

PEACE ACTION KIT

Introduction	2
10 reasons to oppose the war	4
Setting up local groups	8
Australian involvement – Pine Gap	11
An anti-imperialist position	14
A history of US wars of aggression and intervention .	15



This kit is intended to assist CPA members and other peace activists in their work in the movement against a war on Iraq and any Australian involvement in it.

INTRODUCTION

The Political Resolution adopted at the Party's last Congress sets the international context in which the peace movement in Australia (as elsewhere) is working:

The world-wide struggle between the people and the transnational corporations is intensifying....

Pursuing their insatiable drive for expansion and ever-higher profits, the transnational corporations have undertaken a new drive to expand their control over the markets and resources of all countries by whatever means necessary, including war. This is the real meaning of globalisation and the aim of the New World Order proclaimed by the United States and the giant transnational corporations.

Capitalist globalisation means the militarisation of society and the strengthening of the repressive institutions of the capitalist state — the police, the armed forces and the courts — to enforce and maintain its economic and political power.

On the other hand the working class, working farmers, the self-employed, those with professions and small business people, are resisting in various ways the onslaught by the big corporations and those governments which are implementing their policy demands....

We are witnessing the use of global power on an historic scale by an aggressive imperialist state equipped and willing to disregard international law and norms of civilized behaviour in its drive for world domination.

However, resistance to US efforts to impose its will on the world is growing. This movement is broader, better educated, better organised, more aware and at a higher political level than ever before. The anti-

capitalist movement is coming together with the anti-war movement, bringing in new people, often young, many not yet politically experienced. The growing understanding of imperialism, the coming together of these forces, their solidarity and mutual support, will give the many millions the power to roll back the New World Order and ultimately bring about revolutionary change.

This is what is new, what is coming into being and what will be a fundamental determinant of the new century.

TEN REASONS TO OPPOSE THE WAR

1. WEAPONS OF MASS DESTRUCTION

There is no evidence that Iraq has weapons of mass destruction. The UN inspectors are in Iraq to establish the truth or otherwise of this.

When the inspectors were withdrawn from Iraq four years ago, they reported that the country was 95 per cent disarmed.

It would have been extremely difficult for Iraq to rearm because it is a ruined country. During the 1991 Gulf War its water, electricity, sewerage and other infrastructure were almost completely destroyed. Since then it has suffered from the most comprehensive sanctions the world has seen as well as almost weekly bombing by the US and Britain.

No country in the world should have weapons of mass destruction. We continue to call for complete, worldwide disarmament.

The United States has the greatest number weapons of mass destruction in the world. It used nuclear weapons against Hiroshima and Nagasaki, chemical weapons in Vietnam and depleted uranium in Serbia and Iraq. It is again threatening the use of nuclear weapons.

By what standards is it wrong for Iraq to possess weapons of mass destruction but alright for the US, Britain, Israel and other countries to do so?

The US also intends to deploy weapons of mass destruction in space in defiance of UN resolutions, in order “to protect US interests and investments”.

2. “REGIME CHANGE”

US President Bush is demanding “regime change” in Iraq.

But Iraq is a sovereign nation. It is not for the President of the United States to decide what kind of regime the Iraqi people should have or who should be their leader. This is a matter for the Iraqi people themselves.

3. TERRORISM

There is no evidence that Iraq is linked to terrorism.

Even the CIA – which is notorious for concocting evidence — came up empty-handed, saying it could find “no convincing evidence”.

The only state which has ever been convicted of international terrorism is the US. This judgement was handed down by the International Court of Justice in 1984 in a case brought by the government of Nicaragua.

4. PRE-EMPTIVE STRIKES

The US National Security Strategy includes plans for pre-emptive military action by the US — up to and including a nuclear first strike — against non-nuclear powers and possibly in the event of “surprising military developments”.

A pre-emptive US attack on Iraq would be an act of aggression which is against all international law and conventions and in breach of the UN Charter.

