BCA Dispatch

Newsletter of the
Boston-Cambridge Alliance for Democracy

March 2008

[As at Guantánamo] the Nazis, too, set up the People's Court, which also bypassed the judicial system: Prisoners were held indefinitely, often in isolation, and tortured, without being charged with offences, and were subjected to show trials. Eventually, the Special Courts became a parallel system that put pressure on the regular courts to abandon the rule of law in favor of Nazi ideology when making decisions.

—Naomi Wolf

Ed. Note: Here in civil society, taking more time, the judicial system itself has been corrupted by lifetime appointments ever more compliant with presidential fiat. Senators, fearing to be dislodged, waffle and approve nominees just a bit more humane than the ever more vicious nominees. Do we need to uncouple our local courts from the federal—a new federalism?

CHAPTER NEWS (Contined on page 8)

BCA stalwarts have been especially active this month in promoting our **Globalization Impact Bill** in the state legislature. Sponsored by **Rep. Byron Rushing** (who introduced the Burma Law), H.374 is finally coming out of committee after languishing —with repeated refilings—for 8 years while citizens and legislators were distracted by scandalous White House activity including the Iraq war, and Congressional intransigence. The bill, if it is passed into law, will set up a commission to scrutinize all US international trade (and attached military) agreements, and report on what we should or should not support. Joined with similar but more limited authorities **in** *(Continued on Page 8 >>)*

Trampling African Hopes

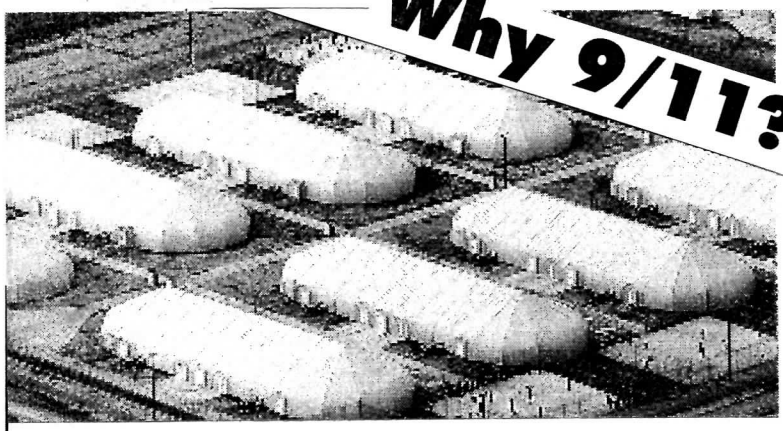
China/Africa Trade vs. US Military Rule

Daniel Volman & Beth Tuckey, Foreign Policy In Focus, 21 Feb 2008

IN FEBRUARY 2007, PRESIDENT BUSH ANNOUNCED that the United States would create a new military command for Africa, to be known as the Africa Command or AFRICOM, to protect U.S national security interests on the African continent. Previously, control over U.S. military operations in Africa was divided between three different commands: European Command, which oversaw North Africa and most of sub-Saharan Africa; Central Command, which had responsibility for Egypt and the Horn of Africa; and Pacific Command, which administered the Indian Ocean and Madagascar.

The new command set up shop in Stuttgart, Germany in October 2007, as a sub-command of the European Command, and is scheduled to become a separate, fully independent command in October 2008. The Pentagon intends to establish a headquarters—or set of regional headquarters—on the African continent. But Liberia is the only country that has publicly offered to host AFRICOM, and the issue remains unresolved.

The Pentagon claims that AFRICOM is all about integrating coordination and "building partner capacity." But the new structure is really about securing oil *(Continued on Page 5 >>)*



Raymondville ("Ritmo") Texas Detention Center
Windowless kevlar-like tents housing 200 persons, operated by Corrections Corporation of America. FEMA will be in charge in the event of a national emergency. There are at least 600 such concentration camps scattered among most of our 50 states, each holding up to 20,000 or more. Massachusetts camps are found at Ft. Devons and Camp Edwards/Otis AFB, Cape Cod. All camps have railroad facilities. See abovetopsecret.com and apfn.org .

Welcome to Your US Gulag

Terror Suspect List Increases by 20,000/mo

by Lewis Seiler & Dan Hamburg, San Francisco Chronicle, 4 Feb 2008

Since 9/11, and seemingly without the notice of most Americans, the federal government has assumed the authority to institute martial law, arrest a wide swath of dissidents (citizen and noncitizen alike), and detain people without legal or constitutional recourse in the event of "an emergency influx of immigrants in the U.S., or to support the rapid development of new programs."

Beginning in 1999, the government has entered into a series of single-bid contracts with Halliburton subsidiary Kellogg, Brown and Root (KBR) to build detention camps at undisclosed locations within the United States. The government has also contracted with several companies to build thousands of railcars, some reportedly equipped with shackles, ostensibly to transport detainees.

According to diplomat and author Peter Dale Scott, the KBR contract is part of a Homeland Security plan titled ENDGAME, which sets as its goal the removal of "all removable aliens" and "potential terrorists."

Fraud-busters such as Rep. Henry Waxman, D-Los Angeles, have complained about these contracts, saying that more taxpayer dollars should not go to taxpayer-gouging Halliburton. But the real question is: What kind of "new programs" require the construction and refurbishment of detention facilities in nearly every state of the union with the capacity to house perhaps millions of people?

