

BCA Dispatch

Newsletter of the

Boston-Cambridge Alliance for Democracy—May 2002

The God of Force is incompatible with the oneness of God. For if God is one, s/he must by definition be God of All, not of any one people exclusively. He cannot simultaneously encourage callousness and cruelty and be Christ the God of Love, Allah the Merciful, or El Maleh Rahamim—God Who is Filled with Compassion. And if he chooses a people, he does it in the same spirit in which my partner confides to each of his four daughters that she is his favorite.

—Starhawk, 29 April 2002, Heresies/Palestine
<http://www.starhawk.org>

ALLIANCE NEWS

Chapter Calendar (Continued on page 5)

The Boston-Cambridge Alliance for Democracy's next meeting will be on **Wednesday, May 15**, from **7:00 to 9:15 p.m.** at **Cambridge Friends Meeting**, 5 Longfellow Park (9 min. walk from Harvard Square T station, west on Brattle St.)

- ① Special guest **Nick Biddle**, new executive coordinator of the national Alliance for Democracy. Discuss **"Chapters and the Power of the Alliance."** Want to shape a chapter-to-chapter, region-to-region people's alliance? Tell Nick what we want.
- ② Discuss, endorse **national candidates & issues**. Charge convention delegates. See below, pages 5-6.
- ③ Discuss **ReLocalization, Regionalization, Truth Corps, &c.**

Looking ahead: We meet again on June 19.

New Day for The Alliance--Join national to influence AfD priorities & management

When local delegates and other AfD members settle in their seats on June 7-10, at the fifth convention of our national organization, we will hear new voices. One will be Nick Biddle, our new executive coordinator. Another will be Ted Dooley, challenger for male co-chair of the national council.

Nick Biddle comes from Vermont and North Carolina where he became a PhD historian (Argentina, Ecuador, Peru) and social activist (university labor policy, set-up county family center, state education budget, protect low-income neighborhood). He was influenced by Lawrence Goodwyn (*The Populist Moment*) and David Korten (*The Post-Corporate World*), among others.

Ted Dooley is a founder of the Minnesota chapter of the Alliance. A Vietnam draft refuser and civil-rights lawyer, Ted is a member of Indian courts in MN and WI. He was National Lawyers Guild legal observer assisting citizens at the A16, 2001, demonstrations against the IMF/World Bank. On AfD national council Ted has combined no-nonsense business know-how with love and humor. He is (Continued on page 5 >>)



Reichstag burning, Berlin, 1933 (see page 2)

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

U.S. Lies and Conspiracy Theory

In February 1933, days after Nazi leader Adolf Hitler was appointed Chancellor of Germany, their national parliament—the Reichstag—was torched. Although the new government blamed the Communists, recent evidence concludes that the Nazis themselves set the blaze. Rashmi Mayur's article in this issue details how an ecstatic Hitler used the attack to suspend civil liberties, create a Nazi majority in the Reichstag by arresting Communist deputies, and establish a dictatorship.

History buffs and old-timers can't help likening the terrorist attacks of September 11th to the Reichstag event because in both cases the government acted precipitously to establish a military order. Conspiracy theorists had long believed that the 1941 Pearl Harbor attack was set up by President Franklin Roosevelt, plunging us into war. Given that a liberal American president had used such subterfuge to start massive military action, it was easy to apply the same logic to a near fascist like W. Bush, whose disdain for treaties, his proclivity to point at evil-doers, and his "with us or with the terrorists" rhetoric so resembled Hitler's.

With White House statements roundly discredited by President Richard Nixon's behavior, and a system which makes it virtually impossible for a presidential candidate to be responsible for pledges, the "bully pulpit" of a century ago has been extended to an "office of strategic disinformation," to use the Pentagon's term. Official deception has long extended beyond governmental strategy to the daily manipulation of civil

society by a majority of media reporters and commentators slavish to government press releases, conferences, photo-opportunities, and even propaganda footage as during US attacks on Baghdad—arguably state terrorism. After all, Nazi propaganda minister Paul Goebbels learned strategies from Edward Bernays, the American “father of public relations.”

Public relations involve the staging of newsworthy events—not so subtle in Goebbels’ giant, torchlight stadium events, nor in Stalin’s show trials of political opponents, but hidden actually in cases like Colonel Oliver North’s illegal arming of Nicaraguan “freedom fighters” or the CIA’s everyday drug/arms dealing, both with “plausible deniability.”

