**TRANSIT STRIKE?**
Labor vs. Taylor law  

**PAIN AND RAGE**
Cops kill another Baltimore youth  

**TOGETHER AGAIN**
Exxon-Mobil merger  

---

**CUBAN LAW**
How workers deal with crime  

**VIEQUES SHOWDOWN**
Navy bomb threats  

---

**SUBSCRIBE TO WORKERS WORLD**
$2 for eight weeks (new subscription)  
$25 for one year

---

**Battle of Seattle**
*WTO protests target U.S. monopolies*

By Key Martin  
Seattle

Police marched through downtown Seattle the night of Nov. 30 firing teargas, rubber and plastic bullets, and "flash and bang" concussion grenades to clear thousands of youth from the streets, after protesters closed down a World Trade Organization meeting with peaceful protests.

President Bill Clinton was expected to arrive shortly after midnight to address the WTO the next day.

A dusk-to-dawn curfew in downtown was invoked as Seattle Mayor Paul Schell declared a "state of emergency" and Washington Gov. Gary Locke called out the National Guard. Helicopters with searchlights and cameras circled as police continued to fire teargas up into the residential Capitol Hill area. Overlooking downtown, this district was supposed to be outside the curfew.

Cops began arresting people as residents from the Capitol Hill community—angered over the tear gassing of their neighborhood—joined the protests.

Beginning early in the day, thousands of youths had linked arms just outside the police perimeter around the WTO meeting at the Seattle convention center. They blocked every street, alley and doorway, preventing delegates from entering the area. Police attempts to dislodge them with pepper gas failed as they stood their ground.


Many youths had come prepared with gas masks or bottles of water and bandanas. Some were part of Direct Action Network. They were joined by feeder marches from the University of Washington. The Peoples Assembly, with a large participation from the Filipino, Korean and other Asian communities, joined later. It ended its march by singing the International in three languages.

---

**40,000 march for labor**
A few hours later a labor contingent that included John Sweeney, Linda Chavez-Thompson and other leaders of the AFL-CIO marched with what organizers said was 30,000 to 50,000 union members and youths from Memorial Stadium to the Convention Center area, stretching as far as the eye could see.

The march included large delegations from the Steelworkers, Machinists, Service Employees and AFSCME. In addition to raising labor issues, many signs read "Free Mumia Abu-Jamal." Organizers found a widespread awareness of Mumia’s case among the rank-and-file unionists.

Taxi drivers struck for the day over the city's tightening of restrictions.

**Longshore workers shut down docks**
The most militant labor contingents were from the International Longshore and Warehouse Union, which shut down the docks in Seattle and elsewhere on the West Coast.

Continued on page 6
Mayor launches attack on homeless

By Imani Henry

New York

As of Nov. 19, if you were homeless and forced to sleep on the streets of this city but refused to go to one of the city's overcrowded shelters, you could be arrested.

Mayor Rudolph Giuliani used a tragic incident to announce this harsh measure, which probably was on the drawing board all along. He unleashed the cops to sweep homeless people off the streets after a Nov. 16 attack on Nicole Barrett, a white office worker who allegedly was attacked by a homeless African American man.

So people who go to shelters in an attempt to keep their families together while waiting for their names to come up on housing lists, or when they’re unable to afford a rent deposit on an apartment until wages start coming in.

Housing must be a right

Giuliani pitched this round-up of homeless people as "an act of compassion" during the so-called "Thanksgiving" holiday. He had used the same words and fuzzy lie the week before, when he announced that people living in shelters would have to take workfare assignments in exchange for a cot—the ultimate in slave labor.

These refusing riot not only being kicked out of the shelter but also having their children placed in foster care. Once ejected from a shelter, families and individuals are denied re-entry for a minimum of 30 days. Giuliani wants to begin this new policy on Jan. 1, 2000.

Over 5,000 families, including more than 9,000 children, currently reside in the city’s public shelters. Another 7,000 single, homeless adults will also be affected by this new policy.

"How the hell he is gonna say, 'Go to the shelters or I'll arrest you!' this week, when last week he threatened to throw people out of the shelters and take their kids away?" asked Vondora Jordan, co-coordinator of Workfairness.

Workfairness, an organization by and for New York workfare workers and people on public assistance, has called a community meeting for Dec. 4 in response to Giuliani's latest attacks.

Instituted in New York in 1996, the strict requirements of workfare have already purged thousands from the rolls of public assistance.

"It’s a crime and a damn shame that you have to work for a bed and have to work hard to save your children," Jordan continued. "There’s already a freeze on Section 8 vouchers [for subsidized housing]. Many families are still at the bottom of housing lists, and many landlords aren’t renting to families on welfare. Giuliani is attacking not only homeless people or people on welfare, but poor folks in the city in general."

The roots of Lesbian & Gay Oppression

This book was originally published in 1976, during the first flush of the modern lesbian and gay liberation movement. This updated edition gives a clear, passionate, yet utterly personalized view of a history of pain, persecution, courage and pride.

$10 (shipping included)

Transgender liberation

A movement whose time has come? A critical overview of the transgender oppression arose. It asks why there is so much bigotry and violence against transvestites and transsexuals, who decide the "norms" of gender expression, and why some people are punished for their self-expression.

$2.50 Plus $1.50 s&h

Order from World View Forum 55 W. 17 St., N.Y., N.Y. 10011

WWW CALENDAR

LOS ANGELES Fri., Dec. 10 Workers World Party public forum. The U.S. war drive: Prospects for the worldwide struggle for socialism. Featuring Brian Becker, WWP National Committee. 7 p.m. 422 S. Western Ave. #114. For info phone (213) 667-2366

Sat., Dec. 18 "Save a Generation, Live the Sanctions Against Iraq" Vigil and demonstration. 4:30 to 5 p.m., Westwood Federal Building, 1040 Wilshire Blvd. Call 323-933-0311 or 213-621-3516 to reserve support

Get the selected works of Sam Marcy on CD

Includes all of Marcy’s books

Send $20 plus $3 s&h to: Workers World, 55 W. 17 St., New York, NY 10011

WORKERS WORLD PARTY

20219 U.S. Workers World Party (WWP) Newsletter issues that included this new edition are available on microfilm and/or photocopy from University Microfilms International, 300 N. Zeeb Rd., Ann Arbor, MI 48106 (734) 615-2800. Periodicals postage paid at New York, N.Y. POSTMASTER: Send address changes to Workers World, 55 W. 17 St., New York, NY 10011.

Workers World/WW (ISSN-0043-809X) is published weekly by WWP Publishers, 55 W. 17 St., N.Y., N.Y. 10011. Phone: (212) 627-2994 Fax: (212) 675-7869. Workers World is proudlyavin member of the Workers' Party. E-mail: editor@workers.org Phone: (212) 627-2994 Fax: (212) 675-7869

Closing date: Dec. 1, 1999

Editor: Deirdre Griswold; Technical Editor: Lail Rochik; Managing Editors: John Catalinotto, Shelley Ettinger, Leslie Feinberg, Gary Wilson; Contributing Editors: Joyce Chiles, Pat Chim, Naomi Cohen, Monica Montreed, David Perez; Technical Staff: Aanya Mukiraj-Comoody, Lyn Neely, Sarah Sloan, Mundo Obono: Carl Grimm, Carlos Vargas, Internet: Janet Mayes

Workers World/WW (ISSN-0043-809X) is published weekly by Workers Publishers, 55 W. 17 St., N.Y., N.Y. 10011. Phone: (212) 627-2994 Fax: (212) 675-7869. Subscription rates: One year: $25, foreign and institutions: $35. Letters to the editor may be condensed and/or individual articles are available on microfilm and/or photocopy from University Microfilms International, 300 Zeeb Rd., Ann Arbor, MI 48106. Periodicals postage paid at New York, N.Y. POSTMASTER: Send address changes to Workers World/WW, 55 W. 17 St., 5th Floor, New York, NY 10011.
PLYMOUTH, MASS.