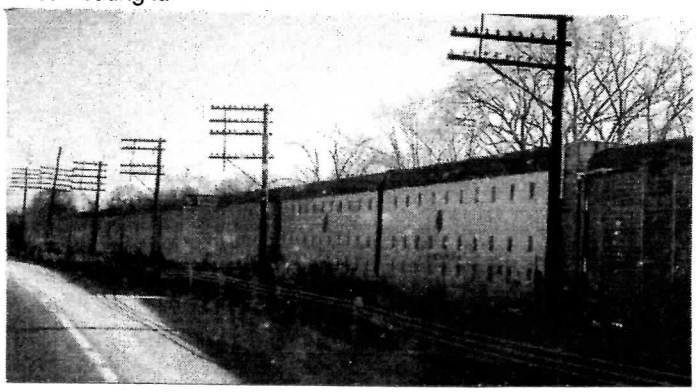
Sect. 1042 of the 2007 National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA), "Use of the Armed Forces in Major Public Emergencies," gives the executive the power to invoke martial law. For the first time in more than a century, the president is now authorized to use the military in response to "a natural disaster, a disease outbreak, a terrorist attack or any other condition in which the President determines that domestic violence has occurred to the extent that state officials cannot maintain public order."

The Military Commissions Act of 2006, *(Continued on Page 2>>)*

rammed through Congress just before the 2006 midterm elections, allows for the indefinite imprisonment of anyone who donates money to a charity that turns up on a list of "terrorist" organizations, or who speaks out against the government's policies. The law calls for secret trials for citizens and non-citizens alike.

Also in 2007, the White House quietly issued National Security Presidential Directive 51 (NSPD-51), to ensure "continuity of government" in the event of what the document vaguely calls a "catastrophic emergency." Should the president determine that such an emergency has occurred, he and he alone is empowered to do whatever he deems necessary to ensure "continuity of government." This could include everything from canceling elections to suspending the Constitution to launching a nuclear attack. Congress has yet to hold a single hearing on NSPD-51.

U.S. Rep. Jane Harman, D-Venice (Los Angeles County) has come up with a new way to expand the domestic "war on terror." Her Violent Radicalization and Homegrown Terrorism Prevention Act of 2007 (HR1955), which passed the House by the lopsided vote of 404-6, would set up a commission to "examine and report upon the facts and causes" of so-called violent radicalism and extremist ideology, then make legislative recommendations on combating it.



Prisoner railroad cars traveling on Conrail tracks next to state route 5 between Amsterdam and Scotia NY.

According to commentary in the *Baltimore Sun*, Rep. Harman and her colleagues from both sides of the aisle believe the country faces a native brand of terrorism, and needs a commission with sweeping investigative power to combat it.

A clue as to where Harman's commission might be aiming is the Animal Enterprise Terrorism Act, a law that labels those who "engage in sit-ins, civil disobedience, trespass, or any other crime in the name of animal rights" as terrorists. Other groups in the crosshairs could be anti-abortion protesters, anti-tax agitators, immigration activists, environmentalists, peace demonstrators, Second Amendment rights supporters ... the list goes on and on. According to author Naomi Wolf, the National Counterterrorism Center holds the names of roughly 775,000 "terror suspects" with the number increasing by 20,000 per month.

What could the government be contemplating that leads it to make contingency plans to detain without recourse millions of its own citizens?

The Constitution does not allow the executive to have unchecked power under any circumstances. The people must not allow the president to use the war on terrorism to rule by fear instead of by law.

Lewis Seiler is the president of Voice of the Environment, Inc. Dan Hamburg, a former congressman, is executive director.

Insiders Plan Another Catastrophe

Ex-Army Intelligence on the Next 9/11

by Eric H. May, Global Research, 23 February 2008

THE EASIEST WAY TO CARRY OUT A FALSE FLAG ATTACK is by setting up a military exercise that simulates the very attack you want to carry out. As I'll detail below, this is exactly how government perpetrators in the US and UK handled the 9/11 and 7/7 "terror" attacks, which were in reality government attacks blamed on "terrorists."...

My aim, as a former military intelligence officer who spent five years with the U.S. Army 75th Division conducting military war games, is to convince the American people that the "next 9/11"—constantly promised by officials and the media—is likely to be carried out under the guise of future military exercises. If the American people are aware of pending exercises and the danger they represent, then the exercises cannot "go live" and effect the very terror events that they are supposed to be rehearsing against...

Last year I published "Next 9/11, Summer 2007?" in response to the same kind of requests that have led me to publish this essay as a 2008 update. My 2007 three most likely cities for the next 9/11 were Houston, Chicago and Portland. This year the same three cities are still most endangered, in light of the fact that the US military has designated Texas, Indiana and Oregon as three of its four target states in the 2008 version of its Noble Resolve military exercises. Granted, Chicago is in Illinois, not Indiana, but Indiana is quite close, and has been used to stage forces for terror exercises conducted in Chicago in recent years.

It may come as a surprise to people not acquainted with military preparations that the same cities remain on the list even though analysts like me have publicized them widely. There are considerable difficulties in setting up the political, police, military and media players necessary to support a false flag attack. While many in the 911 truth movement believe that national military forces can simply hit any city at any time, it's not so easy—thank God... This means that target cities can't breathe easy just because they have detected, exposed and preempted a single false flag attempt.

