

Anti-Imperialist News Service

Print Edition, May 15, 2005

www.anti-imperialist.org

Contents

U.S. Launches New Offensive In Iraq

Protests Against U.S. Occupation of Afghanistan

Statement by The Head of the Delegation of Cuba, During The General Debate of the 7th NPT Review Conference. (Excerpts)

Read the on-line edition at

www.anti-imperialist.org

Updates, Features, Reference Material, Archives, and Pamphlets

Anti-Imperialist News Service

www.anti-imperialist.org

P.O. Box 61870,
Chicago, IL 60680
Phone:
(312) 409-1127

U. S. Launches New Offensive In Iraq

On May 7, U.S. troops launched a largescale offensive against Iraqi villages along the Euphrates river in western Iraq.

This military operation, described by U.S. officials as the biggest campaign since the destruction of Falluja, included a large number of troops supported by fighter jets and helicopter gunships. On May 13, U. S. warplanes "flattened" a housing complex in the village of Qaim. U. S. F-15 fighters dropped 500-pound bombs and F/A-18 fighters strafed the village, while helicopter gunships fired rockets and machine guns into buildings. Hundreds of Iraqis have already been killed or wounded during the offensive.

But U.S. marines are meeting stiff resistance and counter-attacks from the local Iraqi population. In the town of Ubaydi, mortar fire and "heavy pockets of small arms resistance" reportedly kept Marines pinned down. According to one U.S. official, U.S. tanks were unable to cross the river due to "well-organized and well-equipped insurgents fighting from rooftops and inside sandbag bunkers."

In fact, the U.S. occupation is facing resistance not just in the western desert but all over Iraq. This resistance is all-sided and waged on many fronts — in political demonstrations and economic struggles, on the cultural and ideological fronts, and through armed resistance. In Baghdad, U.S. bases and military convoys are coming under increasing attack, and the U.S.-puppet Iraqi army and police stations throughout the country are becoming daily targets. On May 13, Iraq's "interim prime minister," extended a state of emergency which imposes nighttime curfews and gives security forces powers of arrest without warrants.

After 25 months, over 160,000 U.S. troops remain in Iraq, attempting to support an occupation which has brought nothing but war, torture, poverty, and suffering to the Iraqi people.

Over 100,000 Iraqis have been killed as a result of such savage methods as the wholesale bombing of heavily populated areas, collective reprisals against families and whole towns, mass imprisonments, etc. Whole cities have been practically levelled. Iraqi's infrastructure, including its water and sewage systems, electricity, health care system, schools, etc., has been destroyed and U.S. weapons have spread nuclear contamination throughout the country.

Protests Against U.S. Occupation of Afghanistan

Protests against the U.S. occupation are growing throughout Afghanistan.

On May 11, thousands of demonstrators protested against the U.S. military occupation of Afghanistan. After throwing stones at a passing military convoy, demonstrators were attacked by U.S. soldiers and local police who opened fire on them in the city of Jalalabad, 80 miles east of the capital Kabul. 4 protestors were killed, and 71 were injured.

Since then, anti-U.S. demonstrations have erupted throughout the country and spread to 10 of Afghanistan's 34 provinces. At least 16 demonstrators have been killed, and over 100 wounded. During the rally in Jalalabad, an Afghan opposition leader said the protests reflected frustration at the United States plans for long-term U.S. military ties, as well as civilian deaths during U.S. operations. Others complained about abusive U.S. searches during daily U.S. military operations.

In recent weeks, more U.S. soldiers have been killed in fighting near the Pakistan border, and the Pentagon has admitted that U.S. troops are coming under more frequent attacks. Ground and air attacks by the U.S. military continue to result in the death of scores of Afghan civilians.

Continued on page 2

This devastation is the result of the conscious policy of the U.S. government which aims at terrorizing the Iraqi people and imposing colonial rule on the country. From day one, U.S. corporations have rushed in and claimed ownership of the country's economic resources, controlling its currency, its oil wealth, its factories, telecommunications systems, etc. While banning political opposition and hunting down its opponents, the U.S. has imposed a puppet government on the Iraqi people. Permanent U.S. military bases are being built both to "protect" U.S. domination of Iraq and to threaten countries throughout the Middle East.

But the Iraqi people have shown that they will not accept U.S. domination. Their resistance — their struggle to regain national independence and sovereignty — will continue until U.S. troops are forced out of the country. The task of the American people is to demand the immediate, unconditional withdrawal of all U.S. and foreign troops and to support the struggle of the Iraqi people for genuine sovereignty.