Native nations say ‘No thanks’

Special to Workers World
Plymouth, Mass.

A thousand people turned out in a driving rain for the 30th National Day of Mourning in Plymouth, Mass., on Nov. 25. Since 1970, hundreds of Native people and their supporters have gathered in Plymouth on “Thanksgiving Day.” There, Native people speak the truth about the conditions faced by Indigenous peoples throughout the Americas.

According to United American Indians of New England co-leader Moanonum James, from the Wampanoag nation: “Indians have no reason to celebrate the arrival of the Pilgrims. We want people to know that the stories we all learned in school about the Pilgrims and the first Thanksgiving are nothing but lies. Native people have certainly not lived happily ever after since the arrival of the Pilgrims.”

James stressed, “To us, Plymouth Rock is a monument to racism.”

Participants in National Day of Mourning included members of Native nations from all over the Americas, many African American, Latino, Asian, Arab and white people, lesbian/gay/bi/trans people and labor unionists. Ages ranged from infants to elders.

A major element of National Day of Mourning has long been the demand for freedom for Native political prisoner Leonard Peltier, unjustly imprisoned by the U.S. government for nearly 24 years. This year’s event was dedicated to Peltier, whose case was raised by all of the speakers.

One speaker called on all people there to dedicate themselves to the struggle to free Peltier and to force President Bill Clinton to grant presidential clemency. “It’s 1999. We must bring Leonard home to us so that he will be standing here with us at next year’s Day of Mourning!”

Free Mumia!

The crowd cheered loudly when Teresa Gutierrez, a Chicana, demanded freedom for political prisoner Mumia Abu-Jamal. Gutierrez noted that she had just returned from supporting the struggle in Vieques, Puerto Rico, and the crowd cheered again when she demanded, “U.S. out of Puerto Rico now!”

Juan Gonzalez (Maya) read a message from Zapataista Subcomandante Marcos to Leonard Peltier [see box]. The National Day of Mourning garnered international attention in 1997 as a result of Plymouth city officials’ refusal to allow participants to engage in a peaceful march. Twenty-five Native people and their supporters were arrested.

The frame-up criminal charges against them were dropped when UAINE reached a settlement with Plymouth in October 1998. That settlement included a payment from Plymouth of $100,000 toward a Native American educational fund, as well as Plymouth agreeing to pay for two historical markers regarding Native American history to be erected in Plymouth. Those plaques were dedicated at this year’s National Day of Mourning.

James said: “One of those plaques will be here on Cole’s Hill to honor the Day of Mourning and another will be in Town Square to honor Metacom. I am proud to announce that the plaques will be dedicated today as part of the 30th National Day of Mourning. Today, you will see only temporary markers.

“But we will dedicate the earth where the stones and the bronze plaques will shortly be placed.

“I am happy to say that finally, there will be two rocks in Plymouth that speak the truth,” he continued.

UAINE co-leader Malotowin Munro (Lakota) noted that during the past year both Boston newspapers and some reactionaries had attacked the use of the word “genocide” in the text of the plaque about the Pilgrims. “Isn’t it genocide don’t they understand?” she demanded to know.

“Wasn’t it genocide when they took us from our land so many times, from the Trail of Tears on? Wasn’t it genocide when they herded us onto reservations or internment camps and left us to starve? Wasn’t it genocide when they intentionally gave us smallpox-infected blankets?”

“What do they all call the massacres, from Mystic, Conn., to Wounded Knee and Sand Creek and so many, many others?”

“Wasn’t it genocide when, in the latter half of this century, the Indian Health Service sterilized thousands of Indian women without their knowledge or consent, preventing much of an entire generation from coming into being?”

After the outdoor rally, members of Danza Arutea Cuauhtemoc led a powerful march through the streets of Plymouth.

James summarized what National Day of Mourning has accomplished in 30 years: “In 1970 very few people would have given any thought to the fact that the Indigenous peoples of this hemisphere do not look upon the arrival of the European invaders as a reason to give thanks. Today, many thousands stand with us in spirit as we commemorate our 30th annual National Day of Mourning.”

The protesters demanded clemency for long-held Native prisoner Leonard Peltier, death-row inmate Mumia Abu-Jamal, the Puerto Rican prisoners and all other political prisoners in the U.S.

Grandpa Bear, founder and coordinator of the North American Native Warriors Association, said the Nov. 28 protest was also held to show solidarity with the National Day of Mourning, held in Plymouth, Mass.

“We must not let up the pressure,” Grandpa Bear told Workers World. He pointed out that on Oct. 10, a similar car caravan shut down the Peace Bridge in order to press the same demands.

But on Nov. 28, he explained, the size of the car caravan had almost doubled. And there was much broader participation this time from more communities.

“We have shown by our growing numbers,” Grandpa Bear said, “that we are united and will not stop until all political prisoners are free. United, there is nothing we cannot do,” he said.

Despite the bitterly cold weather on Nov. 28, activists gathered on the windblown bridge for over an hour. Native drummers from the Eagle Heart Drum Group performed during the protest.


The demonstration also demanded justice in the killing of Dudley George, a Native man killed by the Ontario Provincial Police during their forcible removal of Indigenous people from their land at Stony Point.

**Activists Stop Int’l Traffic**

**Free Peltier! Free Mumia!**

By Bev Hiestand
Buffalo, N.Y.

The growing movement to free all political prisoners was on display here Nov. 28, as Native people and their supporters stopped all international traffic on both sides of the Peace Bridge between the United States and Canada.

The protesters demanded clemency for long-held Native prisoner Leonard Peltier, death-row inmate Mumia Abu-Jamal, the Puerto Rican prisoners and all other political prisoners in the U.S.

Grandpa Bear, founder and coordinator of the North American Native Warriors Association, said the Nov. 28 protest was also held to show solidarity with the National Day of Mourning, held in Plymouth, Mass.

“We must not let up the pressure,” Grandpa Bear told Workers World. He pointed out that on Oct. 10, a similar car caravan shut down the Peace Bridge in order to press the same demands.

But on Nov. 28, he explained, the size of the car caravan had almost doubled. And there was much broader participation this time from more communities.

“We have shown by our growing numbers,” Grandpa Bear said, “that we are united and will not stop until all political prisoners are free. United, there is nothing we cannot do,” he said.

Despite the bitterly cold weather on Nov. 28, activists gathered on the windblown bridge for over an hour. Native drummers from the Eagle Heart Drum Group performed during the protest.


The demonstration also demanded justice in the killing of Dudley George, a Native man killed by the Ontario Provincial Police during their forcible removal of Indigenous people from their land at Stony Point.

2,000 on Alcatraz Island

On Nov. 25, over 2,000 people gathered for the sunrise ceremony on Alcatraz Island in San Francisco. The ceremony commemorated the 25th anniversary of the American Indian Movement’s three-month takeover of the island in protest of the “Thanksgiving” myth and to demand a return of Alcatraz Island to Native people. Elders at the ceremony asked supporters to remember and honor the many Native nations that have been wiped out through the U.S. government’s genocidal policies both before and after the so-called “reconciliation.”
Will 33,000 workers be forced to strike?

By Milt Niedenberg
New York

The contract between the Metropolitan Transportation Authority and the 33,000 members of Transit Workers Union Local 100 expires on Dec. 15. Local 100's fight for a decent contract is heating up. Will the workers be forced to strike? The MTA is taking this question seriously.

The transit workers' mood could be seen on Nov. 17 when they and their allies took to the streets in a nine-hour demonstration at MTA offices. Thousands clogged mid-Manhattan streets as workers were on their way home and holiday shoppers crowded into department store sidewalks.