Brief target analysis of the top three cities:

Primary Target: **Houston**. Over the past four years military and police veterans like me have been alerting the public to government exercises aiming at the nuclear destruction of Houston petro-suburbs. Five times in those four years we were able to predict to within a day major petrochemical explosions in those petro-suburbs. The odds against this kind of accuracy are astronomical. As the center of Big Oil and the Bush Family, Houston remains the most endangered city in America. Any patriotic group, like mine, trying to alert its home city to the dangers of a false flag attack should read my recent article, "The 1/31 Nuke: Proof for Ron Paul" about the successful interdiction of a 2006 attempt against Texas City:
http://www.thepriceofliberty.org/08/01/28/may.htm

Secondary Target: **Chicago**. While Houston is the most endangered city, the most endangered building—the best candidate to be the next World Trade Center—is the Sears Tower. Official sources have pronounced it just that ever since the original 9/11 attack, when they said it was on the Al Qaeda hit list. Larry Silverstein, who bought the Twin Towers two months before 9/11, led a group that purchased the Sears

Tower on 3/11, 2004, the day of the Madrid bombings. Federal officials have been pointing to Chicago and its Sears Tower as Al Qaeda targets since the original 9/11 attacks, and have repeated the threat ever since. In May 2006,, the government scheduled secret 9/11-type exercises in Chicago, while Chicago Mayor Daley was docked conveniently away in Israel for his first visit there. I sent a widely read communiqué to Illinois Governor Blagojevich as part of a successful Internet attempt to shut down the pending false flag attack:
http://tekgnosis.typepad.com/tekgnosis/2006/05/ghost_troop_com.html

Tertiary Target: **Portland, Oregon.** Portland, called "Little Beirut" by Bush cronies because of its enmity to Bush 41 and Bush 43,* made my top three list only last summer, when it was designated as a target for a nuclear attack by successive exercises Noble Resolve and TOPOFF. The language in an official press release stated the case plainly enough: "Noble Resolve will coordinate with officials in Oregon to model a nuclear attack on Portland." In the course of researching Portland for a series of articles I wrote about the city and its exercises I discovered that Stanford and Harvard had prepared a detailed nuclear fallout map for it, that national military commanders and state National Guard commanders were telling different stories about what the exercises were trying to accomplish, and that Portland's *The Oregonian* newspaper was doing everything it could to avoid investigating the frightening anomalies. I wasn't at all surprised that the last day of the exercises found the Homeland Security director Michael Chertoff in downtown Portland, which was largely closed down by an "unexpected" bomb threat. For another professional perspective on how great the danger was—and may be again—I refer the reader to the analysis of my colleague, Major William B. Fox (USMC):
http://www.lonestaricon.com/absolutenm/anmviewer.asp?a=2006&z=186

Postscript

"Good morning. At this moment, somewhere in the world, terrorists are planning new attacks on our country. Their goal is to bring destruction to our shores that will make September the 11th pale by comparison." —George W. Bush, Feb. 13, 2008

I can't think of a more important question than the one of where the next 9/11 will be attempted. Common sense dictates to all of us who understand the truth about 9/11 that its perpetrators must strike again. Indeed, every directive, act and decision of our post-9/11 unitary executive, cowards' Congress and Judas judiciary has increased the power of the federal government to wage the Global War and impose the Homeland State.

Why on earth would those already guilty of high treason, mass murder and war crimes fail to follow up on their earlier efforts? They understand quite well that the Global War is going badly and the Homeland State is becoming onerous, and that only a reapplication of false flag terror will force the American people to proceed with our post-9/11 national insanity.

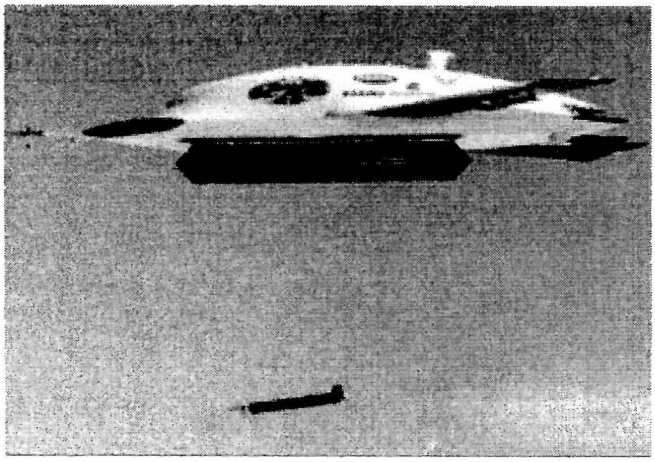
Still, for every one person who republishes or constructively comments on this essay, there will be another who employs division, abuse and ridicule against me or anyone else who asserts the common sense point that false-flaggers will continue to false-flag, just as murderers will continue to murder and robbers will continue to rob. It's Newtonian in its simplicity: things continue to drift the way they are drifting until they are stopped.

We can stop the deadly drift of America only by understanding 9/11 and anticipating the next 9/11. Many of the vociferous voices impeding our understanding and anticipation are performing a vital service for treason. The federal government once used counterintelligence programs (COINTELPRO) against the Vietnam era antiwar and civil rights movement, and common sense would suggest that they are using it again in the post-9/11 era, this time against the antiwar and 911 truth movement. The most dangerous voices of all are those from false friends who have infiltrated us to confuse us until the traitors who carried out 9/11 can repeat their performance.

Captain May is a former [U.S.] Army military intelligence and public affairs officer, as well as a former NBC editorial writer. His political and military analyses have appeared in The Wall Street Journal, The Houston Chronicle *and* Military Intelligence Magazine.

