

new indicator

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“Of course the fee increase will be covered by financial aid...”

“Vote yes,” they told us. “You won’t actually have to pay more when we raise the fees because it’ll all be covered by financial aid anyway.” And when those who were campaigning against the Price Center fee increase talked to the State Legislature Committee on Higher Education and were told that there was no way to guarantee that there would be enough money in the state budget, the students were called liars.

I’m sure we all wanted to believe that the yes campaign was right; that the fee increase would be covered by our grants instead of coming out of our pockets. I believed the state legislature, but hoped that it would never become an issue. I hoped that there would be plenty of financial aid money and that the yes campaign wouldn’t be proved wrong.

Of course, thanks to our new governor’s economic brilliance (ever notice how, despite imposing fiscal austerity programs on the developing world, the federal government would never try one here because they know they don’t work?), our fees are going up and our financial aid is going down.

The proposal includes a 10-40% fee increase, taking UC-based grants away from about 6,500 families, and significantly reduce CalGrant eligibility. The fee increases would not be covered by CalGrants.

Vince DeAnda, director of Financial Aid, despite insisting that the entire amount of the Price Center fee hike would be covered by financial aid, was quoted in the January 15th Guardian justifying the financial aid cuts, saying that “it’s simple math, The pie

is going to have to get sliced thinner,” and that “there’s a budget problem and something has to give.”

So what’s the moral of the story? What can we learn from this? Primarily, we now know that the State Legislature was right about financial aid. Whether or not we keep our CalGrants and whether or not they cover fee increases depends on the state budget, not on the ballot-box promises of UCAB or any other administrative department. This means that in five years, when they want to raise fees to build a third Price Center next to the second one, when they tell you that fees won’t actually go up from the fee increase, that it’ll all be covered by your financial aid, you’ll know the truth.

Another lesson, at least

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in case you forgot:

561 US DEAD¹
99 COALITION DEAD²
2,621 US WOUNDED²
8245 to 10089
IRAQI CIVILIANS DEAD³
4895 to 6370
IRAQI MILITARY DEAD⁴
ZERO WMD!

Bolivia, 3 months later

After ex-President Gonzalo Sánchez de Lozada was forced from power by a popular uprising last October, Bolivia has disappeared from the U.S. media. The uprising and subsequent fall of the Sánchez de Lozada regime got a few articles last October, much more than the poorest country in South America could ordinarily hope for, but aside from that Bolivia is and has been swept neatly out of view.

So why the lack of information? Are the issues resolved? Is Bolivia now a happy little country, unified under Carlos Mesa? And what about that 90-day deadline that opposition leader Felipe Quispe gave Mesa to address a long list of issues.

First off, Mesa is not addressing the vast majority of the problems raised during the uprising. He is refusing to meet with members of civil society or opposition leaders, and his policies are decidedly anti-popular, raising taxes for the poorest unsalaried workers, eliminating the cooking gas subsidies for the poorest families and raising the price of fuel. Xavier Nogales, Minister of Economic Development described the economic measures, saying that they will cost the people

“blood, sweat and tears”.

Union leaders and community organizers are calling on workers to organize to prevent the application of these measures. A popular mobilization prevented Sánchez de Lozada from implementing similar measures, including the tax increase for the poorest non-salaried workers, in February, 2003.

Jamie Solares, head of the Bolivian Workers’ Center, called upon workers to prepare “strikes, bloquades and other types of measures which paralyze the means of production of the country to fight against the government which only obeys the economic prescriptions of the U.S.”. He also called upon the campesino sector to join forces with the workers with the objective of taking the reins of the state so that the people can govern.

Workers and campesinos are planning and organizing a “third rebellion against neoliberalism”, and continue insisting on a new Constitution, to be written by a popular constitutional assembly. They also continue to demand the repeal of three laws - one regarding the exportation of natural gas, one regarding the free market, and one regarding pensions, but Mesa is turning a deaf ear to the people.



“The mobilizations in October were to change the economic model and to repeal the law of exportation of natural gas,” said Roberto de la Cruz, leader of the Workers’ Center of El Alto (a neighborhood on the outskirts of La Paz where most of the confrontations were centered last October). “but unfortunately Carlos Mesa is exactly the continuation of Sánchez de Lozada”

José Luis Alvarez, a community leader in La Paz, expressed similar sentiments. “In Bolivia, it is the U.S. Ambassador who governs. We do not have a sovereign government which could resolve our problems. Mesa has continued with the policies and messages of the previous presidents, in the sense that he continues demanding sacrifices

from the workers so that the transnational corporations can continue getting rich at the cost of our misery. Carlos Mesa has one thing right when he says that the capitalist state has broken; unless he changes the neoliberal policies, we are going to continue starving.”

The 90 day deadline that Quispe gave Mesa expired last week, on 20 January, and on 25 January, Quispe, along with de la Cruz signed on to the Bolivian Workers’ Center’s call for mobilization, and announced that they are preparing a general strike and roadblocks in order to close the parliament force the Mesa government to yield. The mobilization will take place within 20 days unless the government

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footnotes from above:

1. <http://www.dod.mil/releases/archive.html> by way of cryptome.org

2. <http://lunaville.org/warcasualties/Summary.aspx>

3. <http://www.iraqbodycount.net/bodycount.htm> compiled from multiple mainstream media sources these are “confirmed” i.e. reported deaths

4. <http://famulus.msnbc.com/FamulusIntl/reuters11-15-062449.asp> “think tank” estimates. no accurate figures exist

Looking out for Our Water

Here's a challenge for all of you, try to go for one week without water. Chances are you'll be dead (actually don't try and go for a week without water). The human body can only survive about three days without water. Chances are you'll smell too. Not just because you're dead, but because you won't be able to take a bath for a week. Water is our most important resource and we use it constantly, not just for drinking but for everything from keeping our lawns beautiful to giving us a nice cool place to swim on a hot summer afternoon. Without water, there would be no life on earth.

