and the publicity surrounding the trial and other community events combined to create a situation where they were unable to obtain a fair trial. We agree, and REVERSE their convictions and REMAND for a retrial.”

-Taken from the 93 page document by the 11th Circuit Court of Appeals in the United States

On August 9th, 2005 after over five motions made by the defense to move the location of the trial to a neutral city, the 11th Circuit Court of Appeals released their decision to re-locate the trial of the Cuban 5. The decision taken is to relocate to a venue free of the severely anti-Cuba sentiment that shadows over Miami. This sentiment has plagued the trial since the beginning and ensures that no trial being conducted in Miami having anything to do with Cuba would be unbiased. “The possibility of selecting twelve citizens of Miami-Dade County who can be impartial in a case involving acknowledged agents of the Cuban government is virtually zero,” wrote Dr. Lisandro Perez on the exile of Cubans that followed US backed dictator of Cuba Fulgencio Batista after he and US intervention were overthrown by the Cuban revolution in 1959. Miami remains the environment most hostile to Cuba in the world and this question was raised and admitted throughout the case by the defendants and the plaintiff.

A Huge Step Forward for the 5 Cuban Heroes

This victory within the long and ongoing battle for justice by the Cuban 5 is one we must celebrate, but also one we must take seriously. Although the specific basis for the

Cuban 5 to be sent to Miami was to put an end to terrorist attacks on Cuba and this was denied by the US administration, an even larger goal has been shown with this fight. The case of the Cuban 5 has served to further expose the illegitimacy and hypocrisy of the US, in a time where they are struggling to hold on to and strangle any bit of legitimacy they can get. The US has had to concede to the demands of the Cuban 5 because they are legitimate and follow basic human rights principals that Cuba and its people hold. The interests of the Cuban people are the same as that of the Cuban 5, they are the same interests that oppressed people echo all over Latin America and the world. They want an end to terrorist attacks and criminal blockade on them by the US government.

Join the Fight to Free the 5 Cuban Heroes

“The battle for the Five has not reached its end; it is just that a new chapter is beginning and we have to keep up the fight in every way we can.”

-Ricardo Alarcon in Caracas August 10th

The US government is now further exposed with the new process of the case of the 5 Cuban heroes. We must unite to demand their immediate release. With well over 200 Free the Cuban 5 committees working world wide, the rising pressure of this fight is being injected straight into the veins of the US administration.

With this great achievement won, we must continue the battle to its end.

Free the Cuban 5 Heroes Held in US jails!

Join the Free the Cuban 5 Committee Vancouver

Phone: 778-836-7090

E-Mail: cuban5_van@yahoo.com or visit www.vancubasolidarity.com

Mail: P.O. Box 21607 Vancouver, B.C. V5L 5G3

REVOLUTIONARY POETRY

Cuando visite Trinidad Cuba en fechas recientes, como voluntario de una Brigada de Trabajo, conocí a Adrián Dopico Ascencio. Caminar por las calles de Trinidad con Adrián fue un gran honor para mí. Se veía que cada vez que dabamos la vuelta en una esquina alguien diría, “Dopico!” y Adrián saludaría a ella amablemente con un beso en la mejilla y continuaríamos caminando juntos.

Dopico es un veterano del Ejército Revolucionario Cubano que peleó en Angola y contra los E.U. —que apoyaron a los contrarevolucionarios en Cuba. Hoy es el Coordinador General del Instituto Cubano de Amistad entre los Pueblos (ICAP) en Trinidad. Es padre de dos hijas y a mí me adoptó como su hija durante mi estancia en Trinidad.

Dopico escribió este poema para el 13o. Aniversario de la Brigada de Trabajo Voluntario Che Guevara y lo leyó para nosotros la noche antes de nuestra salida de Trinidad. Es un hermoso mensaje de solidaridad y fortaleza que guardo muy cerca de mi corazón y lo traje de regreso inspirando memorias de Cuba y del Pueblo Cubano.

Tamara Hansen

Traducción por: Carlos Lopez

HASTA LA VICTORIA SIEMPRE
ADRIÁN DOPICO ASENSIO

No voy a decir adiós,
Porque en las tejas de una escuela se levanta el presente.
No voy a decir adiós,
Porque las paredes de las aulas tomaron el color del internacionalismo;
Porque el sudor se multiplicó en fraternidad,
y el amor y la amistad fructificaron en los cayos de las manos;
Porque el trébol creció iluminado por la estrella solitaria
y se fundieron nuestras banderas en un arcoiris de esperanzas.
No voy a decir adiós,
Porque a un huracán de viento y agua
sucedió otro huracán de voluntad y creación;
Porque Che Guevara nos mira desde su altura,
enardecido porque se sabe futuro.
Por eso, por tantas razones que conducen a la única razón de sabernos humanos,
No voy a decir adiós;
Pero sí voy a gritar:
¡HASTA LA VICTORIA SIEMPRE!