** For 41st and 43 presidents.*
For more information, or his interview schedule, refer to his homesite:
http://www.spiritone.com/~pazuu/pow-mia/Ghost_Troop_Captain_Eric_H_May.htm

Aerial Assassinations



US unmanned Predator aircraft releasing missile

NOT SO LONG AGO IN THE UNITED STATES, presidentially sanctioned assassinations abroad were illegal. But that was then; this is so now... In our world, there is a chasm that can never be breached between, say, a Sunni extremist clothed in a suicide vest who walks into a market in Baghdad with the barbaric intent of killing as many Shiite civilians as possible, and an air or missile attack —done in the name of American "security" and aimed at a "known terrorist"—that just happens, repeatedly, to kill innocent civilians. And yet, what if you know before you launch your attack, as American planners certainly must, that the odds are that innocents (and probably no one else) will die?

—Tom Engelhardt, tomdispatch.com, 17 Mar 2008

Italian Documentary on 9/11 Myth

European Parliament Applauds "Zero"

by Dave Lewit from notes by Mark Dermul, 911belgium.be, Posted by Carol Brouillet at 911blogger.com

WHILE MAJOR US MEDIA REMAIN MUM to the falsifications of the official story of the 9/11 attacks, the European Parliament in Brussels viewed a new film "created for 9/11 newbies" produced by the Italian Claudio Fracassi and promoted by Italian Member of the European Parliament, Giulietto Chiesa. The MEPs responded with several minutes of sustained applause to the film entitled "ZERO: An Investigation into 9/11" which highlighted glaring contradictions between documented facts and the official story blaming piloted airplane crashes.

According to Chiesa "the film is the primary instrument to get the debate going. It is a collection of discoveries, by many respected researchers from around the globe." The film features commentaries by Gore Vidal, Sibel Edmonds, Dario Fo, David Ray Griffin, Dr Steven Jones, Dr Kevin Ryan, Webster Tarpley, Barbara Honegger, FAA-controllers, USAF pilots, military commanders, and physicists, among others—together with video documentation from the disaster scenes. [*Dispatch* readers may have seen such documentation in the films "9-11 Mysteries", "Loose Change", and others, but in current internet explorations we had never before seen demonstrations of the power of thermite (or the sulfured version thermate) to burn through steel as at www.youtube.com/watch?v=aQ_3z7OAP6k&NR=1 , without which the Trade Towers and Building 7—with their persistent puddles of molten steel—could not have collapsed. Viewers of the YouTube documentation see workers confronting these puddles.]

Discussants on the Parliament podium included Chiesa, Japanese Parliament member Yukihisa Fujita (who took the issue before his parliament, grilling the foreign secretary who had investigated the deaths of 20 Japanese in the disaster—see it on YouTube), David Ray Griffin (renowned philosopher and author of 6 books on 9/11 truth and falsehoods, none of which have ever been reviewed by major US newspapers—but see reviews at Amazon.com), British film distributor Tim Sparke, and directors Franco Fracassi and Francesco Trento. Videos of the discussion will be available soon, according to reporter Mark Dermul. YouTube shows segments now.

In conclusion, Chiesa said: "A new American commission is inconceivable. But a European commission is inconceivable too. We have no jurisdiction. The US-government would never allow it. It would have to be an international group of 'wise men & women' such as previous heads of state, engineers, artists, scholars, first responders, survivors, witnesses and so forth. We realize we still have a long road ahead. But we can create change!"

Griffin said: "I've always said that the truth will come out of friendly countries. If Iran or Korea were to tell us 9/11 was an inside job, we would not believe it. They're just saying that, because they're our enemies. But if Japan, Europe or even an individual European country would say 'We have examined the evidence... The war on terror is a hoax!', then the American press would no longer be able to ignore it. They would have to publish it and then the US government would be forced to respond."

Sparke is "confident that Zero will be screened world-wide theatrically, it is a beautifully-crafted film, of incredible significance... Zero is arguably the most important film made this year. It proves conclusively that the official story of 9/11 is false and that whatever happened on that fateful day must be re-examined by an independent authority. It is our hope that the European Parliament will take up this challenge."

Big Brother Sneaks Back

Illegally Restarts Personal Data Dragnet

by Am Civil Liberties Union, aclu.org, 12 Mar 2008

The American Civil Liberties Union responded today to a stunning new report that the NSA has effectively revived the Orwellian "Total Information Awareness" domestic-spying program that was banned by Congress in 2003. In response, the ACLU said that it was filing a Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) request for more information about the spying. And, the group announced that it was moving its "Surveillance Clock" one minute closer to midnight... Congress shut down TIA because it represented a massive and unjustified governmental intrusion into the personal lives of Americans...

The Total Information Awareness (TIA) program was a mammoth data mining program that envisioned programming computers to trawl through an extensive list of databases containing personal information about Americans—including communications, medical, travel, education and financial data—in an attempt to detect supposedly "suspicious" patterns. Congress shut down the program amid bipartisan objections that it was the most far-reaching domestic surveillance proposal that had ever been offered...

Stop Favoring Rich Web Users

Markey Bill to Assure Net Neutrality

Editorial, San Jose Mercury News (CA), 22 Feb 2008

The Internet has spawned tremendous choice and innovation for consumers and businesses. But that would change if the phone and cable giants played favorites in who uses their broadband networks, and how they're used.

That's why U.S. policy-makers must protect the principle of an open and free Internet. Under this idea of "network neutrality" that has long prevailed, any Internet user has unrestricted access to all Web sites, content and services without interference from network providers.

Last week, Rep. Edward Markey, D-Mass., introduced legislation to enshrine this principle in law and prevent network operators from discriminating against certain types of Internet traffic. The "Internet Freedom Preservation Act" deserves passage.