President Bush demands that other countries abide by international law but has a different set of rules for his own country – the law of the jungle. If the US launches pre-emptive strikes, the door will be opened for other countries to also launch unprovoked attacks against other states.

5. UN SECURITY COUNCIL RESOLUTIONS

The US Government accuses Saddam Hussein of defying Security Council resolutions. This is true, but Israel has broken and ignored more UN resolutions than the rest of the world combined. The US does not condemn Israel for this but continues to provide political support, money and weapons for Israel’s ferocious war against the Palestinian people. Pakistan and Turkey have breached UN resolutions but the US has not attacked or subjected them to genocidal sanctions.

6. HUMAN TOLL

When US President Bush speaks of “regime change in Iraq”, it means hundreds of thousands of men, women and children dead and dying and unimaginable suffering.

About 200,000 Iraqis died during and immediately after the slaughter known as the Gulf war.

The genocidal US blockade of Iraq and the effects of the war have killed over half a million children under the age of five since 1991.

Almost every week, British and American planes bomb Iraq. The great majority of the victims of these attacks are civilians.

7. ENVIRONMENTAL DEVASTATION

As a result of the 1991 Gulf War the people and the environment in Iraq were decimated, while in Kuwait millions of gallons of oil were burned, polluting air, land and water.

Hari Sharma, a chemistry professor at the University of Waterloo in Ontario, recently did a study of the use of depleted uranium during the Gulf War. He said there is likely to be an increase of 20,000 to 100,000 fatal lung cancers among allied and Iraqi war veterans and Iraqi citizens from the firing of depleted uranium rounds by U.S. anti-tank guns during the war.

8. INCONSISTENCY

Saddam Hussein was supported and armed by the United States for many years.

When he committed his worst crimes, he was supported by George W Bush's father. Britain and the United States provided Iraq with the means to develop weapons of mass destruction. He was much more dangerous then than he is now.

9. THE IMPORTANCE OF OIL

It is no coincidence that the countries named by the US as rogue states – Iran, Libya, Iraq – are countries with **nationalised** oil.

Behind the foreign policy of the US is a drive to control the world's oil supplies.

With less than five per cent of the world's population, the US consumes over a quarter of the world's oil. Iraq has ten per cent of all known oil reserves. The military occupation of Iraq would give the US access to these resources and the ability to control the price of oil as well as the major oil resources of the world.

10. GOVERNMENT POLICIES ENDANGER AUSTRALIANS

The unconditional support of the Howard Government for US policies and war against Iraq has a very high price tag that is already being paid by the Australian people.

- Annual spending on the military is now over \$22 billion. The government is talking about increasing this and/or imposing a war tax. This will cost jobs and cut funding for public schools, hospitals and other essential social services.
- Australia may lose its wheat sales to Iraq, valued at about \$1 billion a year. It might also lose other markets in this region of the world.
- There is a rise in racial prejudice and discrimination against people believed to be Muslim and/or Arab. Community harmony and multiculturalism are under threat.
- An atmosphere of fear and insecurity is being fanned to assist a massive attack on civil liberties. Federal and State legislation, being used first against the Muslim community, is intended to destroy democratic rights and stifle dissent.
- The lives and health of young Australians in the ADF will be destroyed in a war including from the consequences of depleted uranium and chemical warfare and, possibly, even nuclear weapons which have already been used by the US.

SETTING UP LOCAL GROUPS

In addition to the State-wide and National peace organisations, local groups are springing up in suburbs, country towns with others based on the members of community and trade union organisations. There are already organisations for doctors and psychologists and a number of student anti-war groups.

But many more are needed, especially in trade unions, workplaces and in country towns.

GETTING STARTED

Talk to several other local people and get agreement about the idea of setting up a group. It does not have to be many. Invite any Party contacts, such as *Guardian* readers. Decide on others to contact. Discuss a plan of campaign.

