

Anti-Imperialist News Service

Print Edition, November 21, 2005

www.anti-imperialist.org

Contents

Step Up the Anti-War Struggle!

Thousands of Koreans Protest Against Bush

Torture Chambers in Occupied Iraq

Confirmation that U.S. Used Chemical Weapons in Iraq

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

Step Up the Anti-War Struggle!

The Republicans and Democrats are throwing mud at each other over the war in Iraq.

Political opportunism, absorbed with this wrangling and posturing, claims that "there is a split in the ruling class" and that Congress is "answering the demands" of the people to stop the war. On this basis, opportunism's strategy for the anti-war struggle is to phone Congress so as to convince "more" representatives and to vote in more Democrats in 2006.

But the fact is that the "debate" in Washington, D.C. is *not* between pro-war and anti-war factions. It is an *argument amongst the warmakers over how to win the war.*

For example, on November 15, the Senate voted 79 to 19 in favor of a resolution calling on Bush to make regular quarterly reports "to explain to Congress and the American people its strategy for the successful completion of the mission in Iraq." The *New York Times* advertised this as a "vote of no confidence on the war in Iraq." The Democratic Leadership Coun-

cil, the leading policy-making group in the party, called it a "stinging, bipartisan rebuke to the Bush administration." The DLC underlined that they demanded a "strategy for success" in Iraq.

But this is not all. To see the meaninglessness of the Democrats "stinging rebukes" of Bush, we must remember that all their posturing against the war was part of debating an amendment to a \$491 billion military funding bill (including another \$50 billion in emergency spending for the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan) which passed the Senate by a vote of 97 to 0. Similarly, a resolution calling for immediate withdrawal from Iraq was rejected by the House of Representatives in a vote of 403 to 3.

The "debate" between Republicans and Democrats is only over the best military tactics for winning the war. These two parties can never and will never "split" over the aims of the war because both parties represent the monopoly capitalist class, the class which is waging the

Continued on page 2

Thousands of Koreans Protest Against Bush

On November 18th, over 100,000 demonstrators took to the streets of Pusan, South Korea, to denounce U.S. imperialism and president Bush, who was attending the two-day Asian-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) meeting in the city.

Union workers, farmers, and anti-war activists carried banners reading "Bush, get out of Korea," and "U.S. Army out" as they rallied against Bush's visit, and the policies of the World Trade Organization (WTO). Farmers were protesting against a bill being considered to increase foreign access to the country's rice market. Protestors chanted "No to Bush, No to APEC. No to the WTO," as they marched through Pusan.



Thousands protest against Bush in Pusan, South Korea, on November 18th.

More than 30,000 riot police were mobilized against the demonstrators, and huge shipping containers were used to block the march. Throughout the day, riot-police used water canon to hold back the protesters attempt to overrun the blockade of steel barriers.

Confirmation that U.S. Used Chemical Weapons in Iraq

On November 14, U.S. diplomatic and military officials admitted that the U.S. army used white phosphorus bombs in the battle against Fallujah in Iraq one year ago.

Robert Tuttle, U.S. ambassador to Britain stated "It was used as an incendiary weapon against enemy combatants. When you have enemy forces that are in covered positions that your high explosive artillery rounds are not having an impact on... one technique is to fire a white phosphorus round into the position," he said. "The combined effects of the fire and smoke -- and in some case the terror brought about by the explosion on the ground -- will drive them out of the holes so that you can kill them with high explosives." Lieutenant-Colonel Barry Venable, a Pentagon spokesman, also told reporters "We use [white phosphorus] against enemy combatants...it is an incendiary weapon."

While U.S. officials have, for the past year, repeatedly denied using this chemical weapon in Iraq, a recent documentary on Italian TV, as well as other evidence which came to light last week proves that U.S. officials had been lying.

The use of such incendiary weapons against civilians is banned by international treaty, specifically article two, protocol III of the 1980 UN Convention on Certain Conventional Weapons.