The Net neutrality debate has taken on new significance with the explosion in Internet video, which chews up huge amounts of bandwidth. A video surge recently prompted Comcast to block or delay some video traffic from file-sharing networks like BitTorrent, actions Comcast says are needed to prevent bandwidth hogs from crowding out other users.

The video boom also is prompting broadband providers to consider pricing plans based on amount of use, a step toward tiered service that undermines Net neutrality.

The Markey bill would update federal communications law to

protect against "discrimination" and "degradation" of content by network operators. It would give the Federal Communications Commission a clearer mandate to protect neutrality. It would also require the agency to conduct public broadband "summits" and to assess whether broadband services are ensuring an open Internet.

Like the telegraph and telephone before it, the Internet is a public medium that should be free of undue interference from network operators. This principle has made the Internet an unrivaled platform for innovation, allowing anyone with new ideas, opinions or businesses to access the Web on equal footing. That's what gave rise to Amazon, eBay, Google, Internet phone calling, file-sharing and now Internet video.

Keeping the Internet neutral is key to U.S. leadership in the digital economy. We should not take this bedrock principle for granted.

AFRICA (Continued from Page 1)

resources, countering terrorism, and rolling back Chinese influence. Given AFRICOM's emphasis on defense over diplomacy, resistance to the initiative is possible not only from civic movements but even the U.S. State Department.

Real Reasons for AFRICOM

Professional military officers have made it clear that the new Africa Command has three main purposes. First and foremost, the new command's main mission is to protect American access to Africa's oil and other resources, preferably by enhancing the ability of African allies to guard these resources themselves on behalf of the United States. But, to prepare for the day that Washington decides to try to use American troops in a desperate bid to keep them flowing, the United States is also acquiring access to local African military bases and dramatically expanding its naval presence off Africa's coastline, especially in the oil-rich Gulf of Guinea region. Imports from Africa are expected to reach 25% by 2015, making Africa one of the largest future suppliers of U.S. oil – larger even than the Persian Gulf.

The new command will also expand and intensify counter-terrorism operations in Africa and will make the continent a central battlefield in the Global War on Terror. Through AFRICOM, the Pentagon will intensify and extend U.S. counter-terrorism operations in Africa as well as its involvement in counter-insurgency warfare and other internal security operations in African countries. American troops are already engaged in combat operations in Somalia – where air and naval strikes aimed at alleged al-Qaeda members instead killed dozens of Somali civilians in January and June 2007 – and U.S. troops were engaged in combat-support operations in Mali in September 2007.

Finally, the new command is designed to counter China's efforts to increase its influence and its access to African oil and other raw materials. The creation of AFRICOM is one element of a broad effort to develop a "grand strategy" on the part of the United States to compete with, and eventually restrain China's activities. It is also intended to demonstrate to Beijing that Washington will match China's actions, thus serving as a warning to Chinese leaders that they should restrain themselves or face possible consequences to their relationship with America as well as to their interests in Africa.

Operations

AFRICOM will take over the implementation of a growing and truly frightening array of military, security cooperation, and security assistance programs conducted either by the State Department or by the Defense Department (DoD). Through these programs, the United States provided more than $240 million worth of military equipment and training to African countries in FY 2006 and more than $500 million worth in FY 2007. AFRICOM will also take over operational control of two task forces. The Combined Joint Task Force-Horn of Africa—based at Camp Lemonier in Djibouti—is conducting raids into Somalia; the Joint Task Force Aztec Silence, based in Sigonella, Italy, is conducting intelligence, surveillance, and combat-support missions in North and West Africa. To support AFRICOM, the United States is also dramatically expanding its naval presence off Africa's coastlines, particularly in the oil-rich Gulf of Guinea region, and has negotiated agreements with at least 10 African countries to ensure access to local military bases by U.S. troops in times of crisis.

This expansion of U.S. military operations in Africa is cause for serious alarm. The Bush administration has clearly given priority to defense above diplomacy – a power imbalance that is likely to result in further destabilization of the African continent. AFRICOM is a command designed to fulfill a short-sighted and ultimately self-destructive vision of U.S. global interests to expand the War on Terror and to satisfy America's hunger for oil and other resources. Such self-interested goals will be to the detriment of African civilians whose needs and concerns will be overshadowed by special interest groups like oil companies and private military contractors.

Africans are not asking for AFRICOM. In fact, most African civilians, governments, and many regional bodies have voiced a vehement "no" to the presence of an American military force in their backyard. Though there will always be exceptions to the rule, the Department of Defense has said it will not go where it is not welcome. Thus, a stance of opposition from the African Union (AU) would send a clear message to the Bush administration that its flawed command is not acceptable to the people or the nations of Africa.

Opposition Mounts

President Bush recently unveiled his Defense Budget for FY2009 – a budget that is unsustainable and unnecessary for achieving true global security. Within it lies a line-item of $389 million for AFRICOM's current operations in Stuttgart, Germany. Embedded further is the budget for current U.S. defense engagements in Africa – all of which will come under the AFRICOM heading. With pressure from the American people, the U.S. Congress can eliminate this ill-conceived Rumsfeld plan from the bloated budget.

It is also imperative that Congress be provided with recommendations for AFRICOM in order to shape the command in the most progressive way possible. Though total elimination of AFRICOM's budget is preferable, Congress can also utilize its power of oversight to ensure that the interests of Africans are upheld. Congress can set specific restrictions on AFRICOM finances to make certain that private defense contractors will never be used to carry out the mission of the command. It can also enact legislation that requires the Pentagon to submit regular reports to Congress on AFRICOM's activities, budget, and how military and civilian partnerships are evolving in the field.