Organise a public meeting or some other action

- Book a venue, decide on the day and time for the meeting or other action.
- Prepare a leaflet to advertise the action and arrange for its distribution.
- Ring the local newspaper(s) to get an ad put in (most have a free community notices section)
- Write to or ring local churches, schools and appropriate local organisations
- Unions should be contacted – local workplaces can be useful for this too
- Put posters in libraries, community centres, etc
- Contact local councilors, the local MP and other community activists. Ask for their help and invite them along to take part.

At the meeting

- Organise a good chair person in advance

- Draft a statement of what the group is about and might do and present it to the meeting to discuss and finalise.
- Present some ideas for activities – a stall in the local shopping centre, a public meeting at the Town Hall, a demonstration, a picket or a vigil, etc.
- Make available some draft letters against the war, a petition, leaflets about other upcoming events, information booklets, etc

It is also our responsibility to ensure that ultra left positions do not come to the fore and split and damage campaigns, and that social democratic positions are not allowed to weaken and dilute the impact of the peace movement.

OTHER LOCAL ACTIVITIES

- Hold street stalls
- Collect signatures on the pledge of action
- Organise a local protest (choose a local oil refinery to make your point, the local office of a TNC, or perhaps a local public school or hospital which desperately needs money instead of the billions being spent on the military)
- Get a motion through your local Council
- Make an appointment to see your local MP
- Write to local newspapers
- Attend the central anti-war rallies
- Distribute Party material – leaflets, the “No Attack on Iraq” postcards, the “History of US aggression and intervention” broadsheet, etc.
- Help distribute the publications of the anti-war groups
- Produce and distribute small Party posters

At this time the struggle for peace and to stop imperialism’s drive to war is crucial. Branches should go through the list and make sure members are involved in at least one or two of these activities.

AUSTRALIAN INVOLVEMENT – PINE GAP

Australia is already deeply complicit in the planned US war against Iraq through Pine Gap which is one of the largest and most important US satellite ground control stations in the world.

Pine Gap (near Alice Springs) is a ground station for satellites which cover China, southern Russia and the Middle East oilfields.

In August 2002, Defence Minister Hill visited Pine Gap for the first time and publicly admitted that Iraq would be used in the war against Iraq.

He did not admit – or even mention – that Pine Gap has already been working for months, setting up targets, monitoring communications, monitoring troop movements and more.

The US has threatened to use nuclear weapons against Iraq. Pine Gap is essential to the US nuclear war fighting strategy.

Pine Gap gears for war with eye on Iraq

Sydney Morning Herald

30 September 2002

By Craig Skehan, Defence Correspondent

The top priority for the Australian-US satellite ground station at Pine Gap, near Alice Springs, has been shifted to intelligence gathering in Iraq, including target identification, ahead of a threatened US-led first strike.

Well-placed sources say Pine Gap will also be able to directly transmit information to commanders in Iraq during a conflict. This would include directing the firing of missiles and the dropping of bombs.

In addition, Pine Gap is equipped to detect the launch of any Scud missiles fired by Iraq at its neighbours, including Israel.

Michael McKinley, a strategic analyst at the Australian National University in Canberra, said yesterday that the US had been boosting

its satellite capability since the 1991 Gulf War, including the level of information feeding into Pine Gap.

“What you are looking at with Pine Gap is a lot of signals intercepts and photo reconnaissance,” he said.

“Certainly in relation to identifying specific targets, Pine Gap is important. The Pine Gap contribution is very much more significant than any sending of Australian soldiers.

“The public record concerning the functions of Pine Gap does not leave any doubt that there is a contribution being made now.”

In the event of a war, Dr McKinley said, Pine Gap would have a wider role in missile intercept operations. “It will be part of the regional missile defence system.”

During the Gulf War, Israeli reports praised Australia for relaying Scud missile launch warnings from the Nurrungar joint US-Australian facility in South Australia, but that task has now been assigned to Pine Gap.

“I think it is prudent to assume they still have some Scud missiles,” Dr McKinley said.