How far are we from the mendacity of totalitarian dictatorships? Close, but less obvious. The British regularly paraded their superiority in the streets of imperial India, while Washington refuses to use the E-word. We regularly count “democracies” Latin America and Asia, but foster democracy in show-form only, relying on oligarchs and dictators to support US corporate interests at any cost. Our campaign finance laws legitimize graft from corporations, and there is too much distance between the people and their “representatives” to really do anything but hope for a cleansing crisis—which might backfire and bring dictatorship.

Thus conspiracy theories are bred and spread, because they fit the pattern of actual corruption more than the myth of reliable circumspection and justice. Besides historical plausibility regarding 9/11, the assumption of complicity is fostered by people’s need to know what’s going on in this movie-like world around us—a world progressively less natural and more and more contrived and anxiety-provoking. Science helps us understand Nature, but we are left with our wits to understand political contrivance.

This issue of BCAD carries a surprising conspiracy scenario by Thierry Meyssan, a French investigator and think-tank president. His book *The Frightening Fraud* is a huge best-seller in Europe. It goes beyond concerns like “why were the steel girders of the World Trade Center cleared immediately, before forensic investigation for signs of pre-set explosions?” and “why were our air defenses critically delayed?”—the subject of a projected Congressional investigation.

His article lays out the evidence for a US guided missile, looking like a plane, being fired into the Pentagon to assure the hit. But ah-hah!—it will be your guess as to what really became of American Flight 77, which according to unsubstantiated government reports was the assault weapon, leaving hardly a trace—or no trace—at the Pentagon.

2001 and 1933: Variations on a Theme? Terrorism and the Reichstag Fire

by Rashmi Mayur, Mumbai, India
International Institute for Sustainable Future

It is universally recognized that September 11 is a turning point in human history in more ways than one. The United Nations Declaration of 5 October 2001 is not only a Charter to eliminate terroristic acts around the world, but also a manifesto challenging the Human Rights Declaration. To understand the implications of all the acts against terrorism passed by the United States government as well as by governments in other

countries around the world, one simply has to read an eyewitness account of the Reichstag fire on 27 February 1933—the fire by arson of the German Parliament Building in Berlin, which changed the course of history.

Just a day after the fire, that is, on 28 February, Adolf Hitler, fascist chancellor of Germany, invoked article 48 of the constitution suspending all civil liberties, abrogating the constitutional protections: free expression of opinion, freedom of the press, right of assembly and association, right to privacy of postal and electronic communications, protection against unlawful searches and seizures, individual property rights, states’ right of self-government.

There is no agreement as to who was responsible for the Reichstag fire, but it was suspected that someone named van der Lubbe, a communist, was responsible. He was charged and executed. But a large amount of evidence collected by a writer, Walther Hoter of Bern, proved that the fire was planned by the Nazis themselves, by Reinhard Heydrich, and an official in the Prussian Ministry of the Interior, Kurt Daluge. The most important consequence of the fire was: more than four thousand communists, intellectuals, professionals, thinkers, opposition leaders, were arrested before the morning of 28 February. The decree was turned into a law against any opposition to the Nazi Party. On 23 March 1933 Adolf Hitler became the supreme dictator of Germany, and from there on he began his march to conquer the earth, a dream which Alexander and Napoleon could not fulfill. What followed thereafter was a history of holocaust.

That is 1933. A new world has emerged since then—new millennium. At that time Hitler’s decree was only for Germany. The Terrorism Act of the United States applies to 189 countries around the world as George W. Bush, President of the United States, expressed it, “Either you are with us or you are with the terrorists.”

Following are excerpts of an eyewitness account of the Reichstag fire by D. Stefan Delmer as published in the *Eyewitness Adolf Hitler*, 1979, edited by Allen Churchill:

The fire broke out at 9:45 tonight in the Assembly Hall of the Reichstag. It had been laid in five different corners and there is no doubt whatever that it was the handiwork of incendiaries.

One of the incendiaries, a man aged thirty, was arrested by the police as he came rushing out of the building, clad only in shoes and trousers, without a shirt or coat, despite the icy cold in Berlin tonight.

Five minutes after the fire had broken out, I was outside the Reichstag watching the flames licking their way up the great dome into the tower. A cordon had been flung ‘round the building and no one was allowed to pass it. After about twenty minutes of fascinated watching, I suddenly saw the famous black motorcar of Adolf Hitler slide past, followed by another car containing his personal bodyguard.

I rushed after them and was just in time to attach myself to the fringe of Hitler’s party as they entered the Reichstag. Never have I seen Hitler’s face with such a grim and determined expression. His eyes, always a little protuberant, were almost bulging out of his head.

Suddenly, he stretched out his hand and made a dramatic declaration: This is a God-given signal! If this fire, as I believe,

turns out to be the handiwork of Communists, then there is nothing that shall stop us now [from] crushing out this murderous pest with an iron fist."