Like Congress, the State Department can play a key role in the movement to oppose AFRICOM. Its duties and oversight are

slowly being chipped away by a defense policy that encompasses civilian activities. Although AFRICOM staff argues that the State Department will remain central to African affairs, the interagency coordination of AFRICOM is structured to give unprecedented power to the Pentagon. Ambassadors and U.S. Agency for International Development personnel must remain at the head of U.S. foreign operations in Africa. They should feel empowered to demand an increased budget and a clear delineation of the command structure such that diplomatic efforts are not contingent upon the opinions of a military general.

Not only are the activities and structure of the command contentious, but the issue of erecting a headquarters on the continent is particularly alarming, especially to Africans. Liberia offered to host the command in the hopes that AFRICOM will generate jobs and infrastructural development for Liberia's struggling economy. Unfortunately, global examples show that U.S. military bases tend to offer relatively little to the communities where they are built and in fact are liable to increase instability or human rights abuses in the long term. In 2001, the United States constructed a base in Manta, Ecuador as a means of expanding U.S. involvement in the drug war and Plan Colombia. Many local Ecuadorians expressed deep, negative sentiments toward Plan Colombia because of the spillover violence and refugees onto their land. In Saudi Arabia and Kuwait, the U.S. government has defended repressive dictators in order to maintain its military presence and access to oil, despite the negative impact on the people of the region. If history is any indication, the United States will prioritize its headquarters construction on what is in the strategic best interest of the United States, regardless of the consequences for democracy and human rights in Africa.

Many African governments and regional bodies have noted the potential for further militarization and have voiced objection to a headquarters on the continent. According to Southern African Development Community's (SADC) Defense Minister Mosiuoa Lekota, "Africa has to avoid the presence of foreign forces on its soil, particularly if any influx of soldiers might affect relations between sister African countries." SADC is comprised of 14 southern African nations and has adopted a regional stance against AFRICOM and foreign military presence. As such, the Pentagon has made a concerted effort to shift the rhetoric away from "base" or "headquarters" and toward "lily-pad" or "office." Regardless of the language or the final outcome, AFRICOM will have access to several military bases on the continent and will use the surrounding waters to push Bush's defense agenda forward.

Can US Work with Africans?

Ultimately, peace and democracy in Africa are elements that can be attained if the United States is willing to work in concert with Africans to determine their needs and desires. Washington can assist in boosting education, jobs, and health care on the continent. It can offer debt relief and an elimination of unjust trade policies. A new administration may provide a reprieve from the heavy-handed defense policy of President Bush, but resisting AFRICOM now is the best way to ensure a fair and just U.S. foreign policy. Once AFRICOM is set in place, it will be increasingly difficult to draw it back. Pushing a diplomatic strategy that relies on true partnership with African governments, the African Union (AU), and African Civil Society is the only approach that is truly in the mutual, long-term interests of the American people and the citizens of Africa's many nations.

FPIF analyst Daniel Volman is the director of the African Security Research Project in Washington, DC, and a member of the board of directors of the Association of Concerned Africa Scholars. He is the author of numerous articles and research reports on U.S. military activities in Africa. FPIF Analyst Beth Tuckey is the associate director of Program Development and Policy at Africa Faith and Justice Network (AFJN) in Washington, DC. www.fpif.org

Neoliberalism in a Nutshell

US Ensures Migration, Then Kidnaps in Lynn

by Jeff Crosby, AFL-CIONowBlog, 24 Sep 2007

MY DAUGHTER TOLD ME, when I dropped her off at work at Market Basket last week: "They got Walter." The police, or the U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE), had come to the supermarket and picked up "Walter." He was a young Latino who had worked his way up to full-time. Nobody on the job knew where he was taken, and nobody knew why he was taken. In the following days it was said he had a false Social Security number. The large-scale raids were supposed to be aimed at the MS-13 gang, but others, including a union organizer, were caught up, and terror spread through the "New Immigrant" communities like a thunderstorm across the Kansas plains.

White neighborhoods didn't even know about the raids. But the Latino neighborhoods were deserted. Around the corner from my union hall in Lynn, Mass., Union Street has been transformed in the past 20 years from an abandoned district inhabited largely by drug dealers into a bustling commercial center of Latino businesses. When news of the raids was spread by the Spanish radio stations, an eerie silence spread over Union Street and other Spanish neighborhoods down into East Boston. The little store selling religious icons of Jesus and Mary was empty. White employers complained their workers disappeared. Parents kept their children home from school, behind locked doors.

Legal residents were affected, as well as those who had crossed the border illegally or overstayed their legal welcome. People knew from the workplace raids in New Bedford earlier this year that you could be arguing your case from a jail cell in Texas with little access to legal help and far from your children and even prescription medicines. Better to miss pay and risk discipline on the job and stay home with your children.

The night before I heard about Walter from my daughter, I had met with a group of Guatemalans from Lynn who wanted to organize a union. Their story is important to anyone who thinks a massive crackdown on undocumented workers will improve conditions for the rest of us. I'll call the company Avaricious Inc.

The day after word spread of the raids, 60 percent of the workers did not show up on the job. So Avaricious called a temp agency. They paid less than the regular employees received—top rate after 10 years was about $14 an hour—and, of course, no benefits. Now the workers expect Avaricious to lay many of them off and use the temp agency permanently.

Avaricious thus saves money but, more importantly, is protected from ICE. They no longer are responsible for the "illegals" since they are not the employer of record. ICE would be faced with chasing ever more desperate and impoverished workers

through shifting, shadowy scab temp agencies that make Avaricious look like a model employer.

