

War

Out the imperialist troops! Iraq for the Iraqis!

The american imperialism and their allies achieved a quick military victory in Iraq, they occupied the country and they swept Saddam Hussein's government and the regime of the Baas party. But that military victory doesn't guarantee a free step to other immediate imperialist adventures. In spite of their internal reinforcement in the USA, with the glorification through the media of the "hawks" style Rumsfeld or Cheney in Iraq, the imperialism doesn't have an internal situation in USA that allows to go attacking all the countries it would like. On the other hand, in the same Iraq it faces big difficulties to form a government of colonial type, but headed by Iraqi figures; at the same time the first symptoms of resistance to the occupation appear. While, worldwide their victory doesn't seem enough to revert the reject generated and the process of workers' and the masses struggle.

Their mask dropped

One of the first consequences of the imperialist military victory is that the UN and the governments of other imperialist countries, as France and Germany that questioned the invasion, have begun to take of the mask of "pacifists". The real discussion that they had with the Yankee, British and Spanish governments was about which was the best and less risky way, to chase away Saddam and assure the colonial control of Iraq. Now in front of the completed fact of the military occupation, those countries and Russia clearly offer their collaboration to "reconstruct" Iraq, that is to say, to intervene in the looting and the allotment of the oil wealth. On his side, Kofi Anan, general secretary of the UN, already showed the disposition of this organism to cover the backs of the invaders and give a "legal" issue to the colonial domain. The UN cynically accepted to suspend the sanctions to Iraq, applied with a terrible cost in Iraqis lives for over 10 years, in order to allow the USA to freely deal with its oil. It's one more proof that who proposes that peace can come by the hand of the UN or of the "democratic" imperialisms, in last instance finishes also covering the backs to Bush.

The role of Saddam's regime was decisive for the defeat

After two weeks, in which the Iraqi military resistance in the south and in the centre of the country was surprising, and left open a discussion in the imperialist Anglo-American military command about a change in strategy the quick fall of Baghdad and of the regime shocked the Arab populations, that saw in the resistance of Iraq a reference for facing imperialism and its Zionist ally.

The dictatorship of Saddam was the worst leadership for the fight against imperialism. Their political oppression against the Kurds and the Shiite majority weakened the resistance, as far as that the distrust was very big. Imperialism tried to take advantage of the feeling of hate against the dictatorship to appear as "liberators". Even so, on the contrary of what the Yankee expected, the people didn't fall in the trap and comes demonstrating it when they scream "Neither Saddam nor USA."

But the fall of Baghdad without fighting was the last expression that demonstrated the character of this coward bourgeois government. After calling the masses of the whole country by all possible means to resistance, what meant for the invaders tremendous battles and losses in the route to Baghdad, the command and even Saddam just disappeared and left the road open to the invading troops without actually taking the necessary minimum measures to make more difficult their entrance to the capital.

A plan that fails

Falling Saddam Hussein and its regime, not only disappeared with him the national authorities but also the great majority of the local ones. The only real power is that of the American general Jay Garner, administrator named by Bush, backed by the invader troops. The original plan of the USA was to quickly form a "transition government" integrated by Iraqis political figures opponents to the old regime. But this plan is completely failing.

A key figure in this project was Ahmed Chalabi, a millionaire related to the Bush government who has been for 45 years outside of the country and whose returning was promoted by the Pentagon. He settled in a golf club in Baghdad with the protection of American tanks and a personal guard of 700 mercenaries. Members of his group tried to proclaim themselves mayors in Mosul and Baghdad, but the population rejected them. In Mosul, the "mayor" tried to speak before a multitude and defend the USA. The result was a confrontation between the demonstrators and the American soldiers that caused the death of about 15 persons. On the other hand, the "mayor" of Baghdad has so little support that he's not even recognized by the invaders commands and these had to arrest him so that he didn't continue acting as if he was government.

Another negative fact for the Yankees was the scarce answer that general Gardner had in the first meeting summoned to discuss the formation of a

future government; the most representative groups and figures boycotted it.

The Shiites enter in scene

The most significant thing was that, simultaneous to this meeting, took place a manifestation of about 20.000 people, for the most part Shiites, with the slogan "*Neither Saddam nor USA*".

This first symptom of the entrance in scene of the Shiites masses is, surely, the most worrying for Bush. The Shiites, a faction of the Muslim religion, represent 60% of the Iraqi population. In general, they integrate the most impoverished, since they were discriminated from power by the Sunnite sector, to which Saddam belonged.

Now, thanks to the contradictions of the situation, they begin to express themselves, after decades of not being able to do so: they took advantage of the religious commemoration of the death of the imam Husein (son of Ali, Mohammed's son-in-law and founder of the Shiite faction) to carry out an enormous rally from the whole country in direction to Kerbala. In the rally it was clearly shouted against the American troops and that "*Iraqis form their own government without USA nor Saddam.*"

Amid the emptiness of direction caused by the fall of the old regime, the only structure with population support is the Shiite imams and the mosques have become centers of discussion and organization. Many of these clergymen are influenced by Iran (the other country with a Shiite majority); they have pronounced themselves against the occupation and they propose an Islamic republic. Something that the government of Bush has already said to be unacceptable for the USA.