Since we all need water and are aware of its importance it should be no stretch of the imagination to assume

that all of us are in favor of clean water. Yet, try to take a stroll on the beach without avoiding broken bottles, cans and used tissues strewn in the sand. Sitting barefoot on the shore while the waves lap your feet isn't very romantic with plastic bags and old shoelaces getting tangled in between your toes. As for tap water, not only is it a struggle to choke down, it isn't safe to drink anymore. All sorts of chemicals run around in our drinking water, from chromium-6 (the cancer causing agent that Erin Brokovich fought against) to sodium perchlorate, which is a form of rocket fuel. It's doubtful that rocket fuel is an important part of a balanced diet. In fact, too much of it will cause thyroid problems.

The fact that our water is not being taken care of is outrageous, yet there is not enough outrage about it. Our government certainly isn't helping us very much. Last year the Bush administration unsuccessfully attempted to cut back Clean Water Act protections which would have left a huge chunk of waterways in the western United States susceptible to development and pollution. Here in our own backyard; most of you who have been to Mission Bay may recall that it doesn't smell very clean. Not surprisingly then, Mission Bay is the second dirtiest body of water in all of California. It is a shame that this has been allowed to happen in such a beautiful place.

What can we do about our water, then? Here in San Di-

ego, there are many groups dedicated to monitoring our water, looking out for it, and making sure that innocent people plants and animals don't suffer because of factory pollution and human carelessness. Organizations such as San Diego BayKeeper and the San Diego chapter of the SurfRider Foundation work tirelessly to make sure our water is safe and clean. At UCSD, CalPIRG also continuously works to keep our waterways clean. CalPIRG's Water Watch campaign organizes many beach cleanups each quarter. Along with other CalPIRGs throughout the state, it fights and petitions for safe drinking water legislation, and works to educate students from grade school through college about the importance of keeping our water clean. It's a tough fight, but a fight that must be won. Our lives are at stake.

new indicator

articles and letters are welcomed. please type them and send them to: ni@libertad.ucsd.edu or to: new indicator collective B-023C Student Center La Jolla, CA 92093

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Zapatista village attacked & burned by Mexican Army

The Mexican Army attacked Nuevo San Rafael, a Zapatista autonomous community in the Montes Azules of Chiapas, on either the 19th or 22nd of January (reports vary), burning 23 homes to the ground and evicting the entire village. The army is preventing reporters and human rights observers from entering the area, and indigenous organizers have been arrested and imprisoned in Ocosingo. The village is still occupied by police and military.

The evictions and attacks

take place in the context of the Free Trade Area of the Americas and Plan Puebla Panama. In addition to Zapatista communities, the Montes Azules are home to many natural resources, providing a strong incentives for the government and multinational corporations to attack and evict the residents, both to exploit the biodiversity and hydroelectric potential, and to drive the campesinos from their land into the sweatshops. Hundreds of peasants near the Guatemalan border

were also forced from their land last week, and The Secretary of Government of Chiapas, Rubén Velázquez López, promises more evictions through Chiapas. The government is threatening 110 more evictions just in Montes Azules.

"A shadow of death is being raised in the heart of our land, of our mother, of our forest. A cloud of soldiers, paramilitaries, plans and projects is coming once again to threaten us, to rob us of our dream and to evict our indig-



enous communities... But we are not going to permit eviction, nor the relocation of our communities, we are going to defend them with everything we have in our hands," declared the Zapatista autonomous municipality of Ricardo Flores Magon, also located in the Montes Azules.

Fees & Aid:

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another lesson that I learned from all of this, is the importance of institutional history, which is why I'm writing this right now instead of studying for my midterms. From the documents that still exist from previous fee increases, we knew that the administration had promised before that the fee increases would be covered by financial aid. We knew that the State Legislature Committee on Higher Education had gotten involved in 1990, sending letters to all UC

and CSU student government leaders in response to promises made during the RIMAC Fee Referendum. The letters stated that "There appears to be a great deal of misinformation...regarding the impact of proposed increases of campus student fees on financial aid resources." As students were being asked to vote on referendum for self-assessed student fees, the letter states, "many students are being told that the pool of financial aid funds will increase to cover the proposed fee increases. In virtually every case, this is patently false." The letter explains

that the amount of financial aid available depends on the amount of money available, and that there were no plans to increase the available financial aid in response to the fee referenda that had been passed. The critical piece of information that was missing, however, in the documentation, was what actually happened. There was nothing about if the fee was actually covered for anyone, and my friends who were students at the time don't remember what happened.

So if you're reading this article in 2004, you can stick out

your tongue at Justin Williams and say "I told you so!"; you can get another job to make up for losing your CalGrant, and you can pass this information along to those who come after us. But if you're reading this 5 or 6 or 7 years down the line when they're trying yet again to trick us into raising our fees, you can use our experience, you can say that not only do their promises contradict what the State Legislature says, but also that the last time they built an extra Price Center, they cut our financial aid after promising to raise it.

Bolivia:

continued from page 1

gives very clear signals that it is modifying radically its neoliberal model, renationalizing the gas and petroleum, raising the salaries of the workers, and stopping its harsh economic measures against the people.

Meanwhile, the issue of Bolivian access to the ocean continues generating inter-

national attention. Kofi Annan, the Vatican, and Venezuelan President Hugo Chávez, among others, have all announced their support for returning at least part of Bolivia's coastline to the now-landlocked country. Mesa has been meeting with various South American presidents, including Peru's Alejandro Toledo, about the issue, and it was a prominent theme at the meeting of all American presidents in Santa Cruz, Bolivia, several months ago.

