

Editorial

## Creating Insecurities in Order to Strengthen the State

A recent poll conducted for *The Globe and Mail* and CTV found that a significant majority of Canadians support a reduction of civil liberties in order to combat terrorism. This result is not surprising given the systematic propaganda campaign that has been carried out by various Canadian government officials in the wake of the July 9 bombings of the London transit system.

Following the London bombings, Minister of Public Safety and Emergency Preparedness Anne McLellan toured Canada with the message that it is only a matter of time before similar terrorist attacks are launched in Canada. Transport Minister Jean Lapierre has been making similar dire predictions. He recently announced a number of new security measures for Canada's transportation system,

including expansion of the use of security cameras and the creation of a Canadian no-fly list of people barred from boarding planes because of security concerns. General Hilliard, Canada's top military commander, also received a lot of media coverage for his sensationalist views on the topic of terrorism and his militaristic, pro-U.S. and anti-Muslim opinions.

All of this hysteria about the terrorist threat to Canadians is, of course, designed to produce exactly the results found in the *Globe & Mail* poll. It is designed to create an atmosphere in which Canadians are willing to give up their civil liberties in exchange for supposed security. However, McLellan, Lapierre and Hilliard have not explained to Canadians how their

*See page 2: Creating Insecurities*

## MRC Hosts Second Revolutionary Chautauqua

The Manitoba Regional Committee of CPC(M-L) hosted its second annual revolutionary Chautauqua at Clear Lake in Riding Mountain National Park from July 17 to 24. For one week, participants in this gathering of revolutionary youth, workers and women from Manitoba and other parts of Canada came together to discuss important issues around building revolutionary movements and the institutions which support them; the local, national and international situation; the importance of organization and the role of culture in revolutionary struggle.

As was the case during the first revolutionary Chautauqua held in 2004, the gathering was characterized both by the beauty of the natural surroundings and by the spirit of the discussions between revolutionaries committed to building a new

world. This year there was much greater participation by revolutionary youth, who were the majority of the 2005 Chautauquans. In addition, people who had participated in only part of last year's Chautauqua returned this year for the entire week.

Each day of the Chautauqua had its own unique rhythm, with the first few mornings and early afternoon spent enjoying the beauty of the natural environment followed by people gathering for dinner and an evening program. Different workshops and discussions were held as the week went by, including a civil disobedience workshop presented by CUPW members; a workshop on building new forms of media; a workshop that delved into the question "what is the culture of resistance"; and a workshop on

*See page 3: Chautauqua*

# Cuban Five to Receive New Trials

On August 9, after more than a year of weighing the evidence, the U.S. 11<sup>th</sup> Circuit Court of Appeals overturned the convictions of the Cuban Five and ordered a new trial with a change of venue. The court accepted that the original trial held in Miami was unfair because of the presence of large numbers of Cuban exiles in that city and the biased atmosphere that they created.

The Cuban Five – Antonio Guerrero, Fernando Gonzalez, Rene Gonzalez, Gerardo Hernandez and Ramon Labanino – were convicted in 2001 of charges ranging from spying to conspiracy to commit murder and received prison sentences from 15 years to two consecutive life terms. In fact, the five men were collecting information on various anti-Cuba terrorist networks which operate openly in Miami with considerable financial support from the U.S. government. Over the past 40 years, these groups have committed numerous acts of terrorism against the Cuban people, including scores of hotel bombings and the mid-air destruction of an Air Cubana plane which killed all 73 people on board. As a result of the information collected by the Cuban Five, several terrorist attacks on Cuba were thwarted.

The Cuban government shared this information with the U.S. Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) and called on it to shut down these anti-Cuba terrorist gangs. The FBI requested and got a meeting with Cuban officials in Havana at which the Cubans handed over a large number of documents to the Americans. The FBI officials created the impression that they would use this evidence to prosecute the terrorists. However, to date, not a single charge has been laid against the Miami terrorists. Instead, the FBI used the information it received from Cuban officials to identify and arrest the Cuban operatives who had collected the evidence. Since then they have been held in the most barbaric conditions, denied access to family members and legal representatives for long periods of time and subjected to lengthy periods of solitary confinement. A recent report of the UN Human Rights Commission declared their trial to

be patently unfair and their treatment in prison to be inhumane and a violation of international standards of human rights.

