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Cuba exposes inhumanity of U.S. and allies at UN meeting

Pages 8–9

Washington alliance continues brutalization of Iraqi people

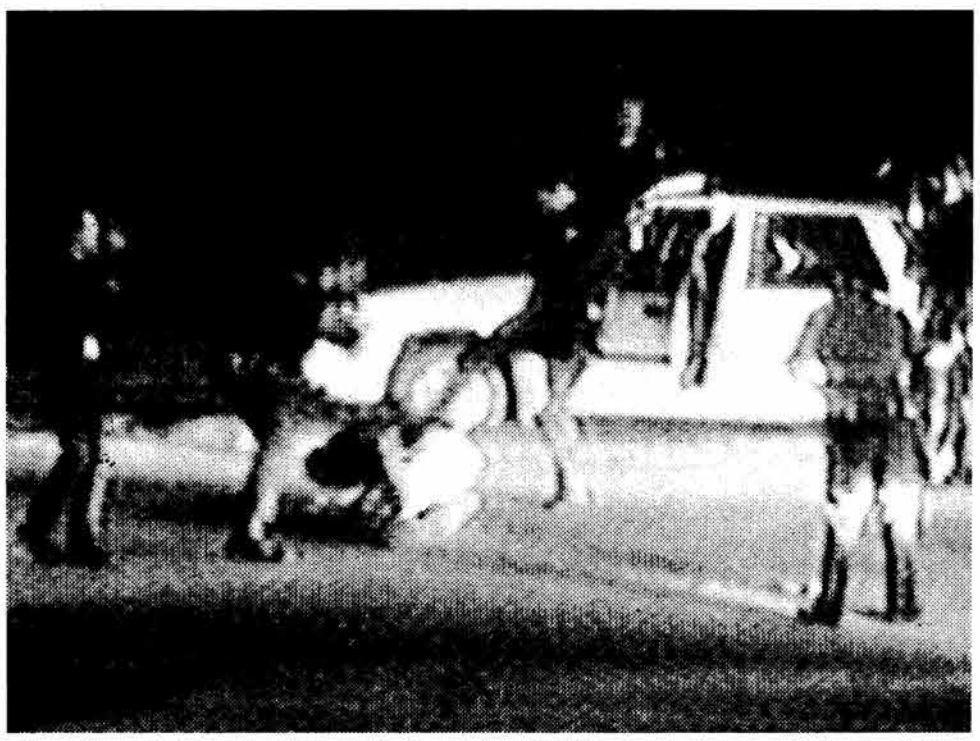

Photo taken from video of Los Angeles police beating Rodney King on March 3

Baker's Mideast trip deepens economic aggression, military threat against Iraq

BY SETH GALINSKY

U.S. Secretary of State James Baker began a 10-day trip to the Mideast March 7 with the aim of pursuing Washington's goal of substantially reorganizing class and state relations in the region for the benefit of imperialism.

The trip came after a policy address to a joint session of Congress by U.S. President George Bush on March 6. In the speech Bush outlined U.S. imperialism's continued drive to shift the relationship of forces in the Mideast to its favor, set back the struggles of working people in the region, and continue a major U.S. military presence in the Arab-Persian Gulf.

Bush also let Congress know that the war against the Iraqi people had come up short of Washington's goal: the establishment of a protectorate in Baghdad.

Given Iraqi President Saddam Hussein's acceptance of a series of U.S. demands, Washington for now has little handle left with which to restart the war or justify a long-term occupation of Kuwait. The brutal economic blockade and military pressures against the Iraqi people continue, though.

Bush claimed in his speech that U.S. forces "went halfway around the world to do what is moral and just and right." The truth of the brutality of U.S. imperialism and what Washington considers "moral and just and right" can be seen in the devastation brought upon the Iraqi people during the war.

Between 85–100,000 Iraqi soldiers were killed during the six-week bombing and the four-day invasion of Iraq. As the troops were withdrawing from positions in Iraq and Kuwait, Washington ordered merciless bombing of the retreating forces.