He then turned to me. "You are witnessing the beginning of a great new epoch in German history. This fire is the beginning." And then something touched the rhetorical spring in his brain. "You see this flaming building," he said, sweeping his hand dramatically around him. "If this Communist spirit got hold of Europe for but two months, it would be all aflame like this building."

By 12:30 the fire had been got under control. At the Prussian Ministry of the Interior, a special meeting was called late tonight by Captain Goering to discuss measures to be taken as a consequence of the fire.



AGM-86C Conventional Air Launched Cruise Missile

9-11 Attack on the Pentagon

Bin Laden Terrorists or U.S. Secret Operation?

address by Thierry Meyssan, under Arab League auspices, Zayed Center, Abu Dhabi, United Arab Emirates, 8 April 2002

Your Highness, Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen:

In the first minutes following the first attack on the World Trade Center, officials suggested to the media that the person behind the attacks was Osama bin Laden, the epitome of Muslim fanaticism. Not long after, the recently appointed director of the FBI, Robert Mueller III, designated nineteen kamikazes by name and mobilized all the means at the disposal of his agency to track down their accomplices. The FBI thus never undertook any investigation but, instead, organized a man hunt, which, in the eyes much of the United States public, quickly took on the appearance of an Arab hunt. This reached such a pitch that people were incited to attack - even kill - Arabs whom they naively considered collectively responsible for the attacks.

There was no investigation by Congress, which, at the request of the White House, renounced exercising its constitutional role, supposedly in order not to adversely affect national security. Nor was there investigation by any media representatives, who had been summoned to the White House and prevailed upon to abstain from following up any leads lest such inquiries also adversely affect national security.

If we analyze the attacks of September the eleventh, we notice first off that there was much more to them than the official version acknowledges.

1. We know about only four planes, whereas at one point it was a question of eleven planes. Further, an examination of the

insider-trading conducted in relation to the attacks shows put-option speculative trading in the stock of three airline companies: American Airlines, United Airlines and KLM Royal Dutch Airlines.

2. The official version does not include the attack on the White House annex, the Old Executive Office Building (called the "Eisenhower Building"). Yet, on the morning of the eleventh, ABC television broadcast, live, pictures of a fire ravaging the presidential services building.

3. Neither does the official version take into account the collapse of a third building in Manhattan World Trade Center complex, independently of the twin towers. This third building was not hit by a plane. However, it, too, was ravaged by a fire before collapsing for an unknown reason. This building contained the world's biggest secret CIA operations base, where the Agency engaged in economic intelligence gathering that the military-industrial lobby considered a waste of resources that should have been devoted to strategic intelligence gathering.

If we look closely at the attack against the Pentagon, we notice that the official version amounts to an enormous lie. According to the Defense Department, a Boeing 757, all trace of which had been lost somewhere over Ohio, flew some 500 kilometers (300 miles) without being noticed. It supposedly entered Pentagon air space and descended on to the

lawn surrounding the heliport, bounced off the lawn, broke a wing in collision with an electric transformer station, hit the façade at the level of the ground floor and first story, and was totally consumed by fire, leaving no other traces than two dysfunctional black boxes and pieces of passengers' bodies.

It is obviously impossible that a Boeing 757 could, for some 500 kilometers, escape detection by civil and military radar, by fighter-bomber planes sent in pursuit of it and by observation satellites that had just been activated.

It is also obviously impossible that a Boeing 757 could enter the Pentagon's air space without being destroyed by one or more of the five missile batteries protecting the building.

When one examines the photographs of the façade, taken in the minutes following the attack (even before the Arlington civilian fire fighters had time to deploy), one sees no trace of the right wing on fire in front of the façade, nor any hole in the façade into which the plane could have been swallowed up.

Apparently without the least fear of laying itself open to ridicule, the Defense Department declared that the jet engines, made out of tempered steel, had disintegrated under the shock of the impact - without damaging the façade. The aluminum of the fuselage is claimed to have combusted at more than 2,500° Celsius within the building and to have been transformed into gas, but the bodies of the passengers which it contained were so little burned that they were later identified from their finger prints.

Responding to journalists during a press conference at the Pentagon, the fire chief claimed that "no voluminous debris from the aircraft" had remained, "nor any piece of the fuselage, nor anything of that sort". He declared that neither he nor his men knew what had become of the aircraft.

Close examination of the official photographs of the scene

of the attack, taken and published by the Defense Department, shows that no part of the Pentagon bears any mark of an impact that could be attributed to the crash of a Boeing 757.

One must acknowledge the evidence: it is impossible that the attack against the Pentagon on September 11, killing 125 persons, was carried out by a jet airliner.