The Defence Minister, Robert Hill, last month visited Pine Gap, which is one of the world’s largest and most advanced satellite ground stations.

At Pine Gap there are senior US personnel from the National Security Agency, the leading signals interception body, the National Reconnaissance Office, which operates intelligence satellites, and the CIA.

It has 26 antennas, 14 of them with white domes, and accompanying the huge technological upgrade has been a big increase to more than 850 Australian and US personnel.

The senior Australian official is John McCarthy, who had a previous stint at Pine Gap during the Gulf War.

Dr Ron Huisken, a former director-general of alliance policy at the Australian Department of Defence who had responsibility for Pine Gap, said yesterday that the importance of the ground station had been enhanced since the September 11 attacks.

“With the imminent prospect of an attack on Iraq, it will now be the top priority for Pine Gap. It does not just become important when the firing starts; as an intelligence facility it does a lot of work before the conflict.”

Pine Gap already receives intelligence information from three geostationary satellites over the Indian Ocean, and another satellite above Indonesia is to be linked to the ground station this year.

It can intercept a range of microwave communications - including mobile telephone, telex and the Internet - and is now tapping into the transmission of information related to Iraqi military planning.

The sophisticated new antennas mean that Pine Gap is also able to locate mobile radio and radar transmitters.

During a military campaign against Iraq, dissemination of targeting and other information from Pine Gap to commanders in the field would be aided by specialist US cryptologic personnel already stationed there.

AN ANTI-IMPERIALIST POSITION

The Party has a responsibility to develop campaigns, policies, slogans, etc that are anti-imperialist in content and become popular and acceptable to a broad range of forces

We have to be clear what we mean by an **anti-imperialist position**.

The following five points will help to show what imperialist policies are and relate them and our alternative policies to our work in the peace movements:

a) Imperialism is built on the economic, political and military interests of the TNCs

We campaign to expose the role of US missile defence and the huge military build up as the armed fist of globalisation. Wherever possible we aim to identify TNCs in Australia and/or their connections to local industries.

b) Imperialism suppresses the independence and sovereignty of nations

We campaign for national independence and sovereignty; for the right of people to decide and to change their own governments without outside interference; for the removal of foreign military bases and the ending of aggressive military pacts.

c) Imperialism militarises the economy

We oppose increased military spending and the adoption of aggressive military policies. We oppose any war tax and discriminatory economic policies such as those imposed by the IMF and the World Bank.

d) Imperialism suppresses democratic rights

We work to defend civil liberties and to build alliances to defeat the Governments "terror laws" and the ASIO legislation; to prevent any new "anti-terrorism" legislation and the use of troops at installations, etc.

e) Imperialism is a system

We work to expose how imperialism works as a system, rather than just targetting individuals or companies without revealing where they fit into the system. We expose how the military-industrial complex in the USA works and where individuals like President Bush fit into it. We work to show how the economic, political and military policies of imperialism are all interconnected.



A HISTORY OF US WARS OF AGGRESSION AND INTERVENTION

The foreign policy of the United States has never been driven by a devotion to any kind of morality, but by the necessity to:

- make the world safe for investment by American corporations;**
- enrich US armaments corporations who contribute generously to Congress members;**
- prevent the development of any society which becomes an example of an independent alternative to the capitalist model;**
- extend its political and economic control over as much of the globe as possible.**

1945-49 CHINA. USA intervened in civil war, on side of Chiang Kai-shek, against Mao's liberation struggle. US used defeated Japanese soldiers to fight against the Chinese people.

1947-49 GREECE. USA militarily supports Greek neo-fascists, against the major Greek left-wing parties who were fighting for independence. The neo-fascists won and set up a brutal regime, with the help of the American CIA.

1945-53 PHILIPPINES. US fought the left-wing Huks forces, while the Huks were still fighting the Japanese invaders. Huks were defeated

and the US installed puppet governments, culminating in the dictatorship of Ferdinand Marcos.