The union action sent a strong message to Wall Street and the MTA that represents finance capital's interests. "We are prepared to strike if we don't get a catch-up contract; a contract not to be gobbled up," said one transit conductor.

The MTA has accumulated huge surpluses over the last three years, resulting from give-backs in previous contracts as well as the horrific increase in productivity that threatens the safety of workers and the lives of the over 6.5 million riders they move every day.

On Oct. 7, the TWU put a package of 130 demands on the table. These included substantial wage increases, removal of workforce from the contract, improvements in health benefits and sweeping changes in disciplinary procedures. The package also calls for changes in contract language—which includes protection from discriminatory practices and employers arbitrarily imposed by management.

Less than a month later, MTA bosses responded with a set of five counter-demands that they knew would be unacceptable to the union. These included the right to assign workers to any job for which they felt they were "appropriately trained." This proposal would threaten job descriptions and security, gut employees' rights spelled out in the Civil Service law, and downsize any worker to cut costs and increase productivity.

It was a declaration of war against the union.

Anti-union law props up MTA bosses

What makes the MTA so arrogant and contemptuous of the union that its executives feel they can whip the 33,000 rank-and-file bus and subway workers into line? Is it the fact that they have an anti-union, anti-worker law on the state books that makes it illegal for public sector workers to strike?

And Wall Street, the financial center of the world, wants to be sure transit workers and other unions won't shut city transportation down.

In a strike, many millions of dollars—perhaps a trillion, depending on the length of a strike—would go down the drain for their transnational banks, global corporations, and many other big business financial operations that need labor power to make their profit system run.

This is exactly what happened on New Year's Day, 1966. Thirty-five thousand members of the TWU, along with the Amalgamated Transit Union, shut down 135 miles of subways and 2,200 hundred buses. The strike's impact was felt around the world. Business losses were enormous.

A settlement was reached on Jan. 13, after almost two full weeks of the strike. TWU President Mike Quill and other union officials who had been jailed were released as part of the final agreement. Quill died a few days later.

The sympathy and solidarity for the transit strike was so strong that union workers at a Catholic cemetery who had been waging a militant strike against the powerful transportation for 11 days. It cost the union $1.5 million in fines.

Bosses and state close ranks

There is much to be learned from these two strikes. There must be careful and organized preparation to shut down New York, the financial center of the world.

There must be a unity of purpose, discipline, stamina—and much sacrifice, if the TWU is to win the economic and social justice that has been denied the transit workers.

Other municipal unions—including State, County and Municipal Employees District Council 37 that represents over 100,000 members, and the United Federation of Teachers—are in negotiations with the city.

A crisis could be in the making for the racist, anti-union, anti-poor Mayor Rudolph Giuliani.

It is time for all these unions to unite in order to fight together to overturn the infamous Taylor Law. This victory can only be won through struggle in the streets of New York.

Fearing a walkout, Mayor Giuliani has assembled a task force that includes elaborate contingency plans to intimidate strikers. He has appointed Jerome Hauer, who heads the Mayor's Emergency Management Office, to lead the task force.

Hauer said his office "was working closely with the Police Department, Fire Department, Department of Transportation, Taxi and Limousine Commission, the Port Authority of New York and New Jersey and surrounding counties."

Dec. 15 is the day the transit contract expires. Will the public sector unions unite to shut down the city? Will the unions work closely with the oppressed communities that are fighting the same oppressors as their multinational sisters and brothers in the labor unions? Is a strike in the making?

The next two weeks will tell the story.

Baltimore: Killer cops provoke angry protest

By Sharon Black
Baltimore

Once again the familiar sight of a makeshift memorial with flowers, candles, teddy bears, and hand-written poems decorates the bleakness of a Baltimore alleyway. These items were left to mark the spot where the life of an unknown man was tragically snuffed out by police bullets.

Seventeen-year-old Eli McCoy was shot three times by Housing Authority Police Officer Kenneth Dean on Nov. 25. Neighborhood witnesses all testify that McCoy had his hands in the air and had surrendered when he was shot. They dispute the police version of events, which claims McCoy was reaching for a gun. No weapon or gun was recovered from Eli McCoy.

Just a few days after, a similar memorial was erected by East Baltimore neighbors, friends and relatives of Larry Hubbard, who was shot in the back of the head by Baltimore police. This month, teddy bears and candles have been placed at North Duke Island and North Avenue in West Baltimore in remembrance of Eli McCoy.

Two neighborhood groups, the All People's Congress and Unity for Action, began an immediate mobilization in the community. They distributed flyers denouncing the family members, neighbors and witnesses. The groups called for a rally for justice on Nov. 27 at the site where Eli McCoy died.

Close to 400 people attended, shutting down traffic on North Avenue and Duke Island. The Rev. John Wright, a civil-rights activist and pastor of the First Baptist Church, began the groups' takeover of the streets with a prayer calling for justice. In response to what many in the community see as a cover-up, Wright exclaimed: "The police are going to cover themselves. Does that mean if I see a police officer I have to take my hands out of my pockets?"

Bill Goodin, President of Unity for Action, chaired the rally. Goodin called for immediate justice and the jailing of the police.

Lee Patterson, representative of the World Party, said: "This is a war on the poor and on Black youth. From the boardrooms and corporate offices where they conspire to pay our youth poverty wages to their sweatshops; from the CIA and bankers in suits who bring in illegal drugs; to the KKK and white supremacists; those who are black, white and blue—all of them seek unity against us. We need to say no at every single instance and take our lives in our own hands to resist."
Who said it?

"Americans have two parties—they are exactly the same."

By Greg Butterfield

"Americans have two parties—they are exactly the same."

"Democratic and Republican candidates vying for the presidency in 2000 made this sharp observation about capitalist politics in the United States."

"Did it fall from the lips of Republican oil baron George W. Bush or millionaire publisher Steve Forbes? Was it a right-wing attack? Did it come from then prominently bolted the Republican Party for Ross Perot's Reform Party? Or was it that pre-NAFTA "friend of labor," Democratic Vice President Al Gore? How about J.P. Morgan's favorite liberal, former Sen. Bill Bradley?"

"The correct answer is None of the above."

"None of these ruling-class-approved show horses has the courage to make such a statement—even though they all know it's true."

"Cuban President Fidel Castro made the remark during Illinois Gov. Jim Ryan's recent visit to the socialist island."

"For workers in this country, the exchange between Castro and Ryan was much more educational than the stage-managed affairs of the Republican and Democratic contenders."

Bush blows off debates

"Debates are supposed to be a pillar of U.S. democracy. So far three have been held among the Republican contenders for the presidential job in 2001."

"Texas Gov. George W. Bush, the front-runner, hasn't bothered to show up for any."

"In fact, Bush's absence has been the main topic of "debate" there. The candidates jokey to offer the biggest increase in the bloated military budget and the cruelest racist "crime" proposal.

"Bush has promised to finally attend one of these sordid gatherings, scheduled for Dec. 2 in Manchester, N.H."

"So far the only significant statement at a Republican debate has come from a member of the audience."

"According to the Associated Press, police ejected an unidentified woman from the Oct. 28 debate at Dartmouth College after she challenged the candidates to cut military spending."

"The debate was held in a high school auditorium, where kids are taught about the "free society, health care and good education.""

"Democrats Gore and Bradley try to offer a slightly more human image to the public while staying carefully within the boundaries of Clinton-era politics."

"At any rate, face-off, Bradley and Gore both gave lip service to lesbian and gay rights. But Bradley didn't take a stand in support of same-sex marriage. Gore flatly rejected it."

"Beneath the rhetoric, all these candidates share the same basic platform: Soak the workers, repres the poor, and put more money into the pockets of the rich."

"Workers' democracy vs. big business

"Around the same time as this first round of debates, Illinois Gov. Ryan brought a delegation of 45 elected officials and corporate moguls in their free-wheeling tour of Cuba's 30-year U.S. blockade."