The scene of the attack was thoroughly disturbed on the following day by the immediate launch of new construction work, with the result that many of the elements necessary to reconstruct what had happened are missing. The elements that do remain, however, converge in a single hypothesis that it is not possible to prove with certainty.

An air traffic controller from Washington has testified seeing on radar an object flying at about 800 kilometers per hour, moving initially toward the White House, then turning sharply toward the Pentagon, where it seemed to crash. The air traffic controller has testified that the characteristics of the flight were such that it could only have been a military projectile.

Several hundred witnesses have claimed that they heard "a shrill noise like the noise of a fighter-bomber", but nothing like the noise of a civilian aircraft. Eye-witnesses have said that they saw "something like a cruise missile with wings" or a small flying object "like a plane carrying eight or twelve persons".

The flying object penetrated the building without causing major damage to the façade. It crossed several of the building rings of the Pentagon, creating in each wall it pierced a progressively bigger hole. The final hole, perfectly circular, measured about one meter eighty in diameter. When traversing the first ring of the Pentagon, the object set off a fire, as gigantic as it was sudden. Huge flames burst from the building licking the façades, then they shrank back just as fast, leaving behind a cloud of black soot. The fire spread through a part of the first ring and along two perpendicular corridors. It was so sudden that the fire protection system could not react.

All these testimonies and observations correspond to the effects of an AGM [air to ground missile]-86C of the third (most recent) generation of CALCM [conventional air launched cruise missile — see picture above (page 3 or at www.fas.org/man/dod-101/sys/smart/agm-86c.htm) equipped with depleted uranium warheads and guided by GPS [global positioning system]. This type of missile, seen from the side, would easily remind one of a small civilian airplane, but it is not a plane. It produces a shrill whistle comparable to that of a fighter-bomber, can be guided with enough accuracy to be directed through a window, can pierce the most resistant armor and can set off a fire - independent of its piercing effect - that will generate heat of over 2,000° Celsius.

This type of missile was developed jointly by the Navy and the Air Force and is fired from a plane. The missile used against the Pentagon destroyed the part of the building where the new Supreme Naval Command Center was being installed. Following the attack, the Navy Chief of Staff, Admiral Vernon Walters, failed to show up in the crisis room of the National Military Joint Intelligence Center when the other members of the Joint Chiefs of Staff reported there. Instead, he abruptly left the Pentagon.

Who, then, could have fired such a missile on the Pentagon? The answer was given by the off-the-record revelations of Ari Fleischer, the White House spokesman, and by Karl Rove, senior advisor to the president, to journalists from the *New York Times* and the *Washington Post*. Eighteen days later, these men discounted the veracity of the information they had given the

journalists, claiming that they had been speaking under the stress of great emotion.

According to those close to George W. Bush, in the course of the morning, the Secret Service received a telephone call from those behind the attacks, apparently in order to make demands. To give credence to their demands, the masterminds revealed the secret codes giving access to the secure telephone lines available to the president for secure communication with the various intelligence agencies and services as well as for access to the nuclear arsenal. In fact, only a very few persons with the highest security clearances, in the top ranks of the government, could have had these codes. It follows that at least one of the persons behind the attacks of September 11 has a top government post, either civilian or military.

To give credence to the fable of Islamic terrorists, the United States authorities invented kamikazes.

Although it would have been possible for a well organized group of persons to bring fire arms into commercial air liners, the kamikazes apparently used cardboard cutters as their only weapons. They are said to have learned to pilot Boeing 757s and 767s in the space of several hours of simulator training, becoming better pilots than professionals. This mastery allowed them to carry out complex in-flight approach maneuvers.

The Justice Department has never explained how it established the list of the kamikazes. The airline companies have furnished the exact number of passengers in each plane, and the passenger lists, incomplete, do not mention the persons who boarded at the last minute. In checking these lists, one notices that names of the kamikazes are not on them and that only three passengers are not identified for flight 11 and only two for flight 93. It is thus impossible that 19 kamikazes boarded. Further, several of those listed as kamikazes have turned up, alive. The FBI nonetheless maintains that the hijackers have all been definitively identified and that complementary information such as birth dates makes it improbable that they could be confused with persons of the same name. For those who might doubt this, the FBI has a ridiculous proof—whereas the planes burned and the twin towers collapsed, the passport of Mohammed Atta was miraculously found intact on the smoking ruins of the World Trade Center.



The existence of hijackers, whether these or others, is confirmed by telephone calls made by several passengers to members of their families. Unfortunately, these conversations are known to us only by hearsay and have not been published, even in the case of those that were recorded. Thus, it has been impossible to verify that they were actually made from a particular cell phone or from a telephone made on board. Here, too, we are asked to take the FBI at its word.

