

MUGWUMP

OPINION

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The Brunswickan.

by Luis Cardoso

It seems the hawks of the world are rearing their ugly, pointed heads; anti-Soviet rhetoric is resurfacing in the U.S. and it won't be long before the dishonourable Brian Mulroney and Joe Clark jump on the bandwagon. It seems a tad hypocritical for the U.S. to condemn Soviet policy on the Baltic states considering their own intention to bomb Iraq out of the twentieth century. (Here's a horrifying thought: was it the Canadian government's intention to join the fracas in the middle east so as to erase the G.S.T. and other unpopular government policies from the minds of Canadians? It has been demonstrated that unpopular governments can suddenly become very popular during wartime by appealing to patriotism).

Where is the United Nations throughout all this? Is around the clock devastation of Baghdad and other Iraqi cities what they had in mind when they threatened action over Iraq's invasion of Kuwait? Do they support the use of nuclear weapons in the Gulf as has been hinted at by American officials such as Vice-President Dan Quayle? I hardly think so.

The fact that the media is behind this aggressive military action is also unbelievable. As renowned linguist Noam Chomsky stated on CBC's *the Journal* on Wednesday night, instead of collapsing with laughter when the U.S. described Desert Storm as a liberating and non-aggressive action, they have almost unanimously supported the war and accepted the unprecedented censorship of the press. It seems that many on campus have also bought the American rhetoric on the war hook, line, and sinker. Can anyone be so naive as to believe that the U.S. military is taking care not to cause civilian casualties and avoid damaging sites of religious significance?

Recently a concert promoter in Winnipeg contacted Kwame Dawes and myself to attempt to put on a Gregory Isaacs concert in Fredericton. For those of you who don't know, Gregory Isaacs is a legendary reggae singer from Jamaica who would compare to Bruce Springsteen among pop circles. Isaacs records and tours with the seminal *Roots Radics* band. He was to tour Canada with a 12 piece band and was to play the Flamingo Cafe and Lounge in Halifax on 12 and 13 of February. Mr. Cumberbash, the promoter, wanted to bring him to UNB for either Thursday the 14th or Friday the 15th.

When we approached UNB VP Entertainment, Jason Burns, with information concerning the show, and asked him to return the repeated calls to contact him made by Cumberbash, Mr. Burns seemed unimpressed and obviously made no attempt to do so. If Mr. Burns, for whatever reason, does not want to put on the show, that is his prerogative; however, it is his job, or at very least his professional obligation, to call the promoter to inform him of that fact. It was only as a result of Mr. Cumberbash's repeated attempts to contact Mr. Burns both at home and in his office (where he seems to rarely be present) that contact was finally made. This is not professional behaviour on the part of the VP Entertainment; especially in light of the fact that this promoter wants to establish UNB as a stop for his bands which consist of top international acts such as *Third World*. This would be a nice change from the non-stop barrage of Canadian bands featured on campus, many of which sound very similar.

On a lighter and self-promotional note, look for local reggae band Ujamaa's first commercial release to debut in April. The as yet untitled ten song recording will be available on cassette and compact disk. This effort was recorded in Garden Creek at the *Dub Library* with the legendary Mark Carmody at the controls. The recordings are now in the process of digital mastering at Fredericton's *Reel North Recording Studios* with Mark Carmody at the mixing board. Can't wait.

PEACE, EARTH, MUTUAL RESPECT

It is very clear that the use of force to solve Gulf crisis is absolutely unjust. How long has the international community permitted the economic sanctions against Pretoria government in South Africa to work?

And what has happened with the Gaza strip and west bank crisis? And then ask yourself how much has the international community allowed the economic sanctions against Iraqi to take their toll?

Four days after the Iraqi's invasion of Kuwait, Prime Minister Brian Mulroney announced that Canada would stand with the U.S. to defend Saudi Arabia and deter further aggression (*Globe and Mail*, Friday 18, 1991). How did they decide to deter such aggression?

According to this report, it seem that there was not a genuine, sincere, serious intention to solve the Persian Gulf crisis peacefully, the fact is that today we are in war. They ignore that it takes more time to deal with such problems and to permit the economic sanctions to work. Our patience!

The practice of violence can not solve problems because it just draws a long dark and shame way. Since violence is the cry, is not there a big danger of our world?

Globe and Mail, on January 16, 1991 reported that the international community is morally justified in going to war to end Iraq's occupation of Kuwait. The Security Council resolution 678, which authorizes the use of force, did not conform with U.N. constitution which requires proof that other measures have failed before force is uses. Is it the case?

Do you think it is possible to lead diplomatic issues with arrogance and in hopes to arrive to a compromise?

This war is nor morally justified and the use of force to defend the U.N. charter was the result of irrational and unjust decision making from immoral persons who could not respect anybody who opposes their views.

There can be no peace, no better negotiation on earth without mutual respect.

Yes, the bombs in Baghdad explode. They destroy the hopes and possibilities for a decent future in the world.

The war is doing more than devastating the hopes of people in Baghdad. It is sending our sons, brothers and husbands to fight and die under the deluded excuse of working for a nation.

Now, in this confrontation between U.N. forces and Iraqi forces, hundreds and perhaps thousands of people (children) are losing their lives every day and their land is being unmercifully and tragically torn by this war.

"It is an unhappy moment of the world. How much can we pay to save human life? What lives would we transform if we were to cease the killing? And how strongly should we oppose the war?"

Nobody here or over there wants the war. What is the war for, then? And whose war is it?

Now let us begin the long but beautiful struggle for a new world. **The choice is ours. The great initiative to stop must be ours.**

We have to speak out against it not in anger but with anxiety and sorrow in our heart, and above all with a passionate desire to see our countries stand as moral example of the world. **"We must demonstrate. Nobody turns us around".**

We can not be silent in the face of such cruel manipulation of human life. It is really the cruel irony of saying they work for a nation. **We must demonstrate because there is no price for human life.**

We have to speak for them, the victims of the manufactured war.

We cannot be silent. Never again will we be silent. We have to make this war one of our major concerns before it destroys our future freedom. It is a painful irony that countries that have initiated much of the peaceful world should behave like an arch anti-peace. **We have to be more sensitive to the misery of others. The suffering caused by this war is unnecessary.**

We cannot bear to see our countries muscling its way, bombing and shooting people. We are not going to sit back and see this war escalate without saying something about it. **The war in the Gulf must be stopped.**

Think about others, who are living in these incessant attacks in the Gulf.

Think about their emotional health.

Think about the anxiety and depression created by these attacks.

No, we have to do more.

- How can we keep quiet about such things?

- How can we support the use of force to solve problems?

No, we must demonstrate, we can not pay human life.

Now let us urge the U.N. to stop bombing and declare a unilateral cease fire in the hope that this would create an atmosphere for negotiation. We must find ways to speak for peace and justice in the Gulf.

We can not pay human life, the only price is our consciousness to speak out against this war.

For Troop Anti-war Fredericton -

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JOHN-SEBASTIAN.