"Cuba's government welcomed the group because of its opposition to the blockade, knowing full well that these same U.S. imperialists are also intent on overturning the socialist revolution."

"When Ryan arrived, he said he had not come to Cuba to criticize the island's political system. He had high praise for Cuba's health and education systems, calling them "an inspiration to the entire Western Hemisphere"—something no capitalist politician would be caught dead saying in the United States."

"Yet on Oct. 25, Ryan attended a Havana news conference with a small group of counter-revolutionaries. The U.S. Interests Section organized the meeting."

"The governor told reporters, "Basically, that's the problem with Cuba—Fidel Castro." (Chicago Tribune, Oct. 26)

"Ryan reportedly asked President Castro to release several convicts involved in terrorist bombings of Havana hotels. Cuba's people believe Washington is behind their campaign."

"Cuban officials dismissed Ryan's play as a "propaganda show."

""We do not accept any condition with respect to our position and our internal policies," President Castro said. "You cannot stingle a country economically and critcize it at the same time."

"In a corporate media portrait Cuba as a brutal dictatorship. It's often criticized for having only one political party—the Communist Party."

"But for working-class people—the vast majority in Cuba, as here—is much more real democracy than in the United States."

"Instead of electing candidates picked by big money, Cubans vote for their co-workers and neighbors, who get no special privileges for serving their fellows."

"Cuban workers' democracy is based on the tremendous social revolution that has unfolded on the island since 1959. The great agriculture holdings and industry, once owned almost exclusively by U.S. capitalists, was taken over by the workers themselves. Today they belong to all the Cuban people."

"What are the results? Jobs, health care, education and the rights of all. Racism and sexism are illegal. Labor unions are a powerful force in society."

"President Castro and the Cuban Communist Party embody this revolutionary process and the Cuban model one from complete free competition to complete socialization."

"Production becomes social, but apportionment remains private. The social means of production remain the private property of a few."

"Under Exxon Mobil, the vast machine producing and selling oil controls hundreds of thousands of workers in many countries around the world. That's the socialized production. But profits and means of production are privately owned."

"If in addition to being socially produced, oil were socially owned, there would be enough oil to supply every industrialized and developing nation."

"In addition, other more environmentally sound sources of energy that may temporarily be more expensive and unprofitable under capitalism could simultaneously be developed."

"Instead, the private ownership of these vast productive forces and the capitalist drive for profit inevitably leads to sharper competition among the remaining monopolies. The mergers bring layoffs. The competition leads to overproduction, which provokes the next capitalist economic crisis with mass layoffs and bankruptcies."

"EXXON & MOBIL MOBLE MONOPOLY"

By Gery Armsby

"Exxon and Mobil corporations are expected to gain Federal Trade Commission approval for their $82 billion merger any day now, pending an agreement on details about how many assets the two oil giants would have to sell off in order to meet full approval. The deal, initiated a year ago, will create the world's biggest oil company by far."

"Pro-capitalist ideologues may extol the glories of "free trade," the "free market" and competition. But the Exxon-Mobil deal—just the biggest in a long list of monopoly mergers—is a more honest expression of today's capitalism."

"Exxon and Mobil have combined oil reserves estimated to be over 7.5 billion barrels, assets such as worldwide refineries and offshore drilling facilities worth billions of dollars more. The two oil monopolies are re-consolidating two of the huge blocks of holdings severed in the breakup of the Standard Oil Company in 1911 under the Sherman Anti-Trust Act."

"From 1970 to 1911, Standard Oil Co. and Trust formed the industrial empire of John D. Rockefeller and associates. It controlled almost all oil production, processing, marketing and transportation in the United States. Despite its gigantic size, the conservative company was unwilling to foot the bill for technological advancement and industrial innovations needed in order to meet the demand brought on by the introduction of the motor car."

"Such monopolies are never immune to changes in technology. Therefore, during periods of rapid industrial growth and change, they will split up and free their smaller former subsidiaries to participate in the wave of cutthroat competition with an eye toward re-consolidating those that take a technological and productive edge in the competition."

"This same type of competition and technological change is what has led the former Standard Oil monopoly to re-form itself. Now the big oil companies are involved in worldwide competition over sources of oil. "Vast capital investments—along with vast bribery and intimidation—are needed to win this competition."

"The dance from monopoly to competition and back reveals the key contradiction of monopoly capitalism.

"Russian revolutionary V.I. Lenin wrote in his classic work "Imperialism: the Highest Stage of Capitalism" that "competition becomes transformed into monopoly. The result is immense progress in the socialization of production. In particular, the process of technical inventions and improvement becomes socialized."

"Capitalism in the imperialist stage leads right up to the most comprehensive socialization of production; it, so to speak, drags the capitalists against their will and consciousness into some sort of new social order, a transitional one from complete free competition to complete socialization."

"Production becomes social, but apportionment remains private. The social means of production remain the private property of a few."

"Exxon Mobil, the vast machine producing and selling oil controls hundreds of thousands of workers in many countries around the world. That's the socialized production. But profits and means of production are privately owned."

"If in addition to being socially produced, oil were socially owned, there would be enough oil to supply every industrialized and developing nation."

"In addition, other more environmentally sound sources of energy that may temporarily be more expensive and unprofitable under capitalism could simultaneously be developed."

"Instead, the private ownership of these vast productive forces and the capitalist drive for profit inevitably leads to sharper competition among the remaining monopolies. The mergers bring layoffs. The competition leads to overproduction, which provokes the next capitalist economic crisis with mass layoffs and bankruptcies."

"MARKET ELECTIONS

How Democracy serves the rich

BY VINCE COPELAND

Every four years, big money chooses the presidential candidates. Their war chests are filled to the brim, they are then packaged by the media as "the people's choice."

"It's U.S.-style democracy—of the rich, by the rich, and for the rich."

"But how do these chosen politicians win the votes of the millions as well as the millionaires?"

"To find the fascinating tour through the history of U.S. presidential elections, Vince Copeland explains the devious art of capitalist politics. And he shows how mass movements can upset even the best-laid plans of the "king-makers."

"Who has been excluded from voting? How were electoral politics used to betray Black freedom after the Civil War?""
Caspian Sea

A new sphere of influence

By Brian Becker

"For America the chief geopolitical prize is Eurasia. Most of the world's physical wealth is there as well, both in its enterprises and underneath its soil," wrote Zbigniew Brzezinski, former United States national security advisor, in a book published in 1997.

Brzezinski's comments are useful to keep in mind when analyzing the current conflict raging in Chechnya. This autonomous region, with its vast oil and natural gas deposits, is at the pivot of Europe and Asia.

Why is the Yeltsin regime in Russia carrying out its brutal arson assault against the separatist rebellion movement in Chechnya? Because the Russian government now fears that the Pentagon and CIA are moving aggressively to grab the former territories of the USSR, especially in the oil-rich Caspian Sea area. This is the same government that has done so much to try to please the United States capitalist establishment since it dissolved the Soviet Union in 1991.

Chechnya and Dagestan, where fighting has raged for the last four months, are territories close to the Caspian Sea. The Caspian has vast oil and natural gas deposits.

A consortium of 11 oil monopolies from the United States and Europe have gained control of more than 50 percent of the region's oil since the USSR was dissolved in 1991. The United States remains the world's largest importer of oil.

The United States government is now attempting to take control over the Caspian Sea oil by transforming the non-Russian former Soviet republics into virtual colonies and grabbing control over the vast oil and gas resources that were once used to fuel socialist construction in the Soviet Union.

"The prospects of potentially enormous hydrocarbon reserves is part of the allure of the Caspian region," the United States Energy Information Administration said in a December 1998 report. "New transportation routes will be necessary to carry Caspian oil and gas to world markets," according to the EIA.