Further, it was not indispensable to have hijackers to carry out the attacks. The Global Hawk technology, developed by the Air Force, makes it possible to take control of a commercial airliner regardless of the intentions of its pilot(s) and to direct it by remote control.

There remains the case of Osama bin Laden. If it is generally admitted that he was a CIA agent or collaborator during the war against the Soviet Union in Afghanistan, the current version of events claims that he turned coat and became public enemy number one of the United States. This story does not bear up under scrutiny either. The French daily *le Figaro* revealed that last July, Osama bin Laden was a patient at the American hospital in Dubai, where he was visited by the head of CIA regional office. CBS television in the United States has revealed that, on September 10, Osama bin Laden was undergoing dialysis at the Rawalpindi military hospital, under the protection of the Pakistani army. And the renowned French journalist Michel Peyrard, who was a prisoner of the Taliban, has recounted how, last November, Osama bin Laden was living openly in Jalalabad while the United States was bombing other regions of the country. It is difficult to believe that the greatest army in the world, come to Afghanistan to arrest him, was unable to do so, while the mullah Omar was able to escape from United States military force on a moped.

In view of the elements that I have just presented, it appears that the attacks of September can not be attributed to foreign terrorists from the Arab-Muslim world - even if some of those involved might have been Muslim - but to United States terrorists.

The day after the attacks of September 11, United Nations Security Council Resolution 1368 acknowledged "the inherent right of individual or collective self-defense in accordance with the Charter", calling on "all States to work together urgently to bring to justice the perpetrators, organizers and sponsors of these terrorist attacks and stresses that those responsible for aiding, supporting or harboring the perpetrators, organizers and sponsors of these acts will be held accountable".

If one wishes to heed the call of the Security Council, to enforce Resolution 1368 and to punish those who really are guilty, the only way to accurately identify the guilty parties is to set up a commission of inquiry whose independence and objectivity are guaranteed by the United Nations. This would also be the only way to preserve international peace. In the meantime, Your Highness, Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen, the foreign military interventions of the United States of America are devoid of any basis in international law, whether it be their recent intervention in Afghanistan or their announced interventions in Iran, Iraq and in numerous other countries.



New Day for the Alliance (Continued from page 1)

concerned that AfD—standing for the fundamental change that Americans want—needs to work horizontally and engage people as members of chapters and regions. He will expect the national coordinator to visit every chapter annually and talk with leaders of every chapter monthly.

Ted and Garret Whitney of Concord MA will contest for male co-chair of AfD council. **Nancy Price** of Sacramento CA will run uncontested as female co-chair. Nancy, who is an expert on

Chinese and Japanese history, has tirelessly organized and dialogued with northern California Alliance people as well as networking Alliances nation-wide. She believes she and Ted will work well as a team for regional development. **Garret Whitney**, a Roling practitioner and vice co-chair of AfD council, has been close to AfD founder **Ronnie Dugger** from the beginning and helped found the North Bridge MA chapter.

Ruth Weizenbaum of Concord MA will run for female vice co-chair along with Jo Seidita of Northridge CA. An educator, Ruth is a Northeast regional representative on AfD council and officer in the Coalition for a Strong United Nations. Strong on decentralization and local networking, she organized the April 24th conference (see Chapter News) on planning a New England regional Alliance. Like Garret, Kati Winchell, and Sue Wheaton, **Jo Seidita** has been close to Ronnie from the beginning, works hard for campaign finance reform, has chaired national conventions, and is co-chair of the San Fernando Valley chapter.

 *At BCA's May 15 meeting, you can get more information on contested council seats, and instruct BCA delegates how to vote. For BCA to have voting weight we need as many members of NATIONAL AfD as possible, apart from local chapter membership. For this you must pay separate dues—nominally \$35 a year but you can adjust this to your pocketbook. For example, \$5 will make you a member and will at least cover printing and mailing of Alliance Alerts (promised bimonthly). Call the national office now at 781-894-1179 to join, and inform BCA.*

Never Been to an AfD Convention?

This one's only 8 hours' drive!

by Sue Wheaton, AfD Convention Committee

Every two years Alliance members gather in a democratic convention for many activities, including hearing from local **chapters** and members about what they've been doing, meeting in workshops to learn and **plan** with each other, hearing from inspiring **speakers**, shaping current national action **campaigns** and considering new ones, and to consider **resolutions** and **elect** the council that takes care of national business between conventions.

