

DELAWARE COUNTY PLEDGE OF RESISTANCE



P.O. Box 309 • Swarthmore, PA 19081 • 610-543-8427 • info@delcopledge.org • www.delcopledge.org

Winter 2008

Cinema Resistance Returns with Reruns & Reviews



into Mexico is one of the most dangerous migration routes in the world. This gripping drama provides a look at the beginning and end, hope and doom of the American dream.

A speaker and discussion will follow the 82-minute film, which has been shown at festivals across Europe and in Chicago since its release in 2006.

THE BLACK BOOK

by Bob Small

On October 6, Cinema Resistance featured the 1949 flick *The Black Book* about betrayal! murder! treachery! during the French Revolution,

screened at Swarthmore Borough Hall.

Director Anthony Mann was commenting on the McCarthyism of the time, which he could only safely do by setting the film in 1794 France with Robespierre standing in for McCarthy. This film also showed that government surveillance is an ancient art.

Prior to the screening, Sarah Mullin of the ACLU spoke of present-day surveillance by our government, both attempted and actual. This was a sobering presentation followed by a lively Q & A session.

After the film, there was more discussion before we wandered out to wonder whether our phones, our mail, and, hell, certainly our e-mail are being tapped.

ASSAULTED DREAM

by Marge Van Cleef

For the next Cinema Resistance, the Delco Pledge will feature Uli Stelzner's *Assaulted Dream*, an amazing documentary on the border crossing from Guatemala to Mexico. The film will be shown January 25, 2008, at Swarthmore College.

In a small border town in the farthest south of Mexico, migrants jump a freight train to carry them to the U.S. border. But few manage to make the 5,000 km trip. They are mugged by youth gangs, fall prey to corrupt border officials, drop exhausted from the train, or get arrested in large-scale raids by the Mexican migration police and army. Clearly, crossing the Guatemalan border

Resistance Review: *The Camden 28*

by Ronald F. Coburn

The Camden 28, a film by Anthony Giacchino, is an account of how a burglary at the FBI office in Media influenced the trial of the Camden 28. The film is a compelling reminder of the power of ordinary citizens when they organize to protest the actions of their government.

At 4 a.m. on August 22, 1971, eight anti-Vietnam war protestors climbed a ladder outside the federal building in Camden, New Jersey, and broke into the offices of the local draft board. For two hours, they shredded Selective Service records before they were surprised by

FBI agents. Twenty co-conspirators were soon arrested, and in 1973, the "Camden 28," each facing sentences of 47 years on seven felony counts, went on trial.

A March 1971 break-in at the Media, Pennsylvania FBI office became an issue in the trial. Whoever broke in took a large number of files. Information from these files started showing up in newspapers. The information documented FBI techniques used to investigate antiwar groups to determine how the groups could be stopped or made ineffectual. FBI director J. Edgar Hoover was quite

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The Security and Prosperity Partnership

by Tom Loudon

Despite promises of economic miracles, the North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA) has resulted in job losses and increased inequality in the United States as well as Mexico, accompanied by a dramatic expulsion of farmers from the Mexican countryside. However, it has delivered record profits to certain sectors, i.e. agro-industry and banking, two who have profited heavily. As a result, the attempted expansion of NAFTA, originally envisioned as the Free Trade Area of the Americas (FTAA), has spawned massive resistance throughout the hemisphere, requiring a re-tooling of this strategy by its promoters.

Enter the Security and Prosperity Partnership (SPP), which establishes an explicit linkage between the U.S. trade and security agendas. Although the Bush administration has managed to maintain a hermetic seal around information related to this initiative, the intent of the SPP is revealed by its housing under the Department of Homeland Security.

What we do know is that the SPP is a White House initiative that was launched at a meeting in Waco, Texas, in March 2005. The SPP is advanced through ministerial meetings and a set of permanent working groups staffed only by the highest level governmental authorities from each country as well as representatives of the corporate sector, including Chevron, Ford, General Electric, Lockheed Martin, Merck, and Wal-Mart, among others. These working groups establish policy to be implemented by the executive branch without citizen review or congressional oversight.

A primary objective of SPP is to enhance corporations' capacity to maximize profits unfettered by regulations protecting the public good and the environment. For example, Canada has high pesticide level standards for fruits and vegetables. This is "problematic" for U.S. corporations producing food that does not meet minimum standards. Under the SPP,

Canada is required to lower their standards and accept U.S. food that would previously have been unacceptable.

Through the SPP, the U.S. and corporate interests also seek to guarantee access to "strategic natural resources," particularly water and oil supplies in Canada and Mexico. For example, under the North American Future 2025 Project, part of the SPP, bulk water exports from Canada to the U.S are planned.