1945-53 SOUTH KOREA. US military suppresses popular independence movement in favour of a corrupt, reactionary and brutal regime whose leaders had collaborated with the Japanese fascists.

1953 IRAN. Progressive and popular Prime Minister Mossadegh nationalised the British oil company which controlled Iran's oil. A US and British backed coup against him re-installed the brutal Shah of Iran. He privatised Iran's oil, British and American oil companies getting equal shares.

1953 GUATEMALA. A CIA-organised coup ousted a progressive, democratically elected government which had nationalised the US United Fruit Company. So began 40 years of death-squads, torture, disappearances and mass executions, killing over 100,000 civilians.

1953-64 BRITISH GUYANA. For 11 years the US and Britain orchestrated terrorism, strikes and disinformation to finally oust progressive, popularly-elected Prime Minister Cheddi Jagan. Under Jagan, Guyana became one of the region's better-off countries, but after 1964 it became one of the poorest.

1950-73 VIETNAM. Replacing the defeated French colonialists, the USA poured money, armaments and soldiers into Vietnam to prevent the people winning independence. With more bombs dropped on Indo-China than in WWII and a million dead, the USA finally withdrew, also defeated. Much of Vietnam was poisoned with Agent Orange. Birth defects still regularly occur. Vietnam was reduced to one of the poorest countries in Asia.

1955-73 CAMBODIA. The Nixon/Kissinger infamous 1969-70 "carpet-bombings" of Cambodia finally overthrew independent leader

Prince Sihanouk. The bombing continued for 5 years, opening the way for the murderous Khmer Rouge led by Pol Pot to seize power. Ironically, the USA gave Pol Pot diplomatic and military support after the Khmer Rouge were ousted from power by Cambodian patriots assisted by Vietnamese forces.

1960-65 CONGO. Patrice Lumumba, Congo's first Prime Minister after winning independence from Belgium, was assassinated on US President Eisenhower's request to protect US interests in Congo's mineral wealth. For the next 30 years, the US-friendly corrupt and brutal Mobuto regime ruled the Congo, with Mobuto becoming a multi-billionaire at his poverty-stricken people's expense.

1961-64 BRAZIL. Progressive President Goulart limited profits of multi-national companies, nationalised a US communications corporation, adopted an independent foreign policy opposing sanctions on Cuba. A US-backed coup overthrows him in 1964, initiating death squads, disappearances, torture and violent military suppression of civilian demonstrations.

1963-66 DOMINICAN REPUBLIC. In 1963 Juan Bosch became the first democratically elected President on a platform of land reform, low-rent housing, modest nationalisation and restricted foreign investment. Seven months later he was ousted by a coup. A revolt broke out, threatening to return Bosch to power. The US sent in 23,000 troops to help crush it.

1959 to now CUBA. Since the revolution of 1959, the US has backed terrorist attacks against Cuba, bombings, crop poisonings and assassinations (including attempts against Cuban leader Castro). The US financed the disastrous Bay of Pigs invasion by anti-Castro Cubans in 1961. The US trade and travel embargo on Cuba still operates.

1965 INDONESIA. A US-backed coup by General Suharto ousted democratically-elected President Sukarno. Over million people were hunted down and killed, including thousands of people's leaders, whose names were given to the military by the US Embassy. Decades of repression followed.

1970-73 CHILE. Socialist Salvador Allende was democratically elected as President in 1970. He nationalised the giant US copper company in Chile and a struggle began between the people and government on one hand, and the right-wing backed by the CIA and US foreign policy on the other. In 1973 a US-backed military coup overthrew Allende's government. The military carried out mass executions, and torture. Thousands were murdered or "disappeared". Chile became an economic rationalist experiment.

1964-74 GREECE. A US-backed military coup took place in 1967, to prevent liberal Papandreou being returned as Prime Minister. The colonels declared martial law, implemented torture, beatings, arrests, leaving 8,000 dead in the first month. The coup leaders were fiercely anti-communist and pro-American, working closely with the CIA. The colonels held power until 1974.