This year's convention will meet **June 7(evening)--June 10(noon) at Gettysburg College, Gettysburg PA.** Its theme, **The American Emergency--Democracy or Fascism?**, reflects our members' deep concern over recent developments in the areas of civil liberties, voters' rights and establishing a truly democratic electoral system, militarism and the new nuclear threat, and the forces that operate US policies behind-the-scenes.

At the same time the convention and the Alliance will continue to focus on root causes-- corporate globalization/ alternatives, campaign reform and political bribery, and the structure of the corporation itself. We'll hear back from Alliance campaigns in these areas, and participate in working out future activities and actions.

The Gettysburg convention will feature groundbreaking speakers and authors such as **Greg Palast** (*The Best Democracy Money Can Buy*) <http://gregpalast.com> and **Marjorie Kelly** (*The Divine Right of Capital*) <http://www.thedivinerightofcapital.com>. If you're concerned

about the current crisis situation--what it means for us here in the U.S. and what it means for the world--and about how we can change the underlying system that's brought us to this point, please consider joining the Alliance and coming to this Alliance Convention.

Registration + food + lodging will run you about \$135 if you are a midnight driver/rider and attend for Saturday and Sunday only. It will cost about double that if you come Friday afternoon and leave Monday afternoon. For details and sign-up, call the national office (Waltham MA) at 781-894-1179, or visit www.thealliancefordemocracy.org

Boston City Council To Endorse Mass. Globalization Impact Bill

Roxbury's city councillor Chuck Turner recently introduced a resolution in the Boston City Council supporting state legislation to scrutinize NAFTA, WTO, and forthcoming trade and investment proposals as they would impact Massachusetts laws and regulations. The state legislation was drafted by BCA and sponsored by Rep. Byron Rushing, and facilitated by CPPAX. It is now in Ways & Means, having been reported out favorably after hearings by the Commerce & Labor Committee involving testimony by Prof. Bob Stumberg of Georgetown U Law Center.

Councillor Turner is arranging hearings at City Hall for late May or June. Dave Lewit and a Boston union representative will testify. Call the Dispatch for date and location. Please urge your Boston city councillor to support the resolution. Here is the text:

March 25, 2002

Offered by Councillors Chuck Turner, Charles Yancey, Mickey Roache

WHEREAS National, state, and city governments use regulations and laws to protect our economy, health, safety, and environment; and

WHEREAS The global free trade agreements such as the North American Free Trade Agreement and World Trade Organization prioritize the goal of "free trade" over all other values such as clean air, living wages, and consumer protection; and

WHEREAS These free trade agreements give companies and foreign governments the right to sue the U.S. government over state laws they claim are "barriers to trade" such as bans on toxic substances, purchasing preferences for small businesses, or state funding for local economic development; and

WHEREAS Foreign governments and companies have used this power to challenge the U.S. government in a number of legal actions; and

WHEREAS Mondev International, a Canadian developer, has filed a \$50 million suit against the U.S. government, claiming that they were treated unfairly by Boston officials and that Massachusetts state courts violated NAFTA when their Downtown Crossing retail project failed and the rights to Haywood Place were taken from them; and

WHEREAS Representative Byron Rushing has filed the Globalization Impact Bill (H.2119) which would establish a state commission to study the impact of the World Trade Organization and other trade agreements on Massachusetts laws and regulations; and

WHEREAS This state commission will regularly report to the legislature on these impacts and advise the Commonwealth on when to oppose provisions in global trade agreements. THEREFORE BE IT

RESOLVED That the Boston City Council gives its full support for the passage of the Globalization Impact Bill (H.2119) by the Massachusetts state legislature and governor.

■ ■ ■

Northeast Region Begins Planning

AfD council rep Ruth Weizenbaum of Concord tapped Alliance members from as far away as New Bedford, Maine, and New Hampshire, and our new national coordinator, Nick Biddle, to look into establishing a regional Alliance formation.

On April 24 at the Boston Research Center near Harvard Square, 25 participants told their concerns about many issues--*erosion of democracy *roots of greed *priority of corporations *nuclear threat *military interests *environment *mass communication *re-localization *globalization from below *Is AfD hierarchic? *diversity, democracy in AfD *chapter cooperation *Linkage of wars, globalization, etc. *educate *work with others *regional formation's function? *Party process

A gathering this large virtually assures development of a fall conference which may result in a permanent regional organization capable of multiplying our strengths. That conference may emphasize regional concerns and opportunities. Similar regional congregations are emerging in the West Coast and North Central regions.