Chilean president Ricardo Lagos is not the least bit willing to negotiate, and Chile is insisting that there is no reason to return even a little bit of the coastline they stole from Bolivia in the War of the Pacific. Diplomatic relations between Chile and Bolivia are currently suspended, as are relations between Chile and Venezuela, after Chávez' outspoken support for a Bolivian coast led Chile to recall their ambassador from Caracas.

Perhaps within a month or

two, we'll see an article in the U.S. press saying that dozens more have died, or that Mesa stepped down. Perhaps we'll see an article about who J. Lo is dating now or about how Bush is such a great president that he deserves another term, while people are dying on the altiplano, struggling for a sovereign nation and a president who acts in the interests of the people.

Crimes:

continued from page 8

craft from BAE SYSTEMS at a cost of £5 billion.[56] It is also looking to purchase additional submarines and attack fighters. This is disgraceful considering that the country cannot afford decent healthcare or housing for its citizens. This, however, is not a consideration for BAE, which will sell to any customer which has the money.

Tanzania

Another case of BAE selling an expensive product to a country unable even to feed its own citizens came to light at the end of 2001, as the Labour Government approved the £28 million sale of a military air traffic control system to Tanzania. The country has an average per capita income of only £200, and the government of Tanzania has had to take out a hefty loan from Barclays to finance the deal. In an indication of the utter unsuitability of the deal, even the World Bank and the IMF refused to fund it, stating that they saw the system as a white elephant which would do nothing to benefit the country, and the Department for International Development rejected the deal on similar grounds before they were over-ruled by the Cabinet and Prime Minister. As Julian Forsyth, Oxfam's head of policy, pointed out, the deal also makes a mockery of the Government's supposed commitment to African debt relief. As he put it, "It is outrageous that Tanzania's debt relief will go towards bolstering the profits of BAE and Barclays bank, rather than helping the poor people of Tanzania." [57]

quick decision on the Hawks. The proposed deal has faced harsh criticism from within India itself, with the UK being accused of "fleecing India over Hawks." [58]

According to The Guardian, the British government has recently admitted that British jets sold to India could be adapted to carry nuclear weapons or used to train pilots to fly nuclear-capable aircraft. The admission prompted angry reactions by MPs who said the sales flew in the face of the government's commitment to sustainable development, its guidelines covering arms exports, and its pledge not to encourage nuclear proliferation. [59]

BAE SYSTEMS has already sold Jaguar combat aircraft to India in licensing deals which the Ministry of Defence (MoD) refuses to disclose. [60] Besides breach of contract, 'client confidentiality' is the explanation that's always trotted out to justify the obscurity within which the British Government is allowed to sponsor and subsidise gun-running, a BBC correspondent investigating the world of arms exports explains. [61] With regard to the Jaguar jet deal with India, junior defence minister Lewis Moonie told Tory MP Baldry that information about the end use in the Jaguar licensing deal, and the number of Jaguars involved in the deal, was confidential. Baldry said the deals were not consistent with the government's publicly stated concern about the impact of arms sales on sustainable development. "What the Indian government would spend on Hawk jets amounts to a decade of UK bilateral development aid," he said. [62]

Zimbabwe

BAE SYSTEMS was happy to provide spare parts to keep Robert Mugabe's ageing Hawk jets in operation in Zimbabwe, which were obviously being used to sustain Mugabe's operations in the Democratic Republic of Congo. Significantly, the Foreign Office had wanted to stop the export of the spare parts but are said to have been over-ruled by the Prime Minister, with whom Sir Richard Evans (Chairman of BAE) has a very close relationship (see section on Influence/Lobbying). BAE only stopped supplying spare-parts to Mugabe in mid-2000, when Mugabe's behaviour became too outrageous to ignore.

Qatar/Algeria

In 2000, the Sunday Times reported that BAE had made an application to export £5 million worth of military equipment to Qatar, which Qatar intended to gift in full to Algeria. The information was leaked to the Sunday Times by a Qatari officer, and the DTI confirmed that it had received the purchase order and it was being considered.

Algeria has an ongoing conflict with Islamic groups and an infamous human rights record. [63]

Pressure on the Government and MPs

As the world's largest arms manufacturer, and owner of a large majority of the UK's ship-building industry, BAE is able to exert a massive amount of pressure on the Ministry of Defence. It has a history of threatening the Government with relocation and withholding of investment if it does not get the contracts that it desires. For example, in 2001 the company put pressure on the MoD to assign all 12 of the new Type 45 Destroyers to BAE, despite the original plan being to split their manufacture between Vosper Thornycroft and BAE SYSTEMS. It threatened that if it didn't get the contract in its entirety it would scrap its planned investment of £150 million at Scotstoun on the Clyde, and effectively pull out of shipbuilding altogether, crippling the British manufacturing sector. [64]

BAE also boast close links to Tony Blair and the Government (see section on Influence/Lobbying).

