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Contents

**U.S. Troops
Open Fire on
Iraqi
Demonstrators**

**U.S. Derailing
the
Denuclearization
Process**

**Leave Cuba
Alone**

**Occupation and
Resistance in
Palestine**

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U.S. Troops Open Fire on Iraqi Demonstrators

According to partial new reports, U.S. troops opened fire on Iraqi demonstrators in, at least, three separate incidents during the past week, killing 22 people and wounding 100 others.

On April 28, U.S. helicopter gunships fired on the northern city of Mosul, killing at least 6 Iraqis.

The next day, April 29, U.S. troops fired for 30 minutes into a crowd of protestors who were demanding that U.S. troops leave the town of Fallujah, 30 miles west of Baghdad. Thirteen (13) people were killed and 75 injured.

Again on April 30, thousands of angry protestors took to the streets to denounce the killings and demand the removal of U.S. troops. As a convoy of U.S. military vehicles passed the demonstrators, U.S. soldiers opened fire, killing three Iraqis and wounding 14 others. An eyewitness to the incident stated "We were in front of the American's military base chanting: 'No to America! No to Saddam!' when the soldiers started firing at us."

One day later, on May 1, seven U.S. troops were injured when grenades were thrown into their compound in Fallujah. Many Iraqis have since commented to reporters that "There will be no peace in this city as long as the Americans are here."

These massacres show the real face of U.S. occupation. U.S. imperialism is purposely and systematically suppressing and killing the Iraqi people. The U.S. military is telling the Iraqi people that they have no rights whatsoever and that they must submit to the dictates of their masters or be shot. In the tradition of all colonizers and occupiers, U.S. imperialism is trying to subjugate a whole people by force of arms.

It is the duty of the American people to support the just struggles of the Iraqi people against U.S. occupation and colonialism. We must demand the immediate withdrawal of all U.S. troops from Iraq and the Middle East.

From the Foreign Ministry of North Korea

U.S. Derailing the Denuclearization Process

Pyongyang, April 30 (KCNA — minor editorial changes made by the AINS)

A spokesman for the Foreign Ministry of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea (DPRK) issued a statement today as regards the nuclear issue between the DPRK and the U.S. that has entered a crucial phase. The statement says:

The denuclearization of the Korean Peninsula was proposed by the DPRK and it has made positive efforts for it as it is the wish of the whole Korean nation. The DPRK government has long consistently called for the denuclearization of the peninsula from its peace-loving stand.

In January 1992 it adopted the "joint declaration on denuclearization of the Korean Peninsula" with South Korea and has striven hard to implement it by the efforts of the whole nation.

The U.S. however, has persistently pursued its strategic aim, going against the desire of the Korean nation. Finally it went to the lengths of torpedoing the process of denuclearization in Korea.

It is a publicly recognized principle and requirements of international law that nuclear weapons states should respect the status of non-nuclear states

and refrain from threatening those countries with all types of arms including nukes.

But from the very day of its assumption of office, the present U.S. administration, not content with pursuing an undisguised hostile policy toward the DPRK, singled it out as part of "an axis of evil" and a target of U.S. preemptive nuclear attacks, wantonly violating the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT) and all other international agreements and virtually reducing the inter-Korean declaration on denuclearization to a dead document.

The DPRK called for the denuclearization of the Korean Peninsula to ensure peace and protect the sovereignty and the dignity of the nation, not to disarm itself under the U.S. pressure and fall victim to a war. The reality requires the DPRK to deter the escalating U.S. moves to stifle the DPRK with physical force, compels it to opt for possessing a necessary deterrent force and put it into practice. The U.S. is entirely to blame for this development. The U.S. describes this stand of the DPRK as "threat" and "black-mail" to it. This is, however, illogical. The U.S. was the first to have access to nukes and is the world's

Continued on page 2

Leave Cuba in Peace

By Aldo Madruga

The following article is excerpted from “Granma Internacional,” May 3, 2003.

A call to intensify solidarity with Cuba at a time when a real threat of aggression by the world superpower is hanging over the island was signed by representatives from more than 120 trade union organizations from 47 countries participating in an International Solidarity Encounter at Havana’s International Conference Center, presided over by President Fidel Castro.

The document also calls for increased efforts for the release of the five Cuban patriots unjustly imprisoned in U.S. jails, which means diffusing the real reasons behind their heavy sentences in very hard conditions in all parts of the world.