"Reel Bad Arabs" - Don't miss this

exposé of Hollywood's perverse portrayal of Muslim Arabs in 1000 films over 80 years. Only American "Indians" have been treated worse. By Jack Shaheen, paperback, 574 pp., 2001. Recommended by Merrie Najimi, BCA's April guest, who put the infamous "Patriot Act" of 2001 into perspective. "Arab Terrorism" was a convenient handle for Attorney General Ashcroft and your representative in Congress. →■



Marchers gather at Washington Monument (see page 6)

PHOTO: CAROL DWYER

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Or try editing the **Indy Page** (guidelines in previous Dispatch).

Visit the Alliance web site: www.TheAllianceForDemocracy.org

The Indy Page

All material on this page is the responsibility of a citizen editor, independent of the BCA Dispatch editorial staff. This issue's editor is Carol Dwyer of Concord, formerly employed in land use and transportation planning, and a founder of Grassroots Actions for Peace. Contact her at DwyerJandC@aol.com or call 978-369-1162.

Standing Up for Peace

by Carol Dwyer

Washington, D.C., April 20th. What a great day! Bright sunshine and 75,000 allies come to "Stand Up for Peace!"

I went to the demonstration in Washington fired to represent Grassroots Actions for Peace in our campaign to ban depleted uranium weapons. I came needing encouragement and the chance to encourage others. And I privately hoped I might see my daughter, an organizer with the International Socialist Organization in Chicago.

I joined friends from the Women's International League for Peace and Freedom (WILPF) on an overnight bus provided by the American Friends Service Committee. We had a great time together--Joan Ecklein, Libby Gerlach, Gretchen Klotz, Lisa Peattie, Nancy Lee Wood, and Nancy Wrenn, joined and assisted by Carol Coakley!

Peggy Ray, from the Bronx, was attracted to the spirit of Diane Craig's colorful banner "Let the Earth Flourish, No Depleted Uranium Weapons". We held the banner high as we began a march from the Washington Monument hillside; people gathering, drumming, chanting, streams of people now pouring down from the hillside in a great wave. What a feeling of comradeship, of being exactly where I wanted to be with my allies! I looked to the left and the right and saw thousands more people; women with baby carriages, students, young men in T-shirts. Crowds were marching from other gathering places and joining the enormous stream, and I realized this demonstration surpassed all expectations!

The chants, banners, puppets and signs signaled our message "Violence Breeds More Violence"; "Our grief IS NOT a cry for war"; "World Peace or the World in Pieces"; "Silence is Betrayal"; "No more innocent victims"; War o\n IS Terrorism"; "Hate our enemies more than we love our Children?"; "Who's next? Iraq? Somalia?"; "US troops out of the Philippines"; "Tell Bush: Money for Jobs, Schools, Health care-- NOT RACIST WAR"; "People with Aids before profits for corporations"; "Act now to Stop War & End Racism"; and summing up the others "Non violence Social justice Ecology Grassroots Democracy."

Our banner attracted conversations, and it was a magnet for meeting other groups working to end the use of these weapons like the team from Minneapolis who vigil before a depleted uranium weapons assembly plant, Alliant Tech. The banner even initiated an interview with "Dan", of Associated Press. I was encouraged to realize that more people are learning the truth about the chemical and radiological tox-

icity of depleted uranium dust, and that we in Grassroots Actions for Peace, working with others in the Military Toxics Project, are gaining allies.

When Kibuchi Banfield, a smiling fourteen-year-old boy from "Children's Pressline" in New York City, asked what I would remember from this time in Washington, I answered, "The people." It's the people I met, and the feeling of being part of a community of joyful resistance that has staying power. I will remember Kibuchi. His sister preceded him working for Children's Pressline, which gives kids a voice and the power to use it. When I asked what she was doing now, Kibuchi said "Working in international relations".

I'll remember Amna, curled on the seat next to me on the bus dozing; reading the fluid script of her Koran; talking with me softly in the middle of the night--a woman born in Eritrea, raised in Egypt and now in college here.

Eighteen students and two teachers came from the Putney School in Vermont, including Jean Rosner's two great nieces--a new generation in a great family tradition.

Resting after the march, I found myself sitting six feet from "Granny D", Doris Haddock, the good-humored and phenomenal woman who at age 90 walked across the United States speaking in support of campaign finance reform. When I asked about her more recent endeavors she said she had walked around the Capitol with only ten minute breaks for the days that the Campaign Finance Bill was discussed in the House, and fasted during the days of Senate discussion, adding with a smile, "The fasting was easier."

The next day in the cafeteria of the Holocaust Museum, while answering a question about our banner, a man nearby said in a low voice, "I know all about depleted uranium." He is a British helicopter pilot who had served two tours in Iraq. He didn't comment further, but as I moved away he reached as if to touch my arm and said quietly, "Keep at it."

I came home and read the newspapers. The news seems worse and worse. So how can I be optimistic? Am I crazy?