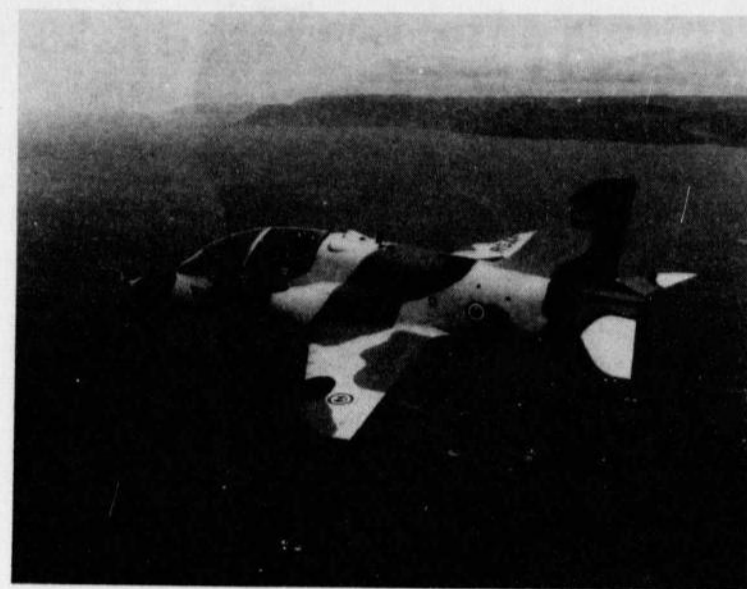
Moving into the educational sector

BAE SYSTEMS has developed its PR machine far in advance of the traditional careers fair stall and occasional brochure. It has formed partnerships with a number of universities in the UK. It also sends many of its young engineers back into secondary schools to extol the benefits of a career with BAE. In addition, the company have sponsored various events and 'educational' displays, such as the Mind Zone in the Millennium Dome, further linking its name with scientific and engineering excellence, and avoiding its real business of manufacturing weapons to kill people. Having capital far in excess of any other UK engineering firm (partly because of its size, and partly because of its massive reserves from the Al-Yamahah deal) it offers extremely rewarding packages to the best UK engineering students, ensuring that the arms industry continues to leech off the most promising talents in the sector. (See also Influence/Lobbying)

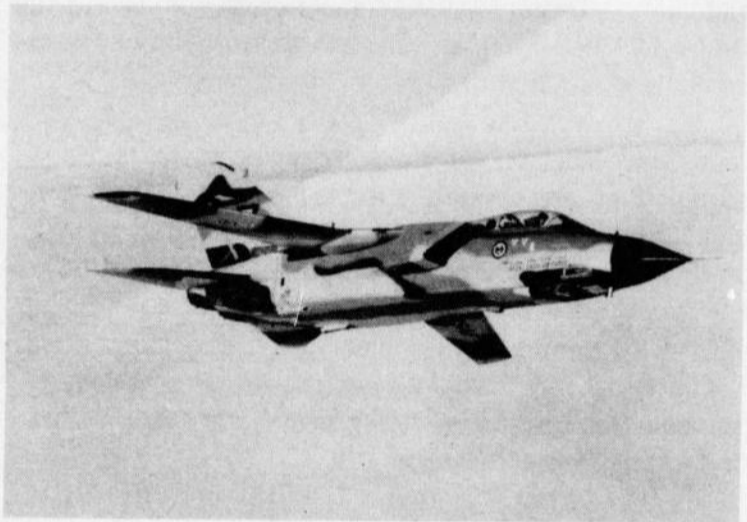
The previous article is an excerpt from a CorporateWatch report.

Read the full report at: corporatewatch.org.uk/profiles/bae/bae1.htm

More info on BAE Systems is available in CAAT's 'Alternative Report 2002' at: <http://www.caat.org.uk/campaigns/clean-investment-campaign/BAES2002.pdf>



A BAE Systems Hawk aircraft used by the Royal Saudi Air Force



BAE Systems Tornado aircraft used by the Royal Saudi Air Force

Footnotes

- [1] BAE SYSTEMS homepage: <http://www.baesystems.com/> accessed 29/4/02
- [2] 'BAE SYSTEMS - Overview', BAE website: <http://www.baesystems.com/overview/overview.htm> accessed 27/4/02
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- [9-43] not included in this publication. see the online version for more
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Nepali Maoist Timeline November 2003–February 2004

As covered previously in the new indicator, there is a Maoist rebellion in Nepal, which is now entering its ninth year. This conflict gets little coverage in the media in this country, and only a little more elsewhere.

The current Maoist party comes out of a series of divisions and splits within the left wing of Nepali politics, the most important of which concerns the use of violence as an acceptable tactic for achieving political change. In 1995, the Maoists issued a list of 40 demands (see next page) to the monarchical government, regarding issues of land management, national security and democracy within Nepal. The official Maoist party was quite weak at this time and the government rejected the idea of abolishing the monarchy. Soon after, the Maoists began guerilla attacks on government facilities, police, and army units.

Today the Maoists control substantial areas of Nepal, though they are severely outnumbered by the army. An eight-month cease-fire broke down in August of 2003. Since then over 1500 people have died in the fighting.

Most of the terms in the following timeline are districts within Nepal (see map), others, such as Bheri or Karnali are larger regions incorporating several districts.

Some important acronyms:

UML = Unified Marxist-Leninist (political party)

RNA = Royal Nepal Army

CPN-M = Communist Party of Nepal (Maoist)

November 2003

November 01 2003

US freezes Nepal Maoist assets

1,000 dead in 60 days in Nepal

November 08 2003

U.S. Embassy warned Americans of possible Maoist attacks

Army statement: 900 Maoists killed in operations following the breakdown of peace talks in August

Rebel spokesman's reply: Government is propagating baseless and fake news against the Maoist movement

November 15 2003

Maoist rebels urge anti-king move. Rebel leader has called on Nepal's political parties to join the rebels to form an anti-monarchy alliance.

Makwanpur: High ranking officer killed in an ambush led by Maoist rebels

Novembe. 22 2003

UML leader had a meeting with the Maoist leader Prachanda in Lucknow, India

Ministry of Defence has proposed to enlist over 8,000 more recruits into the Royal Nepal Army

November 26 2003

Nepali Times: Landmines have emerged as a major threat to civilians.

British ambassador to Nepal: "The cost of trying to force the Maoists back to the negotiating table through military means is too high."

