

# Anti-Imperialist News Service

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## Editorial: More Pledges to Continue War

This week we saw more pledges by spokesmen of U.S. imperialism to continue the war in Iraq and elsewhere.

In his State of the Union speech on February 2, President Bush said that U.S. goals in Iraq "remained firm and unchanging," and he promised not to "set an artificial timetable for leaving." He also pledged to continue aggression against Syria, Iran, and North Korea.

The Democratic Party response, by Nancy Pelosi of California and Sen. Harry Reid of Nevada, declared that the U.S. should remain in Iraq and "not slip out the back door, leaving chaos." U.S. troops need to confront "the violent Iraqi insurgency" they said.

Also this week, the new U.S. Secretary of State, Condoleezza Rice, vowed repeatedly that the U.S. would persist in its attempts to overthrow the government of Iran. Calling Iran "the chief funder of terrorism" and a "destabilizing force in the international system," she refused to rule out a U.S. military attack against the country.

We can see from these statements that the U.S. is committed not only to continuing the occupation of Iraq, but also is preparing yet more wars -- wars for empire and profit, wars motivated solely by the exploiting aims of the monopoly capitalist class. Behind all its doublespeak and talk of "spreading democracy," U.S. imperialism is dedicated to "its goal" of maintaining world domination through military aggression.

The U.S. capitalist politicians are showing yet again that international law, the sovereignty of countries, the will of the peoples and every standard of civilization and humanity mean nothing to them.

## U. S. General Says War And Killing "Fun"

On February 2, a top U.S. Marine General declared in a public forum in California that killing was "fun" and "a hoot."

The Marine commander, Lt. Gen. James Mattis, talked of his recent experience leading U.S. troops in Afghanistan and Iraq. He said "Actually, it's quite a lot of fun to fight; you know, it's a hell of a hoot. I like brawling; it's fun to shoot some people."

He enjoyed shooting Afghan men, he clarified, because "You know, guys like that ain't got no manhood left anyway. So, it's a hell of a lot of fun to shoot them."

In response to public outcry over these remarks, the commandant of the Marine Corps, Gen Mike Hagee, issued an official statement praising General Mattis as a "hardened veteran of combat" and "a brave and brilliant military leader." He rejected the idea of taking any disciplinary action against Mattis.

## U. S. Warplanes Violating Iranian Airspace

UPI reported on January 26 that U.S. combat aircraft have been flying into Iranian airspace for weeks now, doing reconnaissance and "probing" for future battles.

"We have to know which targets to attack and how to attack them," said a U.S. official. "These Iranian air defense positions are not just being observed, they're being 'templated,' he said, explaining that the flights are part of a U.S. effort to develop "an electronic order of battle for Iran" in case of war.

The aircraft are violating Iranian airspace in an attempt to lure Teheran into turning on air defense radars, thus allowing U.S. pilots to grid the system for use in future targeting data, an-

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## “Imperialism is Not Invincible”

*(Excerpted from Venezuelanalysis.com)*

Caracas, January 30, 2005

Venezuelan President Hugo Chavez was warmly received at the 2005 edition of the World Social Forum in Porto Alegre, Brazil, where he held several meetings with local leaders, intellectuals and activists, and gave the closing speech at the Gigantinho Stadium....

The Venezuelan President visited the Lagoa do Junco agrarian settlement in Tapes set up by Brazil's Landless Movement (MST), and later held a press conference with more than 120 media organizations, where he criticized the U.S. government for claiming to lead a fight against terrorism while undermining democracy in Venezuela...The leader added that his country's military forces are undergoing a period of modernization of its weapon systems and resources, but asserted that it is aimed at defending the country's sovereignty. "Venezuela will not attack anybody, but don't attack Venezuela, because you will find us ready to defend our sovereignty, and the project we are carrying forward," he added.

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### Iranian Airspace Violated (from page 1)

other official stated. In the event of an actual clash, Iran's air defense radars would be targeted for destruction by air-fired U.S. anti-radiation or ARM missiles, he said. A U.S. intelligence official added: "You need to know what proportion of your initial air strikes are going to have to be devoted to air defense suppression."

The air reconnaissance is taking place in conjunction with other intelligence collection efforts, U.S. government officials said.

To collect badly needed intelligence on the ground about Iran's alleged nuclear program, the United States is depending heavily on Israeli-trained teams of Kurds in northern Iraq and on U.S.-trained teams of former Iranian exiles in the south to gather the intelligence needed for possible strikes against Iran's 13 or more suspected nuclear sites, according to serving and retired U.S. intelligence officials.

"This looks to be turning into a pretty large-scale covert operation," a former long-time CIA operator in the region told UPI. In addition to the air strikes on allegedly Iranian nuclear weapons sites, the second aim of the operation is to secure the support in Iran of those "who view U.S. policy of hostility towards Iran's clerics with favor," he said.

The United States is also attempting to erect a covert infrastructure in Iran able to support U.S. efforts, this source said. It consists of Israelis and other U.S. assets, using third country passports, who have created a network of front companies that they own and staff. "It's a covert infrastructure for material support," a U.S. administration official said.

During the closing speech at the Gigantinho Stadium, the president added that 2005 arrived and the FTAA was not implemented. "The FTAA is death, what they go was mini-FTAA's because the U.S. imperialism did not have the strength to impose the neocolonial model of the FTAA."

The President highlighted the Bolivarian Alternative for the Americas (ALBA), a proposal made by Venezuela in opposition to the Free Trade Agreement of the Americas (FTAA), and which emphasizes social and cultural exchanges above profit-based economic deals. "We can't wait for a sustained economic growth of 10 years in order to start reducing poverty through the trickledown effect, as the neoliberal economic theories propose."

Chavez said U.S.-Venezuela political relations are unhealthy because of "permanent aggressions from there". He criticized U.S. Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice who recently asserted that Chavez was "a negative force in the region." He said those relations will stay unhealthy as long as the U.S. continues its policies of aggression. "The most negative force in the world today is the government of the United States," he said.

The President criticized the U.S. government for asking other countries to pressure Venezuela in the crisis with Colombia over the kidnapping of a Colombian guerrilla activist in Caracas last December. "Nobody answered their call... they are more lonely everyday." He praised the cooperation of other Latin American countries in the resolution of the crisis, and mentioned that Cuban President Fidel Castro held talks with Colombian President Alvaro Uribe to try to help in the resolution of the crisis. Chavez agreed to meet Uribe early in February to settle the dispute.

Chavez added that U.S. imperialism is not invincible. "Look at Vietnam, look at Iraq and Cuba resisting, and now look at Venezuela." In reference to the recommendations of some of his close advisors, he said that "some people say that we cannot say nor do anything that can irritate those in Washington." He repeated the words of Argentine independence hero José de San Martín "let's be free without caring about anyone else says."

"When imperialism feels weak, it resorts to brute force. The attacks on Venezuela are a sign of weakness, ideological weakness. Nowadays almost nobody defends neoliberalism. Up until three years ago, just Fidel [Castro] and I raised those criticisms at Presidential meetings. We felt lonely, as if we infiltrated those meetings."

He added that those ideological and economic weaknesses will continue to increase. "Just look at the internal repression inside the United States, the Patriot Act, which is a repressive law against U.S. citizens. They have put in jail a group of journalists for not revealing their sources. They won't allow them to take pictures of the bodies of the dead soldiers, many of them Latinos, coming from Iraq. Those are signs of Goliath's weaknesses."