Pedro Ross, general secretary of the Central Organization of Cuban Trade Unions (CTC), welcomed the delegates and expressed gratitude for the solidarity of those who, together with the Cuban people, are raising their voices for a just and dignified peace, against warfare, genocide and the real threat of a fascist global dictatorship, and who oppose the evident intentions of the United States to become the force of “world law and order” and initiate further “liberating crusades” like the one it has just executed against the suffering Iraqi people.

He called on those present as part of the international labor movement, and intellectuals, campesinos and students from all over the world, and the U.S. people in particular, to develop a giant and powerful common front against those current U.S. government aspirations.

Basing his argument on official U.S. State Department documents like Project Cuba and the Helms-Burton Act, Ricardo Alarcón de Quesada, president of the National Assembly of People’s Power, demonstrated how the empire’s obsession to erase the Cuban Revolution from the face of the earth dates back to the very moment of the triumph of the Revolution in 1959, when nothing more than the Agrarian Reform Act had been drawn up, and how, on the outside, its strategy has changed very little since then, and not at all in its essence of hatred.

He stressed that at this time the U.S. government sees itself as the master of the world, with the greatest arsenal of military machinery that the empire has ever owned, as well as the owner of the planet’s major mass media, and is even too brazen to deny that it is employing terrorism against Cuba and will continue to do so.

Honest and impassioned speeches from trade unionists and representatives of solidarity groups from all over the world all expressed the determination to close ranks alongside the Cubans and oppose by all possible means the reach of the destabilizing trap being internationally orchestrated against Cuba and whose objective is to facilitate a military aggression to do away with the system of social justice defended for more than 40 years.

Representatives from trade unions and other organizations in the United States, Ecuador, Mexico, Canada, Zambia, Norway, Trinidad and Tobago, the United Kingdom, Colombia, Spain, France, Austria, Portugal, Puerto Rico, Venezuela, Belgium and Switzerland spoke out at the meeting. “Leave Cuba in peace” was a phrase repeated in most of their messages.

Occupation and Resistance in Palestine

On Friday, May 2 more than 50,000 Palestinians in Gaza City joined the funeral procession for 13 Palestinians (including a 2-year-old toddler) who were killed by Israeli military forces in a raid on Thursday. The marchers vowed to continue the struggle against occupation until victory.

The Israeli raid included more than 60 armored vehicles backed by helicopter gunships which shelled the Shajaiya district of Gaza City for 15 consecutive hours. In addition to killing 13 people, the Israeli military burned at least 20 houses and destroyed the water system in the area.

Also on May 1, Israeli forces, backed by 25 tanks and Apache helicopters, opened fire on the Gaza town of Rafah, forcing residents to leave their homes. In the West Bank, the Israeli occupying army imposed a curfew on Bethlehem and abducted eight Palestinians.

At a time when the Bush administration is talking about its “road map” for “peace,” the facts on the ground in Palestine tell the real story. The facts show that Israel — financed, armed and commanded by the U.S. government — is not only continuing its occupation but carrying out daily massacres — a real genocide against the Palestinian people. But the facts also show that the Palestinians will never be cowed but will continue their just struggle for their national rights and liberation until final victory. The only way that peace can come to the region is through the end of Israeli occupation and the establishment of a genuinely independent Palestinian state. ■

North Korea (from page 1)

biggest possessor of weapons of mass destruction.

The Bush administration asserts that it is just for the U.S. to mount preemptive attacks on other countries when it deems necessary and has already perpetrated them in Afghanistan and Iraq.

This superpower openly listed the DPRK as part of “an axis of evil” and a target of its preemptive nuclear attack. Isn’t this a threat?

How can the possession of means for just self-defence by such a small country as the DPRK be “threat” and “blackmail”?

This is just like a guilty party filing the suit first.

The DPRK has already set forth a practical proposal to cross over the prevailing crisis in a peaceful manner and fundamentally settle the nuclear issue at the recent Beijing talks and the U.S. delegation went back after properly hearing about the DPRK’s stand.

The U.S. administration is now becoming increasingly assertive that the DPRK issue be referred to the UN again in a bid to internationalize it. The UN is not a body meant to control small countries in the interests of big countries.

If the UN Security Council is to discuss the nuclear issue on the Korean Peninsula, it should take to task the U.S. for having derailed the process of denuclearization of the Korean Peninsula.

If the U.S. finally brings up the nuclear issue for discussion at the UN and abuses its name again, the DPRK will be left with no option but to consider taking practical measures to cope with an emergency. It will be clear that what the DPRK will decide will be neither a threat nor blackmail. Whether the Korean Peninsula becomes denuclearized or not will entirely depend on the U.S. policy.