November 29 2003

Interpol: Nepal demand Interpol arrest warrants to arrest Maoist rebel leaders

Bheri and Karnali zones: Maoists' indefinite strike affects students

December 2003

December 03 2003

Asian Centre for Human Rights (ACHR). Nepal urged to disband counter insurgency Village Defence Forces

December 06 2003

"A Kingdom Under Siege": New book on Maoist insurgency published (ISBN 99933 59 07 6)

December 10 2003

Maoists set ablaze bus ferrying pilgrims on the Pasang Lhamu Highway at Madanpur in Nuwakot

Sindhupalchowk: Vehicular movement on the Melamchi road came to a standstill due to Maoist threats

Indian police: Nepal-bound Maoists arrested near Nepali border

CPN-UML to continue dialogue with Maoists and King

December 14 2003

Indian Police: Maoist rebels are entering India's Uttar Pradesh state for medical treatment and to take shelter.

Maoist leader Baburam Bhattarai offers new deal proposing elections for a constituent assembly supervised by a UN-type security force.

Rolpa: RNA began an active search operation for Maoist's FM radio station bases. Maoist FM stations broadcasting 'Republic Radio Nepal'.

December 16 2003

Eastern Nepal: Clashes continue

The Maoist-called general strike in the Terai belt paralysed life in most of the southern districts

December 19 2003

RNA has admitted to using "excessive force" in its fight against Maoist rebels and has pledged to avoid human rights abuses.

Interpol's Red Notices: Indian police on trail of Maoist leaders in border villages of the northern Indian state of Uttar Pradesh

RNA: 287 security personnel killed in four months » Radio Nepal: Government appeals asking Maoists, friends and relatives to surrender and benefit from a general amnesty before February 12, 2004

Maoists: Government offer for surrender a new tactic

January 2004

January 01 2004

Clashes continue in different parts of the country

Chitwan: Maoist loot bank

U.S. Embassy warned Americans of possible Maoist attacks once

more.

January 03 2004

WFP,GTZ urge Maoists to return looted rice: WFP and GTZ have condemned the looting of rice by Maoists. The rice belonged to the community working groups of the Rural Community Infrastructure Works in Bajura

Mechi and Koshi zones: A strike called by ANNISU, the student wing of Maoist rebels, Saturday brought life to a standstill

Commission for Investigation of Abuse of Authority (CIAA): Maoist leader Ram Bahadur Thapa has bank account(s) in Singapore

January 09 2004

Maoist chief Prachanda: Royal audience a tactic to split parties. Maoists have responded to the series of audiences by the King

Gandaki zone: Life affected by Maoist called strike in Pokhara and vicinity. Security personnel have been heavily patrolling Pokhara, Tanahu and Syangja bazaars.

January 11 2004

Achham, Kalikot and Bajura: Maoists to hold elections in the Maoist-controlled heartland of mid-western Nepal in January 2004

Ramechhap: Maoists banned import of rice to create a problem for an army camp. Beginning of an acute shortage of rice-grain in this area.

Rolpa: Joint Revolutionary Council at Thawang village of Rolpa have declared an "autonomous region of Magarat"

India: Indian police has arrested three Indian gunrunners supplying the Maoists with weapons

Nepal Supreme Court: Geneva



Nepali Maoists during weapons training; since the end of the cease-fire, over 1500 people have been killed

Convention not applicable to the Maoist conflict

January 13 2004

Surkhet: Maoists are ready to join hands with foreign States—with the exception of the US and the UK—if the donors are ready to cooperate with their local government in the field of development.

Royal Nepal Army statement: A brigade commander of Bheri-Karnali division surrendered together with a company commander of Seti-Mahakali division to the local administration

Travel agents: Significant rise in the number of trekkers who want to meet Maoist rebels along their trekking routes in recent months.

January 17 2004

Birgunj: Suspected Maoists shot dead the Mayor of Birgunj

Darjeeling Gorkha Hill Council: DGHC's chairman said: "King should impose emergency without any delay and head towards forming a new constitution."

Maoist top leader Prachanda: Maoists for constituent assembly under UN supervision

RNA: 1500 died in post-ceasefire break period. 1200 of them were Maoists.

January 21 2004

Jajarkot: The Royal Nepalese Army launched massive air raids. The raid was targeted at a mass meeting of the militants at China Kadam bordering Salma and Junga Thapachaur VDCs in this district.

January 24 2004

Maoist senior leader Krishna Bahadur Mahara: CPN Maoist was ready to accept monarchy if King was ready to leave his leadership in the army.

Maoist senior leader Krishna Bahadur Mahara: CPN Maoist was ready for talks, but government must be clear on its agenda regarding the talks. Maoists have 80 percent of the total territory in Nepal under its control.

January 28 2004

Nepalgunj: Maoist declared local bandh (closing day) against the felicitation of the king

February 2004

February 02 2004

The government will soon formulate a Defense policy to clarify Nepal's position towards signing

the international Ottawa Treaty that bans landmines

European Union (EU) ambassadors to Nepal urge Nepal to reach new ceasefire with Maoists

February 04 2004

Amnesty International: Government and international community should to take urgent measures to prevent the country from sliding towards a human rights catastrophe

Students step up protests to fight for a republican state

Maoist top leader Prachanda: Maoist CPN-M welcoming calls for peace. Party the party would accept United Nations mediation.

February 06 2004

Parsa: RNA attacked Maoist meeting. Maoists suffered high death toll.

Anniversary of Maoist rebellion: Authorities fear the rebels may step up violence Kathmandu. Kathmandu Municipality banned motor-cycle riders and pillion passengers from using visored helmets and dust masks

February 07 2004

Karnali zone: DDCs are displaying an interest in working with the rebels. It would be better to involve the Maoists in development activities since there is no other way to function.