Why is a new Caspian oil pipeline necessary? According to the EIA, "the existing pipelines were designed to transport oil from the Soviet Union internally, and were not routed through Russia."

On Nov. 18, President Bill Clinton and Energy Secretary Bill Richardson met with the presidents of Azerbaijan, Georgia, Tajikistan and Turkey to announce plans to construct a new $2.4 billion oil pipeline from Baku, Azerbaijan, to Ceyhan, the Mediterranean port in Turkey. The new pipeline entirely bypasses Russia. It is calculated to turn the Caspian into an "American-Asian" sea.

Throughout the Cold War U.S. policy makers insisted that they opposed Soviet socialism because it deprived people of "personal liberty" and "stifled individual initiative in the free market." But now it's easy to see that their hatred of the USSR was based on it having prevented U.S. corporations from exploiting the land and resources of the Soviet Union.

The imperialists want to weaken Russia for their own reasons. But the Yeltsin regime's motives for the war in Chechnya have nothing to do with the interests of working people in the region. Yeltsin's grouping became the champions of capitalist exploitation that, in turn, rapidly revived national antagonisms.

The nascent bourgeois grouping among each nationality, including in Chechnya, sought to dominate its "own home market." The smaller republics have sought a new pact with imperialism that comes at Russia's expense.

"The real reason for the war in Chechnya is the annihilation of the socialist society," notes the Russian Communist Workers Party in a recent statement. "Before, power and law were directed toward the equality of people on a social and national level. However, at present a society is being built on the basis of overt inequality and property. This has evoked the meanest tendencies amongst people, a cruel power struggle, the separation of national elites, and, centrally, the principle of divide and conquer.... The origins for this bloody tragedy are the (Yeltsin) ruling regime and its policy of restoring capitalism in Russia."

Pentagon builds permanent base in Kosovo

By G. Dunkel

Even the imperialist countries that just bombed Yugoslavia admit on paper that Kosovo, a southern province of Serbia, is an integral part of that country.

But didn't stop President Bill Clinton from dropping into a U.S. Army base there for eight hours on Nov. 23 — without any permission from Yugoslav authorities. The head of the empire, it seems, doesn't apply for visas.

The base is another completely unaesthetic U.S. intruder. Called Camp Bondsteel, it is still under construction, yet already it is causing raised eyebrows all over Europe.

It is the biggest U.S. foreign base built from scratch since the Vietnam War. The Christian Science Monitor of Nov. 22 reported it will have cost $36.6 million when completed. The work has been contracted to Brown & Root, a Texas firm favored by the Pentagon since the 1960s.

The base contains an impressive array of creature comforts—200 cottages with air conditioning, a Burger King, a weight room, e-mail facilities, a volleyball court, a library and two chapels.

The European forces in Kosovo have set up tent camps. But Bondsteel has every earmark of being a permanent facility that will house troops close to 5,000 troops. And there are more U.S. troops in a smaller base about 20 miles away.

Kosovo is heavily fortified, swaddled in miles of barbed wire and earthen berms. There's a big helipad for Apache helicopters as well as transport and reconnaissance helicopters. It could be the logistics center for future U.S. military moves in the Balkans.

What was Clinton doing there? He certainly wanted to anoint the Albanian leadership of the "Kosovo Liberation Army" with his hypocritical pronouncements on civil rights, reconciliation, respect and ethnic diversity. He met with Kosovo Albanian leaders Ibrahim Rugova and Hashim Thaci, former head of the KLA.

During this photo-op visit, Clinton gave a speech to a group of Albanians at Urosevac, Yugoslavia—which he called its Albanian name, Peja. Urosevac is in the midst of the U.S.-occupied Kosovo.

"We won the war," he bragged. "But listen, only you can win the peace. The time for fighting is past."

While many Kosovo Albanians regard Clinton as their "savior," when he talked reconciliation they sat on their hands. They know Clinton isn't serious about this. Thousands of Serbs and Roma people have been attacked in Kosovo since the United States and other NATO countries took over. Hundreds have died. Little has been done to stop these ethnic attacks, which shows that the U.S. war on Yugoslavia was never really about stopping alleged ethnic violence.

The United States, Germany and France are trying to destabilize what is left of Yugoslavia. Montenegro just adopted the German mark as its currency. The United States is trying to stir up the Hungarian-speaking area of Serbia. The European Union has threatened to supply heating oil to whatever former communist country is controlled by the opposition to President Subotan Miloshevich.

Although the United States and, through Bondsteel, U.S. troops are digging in for "a presence in the Balkans for years to come," says Bryan Hopkinson, Kosovo director of the International Crisis Group, a Brussels-based think tank. "It shows the United States means business."

And the business of the United States means more suffering and slaughter for the peoples of the Balkans.

 Ramsey Clark participates in an inquiry of U.S./NATO war crimes in Yugoslavia.

U.S./NATO guilty in Los Angeles

Some 250 people filled a room in Los Angeles Nov. 14 to participate in a hearing of the Independent Commission of Inquiry to Investigate U.S./NATO War Crimes Against the People of Yugoslavia. Prominent speakers from the United States and Canada came to speak of the horror of the bombings and the genocidal nature of the sanctions against Yugoslavia.

Ruba Fakhoury, International Action Committee to Defend Yugoslavia, spoke of the many and various violations of international law that took place as the United States bombarded Yugoslavia. Spomenka Zeljkovic, American Friends for Peace, showed videotaped footage of the bombings' destruction of power plants, bridges, schools, and residential areas, killing thousands of innocent people.

Sonali Kolhatkar, anti-war activist and local IAC member, showed irrefutable and scientifically based evidence of the dangers of depleted uranium and how the long-term effects of these weapons will likely under mine the health of tens of thousands of people, including U.S. soldiers.

Dr. Michel Chossudovsky, professor at the University of Ottawa and co-author of "NATO in the Balkans," traced the legacy of the main conspirators from both the U.S. government and the so-called Kosovo Liberation Army.

Ramsey Clark, former U.S. attorney general, described the various U.S. bombings and invasions of sovereign countries since World War II.

Hearings on the same topic were held Nov. 13 in San Francisco, and in Detroit and Ann Arbor, Mich., also on Nov. 13.

U.S./NATO guilty in Los Angeles

Some 250 people filled a room in Los Angeles Nov. 14 to participate in a hearing of the Independent Commission of Inquiry to Investigate U.S./NATO War Crimes Against the People of Yugoslavia. Prominent speakers from the United States and Canada came to speak of the horror of the bombings and the genocidal nature of the sanctions against Yugoslavia.

Ruba Fakhoury, International Action Committee to Defend Yugoslavia, spoke of the many and various violations of international law that took place as the United States bombarded Yugoslavia. Spomenka Zeljkovic, American Friends for Peace, showed videotaped footage of the bombings' destruction of power plants, bridges, schools, and residential areas, killing thousands of innocent people.

Sonali Kolhatkar, anti-war activist and local IAC member, showed irrefutable and scientifically based evidence of the dangers of depleted uranium and how the long-term effects of these weapons will likely undermine the health of tens of thousands of people, including U.S. soldiers.

Dr. Michel Chossudovsky, professor at the University of Ottawa and co-author of "NATO in the Balkans," traced the legacy of the main conspirators from both the U.S. government and the so-called Kosovo Liberation Army.

Ramsey Clark, former U.S. attorney general, described the various U.S. bombings and invasions of sovereign countries since World War II.

Hearings on the same topic were held Nov. 13 in San Francisco, and in Detroit and Ann Arbor, Mich., also on Nov. 13.

U.S./NATO guilty in Los Angeles

Some 250 people filled a room in Los Angeles Nov. 14 to participate in a hearing of the Independent Commission of Inquiry to Investigate U.S./NATO War Crimes Against the People of Yugoslavia. Prominent speakers from the United States and Canada came to speak of the horror of the bombings and the genocidal nature of the sanctions against Yugoslavia.