Two examples indicate what the future can be. The first of them, a powder magazine exploded in a neighborhood of Baghdad. The explosion destroyed the near houses and killed several people. As reaction, the neighbors, according to the information, headed by the imam of the local mosque, attacked with stones and shot the American soldiers and forced them to flee. In the second, hundred of families of the town of Falluya, near Baghdad, manifested in front of a school, at the moment used as barracks of the invader troops; they attacked it with stones to demand the retirement of the soldiers and the normal reopening of the school. When repressing the manifestation, the American soldiers killed fifteen people, including six children of 7 or 8 years; the following day they had to face new manifestations.

In this way, it opens up the possibility of an active and organized opposition of masses to the occupation, and creates a great problem for the imperialist plans. The reality the invader troops live in; has nothing to do with the glory of a "liberator" army and has a lot to do with the hate one has against enemy troops of occupation.

The Kurdistan; a potential focus of conflict

Up to now, in the Kurdish counties of the north of the country the situation is different. Let us remember that those almost thirty million Kurds are the

greatest People in the world without an own State. They are divided in several countries (among them Iraq, Iran and Turkey) and they have been protagonists of many rebellions, to achieve their national unity and to get their own State; they have been very hardly repressed by the central governments of the countries in which they live. They have also been victims of the persecution and the murders of Saddam. The government of Bush took advantage of this so as to present itself as ally and promise them autonomy and participation in a future Iraqi government.

In the case of Iraq, the Kurdish leaders allied with the imperialism and supported the invasion. But, if in exchange for this support, USA grants a bigger autonomy or an important weight to the Kurds in an Iraqi government, it will stimulate the demands of the rest of the Kurds of the region. This is particularly conflicting with Turkey whose government, a Yankee ally, pursues the Kurds ferociously in his country and denies them any autonomy. The Turkish government has even threatened with militarily attack against the Kurdish Iraqis, if they obtain the control over the north of Iraq. On the other hand, if USA doesn't give them any concessions, it may happen that the Kurdish leaders from Iraq change their position and begin to face the invasion. By one or another way, the Kurdistan is, then, a potential and very dangerous focus of future conflict.

"The whole time they need"

In this dynamic, the government of USA can be forced to remain with a great quantity of soldiers (calculated in about 200 to 300.000) much more time of the one foreseen, to maintain the control of the country. In this sense, Rumsfeld, yankee secretary of State, has already said that they will stay in Iraq "the whole time they need".

But this means a double political problem for Bush. In the first place, it unveils completely, especially in front of the own American people, the true character of colonial conquest that had the war. In second place, that military oppression will be more and more subjected, without any protective "political shield" of Iraqis sectors of certain weight, to the hostility and to the reject of the population's immense majority and even to possible assaults and armed attacks. The repressive answer to these facts will not only increase the popular indignation in the world, but will also, erode the support of the American people, with who, thanks to its military victory, Bush counts today. Additionally, it can also create him an economic problem, because of the high cost of maintaining that military deployment in a permanent way, in moments in that the economy of USA is in recession and without obtaining still benefits of the exploitation of the Iraqi oil. They need a time to be able to start their extraction and be able to take out the corresponding benefits.

Today the government Bush moved back from its first attitude to also attack Syria. It is because there is no internal support to a succession of conquest wars, as the recent opinion surveys have demonstrated. Besides showing the north-American population's majority against new wars, it also showed a very strong concern with the economy and the unemployment. It is not casual, then that after the first triumphant declarations of Rumsfeld, the vice-president Cheney and Bush, that the war would continue against Iran, Syria, North Korea and the other "axes of evil", Bush himself opted to diminish the temperature and stay only in the verbal blackmail to

those governments. You can not generate new fires when the first one has not still been controlled and when in your own house people fear it.

Middle East

On the other hand, the military occupation of Iraq maintains the agitation in the neighboring countries, as Syria and Iran, and in the whole of the Islamic world. The situation of the "oil monarchies" is also very unstable, especially that of Saudi Arabia, threatened by Islamic integrist sectors that question their traditional alliance with USA.

In this, the situation of the Palestinian-Israeli conflict deserves special attention. There, Bush encourages the plan of creating a Palestinian pseudo-state, in the style of the South African bantustans. It is necessary to point out that in this case, there was an agreement of the European and Russian imperialism with USA (the "quartet") to impose the "way for peace". Although reluctantly, Sharon accepted this politic, but he continues saying that he only sees it like a series of recommendations that in the course of the events will be necessary to settle. That the fundamental thing is to have taken Arafat out of the way, and the new Palestinian authority to become responsible for putting an end to the armed struggle. Arafat tried to negotiate until the last moment a space of authority for himself but he finished accepting and naming first minister with all the powers to Abu Azem, a representative of the Palestinian right well seen by USA and Israel, with the task of liquidating the Intifada and dismantling the "irregular forces". Few days later, two Palestinian youths were immolated in different suicide attacks inside Israel. The most significant thing is that one of them, 18 years old, was a member of Al Fatah, the political current of Arafat, what could indicate that Abu Mazen's task is not so simple. In front of the resistance of the great majority of the organizations inside the Intifada that declared to reject the plan of the "quartet" and Abu Mazen's role, his mission may mean to release a civil war inside the Palestinian population whose result will be decisive for the Intifada.