Nepal Maoist Victim Association threatened by Maoists. Maoist rebels have accused the association of spying on the Maoists.

Nepal Maoist Victim Association threatened by Maoists. Maoist rebels have accused the association of spying on the Maoists.

February 10 2004

Nepali Congress President G. P. Koirala would not have any objections if the UN came forward to mediate peace negotiations between Nepali government and Maoist rebels.

The security forces have tightened security and are on high alert in the capital prior to the Maoists' ninth anniversary of the peoples' war in Nepal.

Maoist rebels have increased attacks in various regions across the country prior to their anniversary.

February 13 2004

February 13 marks the ninth anniversary of the Maoists' "People's War"

Maoist demands to the Nepali Government

I. DEMANDS RELATED TO NATIONALISM:

1) Regarding the 1950 Treaty between India and Nepal, all unequal stipulations and agreements should be removed.

2) HMG should admit that the anti-nationalist Tanakpur agreement was wrong, and the Mahakali Treaty, incorporating same, should be nullified.

3) The entire Nepal-Indian border should be controlled and systematized. Cars with Indian number plates, which are plying the roads of Nepal, should not be allowed.

4) Gorkha recruiting centers should be closed and decent jobs should be arranged for the recruits.

5) In several areas of Nepal, where foreign technicians are given precedence over Nepali technicians for certain local jobs, a system of work permits should be instituted for the foreigners.

6) The monopoly of foreign capital in Nepal's industry, trade and economic sector should be stopped.

7) Sufficient income should be generated from customs duties for the country's economic development.

8) The cultural pollution of imperialists and expansionists should be stopped. Hindi video, cinema, and all kinds of such news papers and magazines should be completely stopped. Inside Nepal, import and distribution of vulgar Hindi films, video cassettes and magazines should be stopped.

9) Regarding NGOs and INGOs: Bribing by imperialists and expansionists in the name of NGOs and INGOs should be stopped.

II. DEMANDS RELATED TO THE PUBLIC AND ITS WELL-BEING

10) A new Constitution has to be drafted by the people's elected representatives.

11) All the special rights and privileges of the King and his family should be ended.

12) Army, police and administration should be under the people's control.

13) The Security Act and all other repressive acts should be abolished.

14) All the false charges against the people of Rukum, Rolpa, Jajarkot, Gorkha, Kavre, Sindhupalchowk, Sindhuli, Dhanusha and Ramechhap should be withdrawn and all the people falsely charged should be released.

15) Armed police operations in the different districts should immediately be stopped.

16) Regarding Dilip Chaudhary, Bhuvan Thapa Magar, Prabhakar Subedi and other people who disappeared from police custody at different times, the government should constitute a special investigating committee to look into these crimes and the culprits should be punished and appropriate compensation given to their families.

17) People who died during the time of the movement, should be declared as martyrs and their families, and those who have been wounded and disabled should be given proper compensation. Strong action should be taken against the killers.

18) Nepal should be declared a secular state.

19) Girls should be given equal property rights to those of their brothers.

20) All kinds of exploitation and prejudice based on caste should be ended. In areas having a majority of one ethnic group, that group should have autonomy over that area.

21) The status of dalits as untouchables should be ended and the system of untouchability should be ended once and for all.

22) All languages should be given equal status. Up until middle-high school level (ucchamadyamic) arrangements should be made for education to be given in the children's mother tongue.

23) There should be guarantee of free speech and free press. The communications media should be completely autonomous.

24) Intellectuals, historians, artists and academicians engaged in other cultural activities should be guaranteed intellectual freedom.

25) In both the terai and hilly regions there is prejudice and misunderstanding in backward areas. This should be ended and the backward areas should be assisted. Good relations should be established between the villages and the city.

26) Decentralization in real terms should be applied to local areas which should have local rights, autonomy and control over their own resources.

III DEMANDS RELATED TO THE PEOPLE'S LIVING

27) Those who cultivates the land should own it. (The tiller should have right to the soil he/she tills.) The land of rich landlords should be confiscated and distributed to the homeless and others who have no land.

28) Brokers and commission agents should have their property confiscated and that money should be invested in industry.

29) All should be guaranteed work and should be given a stipend until jobs are found for them.

30) HMG should pass strong laws ensuring that people involved in industry and agriculture should receive minimum wages.

31) The homeless should be given suitable accommodation. Until HMG can provide such accommodation they should not be removed from where they are squatting.

32) Poor farmers should be completely freed from debt. Loans from the Agricultural Development Bank by poor farmers should be completely written off. Small industries should be given loans.

33) Fertilizer and seeds should be easily and cheaply available, and the farmers should be given a proper market price for their production.

34) Flood and draught victims should be given all necessary help

35) All should be given free and scientific medical service and education and education for profit (private schools?) should be completely stopped.