Ruba Fakhoury, International Action Committee to Defend Yugoslavia, spoke of the many and various violations of international law that took place as the United States bombarded Yugoslavia. Spomenka Zeljkovic, American Friends for Peace, showed videotaped footage of the bombings' destruction of power plants, bridges, schools, and residential areas, killing thousands of innocent people.

Sonali Kolhatkar, anti-war activist and local IAC member, showed irrefutable and scientifically based evidence of the dangers of depleted uranium and how the long-term effects of these weapons will likely undermine the health of tens of thousands of people, including U.S. soldiers.

Dr. Michel Chossudovsky, professor at the University of Ottawa and co-author of "NATO in the Balkans," traced the legacy of the main conspirators from both the U.S. government and the so-called Kosovo Liberation Army.

Ramsey Clark, former U.S. attorney general, described the various U.S. bombings and invasions of sovereign countries since World War II.

Hearings on the same topic were held Nov. 13 in San Francisco, and in Detroit and Ann Arbor, Mich., also on Nov. 13.
Big banks, powerful forces

Behind the World Trade Organization

By Fred Goldman

The Seattle Conference of the World Trade Organization is calculated to further solidify the power of the giant insurance companies to control multilateral affairs. It was drafted by the World Trade Organization’s (WTO) Legal Affairs Committee, a group that has been meeting for years to prepare for the conference. The WTO is an international body that sets rules for international trade, including telecommunications, transport, finance, energy, services, agriculture, and labor. The WTO is based in Geneva, Switzerland, and is headquartered in Geneva, Switzerland.

The conference was held in Seattle, Washington, on November 30, 1999. It was attended by representatives from over 130 countries, including the United States, Canada, Japan, China, Brazil, and India. The conference was called to address key issues such as the creation of a new global trading system, the negotiation of trade rules, and the protection of intellectual property rights.

The WTO has been criticized for its secretive nature and its decision-making process, which is dominated by wealthy, powerful countries. The WTO has been accused of ignoring the concerns of developing countries and of promoting the interests of multinational corporations over the needs of ordinary people.

The WTO conference in Seattle was marred by mass protests, which culminated in violence on November 29. The protests were organized by a coalition of social movements, including environmentalists, labor unions, and human rights activists. The protests were met with police violence and arrests.

The WTO has been criticized for its role in promoting globalization and for its impact on the world’s poorest countries. The WTO has been accused of promoting the interests of multinational corporations and of neglecting the needs of developing countries.

The WTO conference in Seattle was a turning point in the history of the WTO. It demonstrated the power of mass movements and the need for global solidarity in the face of globalization.
Vieques protests mount

As of Nov. 29, President Bill Clinton had yet to make public his final decision on resuming the U.S. Navy bombings of Vieques, Puerto Rico. For two weeks his office has been telling the Puerto Rican people that an announcement will come soon. During that same time he has been in constant communication with Puerto Rican Gov. Pedro Roselló.

The context of these exchanges has not been made public. Clinton fears that an announcement that bombing will resume will produce massive outrage in Vieques and throughout Puerto Rico. He is right.

The battle this US. Elilasower is already heading south to Vieques to practice with live ammunition. The Pentagon plans to move its Elilasowe to the Persian Gulf next February to continue its genocidal mission against Iraq. It wants its military personnel to practice in Vieques, not in Puerto Rico.

The generals and admirals want to start the practices in early December. But unless they remove the activists now camped in the restricted bombing area, they cannot move an inch.

After many years of demonstrations and militant actions in Vieques forced the US. government to conduct senatorial hearings on the Vieques issue, the United States and Puerto Rico signed a "Memorandum of Understanding" in 1983. This agreement requires the US. government to give at least 15 days notice to the Puerto Rican government before it starts military maneuvers.

According to this memo then, Washington will have to notify Puerto Rico in the next few days if it wants to resume bombing by mid-December.

Activists in Vieques expect the president's announcement to be followed in a few hours by arrests of the activists in the encampment area. Already the activists organized a massive military moveof personnel and vehicles in the Observation Post close to the encampments, where the bombs killed David Sanes. Some people think the US. military is moving closer to facilitate making arrests as soon as the president's decision is known.

Organizers are preparing for the arrests, said, "We need to come out from the control of U.S. imperialism. It is in both our interests if we struggle together."

He pointed out that the Dominican bourgeoisie gained an advantage by deflecting popular anger over raging inflation and rising unemployment. Workers had held a general strike at the end of October that shut the Dominican Republic down for a few days. There was a wave of arrests then as well.

The Dominican capitalists and the US. imperialists make huge profits in the Dominican Republic. The Victor family, one of the wealthiest there, and Gulf-Western, a U.S.-based corporation, have made vast profits in the sugar industry. All sugarwork is brutal, hard, heavy and dangerous work, are either Haitians or Dominicans of Haitian ancestry.

Another Dominican, Hector Gerardo, who was proudly carrying a Haitian flag, said he came to the demonstration "to stop the Dominican government's racist repression against the Haitian people."

Demonstration in Santo Domingo

Organizers called the Times Square action to oppose a rally called by the party of former Dominican President Joaquín Balaguer and by Cardinal Nicolas de Jesus Lopez Rodriguez, head of the Dominican Catholic Church. The organizers said this rally supported the expulsion of Haitians to "preserve Dominican culture, citizenship and territorial integrity."

Balaguer has been a tool of U.S. imperialism ever since he returned to Santo Domingo during the 1965 U.S. invasion and ran for president. Cardinal Lopez Rodriguez is not only a "prince of the Church" but also one of the wealthiest individuals in the country.

Wilson Spencer, a Dominican activist, was vice president in the 1960s under Hector Trujillo, brother of the dictator Gen. Rafael Trujillo, who held effective power. It was Gen. Trujillo who ordered the massacre in 1937 of 30,000 to 35,000 Haitian sugar canners. The Haitians were shot out because their skin was dark and they didn't speak proper Spanish.

The Dominican army used these same criteria this November to single out people for expulsion. Progressive observers in Santo Domingo said less than 600 people came out to the rally in Santo Domingo. To better carry out the march's reactionary purpose, some of them held signs reading, "Haiti is the responsibility of the international community" and "USA: 49 percent are overweight; Haiti: 40 percent are malnourished."

They complained that Haitians were a "burden" on the Dominican Republic, ignorant of the fact that their labor has brought tremendous profits to the sugar barons, and that they do jobs that no Dominican has taken for decades.

The small turnout, some Dominican activists feel, might reflect a popular rejection of this racist campaign.

Rosa Pierre told Haiti Progreso, "We deeply thank the New York communities for their demonstrations, because it has a big impact here. It has made the Dominicans think twice."

Threat of a Dominican invasion

When Jean-Bertrand Aristide returned to Haiti in 1994, one of his first acts was to dissolve the army. While this helped defend Haiti from a coup, it also makes it difficult to defend against an invasion. Haiti has only 6,000 police to oppose the 100,000 U.S.-trained and equipped Dominican army, one of the largest in Latin America.

Ben Dupuy, secretary general of the Popular National Party (PPN) which is one of the leading anti-imperialist organizations in Haiti, was at the Times Square demonstration. "The PPN feels," he said, "that this move by the Dominican military is an attempt to influence both the elections in Haiti and those in the Dominican Republic."

The elections for Haiti's parliament are scheduled for March. The Dominican elections are scheduled a few months later. Then in the fall, elections for Haiti's president will be held. Aristide is universally expected to win.

Even though USAID, an agency of the U.S. State Department, is controlling how voters are registered and identified in Haiti, voters could still fail to elect an anti- Aristide parliament. If this happens, the Haitian bourgeoisie and its backers in Washington would want to overturn the elections. Washington would prefer to use the Dominican proxy, Dupuy feels, than to overthrow the Haitian government itself.