In the world

The great majority of the peoples of the world rejected the aggression against Iraq and today rejects the military occupation. The governments of Blair in Great Britain and of Aznar in Spain, main allies of Bush, faced against their own peoples and Blair admitted later that he was terrorized of having a long war that would put him against the strings. The governments of France and Germany turned to the position of legalizing the occupation after the fall of Baghdad, but they are getting far from the opinion of the widest layers in their populations. Even in USA, although Bush maintained the population's majority support, there were immense mobilizations against the war.

At the moment, this movement is not expressed in massive mobilizations as during the war. But it is latent and may restart with the growing resistance of the Iraqi people and the more and more criminal methods that the imperialist troops will use to maintain their control. Moreover the movements against imperialism in the entire world, as the campaign against the ALCA, became more aware of the necessity of the international mobilization to stop the beast.

Let us retake the solidarity with the Iraqi people

The military victory of the imperialism opened a new situation in the region with the presence of imperialist troops in the heart of Middle East and opens the possibility of new invasions. But at the same time the presence of those troops is going to bring serious political problems to imperialism, now seen as a direct occupant.

In spite of the victory, the north-American imperialism hasn't got the immediate internal conditions to continue with the policy of invading each one of the countries that now opposes them resistance. But that is the Bush government's political strategy and it will try to get to that. The situation inside USA, the international wide reject against that military project and the resistance to the occupation puts Washington before the limits of its strategy of preventive war. For that reason, it is very important to continue denouncing the colonial occupation and the lies that tried to justify the invasion, and to develop a world campaign demanding the immediate **retirement of the imperialist troops**. Our claim is **that Iraq is for the Iraqis**, as they started saying in the marches in Baghdad, Kerbala, Nasiria, and all Iraq, they are the only entitled to decide what government they want.

Solidarity

Solidarity with the workers of Brukman! Let us reject the repression in Argentina!

In the dawn of Friday 18th April, taking advantage of the beginnings of the Holy Week holidays, an impressive police operation evicted the workers of the Brukman textile factory, occupied their installations and set up a real military operative to defend them. On Monday 21st, thousands of people showed its solidarity with the workers and, in front of the intention of these of going in the building, they were brutally repressed with as result 60 wounded and about 100 arrested. The repression was extended for several blocks around. The police, even, threw teargases inside the Children Hospital Garraham, where some demonstrators had sought for shelter.

The owners of this company, located near the center of Buenos Aires, had taken the factory to a bankruptcy situation, they owed several months of wages and they had a penal trial for fraud. Finally, they abandoned it. To defend the work source, the workers, mostly women, occupied it few days before the revolutionary explosion of December 2001. The workers repaired the machines and installations and put the factory to produce under their control. This way they became one of the symbols of the process of recovered companies that is developed in Argentina.

Previously during 2002, Brukman had already suffered two intents of eviction that were defeated thanks to the solidarity and the mobilization of popular assemblies, piqueteros and combative unions, as the SUTEBA-Matanza.

The judicial order that orders this new eviction, dictated by a Chamber integrated by judges named in the time of the military dictatorship, is a true summary of capitalist ideology. On one hand, it expresses that, **ultimately, the economic interests and the private property are rights superior to the work and the physical integrity**. On the other hand, it instructs the chief of the police to assure the means so that the eviction is effective and the workers cannot recapture the factory, letting hands free this way to the brutal repression.

Few days before, in the province of Neuquén, the intention to evict the factory of ceramic Zanon had failed, another symbol of the Argentinean process. The judge had to leave without effect the measure in front of the mobilization of thousand of people and a massive general strike called by the CTA.

A repressive escalade

The eviction and repression in Brukman are not isolated facts. In the previous months was violently evicted a group of unemployed that tried to recover the factory Sasetru, closed several years ago; the same happened to the occupants that lived in the building of the former-patronage of the Childhood, in the center of Buenos Aires.

The repression also points against the leaders: in March, was arrested in Buenos Aires, José "Pepino" Fernández ex oil worker and leader of the UTD (Union of Unoccupied Workers) of General Mosconi, in the Salta province; he headed important struggles in the last years. It was a real trap, since Pepino was in National Congress to meet with legislators in order negotiate a debt with former workers of YPF. In Salta, other leaders of the UTD were also arrested.

This repression is the "bat" with which, together with the carrot of the electoral trap, the government of Duhalde, the Argentinean bosses and the imperialism want to defeat the Argentinean revolutionary process. It is not casual that it is orientated against factories and leaders that symbolize, clearly in some way, the most advanced thing that this revolutionary process has given.

For that reason, it is doubly important to develop a great campaign of solidarity with the workers of Brukman, to require Pepino Fernández's freedom and to reject the repression against the Argentinean workers. From the IWL-FI we commit all our effort in it.

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