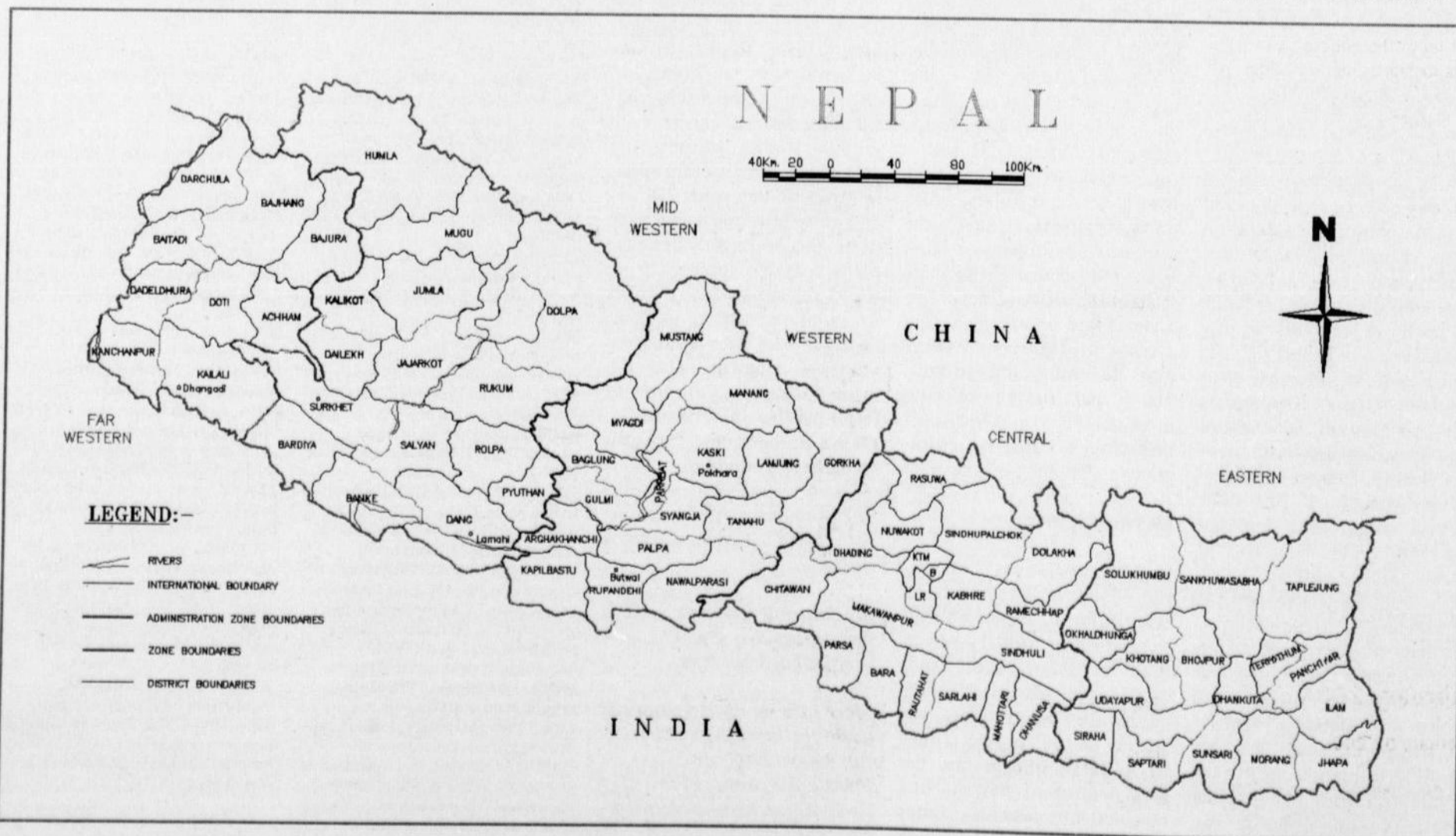
36) Inflation should be controlled and laborers salaries should be raised in direct ratio with the rise in prices. Daily essential goods should be made cheap and easily available.

37) Arrangements should be made for drinking water, good roads, and electricity in the villages.

38) Cottage and other small industries should be granted special facilities and protection.

39) Corruption, black marketing, smuggling, bribing, the taking of commissions, etc. should all be stopped.

40) Orphans, the disabled, the elderly and children should be given help and protection.



Corporate Crimes of BAE Systems

BAE SYSTEMS aims to be a truly global systems, defence and aerospace company with unrivalled capability...[the] prime contractor and systems integrator for our customers, in the air, land, sea, and space'.[2] As such, the company has interests in areas spanning the range of avionics and defence systems, from hardware manufacture to personnel training. Primarily, however, BAE is an arms company, ranking first in the world in terms of arms sales.[3] Military equipment currently accounts for around 75% of the company's total sales.[4] In 2000 it pulled in \$13,248 million in military revenue.[5] It is the world's fourth largest defence and aerospace firm, behind Boeing, Lockheed Martin, and EADS.[6]

The company is a significant employer, directly employing over 100,000 people. Over a third of its workforce is outside the UK - in the US, Saudi Arabia, France, Italy, Germany, Sweden, Australia & Canada. BAE SYSTEMS is present in five continents, with customers in 129 countries, and its order book at the end of the year 2000 totalled £41 billion.[7] Its biggest rivals are the US companies Lockheed Martin and Boeing, as well as the European syndicate EADS Inc, which formed when BAE acquired GEC (see History). In theory, BAE SYSTEMS is financially strong enough to attempt a takeover of its rivals. However, BAE SYSTEMS' ambition to merge with Boeing or Lockheed has been ruled out by the US government.[8] Nevertheless, its desire to break into the US market, by far the largest in the world for arms companies, continues unabated.

BAE SYSTEMS has committed an impressive amount of corporate crimes. What follows is merely a selection of some of the more recent ones and is by no means a comprehensive account of the company's wrong-doings. CAAT have a wealth of information on BAE, and further details of the company's deplorable record can be obtained from them (at www.caat.org.uk).