In order to protect the expansion of corporate privilege, the SPP creates a regional security plan driven by the U.S., generating major benefits for the military-industrial complex. We have already begun to see the impacts of this "seamless" tri-country security integration. In August, the SPP held an official meeting in Montreal, Canada. A representative of our coalition, Alliance for Responsible Trade (ART) from Washington, headed to an event sponsored by Canadian labor unions in Montreal as part of the parallel and protest activities organized by Canadian civil society. Our representative was detained for over two hours in the Montreal airport and was required to hand over a memory stick that he was carrying with him. We know of at least one other person who was detained for eight hours, on the way to the same meeting. More recently, two members of Code Pink, with pending misdemeanor charges for political actions in the U.S., were refused entry into Canada because they are considered "criminals" by Canadian authorities. This "harmonization" of intelligence activities, combined with a massive government domestic spying program in the U.S., attempts to criminalize legitimate dissent.

The recent announcement of a \$1.4 billion "Plan Mexico" program reveals the U.S. intent to further militarize Mexico. Part of those funds will undoubtedly go to "harmonizing" the border between our countries—code for increasing control of human traffic in both directions. Plan Mexico must be viewed in the context of a disturbing trend of criminalization of

social protest. In El Salvador and Honduras, new laws are being implemented that go so far as to define social protest as terrorism. The funds for Plan Mexico will be used in part to create new, repressive structures to control the movement of people and social protest in response to these policies.

ART has been working with partner coalitions in Mexico and Canada to expose the SPP. Together we have sponsored several parliamentary encounters with the few legislators from our countries who recognize the unprecedented threat to democracy posed by the SPP. Marcy Kaptur (D-Ohio) has been the most concerned and vocal partner from the U.S. Congress. We also work to obtain information and increase public awareness. One popular information tool called "Wake up Canada" recently produced by the Canadian Labor Congress is available at www.art-us.org. It is important for people in the U.S. to "wake up" to the SPP, so that we can work effectively with our partners in Canada and Mexico to oppose this corporate takeover of our countries.

Camden

upset; it became almost a personal thing. The FBI speculated that some of the Camden 28 might have been involved in the Media burglary. For that reason, the FBI put a lot of effort into the prosecution, and the trial received much publicity.

The Camden 28 explores how and why these individuals, including four Catholic priests and a Protestant minister, intentionally placed themselves at risk of arrest and imprisonment while protesting the war in Vietnam. The activists claimed that their civil disobedience was meant to call attention to their belief that killing, even in war, was morally indefensible.

From 1967 to 1971, similar break-ins occurred at numerous draft boards throughout the country, but the 63-day trial of the Camden 28, which received national media attention, was the only one in which the defendants were acquitted. *The Camden 28* tells its story

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Bolivia: Transition and Struggle

by Marge Van Cleef

I visited Santa Cruz, Bolivia, in July 2007 as an attendee to the International Congress of the Women's International League for Peace and Freedom. Santa Cruz, in the lowlands, is the financial capital of Bolivia and its wealthiest province. It is the area that has most of the agricultural, lumber, and natural gas resources. Residents of the city told us of a political movement that has tried unsuccessfully for years to get the votes for Santa Cruz to secede from the national government. Pro and con billboards all over the city vividly illustrate this controversy. One of the reasons that the region wants autonomy is because of the large amount of revenue from their taxes and resources that goes to the national government. Obviously, they do not have much praise for their new, democratically-elected president, Evo Morales, the first indigenous president in Latin America. Morales has endured years of struggle himself as a worker in the labor movement.

A recent example of the conflict with Santa Cruz occurred on October 18, 2007. Soldiers fired tear gas at angry residents who tried to storm Bolivia's busiest airport, Viru Viru, in Santa Cruz. The facility was a focal point of an autonomy dispute between the federal government and the country's largest and wealthiest province. The workers were demanding that the airline pay landing fees of up to US\$2,000 (€1,400) in cash locally, rather than de-

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through archival footage; U.S. government films; interviews with many of the defendants and with the FBI informant who betrayed them, the defense and prosecution attorneys, and witnesses; plus re-creations of key testimony at an emotionally moving reunion of the trial participants 31 years later.

The above information was taken from the Icarus Films website and from www.camden28.org.

posit the fees with the federal airport authority. (Assoc. Press)

The airport conflict took on broader political implications because Santa Cruz is also the center of Bolivia's energy industry, and some worry about foreign investment now that President Morales has forced international gas companies to increase royalty payments. While Santa Cruz leaders want a bigger share of their state's natural gas revenues, Morales needs the cash for desperately poor highland states and has nationalized most of the industry. Santa Cruz's soy plantations, cattle ranches, and real estate are included in plans that would seize land judged idle or fraudulently obtained. Land and wealth would be redistributed to the country's poor majority, even though most of the revenue is controlled by departments and municipalities under the constitution, thus limiting the federal government's ability to distribute the funds where they might be most needed.