The Justice Committee for Haitians and Haitian-Dominicans in the Dominican Republic has called another demonstration for Dec. 10 at the United Nations in New York. Readers can call (718) 284-0889 for more information.
The Clinton administration announced Nov. 28 that it was considering taking advantage of a small part of a spending bill just passed in Congress to give food to support one side of a 16-year-old civil war in Sudan. Washington will feed the so-called Sudanese Rebels' Peoples Liberation Army against the government in Khartoum. The new U.S. law overrides previous legislation that forbade U.S. government food aid to combatants.

While this tactic may seem relatively harmless, it is really another variant of the U.S. cruise-missile attack on the Al Quds pharmaceutical plant in Khartoum, Sudan, in August 1998. Even non-government organizations like Care USA—a group that donates food to both sides of the civil war—find the new U.S. policy dangerous. "The Congress said, 'There will be greater risk for everyone involved.' The food offensive is clearly a continuation of U.S. interventionist interference in the affairs of the Sudanese people. Kurds and Basques have been arrested since the September 1998 suspension. These governments hope to gain in oil trade and investment, especially in Sudan's south. The Clinton administration is also understandably nervous about China's investment in the Sudan oil industry. The administration is considering this new aggressive step to counter the Sudan government's escape from isolation.

Clinton also apparently wants his food bill to a be a signal to the war going between the northern and southern parts of Sudan.

In October, during a visit to Kenya, U.S. Secretary of State Madeleine Albright met with the leader of the anti-U.S. Sudanese rebels, John Garang. Many suggested she back a plan by Egypt and Libya to end the fighting.

Instead of doing that, Albright supported seeking peace through the brokerage of seven East African nations under the umbrella of the Inter-Governmental Authority on Development. This IGAD initiative had been getting nowhere.

The IGAD nations are Somalia, Ethiopia, Kenya, Uganda, Djibouti, Sudan and Eritrea. The foreign policy of many of these governments is now largely under the influence of the International Monetary Fund and the World Bank. The IGAD was founded in the 1980s primarily for the purpose of preventing the then-progressive government in Ethiopia from taking the kind of hard line that many feared the TPLF, represented by its hard-line leader Meles Zenawi, would take.

IGAD used divide-and-conquer methods—pitting ethnic groups against each other—and bribery to promote its policy of destruction. They are disingenuous, "peacekeepers," but are designed to overthrow those countries targeted by the U.S. This was to Albright's liking. Rice and Pendergast seem to differ from Albright regarding tactics. They take a superficially much harder line—advocating direct military intervention against Sudan and offering food to the PLA. Pendergast acknowledged that there is an internal battle in the U.S. administration over whether to implement the food bill legislation.

There is no division, however, on whether to drop sanctions—the weapon of choice against domestic economic nuclear, Iran, Iraq, North Korea, Cuba and Yugoslavia.

Another tactical division in the State Department has passed some U.S. crimes. The Oct. 27 New York Times printed a full-page cartoon of a protester. Each pointed a finger at the other about the bombing of the American embassies in Kenya and Tanzania and the subsequent bombing of the Al Shifa pharmaceutical plant.

There have been increasing exposures that the U.S. accusation that the Al Shifa factory was involved in the production of chemical weapons was just a big lie—and that the administration knew it was a lie. These accusations were the excuse given for bombing the pharmaceutical plant.

**WTO protests**

The prospect of watching representatives of the world's biggest and most predatory imperial powers trying to improve the terms of their plunder at the Seattle "Millennium Round" of the World Trade Organization is bringing tens of thousands of workers and activists into motion.

On Nov. 27, an estimated 15,000 marched in Paris behind a banner reading "Against the WTO: the world is not for sale." Unions that have been waging a campaign for a 35-hour work week joined with farmers, students, and political parties to protest the impact of "globalization" on the world's working people.

Protests are set for around the world during the week of the WTO meeting, which opened on Nov. 30.

---

**Solidarity with Vieques**

The fight to get the U.S. Navy out of Vieques, an island off the coast of Puerto Rico, has spread beyond the island to Latin America. Pickets went up at the U.S. embassy in Panama City on Nov. 26. Protesters march in New York City on Nov. 29. Now America is locking out of Vieques and the Pentagon to pay the costs of cleaning the island.

Until April, the Pentagon used Vieques as a bombing range and as a site for military maneuvers. When a Navy bomb aimed at Vieques crashed into its own troops in Paris, the Pentagon released gas and tear gas. Meanwhile, protests against the Pentagon presence on the island erupted across all political sectors. Because Washington was afraid the Puerto Rican people's anger would turn against the entire Pentagon presence on the island—it recently became home to the Southern Army of the U.S. this was the most important U.S. intervention in Latin America—the military exercises were suspended.

The Panama protest was organized by the National Sovereignty Movement, a group that is fighting to make sure that the United States lives up to its promise to promote a political solution to the剡is conflict. The movement is in the majority for the purpose of defeating the then-progressive government's economic program to "promote a political solution to the conflict." The movement is in the majority for the purpose of defeating the then-progressive government's economic program to "promote a political solution to the conflict." The movement is in the majority for the purpose of defeating the then-progressive government's economic program to "promote a political solution to the conflict." The movement is in the majority for the purpose of defeating the then-progressive government's economic program to "promote a political solution to the conflict." The movement is in the majority for the purpose of defeating the then-progressive government's economic program to "promote a political solution to the conflict." The movement is in the majority for the purpose of defeating the then-progressive government's economic program to "promote a political solution to the conflict."

---

**Contrasts in Solidarity**

**FRANCE, SWITZERLAND**

The contrast is clearly evident when looking at the solidarity issues in the French cities of Marseille, Lyon, Strasbourg, and Lille. Thousands also converged on the headquarters of the WTO in Geneva, Switzerland, on Nov. 27 and 28. That protest was headed by a delegation of about 1,000 Basque farmers, who called themselves "the farmers of the Basque, or other world economic forums. They are being raised with ever more insistence on the island—it recently became home to the Southern Army of the U.S. This was to Albright's liking. Rice and Pendergast seem to differ from Albright regarding tactics. They take a superficially much harder line—advocating direct military intervention against Sudan and offering food to the PLA. Pendergast acknowledged that there is an internal battle in the U.S. administration over whether to implement the food bill legislation.

There is no division, however, on whether to drop sanctions—the weapon of choice against domestic economic nuclear, Iran, Iraq, North Korea, Cuba and Yugoslavia.

Another tactical division in the State Department has passed some U.S. crimes. The Oct. 27 New York Times printed a full-page cartoon of a protester. Each pointed a finger at the other about the bombing of the American embassies in Kenya and Tanzania and the subsequent bombing of the Al Shifa pharmaceutical plant.

There have been increasing exposures that the U.S. accusation that the Al Shifa factory was involved in the production of chemical weapons was just a big lie—and that the administration knew it was a lie. These accusations were the excuse given for bombing the pharmaceutical plant.

---

**Panama**

The fight to get the U.S. Navy out of Vieques, an island off the coast of Puerto Rico, has spread beyond the island to Latin America. Pickets went up at the U.S. embassy in Panama City on Nov. 26. Protesters march in New York City on Nov. 29. Now America is locking out of Vieques and the Pentagon to pay the costs of cleaning the island.

Until April, the Pentagon used Vieques as a bombing range and as a site for military maneuvers. When a Navy bomb aimed at Vieques crashed into its own troops in Paris, the Pentagon released gas and tear gas. Meanwhile, protests against the Pentagon presence on the island erupted across all political sectors. Because Washington was afraid the Puerto Rican people's anger would turn against the entire Pentagon presence on the island—it recently became home to the Southern Army of the U.S. this was the most important U.S. intervention in Latin America—the military exercises were suspended.