Adrian Dopico Asencio

UNTIL VICTORY ALWAYS!
ADRIAN DOPICO ASENSIO

I will not say goodbye,
For in the tiles of a school the present is built up.
I will not say goodbye,
For the walls of classrooms took the colour of internationalism;
For sweat multiplied in fraternity,
and love and friendship flourished in hands calluses;
For the maple leaf magnified through the light of the lonely star,
and two flags melted into one rainbow of hopes.
I will not say goodbye,
For a hurricane of wind and water
became another hurricane of will and creation;
Because Che Guevara looks at us from his altitude,
Energized by knowing himself in this, his future.
Therefore, for these many reasons we are led to the unique reason
that we are human beings,
I will not say goodbye;
But I shall shout:
UNTIL VICTORY ALWAYS!

The Telus Battle Against Union Communication and Freedom of Speech

An Interview with Dave DiMaria

By Ivan Drury

In any strike or lockout, and especially in a lockout that is taking place all across Canada, communication between union members is key to keeping the unity and morale of the union members up against the attacks of the company and management.

The Voices For Change website (www.voices-for-change.com) was started by members of the Telecommunication Workers Union (TWU) as a means of discussion about union matters between members of the TWU. When the Telus lockout started in full, the website came to be focused on communicating and organizing against the lockout, and it is then that it came under the fire of Telus.

With the beginning of the full lockout in the middle of July, citing “security” issues stemming from the pictures that had been posted on the site by TWU picketers, Telus blocked access to the website from their internet servers. On July 28, with their case coming up before Supreme Court, Telus and Voices for Change net-minder Dave DiMaria

reached a settlement to the effect that Telus would lift the block against the Voices for Change website if Dave would guarantee that no pictures of or “threats” against “replacement workers” would appear on the site.

The attack on the Voices for Change website is an attack on the communication lines between workers by Telus. Fifty years ago, striking workers had to fight to publish strike newspapers or bulletins while the bosses would block their access to printing presses. Today, Telus has translated this to blocking pro-union web pages. On Tuesday August 30th Fire This Time sat down with Dave DiMaria to talk about the Telus attacks on his website and the importance of supporting the TWU struggle for job protection and dignity.

FTT: Can you explain what the status of your website is now?

Dave DiMaria: Right now the thirty days is up, where Telus is supposed to be monitoring the site, though I don’t believe that they’ll stop, they did it before and I assume that they’ll continue to contact me if they see things on there that they don’t like.

We’ve made it clear that we’re not going to take off anything that they don’t like, because we have the site in order to support the union. They don’t like that.

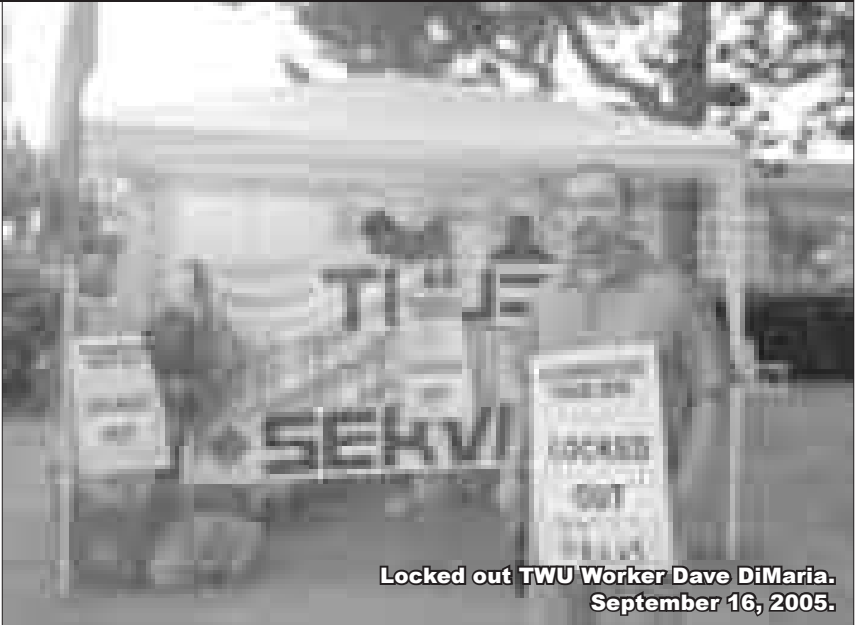
I think they just want to keep control of the dispute, keep it in their hands. There’s so many injunctions, I’ve never seen so many injunctions. They just want to keep control of the dispute. Other sites seem to have been blocked. And people still complain to me that they can’t get to my site through dial-up and they complain that they send emails to me at my webmaster address and they get bounced back by Telus.

