

# PEACE TIMES

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## Military Propagandizes Local Schools for Gullible Recruits

By Lisa Kalvelage

The Gulf War has served to remind us of an alarming fact—the extent of militarization of our schools.

Registration for 18-year-olds was initiated in 1980, so that in case a draft was legislated, there would be a large, ready pool to draw from. But meanwhile, keeping the military operating at desired levels became a problem for recruiters, who were expected to fill quotas with voluntary sign-ups. Very soon they had moved into the high schools and junior colleges, where students were the right age and ripe for military adventures. Military figures in full dress became a common sight on our high school and college campuses on career days and often throughout the year. Even

some middle schools have military programs on career days. Many high school districts gave or sold names and addresses of graduating students (without permission) to recruiters. After much protest from parents and students, most have stopped this practice.

Considering that becoming part of a killing machine can only be viewed as a last resort career, especially for students who are victims of poverty, discrimination, nonsuccess, alienation, unemployment, lack of job skills, etc., we need to re-examine the role of our schools as educational institutions equipping our children with the means to move on into colleges or the business world. In this connection, does the military rightly fit in as an alternative that should be offered?

A quick survey to discover the military's role in the San José area revealed the following:

●Campbell Union: Career days are held at the schools, including military presence. Programs are handled by individual schools. Jr. ROTC programs are offered. No names released.

●East Side Union: Recruiters are present on all campuses on career days. Special days may also be set for individuals and groups for programs in the Career Centers, on a weekly or bi-weekly basis. ROTC programs are offered. No names released.

●Fremont Union: Recruiters show up on a monthly basis in the Career Centers, also on special career days. Military counseling could take place during class time. No ROTC is offered, nor are names released.

●Los Gatos-Saratoga Joint Union: Military recruiters are welcome at noon if they call in first for permission. A career "Fair" features vocational tables, which include military. Visits are not on a scheduled basis, but must be arranged. A school

## Bill in Congress Could Further Free CIA from Oversight

From *NICARAGUA Update*

Congress will be voting again in April on the 1991 Intelligence Authorization Bill. (It was passed last fall but vetoed by Bush.) The last version of the bill allowed some dangerous changes in the law that must be challenged.

The good news is that the House Intelligence Committee has new members (including Ron Dellums, who has vigorously supported reforms in covert operations), and a new chair, Rep. Dave McCurdy (D-OK), who has said, "I intend to re-establish our credibility as an oversight committee. We are not going to be a shrinking violet."

The bad news is that Title VII of this bill,

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# PEACE TIMES

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## *The corporate looting of Iraq*

By Sara Flounders

Before the water was running in Baghdad, before the electricity was operating, or the phone system, or mass transit or even the hospitals, L. Paul Bremer III, the U.S. top administrator, declared Iraq "open for business."

The looting of Iraq by U.S. corporate raiders had begun. Pentagon bombers and tens of thousands of invading troops had smashed open the doors.

Some of the same giant U.S. corporations that had received multi-billion dollar contracts to participate in the destruction of Iraq were the first to receive no-bid contracts for reconstruction. Halliburton, MCI World/Com, Bechtel—all insiders in the Bush administration—were at the front of the line for giant handouts.

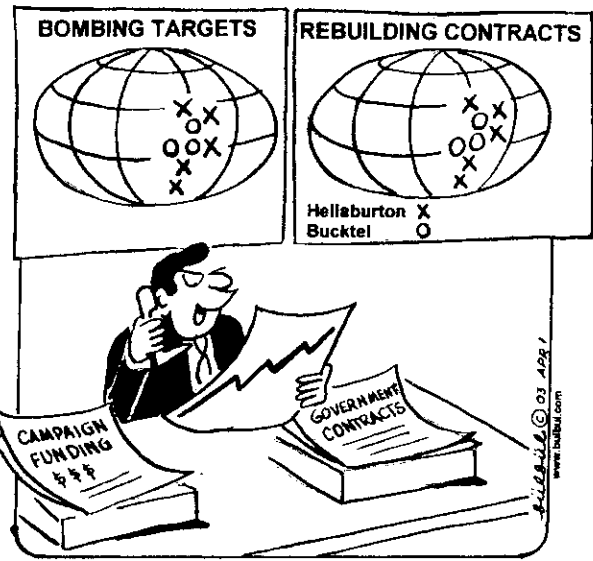
The Bush administration and Corporate America had a detailed plan for the reconstruction of Iraq long before Bush gave the order for the massive destruction and military occupation. The May 1

Wall Street Journal reported that the confidential plan prepared by U.S. Agency for International Development and the Treasury Department was drafted in February—before the U.S. invasion and occupation.

The plan calls for mass privatization of Iraqi industry, liquidation of insolvent Iraqi industries and assessment of others for sale. It also proposes a year-long propaganda effort to persuade the Iraqi people that this is in their best interests.

Overseeing the restructuring of Iraq's financial system is Peter McPherson, a top Treasury Department official who is now the head of the Iraq National Bank. The U.S. AID/ Treasury Department report echoes the recommendations of the Heritage Foundation. This powerful, neo-conservative think-tank calls for preparing state assets for privatization, including industries, utilities, transportation, ports, airports—and most importantly, the energy sector.

Ariel Cohen, a research fellow at the Heritage Foundation, wrote a June 17 UPI analysis



entitled "Oil Privatization—Key for Iraq." The international implications of restructuring Iraq are made clear. "Iraq's privatization of its oil sector, refining capacity and pipe line infrastructure, could serve as a model for the privatization by other OPEC members, thereby weakening the cartel's domination of the energy markets."

According to the Heritage Foundation, windfall oil revenue should be distributed to individuals.

### *What the war was all about*

The restructuring of Iraq and re-conquest of the entire region is what the war was really all about.

Corporate America is determined to lay hold of the fabulous oil resources and the developed infrastructure.

The reconstruction plan is so deadly, though, that it is fueling greater resistance. No wonder. Every sector in society, except a handful of collaborators, stands to lose.

Decisions are being made, multi-billion-dollar contracts signed and basic industries sold off or closed down by U.S. corporate executives without any Iraqi participation. These decisions will affect the future of Iraq for years to come. All this has been done before there was even an appointed government in place.

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