

Exposing the myths

Build the Anti-war Movement

Since August of last year, American and Canadian governments have prepared the way for public tolerance of the war drive in the Middle East by putting forth a number of myths and half-truths. Some of this propoganda is put to rest in the following:

1. The purpose of the war is to "liberate the people of Kuwait".

The people of Kuwait, in fact, have never had any sort of "liberty". In fact, out of a population of two million inhabitants, only sixty thousand were considered to be citizens. Citizenship was restricted to propertied, native born males whose families were resident in Kuwait since 1920. The country is ruled by an Emir whose family was chosen by the British government to protect its oil interests. The seventy-five percent of the population who are non-citizens, including all women, could not hold property (including a home) and had no political rights whatsoever. Voting was restricted to male citizens over the age of 21 — about 3.5 percent of the population. Non-citizens earned wages and income of only a fraction of those of Kuwaitis, and could be deported without reason. Even the elections in which "citizens" took part were a complete sham... the last parliament, elected in 1985, was dissolved a year later by the ruling al Sabah family. The ruling family also banned all political parties, permitted no meetings of more than 20 people, and censored newspapers. In fact, Kuwait and Saudi Arabia are both little more than dictatorships, whose leaders have no legitimate mandate to rule.

2. The war is to stop aggression.

Although Mulroney says that Iraq must not profit from its aggression against Kuwait, he said nothing about the military aggression of Canada's allies. Canada did not try to stop the U.S. invasion of Grenada in 1983 or the U.S. invasion of Panama in 1989. Neither did Mulroney send troops in to stop the Israeli invasion and occupation of the West Bank and Gaza, Southern Lebanon and the Golan Heights. In fact, in the past fifteen years, the United Nations Security Council has adopted eleven resolutions condemning Israeli aggression against Lebanon and other Arab countries, and Canada has done nothing to uphold these resolutions. And while the U.S. calls for Iraq to follow United Nations rulings, it ignored the U.N. World Court's ruling against U.S. intervention in Nicaragua and proceeded to organize a bloody ten-year Contra war against the Sandanistas.

3. Saddam Hussein is another Hitler, and must be stopped at all costs.

In fact, Saddam Hussein is a brutal tyrant. But if this is the reason that George Bush started a war, why did the U.S. back Iraq through its eight year war with Iran? Hussein's regime is certainly no more brutal than those backed by the U.S. in Central America, or those backed by Britain in the Gulf or France in Africa. In fact, the greatest

danger of brutality in the region comes from the U.S., Canada and the other NATO powers who by some reports have as many as 400 nuclear warheads on ships, planes and submarines in the region.

Saddam is not, however, a "Hitler". Germany was the second most powerful industrial nation when Hitler took power on the back of a smashed working class movement. Iraq, in contrast, is a minor industrial power with a population of less than a third of its neighbours Egypt and Iran. In fact, Iraq was only able to launch its war on Iran in 1980, and its invasion of Kuwait in 1990, because of U.S. backing and arms sales. When, in 1987, it appeared that Iran might win the war with Iraq, the U.S. sent a naval armada to the Gulf to intervene on Saddam's behalf. In fact, the American business newspaper, the *Wall Street Journal*, proclaimed Iraq's victory the following year to be "a major foreign policy victory for the U.S."

4. The United Nations is a fair and impartial body.

In fact, the United Nations most important body, the Security Council, is made up of the United States, Britain, France, the USSR and China; drawing together the invaders of Panama, the invaders of Afghanistan and the butchers of Tiananmen Square with the European imperialist powers that carved up the Gulf in the first

place. The United Nations has been one of a variety of devices — including the IMF and the World Bank — which have been used to ensure U.S. dominance of most of the world. The most blatant use of the United Nations as a cover for U.S. imperialism was the invasion of Korea, when the U.S. seized the opportunity of a temporary boycott by the USSR to make its intervention look like that of the Security Council. The U.S. has used its veto power in the U.N. numerous times to block motions of censure against Israel's occupation of the West Bank, Gaza, and Southern Lebanon. If the U.N. were really going to play a fair and progressive role in the Gulf region, then there would have been measures taken to link the conflicts in the region. The most obvious would be action to expel Israel from the occupied territories.

5. Now that Canadian troops are in the Gulf, we should support them.

In fact, the best way to support the men and women in the armed forces is to call for Canadian troops out now. The Canadian government has no right to shed the blood of young soldiers to protect the interests and profits of rich oil companies. The tabloid *USA Today* printed this from a Black army sergeant: "If I should return as a fatality, do not drape the flag around my coffin. I did not die in defense of my country. I died because my country thought the blood of young men and women is

worth less than oil."

In fact, we must stop this war as soon as possible. And what every anti-war activist should realize is that this time around, the anti-war movement is far stronger than it was during the early stages of the Vietnam war. The movement is growing large enough to turn "Desert Storm" into an anti-war storm against the butchers in Washington, Ottawa, London and Paris who are sending tens of thousands of innocent young men and women to an agonizing death in the Gulf. Nearly every Canadian and U.S. city has built a strong coalition against the war and intervention by North American troops. The thousands of people involved in these anti-war coalitions can build a movement that will be a power greater than any weapon in Bush and Mulroney's arsenal.

If you are interested in helping to build the anti-war movement, please contact the Fredericton Anti-War Coalition at 450-4466.

PROCTOR POSITIONS AVAILABLE

FOR THE 1991-92 ACADEMIC YEAR IN
THE U.N.B.F. RESIDENCE COMMUNITY

APPLICATION FORMS MAY BE OBTAINED FROM:

Dean of Residence Office
Residence Administration Building
Fredericton Campus

Deadline for receipt of applications:
Thursday, February 21, 1991

Candidates must attach a current transcript.
This should be ordered
immediately from the Registrar's Office.

Arts Faculty Award for Excellence in Teaching

The Faculty of Arts at UNB-Fredericton has established an award to recognize and encourage teaching excellence among its full-time faculty members. The winner of the award will be an instructor who displays such qualities as stimulation of student interest, encouragement of student involvement, enthusiasm for subject matter, innovation in course content, format, etc., and/or clarity in organizing and presenting materials.

Both student and faculty members are encouraged to nominate instructors for this award. Nominations may be made by any two registered students of UNB-Fredericton or by any two faculty members who have personal knowledge of the nominee's teaching expertise.

Please use the nomination form provided below and send it to: Teaching Award, Office of the Dean Of arts, Tilley Hall, Room 26, Campus Mail. If you prefer to supply a separate letter, please be sure to include the information requested below. All nominations should be received by Friday 22 February 1991.

WE wish to nominate _____
of the Department of _____ whom we have known
personally as a teacher of _____ (give course name).

Reasons for nomination: _____

Nominator 1: _____

Signature

Nominator 2: _____

Signature

Please print name, address, and telephone number.