Indonesia

BAE SYSTEMS' arms sales to Indonesia are notorious. It has a long history of exporting Hawk Jets to the country, which was ruled by the vicious Suharto regime (and is still governed by a corrupt and undemocratic system, in which the military retains a large portion of power). Arms exports began as early as 1978, but the biggest controversy began in November 1996, when the Conservative government granted an export licence for 16 Hawk-209 aircraft. The purpose of the Hawk aircraft is not am-

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See: <http://career.ucsd.edu/rec/Recprooa.shtml>

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Contact Andy Rabitoy, the Career Center's Employer Relations Coordinator at arabito@ucsd.edu or by phone at (858) 534-4501

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Mike Turner, CEO of BAE Systems Deserves to be all pixelated

abwe and India are raised. According to CAAT, 'Arms purchases do not merely waste scarce resources, but also aggravate international tensions, generating mutual suspicion and hostility. The essence of this traffic is the alliance between Western arms companies and local military interests, which repeatedly show that they can manipulate even democratic politicians into needless extravagances.'[54]

South Africa

At the time of writing, the government of South Africa has just decided to go ahead with the second phase of a deal with BAE worth £1.5 billion, involving the purchase of 24 Hawk aircraft as well as Gripen aircraft from SAAB (which BAE owns shares in). The deal has been roundly condemned by churches and NGOs across South Africa, as it will inevitably divert much needed resources from health, education and welfare policies. Raenette Taljaard, finance spokesman for the South African Democratic Alliance estimated that the money being spent on the Hawk jets could provide 4.5 million destitute South Africans with a basic living grant of R100 a month for a year, or offer housing subsidies for 337,500 homeless families.[55] Even if South Africa desperately needed new fighter aircraft, questions have been raised over the suitability of the ageing Hawk jets. Despite costing more than the aircraft which came first in the evaluation, BAE manufactured aircraft were chosen. This has led to accusations of corruption and bribery.

Greece

Arms sales to Greece would seem to be unobjectionable on first examination. After all, the country is a NATO ally of the UK and a European democracy. It is also, however, the poorest country in the European Union. At the same time, it spends a higher proportion of its national income on 'defence' than any other European power, except Turkey (Greece's defence budget was 4.9% of its total budget in 1999). In the year 2000 Greece purchased 60 Typhoon air-

continued inside on page 3

biguous - BAE themselves describe it as a 'single-seat, radar equipped, lightweight, multi-role combat aircraft, providing comprehensive air defence and ground attack capability'.[44] Given that in 1996 Indonesia was also trying to purchase US F-16 aircraft (which are air defence fighters), it is likely that the Hawks were intended mainly for 'ground attack'.

It is clear that these ground attack fighters were being purchased for use in internal repression, especially in East Timor. Despite Conservative denials, East Timorese leaders have frequently asserted that Hawk jets have been used in repressive attacks since 1978.[45] and whilst in opposition Robin Cook believed the same thing. As he stated in 1994, 'Hawk aircraft have been observed on bombing runs in East Timor in most years since 1984'.[46] Unfortunately, this belief did not carry over into his stint as Foreign Secretary for the Labour Government, which renewed the export licence despite vehement protests. Needless to say, this change of heart had absolutely nothing to do with Lord Hollick (then a member of the BAE SYSTEMS Board of Directors) being a DTI advisor at the time of the decision[47], or BAE SYSTEMS' massive influence over the Labour Government (see section on Influence/Lobbying). Despite continuing concerns over the use of Hawk jets in East Timor, the only action taken by the UK Government was a brief ban from September 1999 to January 2000. It eventually took UN intervention to stop the occupation of East Timor, and needless to say, BAE have never apologised for accepting contracts from a corrupt and murderous dictatorship.

Saudi Arabia

Before the protests over its exports to Indonesia, BAE (then British Aerospace) had already become involved in one of the biggest trade scandals of the 1980s; the Al-Yamamah deals with Saudi Arabia. In the words of the Financial Times, the arms deal known as Al Yamamah II was 'the biggest [UK] sale ever of anything to anyone.'[48] The deals were condemned by Amnesty International as a clear endorsement of a country ruled by a repressive regime who displayed a 'persistent pattern of gross human rights abuses.'[49] BAE was the prime contractor for the entire deal, which included the sale of 48 Tornado bombers, 24 Tornado fighters, 30 Hawk trainer-fighters, and a large number of Rapier missiles. It also involved millions of pounds worth of corrupt commissions paid to Arabian businessmen, which the Conservative government of the time denied, and which eventually led to the downfall of Jonathan Aitken. Bringing in the service side of BAE, the company provided training and advice for the Saudi military. Indeed, this was pursued to such an extent that The Economist suggested that 'the company not only supplies Saudi Arabia with fighter aircraft, but virtually runs its entire airforce.'[50] The scandal was further added to by a Channel 3 TV documentary. This showed two BAE representatives offering electro-shock batons for sale and claimed that the company had supplied 8,000 of them as part of the Al Yamamah contract. In spite of the compelling nature of the evidence, the Director of Public Prosecutions decided not to charge BAE on public interest grounds.[51]

Turkey

The UK sold £84 million worth of arms to Turkey in 1998, most of which came directly from the BAE SYSTEMS empire. The orders for that year, which was largely typical, included tank turrets, military components and torpedoes. More worrying was the deal struck between Turkey and Matra Marconi Space, worth \$110 million, for military satellite terminals, and the deal between a Turkish company and Matra BAE Dynamics for the manufacture of BAE's Rapier anti-aircraft missiles. 850 of those missiles are to be supplied to Turkey.[52] The problem with all this, of course, is that Turkey is, an oppressive regime with an appalling human rights record. It routinely uses its military equipment to oppress and kill Kurds and other ethnic minorities. It has been accused by the Council of Europe, among other bodies, of having a history of 'repeated and serious human rights violations'. The same body reported in July 1999 that it could see 'no significant progress in limiting torture, disappearances, and extra-judicial killings' in Turkey.[53]

Deliberate inflation of military spending

Selling military equipment to dictatorial and oppressive regimes is not the only corporate crime that BAE SYSTEMS commits (although they do seem to like doing it). Just as serious is its complete lack of scruples when selling weaponry to poverty-stricken and corrupt countries. The old argument 'if we didn't do it, someone else would' is soon deployed when the examples (amongst others) of South Africa, Greece, Tanzania, Zim-