The American lawyers for the Five hailed the appeal court's decision as a major victory for the defendants. In the past, they have stated that the Five would most likely have been acquitted anywhere other than Miami. Apart from the fact that hysteria about the Elian Gonzalez case was at a peak during the trial, it was also common knowledge that any juror voting for acquittal would most likely have been a target for attack by the anti-Cuba terrorist groups in Miami. While far from guaranteeing a fair trial, the change of venue will at least give the Cuban Five a chance of being acquitted and vindicated.

---

## *Creating Insecurities...from page 1*

proposed ramping up of security measures and restrictions of civil liberties will prevent terrorist attacks in Canada. Such measures are already in place in Britain and failed to prevent the bombings of the London transit system. In fact, the most draconian security measures in the world exist in Israel and terrorist attacks are still carried out in that country. Clearly, strengthening and fascizing the state will not prevent terrorist attacks. This is because the problem is a political problem and the solution is, therefore, also political.

The modern Canadian experience with terrorism began in the late 1960s and early 1970s with the FLQ bombings in Quebec. It turned out that most of these acts were inspired by RCMP agents, who also supplied the dynamite used to make the bombs. The RCMP were operating as part of Operation Chaos, an operation involving U.S., British, Canadian and Australian intelligence agencies aimed at disrupting the revolutionary movement of the youth and students

*See page 4: Creating Insecurities*

## **U.S. Passes CAFTA but Faces Continued Trade Challenges in the Americas**

The Central America Free Trade Agreement (CAFTA) became U.S. trade law on August 2, signed by U.S. President Bush after passing by close votes in both the House of Representatives and the Senate.

CAFTA is a free trade agreement between the U.S. and the Central American countries of Guatemala, Nicaragua, Costa Rica, Honduras, El Salvador as well as the Caribbean country, the Dominican Republic. Modeled after the North American Free Trade Agreement between Canada, the U.S. and Mexico, the deal makes it easier for U.S. companies to extract raw materials at low prices from the member countries, while guaranteeing U.S. manufactured and agricultural goods more access in the region. This is especially critical to the U.S. given the increasing inability of some of its agri-businesses to compete with low-cost production of staples such as sugar, soybeans, corn and cotton in South American countries such as Argentina and Brazil. CAFTA will assist these businesses by guaranteeing them access to markets that might otherwise go to Brazil or Argentina, decreasing the ability of smaller, indigenous farmers in CAFTA countries to subsist on these crops and leaving the vast subsidies paid to U.S. agribusiness producers untouched.

Under the deal, the U.S. is expected to increase its share of the telecommunications industry in each of the member countries, while some of the American pharmaceutical companies are reportedly quite interested in patenting some of the vegetation in the

region for use in the development of extremely profitable drugs. The deal will also make it easier for U.S. companies to operate in the Central American countries without having to pay taxes or penalties for breaking labour and environmental regulations.

Some free trade proponents in the U.S. have tried to portray CAFTA as an important victory on the road to the U.S. goal of establishing a free-trade zone throughout the Americas (FTAA), with the exception of Cuba. However, negotiating CAFTA only became a priority for the Bush Administration after it became very clear that several countries in the Americas were not prepared to accept the U.S. dictate on the FTAA. Most recently, the FTAA agenda suffered another severe blow with the signature of a trade agreement between Cuba and Venezuela, which Venezuelan President Hugo Chavez has offered up as an alternative model for the hemisphere.

Even more troubling for the Bush administration is that negotiating CAFTA, in essence a trade deal between the world's biggest superpower and a handful of its client states, was a difficult process, with Costa Rica twice walking away from the talks. Massive popular opposition to the agreement within the countries, El Salvador and Nicaragua in particular, is expected to play a key role in upcoming national elections, while the Honduran government backed off a planned referendum on the agreement for fear the Honduran people would overwhelmingly reject it.