In the March 10 *New York Times*, reporter Chris Hedges wrote about his trip to the southern Iraqi city of Basra. There, he went "past the carnage left behind by the tons of ordnance dropped by allied planes during the Persian Gulf war."

On the outskirts of the city Hedges began to see "the shattered remains of houses and buildings stood in jagged rows, monuments to the force of the allied bombing. Boats in southern Iraq's swamps, blown to pieces, were little more than twisted hunks of metal," he wrote. "Everyone moved as if encumbered by glue."

'Our country is no more'

"There is nothing left of my country," an Iraqi doctor told Hedges. "America has been very brutal. Your great American soldiers can go home to their families now," the doctor said. "They can tell them they have devastated our lives and the lives of our children. Our country is no more."

The doctor estimated some 1,000 civilians died from the allied bombing in Basra alone.

Washington continues its war drive against Iraq in the form of an occupation army in the

Continued on Page 13

Savage beating caught on videotape exposes racism of Los Angeles cops

BY ELIZABETH STONE

LOS ANGELES — The cop beating of a Black motorist, captured on videotape by an amateur photographer, further exposes the racism and brutality practiced by the Los Angeles police against this city's working people.

On March 3 Los Angeles cops stopped Rodney King, a 25-year-old construction worker. They ordered him to get out of his car and made him lay face down on the pavement. Several of the dozen cops present repeatedly beat and kicked him. King reportedly received at least 40 blows from the attack.

When he was approached by the cops, "they already had their guns out," King said later. "They walked over, they handcuffed me, and tied me and then they shocked me with some kind of device." The cops then struck King across the face and began to beat him, he said.

"My ankles, they beat where it hurt in my ankles. They beat my whole body where it hurt. You know how it feels when you get your ankles or your knees hit in football? It hurts. It hurts real bad," King said. "I was scared for my life, so I lay down real calmly and took it like a man." King's ankle is now in a cast. His doctor reports he has permanent damage to one eye.

In an attempt to cover up the incident, the cops accused King of failing to pull over after being caught speeding and said King tried to

Continued on Page 5

Join the campaign to get out the truth

Order your bundle of 'International Socialist Review'

Join **Militant** readers and others campaigning to get out the facts about the war the imperialists waged against the Iraqi people and Washington's aims in the region by helping to distribute the **International Socialist Review**. Since December, 10,000 copies of the special supplement have been distributed by **Militant** readers who have taken goals to get it out widely among unionists, working farmers, GIs and reservists, and students.

The supplement contains two articles by Socialist Workers Party leader Jack Barnes, "Working-class campaign against the imperialist war drive: Fighting the employers' offensive at home and abroad" and "War and the communist movement."

Barnes outlines the imperialist character of the war against Iraq, the underlying economic and political considerations that drive Washington to war, the broader goals of U.S. imperialism in the Mideast, changes in the U.S. working class that make possible the resistance to the employers' offensive at home and war abroad, and the prospects for building the communist movement today.

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March 16 teach-ins on Mideast crisis are building across the United States

BY PETER THIERJUNG

March 16 teach-ins and other educational events are being organized in at least 22 states and more than 40 cities to demand an end to the U.S. occupation of Iraq and the withdrawal of foreign troops from the country.

"Although local antiwar actions fell off in most areas after the war ended we have been getting a lot of calls from people who want to do something," said Angela Lariscy, a leader of the National Student and Youth Campaign for Peace in the Middle East.

"Most events planned are oriented toward education and telling the truth about what has happened," Lariscy said in a phone interview from the coalition's Washington, D.C., office. "The activities will help draw attention to the massive destruction and loss of human life caused by the U.S. bombing and invasion of Iraq."

The rising health crisis resulting from the blockade and destruction in Iraq, the environmental disaster, why activists should press demands to bring the troops home now, what Washington wanted to achieve through the war, and the effectiveness of antiwar protests are the kinds of questions and issues that many are planning to discuss at the events, Lariscy said.

The youth activist added that spring break schedules on some campuses have not deterred activists from organizing events before and after March 16. High school students are very much a part of the activities, Lariscy reported. In Detroit, for example, four area

Continued on Page 11