Ongoing issues:

- War on drugs: The U.S. war on drugs to eradicate coca, one of Bolivia's most cherished natural resources, has produced hardship and injustice for subsistence farmers, militarization of some of the countryside, tortures and deaths, yet no reduction in the cocaine on U.S. streets.

- Water war: In 2000, a water war broke out in Cochabamba after U.S.-based Bechtel Corporation, through a policy of neoliberalism, monopolized the public water supply and jacked up the price. The people ousted Bechtel through a series of strikes and mass protests.

- Loans: Before the International



Bolivian president Evo Morales gave the first title deeds of land to poor campesinos in eastern Santa Cruz province, beginning what he calls the real Agrarian Revolution.

Monetary Fund (IMF) would grant a badly needed loan, it pressed neoliberal president Gonzalo Sanchez de Losada to increase taxes on the poor. Again, protesters took to the streets. Thirty-one were killed and hundreds wounded, and Sanchez de Losada repealed the increase.

- Gas war: In 2003, a gas war broke out about distribution of profits from Bolivia's natural gas and their use to benefit Bolivians. In this struggle, 67 protesters were killed; hundreds more were wounded, and Sanchez de Losada fled to Miami. According to Benjamin Dangl, an independent journalist, this was probably the crucial moment when "the legitimacy and power of the Bolivian government was forever changed."

But as reported by women at the conference, the Bolivian people are committed to struggling for economic justice. They know such justice is possible for they live in a country rich in natural resources, some of which are almost untapped.

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Address correction requested

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Growing Strong on Peanut Butter in Haiti

by Karen Wisniewski

In Haiti, the poorest country in the Western hemisphere, unemployment is at least 70 percent and malnutrition endemic, but now, a small but growing project addresses both issues. On a recent visit to Partners in Health/*Zanmi Lasante* (PIH/ZL) in Cange, Haiti, I noticed a jar of what looked like peanut butter next to the crib of an infant in the pediatric ward of the hospital. The product is called Nourimanba and, along with its original Plumpy'nut version, is now one of the leading treatments for severe malnutrition in the developing world.

Plumpy'nut was developed by a French company in 1997 as an alternative to powdered milk formulas, which need to be mixed with clean water, rarely available in famine-stricken areas of the world. With Plumpy'nut, no mixing required. The corner of the packet is snipped open by the mother, and the paste is squeezed into the child's mouth. Children love the taste, like peanut butter but sweeter. Sugar, fats, vitamins, and minerals are added to the base of peanut paste. (In many African coun-

tries, where Plumpy'nut has been used since it was first developed, the peanut is a staple, and no cases of peanut allergy have been found.)

In the central plateau of Haiti, the Zanmi Agrikol farm is growing, harvesting, drying, and shelling peanuts. As needed (weekly or more frequently), the peanuts are taken to Cange where they are roasted, made into peanut butter, mixed with the other ingredients (which must be purchased separately), and put into 16 and 32 ounce jars. The jars are distributed to each of the PIH/ZL clinics for treatment of the most malnourished children. After several weeks of a steady diet of Nourimanba, the children are able to shift to Nourimil, a product made from rice and beans or corn and beans. (Corn and beans are also grown at Zanmi Agrikol, taken to Cange for milling and mixing, then packed into 5 lb. plastic bags for distribution.)

Because of the demand for the products, 15 neighbors have been included in the farming project. Zanmi Agrikol assists in the preparation of the land, gives the neighbors seeds, supervises growth, and buys the peanuts. To date,

16,124 kg of Nourimanba and 66,860 lbs. of Nourimil have been produced, treating 2,334 children. This program is expanding and includes additional support for families, providing tools for farming, seeds for each season, fruit trees, trees to combat erosion, and a goat. The families return the same amount of seed given to them after their first harvest and a kid from the goat. These "returns" are given to another family, assuring the continuation and expansion of the program.

For further information on the Cange program, please contact Karen Wisniewski at 215-545-4122.

Bolivia

We support the people of Bolivia as they take their place among the countries in Latin America undergoing radical change for the betterment of people's lives.

Recommended further reading:

Benjamin Dangl, *The Price of Fire*, AK Press 2007; Oscar Olivera, *!Cochabamba: Water War in Bolivia*, South End Press, 2004; Vijay Prashad and Teo Ballve, eds., *Dispatches from Latin America: On the Frontlines against Neoliberalism*, South End Press, 2006