1975 EAST TIMOR. Newly-independent East Timor was invaded by Indonesia, the day after US President Ford and Secretary of State Kissinger visited Indonesia, giving permission for US arms to be used in the invasion. By 1989, over one-third of the population of 700,000 had been killed. Indonesia had US backing, including armaments, throughout its 25-year occupation.

1978-89 NICARAGUA. Washington saw the Sandinistas' 1978 overthrow of US-backed fascist dictator Somoza, as "another Cuba". US diplomatic & economic sabotage soon took a military form, with the arming and financing of the Contras, who were mainly ex-Somoza soldiers dedicated to overthrowing the progressive and popular

Sandinista government. The Contras burned down schools and hospitals, raped, tortured, mined harbours, bombed and strafed villages. These were US President Reagan's "freedom fighters".

1974-84 GRENADA. US destabilisation tactics began soon after Maurice Bishop formed a government in 1979. The US saw this tiny island of 110,000 people as yet "another Cuba". In October 1983, the US invaded Grenada, overthrowing the Bishop government, killing 400 Grenadians and 84 Cubans (mainly construction workers). Grenada's new US-trained police and "counter-insurgency" force gained a reputation for brutality, arbitrary arrest, abuse of authority and erosion of civil rights.

1981-89 LIBYA. Libya refused to be a US client state in the Middle East, nationalising US and British oil interests. The US has shot down Libyan planes inside Libyan airspace and bombed the country, killing at least 40 people, including Libyan leader Gaddafi's young daughter. The US has attempted to assassinate Gaddafi a number of times.

1989 PANAMA. Under the guise of "getting" Panama's "drug-trafficking" President, Manuel Noriega, the US bombed and invaded Panama City, leaving 15,000 homeless, over 5,000 dead and 3,000 wounded. The real reason: to behead Panama's strong and growing national independence movement and to ensure the Panama Canal Special Zone remained under American control.

1990s IRAN. Using Iraq's invasion of Kuwait as the excuse, the US carried out the most concentrated aerial bombardment in world history, dropping 177 million pounds of bombs on the Iraqi people. Napalm and cancer-causing depleted uranium weapons were used. Iraq's water, sewerage and electricity infrastructure were devastated, causing massive loss of life. Sanctions have since killed over a million children and even more adults, denying them proper medicines. America's aim:

to establish US military bases and gain control over Iraq's vast oil reserves. The United States is still intent on fulfilling these aims.

1979-92 AFGHANISTAN. In the late 1970s, Afghanistan had an anti-feudal revolution, throwing out the monarchy and establishing a progressive government which carried out land reform, introduced universal education, for both males and females, gave women equal rights, and established friendship with its neighbour, the Soviet Union. The USA gave billions of dollars to opposition forces waging war against the progressive government. With more than a million dead, three million disabled, five million refugees, (in total, half the population), the government fell, opening the way for America's ally, the clerical-fascist Taliban regime, to take charge.

1980-92 EL SALVADOR. With US support, the right-wing Salvadoran government used electoral fraud and murder as political weapons. In 1980, the left opposition forces took up arms in desperation. The civil war began. US troops, military advisors and CIA operatives played a considerable role, training death squads and advising on strategy. The war ended in 1992, with 75,000 civilian deaths. The US poured \$6 billion into the conflict to ensure the privileged few retained control of the country's wealth.

1987-94 HAITI. For 30 years, the US supported the dictator Duvalier, the CIA backing the torturers, drug traffickers and death squads. Duvalier was finally ousted, but newly-elected reformist priest Aristide was exiled after a US-backed military coup against him in 1991. The US finally succumbed to popular pressure to reinstate Aristide, but only after he pledged to maintain a private enterprise economy and not help the poor at the expense of the rich.

1999 YUGOSLAVIA. Bombed back to the pre-industrial age by the US, under NATO cover, supposedly for "humanitarian" reasons. The real aim was to further western interests in the region.