The Panama protest was organized by the National Sovereignty Movement, a group that is fighting to make sure that the United States lives up to its promise to promote a political solution to the conflict. The movement is in the majority for the purpose of defeating the then-progressive government's economic program to "promote a political solution to the conflict."

---

**Contrasts in Solidarity**

**FRANCE, SWITZERLAND**

The contrast is clearly evident when looking at the solidarity issues in the French cities of Marseille, Lyon, Strasbourg, and Lille. Thousands also converged on the headquarters of the WTO in Geneva, Switzerland, on Nov. 27 and 28. That protest was headed by a delegation of about 1,000 Basque farmers, who called themselves "the farmers of the Basque, or other world economic forums. They are being raised with ever more insistence on the island—it recently became home to the Southern Army of the U.S. This was to Albright's liking. Rice and Pendergast seem to differ from Albright regarding tactics. They take a superficially much harder line—advocating direct military intervention against Sudan and offering food to the PLA. Pendergast acknowledged that there is an internal battle in the U.S. administration over whether to implement the food bill legislation.

There is no division, however, on whether to drop sanctions—the weapon of choice against domestic economic nuclear, Iran, Iraq, North Korea, Cuba and Yugoslavia.

Another tactical division in the State Department has passed some U.S. crimes. The Oct. 27 New York Times printed a full-page cartoon of a protester. Each pointed a finger at the other about the bombing of the American embassies in Kenya and Tanzania and the subsequent bombing of the Al Shifa pharmaceutical plant.

There have been increasing exposures that the U.S. accusation that the Al Shifa factory was involved in the production of chemical weapons was just a big lie—and that the administration knew it was a lie. These accusations were the excuse given for bombing the pharmaceutical plant.
Immigrant workers always on capitalism's hit list

William Gates III, founder of Microsoft Corporation and the richest person in the world, is worth $90 billion. That means he makes roughly $23 million an hour. Compare this to the Thai workers discovered four years ago in Los Angeles. Living behind barbed wire, some had been held captive for over five years. They worked 84 hours a week in a garment sweatshop, earning $1.60 an hour—wages they often did not even see.

Now consider the enormous technological advances of this decade. High-speed computers have opened up vast new worlds, allowing people to explore a universe they had never thought possible.

Yet a poor woman on welfare can't even get an ATM card. And many workers—particularly immigrant workers who work in sweatshops—don't have access to toilets.

Doesn't this gross inequality and obscurantism in access to wealth and technology expose the capitalist system? Doesn't this show that capitalism is an outdated, inferior and subordinate system that must be abolished?

Immigrant workers are a sector of the working class always on capitalism's hit list.

Our party is paying attention to this important phenomenon. As we enter the next millennium, the case of immigrant workers is a crucial test of the capitalist system as a decaying, filthy system that cannot provide for the masses of people.

How else can it be that in 1999 there are workers who held these hopes did not understand that capitalism thrives on exploitation, that profit is the guiding force in this economic era of peace and demilitarization. Those who are new to the world of work, those who have left movement, were deluded into thinking that the USSR and the Warsaw Pact would come to a screeching halt.

What changed U.S. policy toward Yugoslavia, Iraq?

Ten years ago, neither Yugoslavia nor Iraq would have seemed likely targets of U.S. military attack. Both were key countries in strategic regions. Yugoslavia was a socialist workers' state with a large state-owned sector, extensive social programs and rich oil resources.

While the U.S. had been fiercely hostile to both after their respective revolutions—1945 in Yugoslavia, 1958 in Iraq—that had seemed to change over the years. Ten years ago, the official U.S. policy was somewhat "friendly" toward both countries.

In 1990-91, however, all this "friendliness" suddenly evaporated. The besieged mask dropped away, revealing the true face of U.S. policy. The U.S. rulers and their "friends" in the media were deluding themselves. As soon as the Eastern European regimes were submerged in the "uprising" and "change" of 1989, the U.S. government's immigration policy was thoroughly racist.

The U.S.-Canadian border is not patrolled and militarized like a war zone. That's not where the Immigration and Naturalization Service assigns 5,000 armed troops—the hated La Migra—to patrol the border.

The INS says that last year it carried out 104,484 apprehensions. That means Gestapo-like raids at the workplaces, in the communities of immigrant workers. Mothers and fathers were separated from their children. The bosses pocketed their unpaid weekly wages.

Just like the NYPD or the LAPD, La Migra serves as a state-sanctioned, repressive, occupying force with only one objective—to terrorize immigrants of color.

That's why we demand that the INS get out of our communities. That they be disarmed, disbanded and abolished.

Imperialism now has tentacles all over the world. The IMF demands structural adjustment policies and privatization, forcing workers to leave the homelands in search of jobs.

The AFL-CIO estimated that over 100 million people in the world have left their countries of origin in search of economic relief.

Immigrant workers are on the move. They are organizing unions in this country at an unprecedented rate. That is why Clinton and Wall Street send INS goons to work places—to break up union drives.

They did this at the Holiday Inn in Minneapolis, at the IBP meatpacking plant in Nebraska, at the Swift Meat Co. in Washington state, and at Waste Management in San Leandro, Calif.

The workers have little choice but to fight back. Their struggles are changing the labor movement forever.

Karl Marx wrote over 100 years ago that the ruling class would create its own grave diggers. As the communities of immigrant workers. Mothers and fathers would not be staffed, the build- ing would not get constructed. This is our message to Bill Gates and all the other dot com billionaires: While you surf the web, immigrant workers at the Omaha Packing Plant do not get bathroom breaks. They have been forced to re- lease themselves in their clothes. This is a humiliation that cannot be tolerated.

You, the capitalist pigs who control society today, can do no better than this. We created the wealth. Now we want it back. Tomorrow, the workers will run society in a just and humane manner.

Immigrant workers always on capitalism's hit list
Marina fija enfrentamiento para diciembre
Lucha en pie para sacar al Pentágono del Vieques

Por Berta Joubert-Ceci
Vieques, Puerto Rico

El Pentágono quiere que a comienzos de diciembre, el grupo puertorriqueño de activistas haya retirado su megafonía. Pero los planes del ejército más poderoso del mundo han sido interrumpidos por el pequeño pueblo de Vieques y sus partidarios en Puerto Rico y otras partes.

La lucha por expulsar a la Marina Norteamericana de Vieques está alcanzando su punto crítico. Hasta ahora, todos los comités gubernamentales que fueron formados para estudiar este punto—tanto en Puerto Rico como en los Estados Unidos—han publicado la mayoría de sus resultados.

La Marina y el Pentágono han dado un ultimátum. Los militares Norteamericanos están listos para retirar sus bombarderos y aterrizar en Vieques. El pueblo de Puerto Rico y de Vieques dice: "Ni una bomba más.

El gobierno Norteamericano apoya al Pentágono. El comandante de la base de Vieques ha dicho que quiere favorecer al Pentágono, se ha enfrentado a la grán resistencia del pueblo. La decisión del Presidente Clinton ha sido anunciada oficialmente. En lugar de que la Marina permanezca en Vieques, se ha nombrado como comandante a un general presidencial.

Octubre, Clinton ahora propone un fin del año para tres años que el pueblo de Vieques se retire de Vieques. Además, dijo que la Marina solamente va a bombardear 90 días al año.

Puerto Rico reveló que la Marina planea enfrentamiento para diciembre, el grupo acorazado Eisenbardo a la isla de Puerto Rico. Así, la Marina y sus activistas lograron llegar a la meta. "Ni una bomba más."

El gobierno Norteamericano ha dado un ultimátum a los activistas de Vieques. El Pentágono quiere que a comienzos de diciembre, el grupo puertorriqueño de activistas haya retirado su megafonía.