

Anti-War Actions in U.S. Just Beginning

by Scott Thompson

The largest demonstrations for three decades—since the disclosure of the unconstitutional bombing of Cambodia in 1970—took place in the United States on Presidents' Day weekend. In New York City, despite massive disruption from authorities that included denial of a march permit, a two-mile-long rally took place within police barricades, with participants possibly numbering as high as 1 million people. In San Francisco 200,000 people demonstrated; 100,000 in Los Angeles; and other demonstrations filled the streets across the United States. The protests resonated with the weeks-long distribution on campuses, and in state capitals and city councils, of a million copies of Democratic Party Presidential pre-candidate Lyndon LaRouche's Jan. 28 State of the Union address, "On the Subjects of Economy and Security," (*EIR*, Feb. 7).

This was just the beginning. As the demonstrations were taking place, the leadership of the LaRouche Youth Movement gathered in Northern Virginia, to plan the necessary cognitive fight to restore the American citizenry as a force for a true republic. Central to that is LaRouche's Presidential campaign. On Feb. 19, more than 125 young organizers who had met with LaRouche over the weekend, hit the offices of Congress, to demand that the elected officials in Washington address the real issue driving this insane war: the global economic collapse.

Bringing the news of the anti-war demonstrations worldwide, the youth leaders also blasted the utopian drive to turn the United States into the imperial leader of an "English-speaking" empire.

Follow-up is also planned for the demonstrations. Already scheduled for March 1 and March 15 are two days of "Emergency Anti-War Convergence on the White House," organized by former U.S. Attorney General Ramsey Clark's International Action Center (IAC).

Violation of UN Charter and Geneva Conventions

Clark also addressed the economic and foreign policy issues in an open letter to UN Secretary General Kofi Annan, posted on the IAC website. Clark shows that even more than war, the United States, through its central role in a 12-year sanctions regime, had killed more than 1.5 million Iraqi civilians. Clark, who appears to reflect an awareness of Sir Henry Kissinger's 1974 National Security Study Memorandum

NSSM-200, which calls for the deliberate spread of regional wars to depopulate Third World nations, in order to grab their raw materials, compares sanctions to "a neutron bomb." In one recent interview, Clark said of U.S. foreign policy, that its "overriding purpose . . . has been world domination . . . violently if necessary. But the purpose of our foreign policy of domination is not just to make the rest of the world jump through hoops; the purpose is to facilitate our exploitation of resources."

Clark wrote that during the 1991 Persian Gulf War, without setting foot on Iraqi territory, "the U.S. acknowledges it dropped 88,500 tons of bombs, the equivalent of seven and one-half Hiroshima bombs. The U.S. targeted and destroyed essential parts of the human life support system: water storage, pipelines, pumping stations, filtration plants; food production, processing, storage and marketing; medical facilities, services, and supplies; transportation; communications; housing; schools; mosques, churches, and synagogues." Clark notes that at least 100,000 Iraqi soldiers were killed with only 145 U.S. casualties.

Worse, the deliberate destruction of essential infrastructure—in the first place the means to supply safe, potable water—combined with sanctions, "have inflicted death on over 1,500,000 people in Iraq, the majority under five years old." Clark calls this a violation of the UN Charter and elsewhere cites it as being a violation of the Geneva Conventions.

However, one problem with the thrust of the anti-war demonstrators, including the IAC call, is a proptiation of the *vox populi*, that calls for a drive to impeach the President, rather than eliminating those chicken-hawks who used the 9/11 coup d'état to foist this policy.

Military and Congressmen Want War Stopped

On Feb. 13, a coalition of U.S. soldiers, parents of U.S. soldiers, and Congressmen announced the filing of a lawsuit in Federal court in Boston, challenging President George W. Bush's authority to wage war against Iraq without a declaration of war from Congress. "The President is not a king," warned plaintiff Charles Richardson, whose son is a Marine now stationed in the Persian Gulf. Richardson and the other plaintiffs have founded "Military Families Speak Out."

After Pearl Harbor, President Franklin Delano Roosevelt sought a Declaration of War from Congress, as required by the Constitution—a practice that has now been replaced with frauds such as the Vietnam War's "Gulf of Tonkin Resolution"—hence, a doctrine of waging wars that are never declared, and therefore—like the 12 years of sanctions, and overflights, and bombings of Iraq—never end.

Led by Reps. John Conyers (D-Mich.) and Dennis Kucinich (D-Ohio), seven Congressmen have become plaintiffs in a suit that re-asserts the Constitutional intention, regarding war. Others include Democrats Sheila Jackson-Lee (Tex.), Jim McDermott (Wash.), and José E. Serrano (N.Y.).