FTT: How is the Voices for Change website supporting the TWU?

Dave DiMaria: Definitely we’re supporting the strike. We don’t let people go on the message boards and attack the union, even though I get accused of censorship. People say, “Telus is censoring and you’re doing the same thing.”

People get on there, make remarks, about how great it is that they’re making all this money while “you guys are out on the lines.” Always remarks like that. The spirit of the struggle can get lost.

It’s a pro-union site and it always has been. It’s a hub of communication.



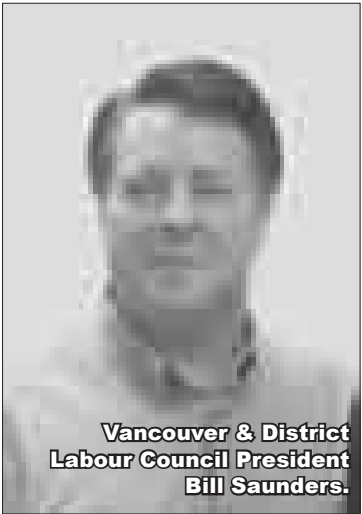
Locked out TWU Worker Dave DiMaria. September 16, 2005.



Locked out TWU workers on the picket line. September 16, 2005.

By Brennan Luchsinger

On August 25th 2005 the Vancouver and District Labour Council (VDLC) called a joint picket in support of the locked-out Telus Workers and striking Canadian Media Guild (CMG) workers. The rally saw large support from many labour unions, and community groups, showing that the public is behind these workers and their struggle against the anti-working class measures being forced onto



Vancouver & District Labour Council President Bill Saunders.

people in BC by employers, and the BC Liberal government.

Fire This Time was in the crowd in support of striking workers on August 25th, and would like to print these two speeches to support the important struggles of the TWU, and CMG. VDLC president Bill Saunders delivered the first speech and the second speech is by Telecommunication Workers’ Union president Bruce Bell.

Bill Saunders

President of the Vancouver and District Labour Council (VDLC)

This is a very difficult dispute with a very intransigent employer. Now they think they have the top hand here, and they think that they can drag these employees down. We’re here to say that that’s not going to happen! We all know that the benefits of a company don’t go to the management, OK, the workers are entitled to a fair and equal portion of the benefits. This company

Labour Unions United Against the Corporations Offensive

is after these workers’ contracts, contracts that they’ve struggled for for many years, and we need to support them now because this is a difficult dispute that they’re in and it looks like it’s going to be a long one.

So there’s a few things that you can do to help these people. Number one, if you’ve got those kinds of services that are optional on your telephone, you should be getting rid of them. They’re the kind of services that make a lot of money for these kinds of guys, and actually you don’t really need them. So get rid of those extras, that’s call answering, call forwarding, all that kind of stuff. And if this disputes going to go on for a little bit longer, then we may be looking at doing other things and you should prepare for those kinds of things. If you’re getting your internet service from Telus you may think about a time that’ll come that you may be asked to change that provider.

We’ve got our supporters in other unions, but the most important thing you can do is show public support. It’s very easy to get demoralized on

a picket line that goes on day in and day out. That’s why we’re here today, and we ask you that you would show up on the picket line from time to time, to express solidarity with these workers. To adopt resolutions in your locals that support these workers, and write to the CRTC, write to the Telus management, and express your opinion about what you think of their lack of service, at the same time that they’re collecting your fees. So these are the kind of things that we can concretely do to help, and we ought to do that. Now before we move on, this is just a support picket, it’s not a rally. The big rally is on Labour Day Monday, it’s up at the boot at Swanguard stadium, and we really hope that you come out for that. It’s very very important that this year on Labour Day that we not have a quiet labour day.