Statement by the Head of the Delegation of Cuba, Wenceslao Carrera Doral, During the General Debate of the 7th NPT Review Conference. (Excerpts)

New York, May 5, 2005

The Cuban Government deposited its instrument of adhesion to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons (NPT) on 4 November, 2002. The decision of adhering to this international treaty goes beyond our national interests and it is a proof of our political will and the commitment of the Cuban State with the promotion, strengthening and consolidation of multilateralism and international treaties on disarmament. Likewise, it is a contribution to the efforts to safeguard the United Nations Organization and preserve peace and security worldwide, in spite of the fact that the strongest nuclear power in the world maintains a policy of hostility against Cuba which does not exclude the use of armed force.

Cuba had reservations in relation to the NPT, on account of considering it a discriminatory multilateral mechanism where States have unequal rights and commitments. Only 2.7% of all States Parties in the Treaty conserve the doubtful "privilege" of possessing nuclear weapons. Cuba considers that such a "privilege" shall not be eternal. States that possess nuclear weapons are forced, in compliance with the Treaty's provisions and jointly with other States Parties in it, to develop negotiations favoring nuclear disarmament.

Cuba regrets that such obligation established by the NPT itself has not been fulfilled. On the contrary, there have been real setbacks in the nuclear disarmament process. Nuclear powers have not been able to fulfill the unequivocal commitment to totally eliminate their nuclear arsenals, made during the 2000 Review Conference....

Cuba has always stated that military doctrines based on the possession of nuclear weapons are unsustainable and unacceptable. New strategic defense doctrines of the United States and NATO, their international security concepts based on the promotion and development of military alliances and nuclear deterrence policies, even expanding the scope of the right to use or the threat to use force in international relations are concerning events for all humanity, particularly for poor and non-aligned countries. Everybody should be aware of the fact that the so-called "strategic preemptive doctrine" contradicts the letter and spirit of the NPT....

Cuba's only interest in nuclear energy is related to its peaceful use, under the verification of the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA). In this regard, we will continue to defend decisively the inalienable right of all States to devote, under no conditions, to research, production and use of nuclear energy with peaceful means and to receive, under no discrimination, transferences of material, equipment and scientific and technological information to such ends... ..

The Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons lies on three main pillars: nonproliferation, disarmament and cooperation on the peaceful use of nuclear energy. Cuba rejects the selective implementation of the NPT. Questions related to nuclear disarmament and the peaceful use of nuclear energy cannot continue to be neglected, while horizontal non-proliferation is privileged....

This Conference is an exceptional opportunity to reaffirm and enhance the unequivocal commitment of those States possessing nuclear weapons to eliminate in a transparent, irreversible and accountable manner all of their nuclear arsenals. It is also an opportu-

nity for all NPT States Parties to assume new goals in order to reach this objective. On the other hand, as necessary steps are taken to achieve nuclear disarmament, priority should be given to the beginning of negotiations to conclude a universal, unconditional and legally binding instrument, by means of which States possessing nuclear weapons commit themselves not to use or threat to use these kinds of weapons against other States that do not possess them. This Review Conference should necessarily comment on this question....

Cuba is concerned by the actual deterioration the multilateral disarmament machinery has faced during the last years, mainly due to the unilateral and obstructionist attitude of the main nuclear power. This power acts on the fringes of law, infringes International Law and multilateralism which has supported peace for more than 50 years; it also disregards all multilateral treaties on disarmament and arms control adopted during the last century, especially those relevant to weapons of mass destruction.

Outside the traditional disarmament machinery, new initiatives with dangerous consequences are attempted to be imposed, initiatives like the so-called Proliferation Security Initiative (PSI), allegedly aimed at fighting the threat of terrorism with weapons of mass destruction.

In fact, the so-called PSI is nothing but a non-transparent mechanism of selective composition which violates fundamental principles of International Law and of the UN Charter, like those of States' sovereignty, non-interference in States' internal affairs, non use or threat to use force against States' territorial integrity and sovereign equality among States. The PSI also violates fundamental regulations of the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea....

Cuba favors the creation and strengthening of an international coalition of all States against the use of weapons of mass destruction by terrorists, but such effort shall be undertaken by means of international cooperation, within the framework of the United Nations and relevant international treaties.

Cuba is firmly convinced that respect for the principles of International Law and the UN Charter is the only feasible guarantee for international peace and security. The world shall be regulated by a collective security system based on cooperation, offering full guarantees for all. This system cannot be substituted by the law of the jungle and doctrines or initiatives which constitute a violation of the letter and spirit of the UN Charter.

Afghanistan (from page 1)

Today, over 18,000 U.S.-led troops occupy Afghanistan. The U.S. continues to expand its air bases around the country, where it is building new runways, and U.S. officials have admitted that the goal is the establishment of permanent U.S. bases in the country. Pentagon officials have stated recently that troops will remain in Afghanistan "for years, and perhaps permanently."

But the resistance forces are expanding their ranks and include a broad front of Afghan political and religious groups opposed to U.S. occupation. They will not stop until U.S. troops leave the country.