---

### ***Chautauqua...from page 1***

the war against terror and global anti-imperialist movements. There were also two important cultural events – the staging of a play by a young Manitoba playwright which stemmed from his experiences in organizing and an evening of revolutionary spoken word and hip hop. The communal dinners were also extremely important, bringing together all participants around a shared meal, where discussion of everything and anything was the norm. These dinners served as a magnet for others at Clear Lake who were not Chautauquans but were drawn by the warmth and spirit of the gathering – everyone was welcomed and

everyone participated in discussion.

At the concluding plenary, held on the Bowling Green, participants came to the conclusion that strengthening the organizing work around the Chautauqua will be critical for the continued growth and success of this institution. The Chautauqua youth have already committed to take up a larger role in organizing next year's event. In order to increase the involvement in the Chautauqua by the youth who live and work in Clear Lake and the surrounding region, the group also decided to hold a preparatory organizing weekend for the 2006 Chautauqua next May.

## ***Creating Insecurities...from page 2***

which was growing in those countries at that time. The 1970 FLQ crisis was used to justify the imposition of the War Measures Act in Canada. Under the War Measures Act, hundreds of political activists were arrested and imprisoned without charge for lengthy periods of time, including hundreds of members and supporters of the Communist Party of Canada (Marxist-Leninist) which had publicly condemned terrorism on numerous occasions, and which has never supported or excused terrorism as a legitimate form of political struggle. Several years later, two members of the FLQ cell which held British Trade Consul James Cross admitted to being RCMP informants. They revealed that the RCMP knew the exact location of Cross at all times and could have rescued him any time they wished, but they left him a prisoner of the FLQ for two months so they could justify their continuing assault on the progressive and revolutionary movement.

A series of terrorist acts, including the bombing of Litton Industries in Toronto, took place in Canada in the early 1980s at a time when a movement was gaining momentum against the testing of U.S. Cruise missiles on Canadian soil. These terrorist acts, which also bore the trademark signature of the RCMP, were used to attack and disrupt the movement against Cruise missile testing.

A third round of terrorism on Canadian soil occurred in the mid-1980s, culminating in the Air India bombing of June 23, 1985. The attack was supposedly carried out by Sikh separatists demanding an independent Sikh homeland called Khalistan. However, at the time both the RCMP and the Canadian Security Intelligence Service (CSIS) claimed that the bombing had been planned and organized by the Indian intelligence services, probably with the assistance of the American CIA, as a means to discredit and destroy the Khalistani movement. There were also suspicions about the involvement of the Israeli Mossad, which supported the Khalistani movement as leverage to blackmail

India into dropping its support for the Palestinian cause.

This history of terrorism in Canada over the past 50 years demonstrates that terrorism is not a weapon used by oppressed people to fight against their more powerful oppressors. Rather, it is a weapon used by imperialism and oppressor states, such as the Canadian state, to strengthen themselves and disrupt the revolutionary movements which seek to put an end to imperialism and oppression. Therefore, the only way for Canada to make a contribution to ending terrorism and protecting Canadians from terrorist attacks is for it to take a resolute stand in opposition to imperialism and to all forms of imperialist aggression and oppression. Unfortunately, this is not a direction in which the Martin government is willing to travel. Far from it Martin, McLellan, Lapierre, Hilliard and their ilk are determined to bind Canada even more firmly to the imperialist system in general and to U.S. imperialism in particular. Such a path will not result in greater security for Canadians. On the contrary, it makes it all the more likely that Canadians will be targetted for terrorist attacks organized either by the Canadian state to justify more and more draconian "security" measures or by some other state with an axe to grind with the Canadian state.

## **Modern Communism**

**Bulletin of the Manitoba Regional Committee  
of the Communist Party of Canada  
(Marxist-Leninist)  
Editor: Ken Kalturnyk**

***To contact the Manitoba Branch of CPC(M-L):***  
**Fax: 477-6741**  
**Email: [mrc-cpcml@mts.net](mailto:mrc-cpcml@mts.net)**  
**Internet: [www.modern-communism.ca](http://www.modern-communism.ca)**  
**Produced by volunteer labour**