So fear reigns over millions of workers and their families in the United States, making them less likely to stick their heads up and organize unions or file complaints with government agencies. Just this week a Guatemalan construction worker from Lynn fell off a roof and was killed—it turned out he was 17. The problem only gets worse—wages and benefits at the low end of the labor market are dropping and are a downward pressure on all wages. This is where we are headed.

Will this stop undocumented workers like the Guatemalans in Lynn from coming? No. We really need to correct our willful ignorance of our own history if we are going to figure out what to do about immigration.

In 1950, Guatemalans elected the mildly reformist President Jacobo Arbenz. Arbenz wanted to give plantation workers rights to the land under their company houses. This would mean the workers could organize unions without being thrown out of their homes. This angered the Boston-based United Fruit Co., which had enjoyed the unrestricted right to exploit Guatemalan workers at their whim. So in 1954, United Fruit and the CIA organized an invasion from Honduras and expelled Arbenz to Mexico, replacing him with pro-corporate military leaders.

Many Guatemalans reasonably concluded that the United States would kill them if they challenged the domination of the corporations and headed to the mountains. A 30-year civil war cost 300,000 lives. The U.S. State Department reported to then-President Ronald Reagan that U.S.-funded and -trained government soldiers committed atrocities like throwing babies down wells, in the course of defending "democracy." More than 400,000 people fled the country, largely to the United States.

Most Guatemalans in Lynn come from San Marcos, which was hit hard by the civil war. Since the guerrillas signed a peace agreement in 1996, "free trade" has continued to devastate San Marcos. Foreign power and mining interests have driven people from their homes to make way for "mega-project" development. Since the neoliberal model mandates that development is for export, 25 percent of the homes in the countryside still have no electricity, while power is shipped North. There is no work for displaced farmers. Villages are emptied, especially of men. Indigenous protesters have been harassed, even killed, and the area is becoming increasingly militarized.

Until conditions improve, immigrants will keep coming. Duh. And it's a desperate journey. You leave your families. You pay a smuggler $5,000-10,000 to get across the border. Thousands died during the trip. U.S. Customs and Border Protection's Office of Border Patrol funding has multiplied by six since 1990 to $1.6 billion annually before the wall-builders got their hands in our pockets—to no avail. All so you can send a little more than $300 a month to feed hungry mouths at home. You could say that Lynn's Guatemalans are just making informed market choices, joining the hundreds of millions of workers who search the desolate neoliberal global landscape for work. Simply to eat. Simply to live.

ICE raids will make things worse for immigrants and other workers here in the United States.

There is, of course, another, better choice. Workers at Avaricious could be granted the basic human right to organize a union. Wages and benefits would stabilize and improve. A path to citizenship would bring these workers and their families out from the shadows. Guatemalans already have the highest rate of labor market participation and work the longest hours of any group in Lynn. They could participate in civic life. Businesses on Union Street and even Avaricious would have steady customers and workers. The growing chasm between rich and poor would begin to shrink for the first time in decades as a major downward pressure on wages was eliminated.

These are our choices, at a turning point in our movement's history. The right choice means fighting not only the haters and their apologists on the right, including the simplistic and intellectually facile harangues of Lou Dobbs. It also means insisting that brothers and sisters in our movement among U.S.-born workers think this through and act accordingly.

A couple of clichés seem appropriate as a conclusion to this column. We need to ask our members to be careful of what they wish for—because we reap what we sow.

That's how "they got Walter."

Jeff Crosby is president of IUE-CWA Local 201 in Lynn, Mass., where he also heads up the AFL-CIO's North Shore Labor Council. For labor news, see http://blog.aflcio.org

Clinton Butters Up Kazak Dictator

Pockets $31.3m in Friendly Uranium Deal

In These Times, March 2008

ON SEPT 6, 2005, FORMER PRESIDENT BILL CLINTON FLEW into Kazakhstan on the private plane of his friend Frank Giustra, a Canadian mining magnate. Clinton and Giustra were there to meet with Kazakh President Nursultan Nazarbayev, once described by the *Independent* [UK] of running "one of the most nepotistic, ruthless, and corrupt regimes in Central Asia." That didn't stop Clinton, however, from calling for Nazarbayev to be appointed as head of the Organization of Security and Cooperation in Europe, which has helped ensure proper and transparent elections in Eastern Europe and Russia.

Clinton's statement, a propaganda coup for Nazarbayev, didn't hurt him or Giustra. Two days later, Giustra's tiny mining company was allowed to buy into three uranium mining projects run by Kazakhstan's state-owned uranium agency. As for Bill, he did OK too. A couple of months later Giustra made a secret $31.3 million charitable donation to the William J. Clinton Foundation.

LETTERS

A Better Activity

Dear Eroc [Ernesto Arroyo—son of Felix]:

...Your multi-cultural experience and your fresh energy [rap artist] qualify you for a special panel which I am organizing for a video shot in Cambridge CCTV at 6-8pm (approximately) on Easter Sunday, March 23rd. It concerns the semi-secret "Security and Prosperity Partnership" of North America---a corporate/military program building on the shoulders of NAFTA...

Dave [BCA organizer]:

Sounds like a wonderful opportunity and I hope it goes well. I am in Japan until May. We are walking over 1000 miles along the coast of Japan from Hiroshima to Tokyo with a group of Buddhist Monks performing in towns in support of Article 9 [anti-war] in the Japanese constitution.

