

# Anti-Imperialist News Service

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## Contents

One Million People in Havana Condemn the USA and the EU

New U.S. Threats Against Iran

NATO Agrees to Operations Outside of Europe

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## One Million People in Havana Condemn the USA and the European Union

By Joaquin Oramas

*The following article is reprinted from Granma International, June 12, 2003.*

THE Cuban capital awoke at the crack of dawn today with the mobilization of more than one million people in this city and neighboring Habana province, to march on the embassies of Spain and Italy in condemnation of the threats made by the European Union (EU) in conspiracy

## New U.S. Threats Against Iran

On June 18, George Bush said that the U.S. "will not tolerate the construction of a nuclear weapon in Iran." According to press reports, a "senior White House official" underscored Bush's remarks as a "carefully worded escalation" which drew a line that the U.S. says Iran would not be permitted to cross.

In a script similar to the one used by the U.S. to prepare its war against Iraq, the Bush administration keeps trying to create a hysteria about Iran building "weapons of mass destruction." The U.S. is demanding that Iran put its nuclear energy program under special controls and inspections by the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA).

The Iranian government continues to affirm that its nuclear program is solely for peaceful purposes. In fact, Iran is in full compliance with the provisions of the IAEA. Many other countries, including Russia which is helping Iran build a nuclear power plant, have confirmed the Iranian position. At the recent meeting of the Board of Directors of the IAEA, the representative of the non-aligned movement praised Iran for its transparent policies and its cooperation with the IAEA.

with the Nazi-fascist government of George W. Bush. The demonstration in front of the Spanish embassy in Old Havana was headed by President Fidel Castro.

Another tight column of demonstrators marched on the Italian embassy in the Miramar district, some 10 kilometers west of the Spanish mission, headed by First Vice President Raúl Castro. Carrying Cuban flags and placards reiterating, among other slogans "We have no fear of you," and "Cuba must be respected," the demonstrators expressed their condemnation of the attitude adopted by the EU, which has aligned itself to the politics of the Washington administration that has maintained an ironclad economic blockade of the island for more than 40 years and is threatening further measures. This is the policy being reinforced by the announced decisions of the European bloc countries.

The Spanish and Italian embassies were the focuses of the demonstrations because the governments of those two countries stand out in the anti-Cuban conspiracy that the United States has been fomenting since the triumph of the Revolution led by Fidel Castro, which expelled the Bloody dictatorship of Fulgencia Batista from power. The demonstrators charged Prime Minister Aznar of Spain and Berlusconi of Italy with becoming lackeys of the U.S. administration.

The demonstration, called some hours earlier by the Communist Party and the mass organizations, was a display of the capacity for unity and mobilization existing on the island when it comes to defending the Revolution, as one of the protestors pointed out.

In a special television program transmitted last night President Fidel Castro warned that Cuba would not give up one iota of its sovereignty and would defend it under any circumstances. He also affirmed that if the United States should attack Cuba, those persons who

*Continued on page 2*

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# NATO Agrees to Operations Outside of Europe

On June 12, NATO ministers meeting in Brussels agreed on a “new streamlined NATO command structure” to prepare the alliance for missions far outside Europe, including a supporting role in Iraq.

The decision came as Spain and Ukraine each committed a brigade to an 8,000-strong multinational division to help in the U.S. occupation of Iraq. The new division will be lead by Poland with NATO’s support, officials said.

“What we have today is an alliance that has come together to say we should play a role in the reconstruction of Iraq, NATO should play a role outside of its traditional geographic areas, including as far away as Afghanistan,” a senior US military official was quoted as saying. “This is a new NATO, a NATO transformed,” said alliance Secretary General George Robertson in welcoming the ministers. “A NATO able to meet its commitments when times are tough from the Straits of Gibraltar through the Balkans to southern Turkey.”

The overhaul of the command structure puts all NATO operations under a single strategic command led by an American, NATO officials said. A second strategic command based in Norfolk, Virginia will focus on training and other efforts to transform NATO militarily into a force capable of deploying rapidly “to intervene in far flung crises.” The new structure will include a 20,000-strong NATO Response Force that is “ready to deploy within days.” Plans call for training to begin in the fall 2003 and to have an initial force ready within a year, officials said.

The new NATO structure is a result of U.S. pressure on its European allies. NATO is an aggressive, military alliance created and used by U.S. imperialism to keep the European powers under U.S. hegemony and to enforce the colonial rule of U.S. and Western imperialism.

## One Million People in Havana (from page 1)

put their names to the EU statement would bear a large responsibility. He noted that by subscribing to such a repugnant and criminal docu-

ment, the EU is cooperating with the Nazi-fascist politics of the current U.S. administration.

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