No. As activists today we're on the leading edge of a movement to end the power and control of militarism and the privilege of a few over the lives of millions. We work to "Let the Earth Flourish". In Seattle in 1999, Quebec City in 2001, and now in Washington in 2002, I feel blessed to be able to participate in this movement.

And back on the hillside of the Washington Monument, I heard "Hey, MOM!"



LETTERS

Are We Anti-Union?

The front page article by Joe Sweetwater [April issue of the BCA Dispatch] contained two passages that are anti-working class and anti-solidarity: 1) "And those guys out there working in those fancy factories [Raytheon, McDonnell Douglass etc.] and offices gettin' union scale -- boy, that burns me ..." 2) "Yeah, a million jobs for a million Mexicans [resulting from GW's tax breaks for corporations] or whatever."

Only the corporate elite benefit by articles like this that direct our anger against other working people, be they defense workers or Mexicans. Defense workers are no more in control of what their bosses produce and what our government does with it than you or I. They happen to live in a part of the country where the employers make weapons, instead of a part of the country where they make unsafe cars or where they pollute with toxic waste or where they do equally awful but different things. They happen to have won higher wages by acts of solidarity in the past. Let's spread that solidarity, not castigate the good that it has brought some people.

I don't know what Sweetwater has against Mexican workers. I think he's just venting his anger at Mexicans because of some bigoted propaganda he's been influenced by. Mexicans are no more responsible for Sweetwater's problems than you or I. Editors of the Dispatch should not run anti-worker articles without making it clear they do not represent the views of the AfD.

—John Spritzler, Boston

The editor replies:

Joe Sweetwater, like populists generally, is never politically correct, though his rough spots may point to a next generation of correctness. We look forward to his clarifying the "blizzard" of presidential speech writers' PR and the hype of talk shows and the NYTimes editorial works. —Ed.

Don't Confuse Jews and Israel

"How odd/ of God/ to choose/ the Jews" —Ogden Nash

I am writing because I was perturbed to see this poem in the last issue, placed as it was, without comment, directly above several informative stories about recent Israeli atrocities against the Palestinians.

The problem is that the poem refers to "the Jews" in general. To me, even though I am sure it was unintentional, the overall effect was anti-Semitic. Even though many people may not agree with this, I have spoken to a number who had the same reaction—and that is the point of this letter. As a Jew, I know well that "the Jews" and the horrendous policies of the Israeli government and military are not the same.

Using this poem in this way has several negative results. (1) It upsets myself and others, which means that (2) it may alienate potential Jewish allies—from the cause and from the organization. (3) It distracts attention from the real problems. This sort of thing helps to divide us at a time when we particularly need to work together.

I understand the editor wanted to provoke comment. Well, he's got one! Would he have placed a similar poem—say, "Alack, the Blacks!"—without comment—over articles on Sierra Leone, Rwanda, and Burundi?

—Martha Older, Cambridge

The editor replies:

I deny being antisemitic or racist. I hope to be critical or admiring of creeds rather than peoples. I apologize both for the implied conflation of ethnicity/nationality, and for causing any lingering distress, which may not be resolved by dialog in these columns. If I knew of a jingle or slogan as artfully done as Nash's about "Israelis" or nationalists of any kind—or about the hypocrisy of arrogance—I would have used it. But Nash has compressed into 8 syllables what only certain Japanese have been regularly able to do in haiku (17 syllables)—amazing complexity out of the utterly simple, with startling insight at the end—and in rhyme!

Perhaps the reader would agree that the God of faithful Jews is himself unfathomably contradictory, demanding a monopoly on violence and smiting both some of his chosen people and their enemies while insisting on peaceful ways, still tolerating occasional mayhem among Israelites. (Even God's masculinity is confounded not with femininity but with mysterious transcendence of gender.) Perhaps the orthodox model for Israeli atrocities is the genocidal treatment of gentiles at the hands of Moses' disciples in the Promised Land. (Of course many of the tribes/nations in the area were doing this. And are Muslims gentiles?)

Would the reader brand as "anti-Semitic" scholars and rabbis who thus question "God," his "choosing," and the category "Jews"? (Perhaps the term "anti-Semitic" in this connection should be dropped in favor of "anti-Jewish," since "Semitic" is putatively racial—racist in the pejorative—and Palestinians would be Semites.) Also, how many readers would not excuse the use of the term "Jewish state" even though there are more Jews (and former Jews) who prefer to remain in diaspora? One difficult question is "who is Jewish?"—may one opt in or out, or must one accept a racial self-definition? Jewish critics of Israel or of militant right-wing Israel may indeed have to fight for, or demonstrate, the people/state dissociation. —Ed.

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