Hope all is well— Eroc

CHAPTER & ALLIANCE NEWS (Continued from Page 1)

a few other states, we might promote a groundswell of intelligence and resistance regarding corporate-driven international and domestic disasters. In the process, we would boost the authority of states and regions in contrast to uncontrolled national executive hubris.

Helping to pry the Globalization Impact bill out of committee, **Joanna Herlihy, Cynthia Ritsher, Lois Voltmer, Paul Brailsford, Barbara Clancy, Dave Lewit**, and others made numerous calls to our friends around Massachusetts, to get them to call their state representatives and senators, and have them call **Rep. Dan Bosley**, the chairperson of the committee on Economic Development and Emerging Technologies, to register their support. For example, we contacted **Deedee Consolati**, a town meeting member in Lee MA with whom we had cooperated on water issues, who in turn got several others to call Dan Bosley directly as well as their own legislators. Bosley represents an adjacent House district in the Berkshires. Similarly, Lois Voltmer of Wayland MA contacted her **Rep. Tom Conroy** who is on the committee. Similarly Paul Brailsford of Ipswich MA contacted his **Rep. Brad Hill** and **Sen. Bruce Tarr**—both of whom are Republicans concerned about the threat of a North American Union coming out of SPP—threatening US sovereignty. Congratulations All!

As The Dispatch go to press, we are making last-minute preparations for three events featuring **Dr.Janet Eaton** of Nova Scotia, Canada—an expert on SPP: (1) the video production mentioned in the letter to **Eroc Arroyo** (see Letters, above), (2) a public powerpoint presentation at the Boston Public Library, and (3) an information session in the State House aimed at legislators (for both events, see ***Action Alerts*** below). In the weeks ahead, the Alliance will spread out and promote the Globalization Impact Bill in meetings and media around the state. Your help will be important. It may help the bill be enhanced through amendment, e.g., regarding commission composition, and for it to become law and start scrutinizing and reporting on trade agreements.

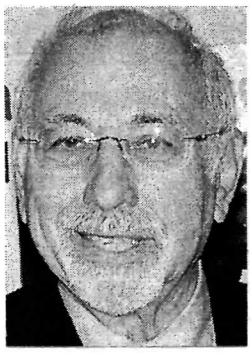
The Alliance also cosponsored and facilitated a panel discussion on 9 March at MIT on SPP and the Colombia Free Trade agreements, joining forces with **Richard Krushnic** of Encuentro5/Greater Boston Latin America & Caribbean Coalition. **Note:** *Encuentro5 has been attacked by one of its tenants, the Jewish Labor Committee, which strong-armed the landlord to forbid the April conference with the New England Committee to Defend Palestine, claiming it is a "hate group"! [Do we have things backward here, folks?] Mass Global Action is taking measures to reverse this outrageous attack on free speech.*

Good News from New Hampshire

Alliance organizers led by **Ruth Caplan** of Washington DC have helped the people (and their town selectboards) in Barnstead NH and Nottingham NH to pass ordinances banning corporate export of their water, and indeed prohibiting corporations the protection of "personhood" (rights of privacy, speech, due process, etc.) in the US and state constitutions.

Alliance Member Runs for US Senate

Remember Alliance's **Doris "Granny D" Haddock**'s creditable 2004 campaign for US Senate from NH? Well, **Herb Hoffman**, formerly of Cambridge MA and for some time a resident of Ogunquit ME, is running as an Independent for US Senate. A former president of the Massachusetts Psychological Association, Herb was an organizer in Maine for presidential candidate **Dennis Kucinich**. He carries forward Kucinich's determination:



"I am a candidate for the United States Senate because I believe my opponents, by not holding this administration accountable, have not served the people of Maine and our Country well. Indeed, I believe that they are complicit by repeatedly voting to fund an immoral and illegal war in Iraq; by voting for the USA Patriot Act; by failing to call for the impeachment of anyone associated with the administration—despite the evidence of high crimes and misdemeanors committed by the President, the Vice President and other members of the Bush Administration." He of course promotes social issues consistent with what Alliance and Kucinich advocate.

ACTION ALERTS

Mon, 24 Mar, 6:30-8:30pm. Boston. **"Security & Prosperity Partnership (SPP)—North American Deal Nobody Knows"** An illustrated presentation by Canada's **Dr. Janet Eaton.** Free. At the Boston Public Library, Copley Square, mezzanine.

Wed, 26 Mar, 11am-12noon. Boston. **"Impacts of SPP and Other Radical Trade Agreements"**. An information session with state legislators. **Rep. Byron Rushing, Dr. Janet Eaton** (Canada), **Tim Sullivan** (AFL-CIO, invited), and _____ (city councilor). Open to all. Beacon Hill, State House, room B-2.

JOIN THE BCA

YOU DON'T HAVE TO LIVE IN BOSTON TO LOVE BCA

Please help us as we fight to make a better future for ourselves and our children -- Join the Boston/Cambridge Alliance for Democracy. (Cut out or copy this form and send it to Dave Lewit, 271 Dartmouth St., Boston, MA 02116.)

BOSTON-CAMBRIDGE ALLIANCE for DEMOCRACY PLEDGE

___$26/Year - "Count me in!"
___$52/Year - "Contributor" (We need to average this amount.)
___$104/Year - "Sustainer" (Helping us thrive.)
___$208/Year - "Community Steward"
___$500/Year - "Realize the vision"
___ What's fair for YOU?_$_____

Name :_____ Date:_____

Street No./Box/Apt:_____

Town and Zip:_____

Phone: Day_____ Night:_____

E-mail: _____

COLOPHON

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