Now let’s see if we can show the kind of iron clad solidarity that’s going to win these disputes. That means coming out to this rally on Monday. And now

to tell us a bit more about what the TWU needs and wants, is the TWU president Bruce Bell.

Bruce Bell
Telecommunications Workers’ Union President

I’d like to thank everyone here, and as Bill [Saunders] has said, this is a solidarity picket line, because that’s what we need, we need the solidarity. What’s going on in Canada here, starting here on the west Coast is shameful! Shame on them! That’s easy to see, and that’s easy to say. Shame on this company for what they are doing. They’re trying to break this union, and break the labour movement, but we won’t let them do that will we! No we won’t! So just look at Telus’ actions after 4 and a half years they never wanted to bargain a collective agreement. They rejected it! But we’re close to getting back to the table, and getting back to the table they will be doing. We want to go there with a

special mediator, because there’s no bargaining with this company unless we have one. We plan to do that, and that should be in probably early to mid-September. That’ll be the plan, get back to the table, and get the best agreement that we can and bring it out to the membership most of you folks, for a vote. So we need your solidarity, we need your ongoing solidarity, because that’s what wins the day.

Now Bill has talked about the rally, we need lots of people to come out. It’ll be right in front of the boot, 12 o’clock September the 5th, be there for CBC workers, be there for those workers, be there for the Telus workers. We’ll all be there together. So let’s have a good rally, it’ll be about an hour. There’ll be a few speakers, about five or six, there’ll be some music, and then we’ll go off to the Labour Day picnic at 1:30. So we’ll see you all there, and I think we’re going to be headed down to the CBC picket now.

Support Locked Out Telus Workers



Telecommunications Workers Union President Bruce Bell speaking at a TWU rally in Calgary. September 2005.

VANCOUVER **VANCOUVER ISLAND**

VANCOUVER

Public Meeting & Film Screening "Haiti: The Untold Story"

7:30 PM Friday, October 21
King Edward Campus, Vancouver Community
College, 1155 E. Broadway Ave

Haiti Solidarity BC is sponsoring a public meeting and film screening with journalist/film producer Kevin Pina. Pina will premiere his new documentary, "Haiti: The Untold Story", and give an eyewitness presentation of recent events. Journalist Anthony Fenton will also present eyewitness news of recent events.
Info: 778-858-5179 or haitisolidaritybc@yahoo.ca

VANCOUVER ISLAND

**Support our troops and the people of
Iraq and Afghanistan by
bringing them home!**

12 Noon, September 24th
17th St Bridge, Courtenay, BC

On Saturday, September 24 the Comox Valley peace group is organizing a rally in support of global action against the war and occupation in Iraq and Afghanistan. Canadian troops are now involved in both countries.

For more information or to contact the Comox Valley peace group at 897-3916.

TORONTO

Troops Out of Iraq!

1pm Sept 24th
US Consulate, 360 University Ave.

On Saturday, September 24, thousands of people will rally in front of the US Consulate and march through downtown Toronto to demand: Troops Out of Iraq, Let the War Resisters Stay. Join us at 25 Cecil Street* at 11:00 for a free breakfast courtesy of the Steelworkers, and march with us to the rally. Or join us at the rally at 1:00. *One block South of College Street, between Spadina Ave. and Beverley St.
Organized by Toronto Coalition to Stop the War
For further information call 416 598 1222 or email resisters@sympatico.ca

SEATTLE

Antiwar Protest & March

12 Noon Saturday September 24th
Westlake Park, 4th Ave @ Pine St
Downtown Seattle

Help Youth Against war and Racism pass out leaflets, stickers, and educational newsletters about the nationwide and Seattle student walkout against the war on November 2nd, Bush's "reelection" anniversary.
Contact Ramy Khalil - 206-293-8389



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**STUDENT
WEEK
AGAINST
WAR &
OCCUPATION**

*Cultural Night,
Wrap-Up Party,
& Fundraiser*

*Mawik
Tapwater
Leela Gilday
Obsidian
Influents*

*Saturday
October 1st
El Cocal
restaurant
(1037 Commercial dr)
Doors @ 7:00
Show @ 8:00
Tickets at the door,
by donation see
mawovancouver.org
for updates*

Mobilization Against War & Occupation

www.mawovancouver.org - info@mawovancouver.org - 604.522.1764

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& Howe St.)



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Bud Osborne (Poet and Activist)
Tim Louis (Vancouver City Council)
...and representatives from the BC Labour and Student movements,
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Rally & March

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