Last week it was also reported that in the March-April edition of the Army's "Field Artillery" magazine, three U.S. soldiers who participated in the Fallujah battle said white phosphorus shells were used against Iraqis taking cover in trenches. They said "WP proved to be an effective and versatile munition. We used it for screening missions... and, later in the fight, as a potent psychological weapon against insurgents in trench lines and spider holes ... We fired 'shake and bake' missions at the insurgents using WP to flush them out and high explosive shells (HE) to take them out."

Another report, published in the Washington Post, gave an idea of the sorts of injuries that the chemical bombs cause. It said Iraqis "reported being attacked with a substance that melted their skin, a reaction consistent with white phosphorous burns". A physician at a local hospital said the corpses of Iraqis "were burned, and some corpses were melted".

In addition to white phosphorus, U.S. officials have previously acknowledged using other banned weapons against Iraqis such as napalm (Mark 77 bombs), and cluster bombs.

Anti-War Struggle (from page 1)

war in Iraq to begin re-colonizing the oil-rich and strategic Middle East.

The Republicans and Democrats are at each others' throats because they cannot stop the liberation struggle of the Iraqi people nor quell the massive anti-war struggle of the American people. The capitalists' dogfights aim at 1) shifting blame for losing the war in Iraq and 2) trying to buy more time with

Torture Chambers In Occupied Iraq

Evidence emerged last week that the U.S. military knew about a secret military prison, with torture chambers, run by Iraqi police at an Interior Ministry building in the center of Baghdad.

On November 15, reports started appearing in the press of the discovery of underground cells in a Baghdad prison where over 175 people were huddled together. Many of the prisoners appeared to have been brutally beaten and most had been malnourished for weeks. Some reports stated there were several dead bodies in the cell that showed signs of severe torture. All were in need of medical attention. Iraqi officials acknowledged that torture had occurred and that "instruments of torture" had been found.

Although the U.S. claims to have "discovered the prison during a raid," some eyewitnesses and former inmates claim that U.S. military personnel were well aware of the prison. Some Iraqi citizens stated that they had met repeatedly with American officials during the past year, telling them of the abuse and torture at the prison, but nothing was ever done.

One former prisoner stated that he and other inmates were regularly beaten and electrocuted, and he was left blindfolded for the duration of his stay, for more than three months. Abu Jasim, 40, said he and two relatives were imprisoned there last June, where he shared a 20-square-meter room with about 80 detainees. American officers, he said, were seen walking through the hallways. Prisoners were allowed to go to the toilet only every three days and were forced to wear blindfolds virtually the entire time. "We were beaten with cables, hoses and wooden sticks, and electrocuted all the time," Abu Jasim said. "Your back would turn purple or dark blue, depending on what you were beaten with."

One Iraqi government official stated "I've never seen such a situation like this during the past two years in Baghdad. This is the worst," he told CNN. "I saw signs of physical abuse by brutal beating, one or two detainees were paralyzed and some had their skin peeled off." "In order to search for one terrorist, they detain hundreds of innocent people and torture them brutally," said Mohsen Abdul-Hamid, a local politician.

Reporters and non-governmental agency staff are saying that the shocking revelation of the prison reveals how paramilitary units working for the government, and death squads allegedly linked to it, are carrying out a savage war in the shadows. People are arrested and disappear for months. Bodies appear every week of men, and sometimes women, executed with their hands tied behind their backs. Some have been grotesquely mutilated with knives and electric drills before their deaths.

public opinion at home by creating illusions in an "official opposition" to the war.

The people have no interest in becoming cheerleaders for any side in these capitalist dogfights. Not even for a second can we afford to tone down our anti-war struggle or entertain illusions in any of these warmakers. Our anti-war struggle is not aimed at a "new strategy for winning in Iraq." Our demand is for the immediate, unconditional withdrawal of all U.S. and foreign troops.

The way forward is to intensify our mass struggles and strengthen our own independent organization.