

# MILITARISING AUSTRALIA

## *Integrating Australia into the United States War Machine*



**Integrating Australia into the United States War Machine**

**Handing Australia over to the US**

**Defence Capability Plan**

**Star Wars**

**Sea Swap**

**New US base**

**Pine Gap**

**The way to peace and security**

**People power**

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**A Communist Party of Australia pamphlet**

65 Campbell Street, Surry Hills NSW 2010

Phone (02) 9212 6855 Fax (02) 9281 5795

**Published by New Age Publishers Pty Ltd**

**ISBN 1 876919 15 9**



# INTEGRATING AUSTRALIA INTO THE US WAR MACHINE

Australian Defence Minister Robert Hill announced in Washington on November 20, 2003 that joint exercises and other measures would be taken to ensure “seamless interoperability” between the United States and Australian military.

Interoperability is the process of the gradual fusion of the Australian Defence Force into a de-facto arm of the United States military.

The United States is intent on upgrading and expanding its military capabilities in Australia and this process is being organised and promoted by “Deputy Sheriff” Prime Minister John Howard and his subservient and conservative government.

The Howard Government has signed up Australia as a front line collaborator with US global war plans, providing specialist military forces and a secure base for US electronic and satellite spying activities.

Australia has been locked into a deadly alliance that is part of the new world order being imposed by US imperialism.

The Australian Government gave military and political support to the Bush administration’s pre-emptive strike against Afghanistan – what John Pilger has described as the equivalent of bombing Sicily to eradicate the Mafia.

It joined the “Coalition of the Willing”, sending troops and opening Australian military facilities to US troops for the invasion and occupation of Iraq.

More recently, however, in 2003 and 2004 the process of making the Australian military an extension of the Pentagon began to accelerate.

Examples include the Defence Capability Plan released on February 3, 2004, the decisions to build three warships to be used in the US

“missile defence” program, the establishment of a new US military base in the north, and the US navy’s Sea Swap program in Fremantle and Cockburn Sound.

This agenda dovetails perfectly with current thinking within the US military, where the emphasis is on a network of small bases or ‘transit points’ dispersed around the Asia-Pacific region together with the development of global dominance through the militarisation and control of space.

The acquisition of the technology to operate weapons of mass destruction is clearly not for defence purposes: these are preparations for a first strike, invasion and occupation from Australian soil as part of a US pre-emptive attack, aimed primarily at China.

Such developments have alarmed Australia’s neighbours.

Unflinching support for US aggression, illegal invasion and occupation of other countries cannot ensure security for Australians.

## **Tied to imperialism**

Following World War II, US imperialism’s drive for hegemony was subject to constraints imposed by the presence on the world stage of the USSR and other socialist countries. The US was forced to operate with policies of containment and the balance of power. In the 1990s the one force able to confront and deter imperialism was removed.

More recently, the most aggressive and reactionary segment of US imperialism, represented by the administration of George W. Bush, moved into the White House. Policy makers began to implement a new approach to achieve the long-term goal of US domination of every region of the globe, employing its overwhelming military power.

September 11, 2001 gave the Bush administration the pretext to implement its policies. The invasion and occupation of Afghanistan and Iraq were the first steps in an appallingly dangerous military strategy intended to bring about a qualitative and permanent change in the world balance of forces with US imperialism and the transnational corporations dominating the world.

Australia's foreign and military policies are strongly influenced by its economic and political ties as part of global imperialism. Australian governments acting in the interests of the capitalist class have made Australia a regional tool of their global interests.

After World War II, Australia became tied into the nuclear weapons systems of the United States, hosting communications and spy bases and allowing nuclear capable warships and aircraft to use Australian territory.

Emphasis has been given to ensuring Australian supremacy in long-range delivery systems and strike forces providing the ability to launch pre-emptive strikes and to intervene in the affairs of regional nations.

The strategy has in fact been based on aggression instead of defence, with a gigantic investment in expensive and offensive weapons systems.

The ANZUS treaty has become a cover for aggression in the region. It does not contain specific commitments or any guarantee that the US will assist Australia in times of need, even though it speaks vaguely about "consultation" and "action in accordance with constitutional processes".

## **Dependence on US**

Beyond its increasing dependence on the US military alliance to bolster Australian capitalism's strategic interests, the Howard Government is seeking a commercial payoff, both in terms of Pentagon contracts for some Australian-based military suppliers and through the Free Trade Agreement.

The Australian ruling class hopes for US support for Australian operations in the Asia-Pacific region such as in East Timor, where Washington endorsed an Australian-led intervention in 1999 which secured corporate Australia's grip over the oil and gas fields in the Timor Sea.

However, the US alliance actually costs Australia valuable trading opportunities and political contacts and influence. It has already cost wheat and sheep sales to the Middle East.

Australia is regarded as being too close to the US to be independent. US demands for Australia to maintain and expand its military interoperability with US forces bring with them intense pressure on Canberra to purchase sophisticated US weaponry, communications and intelligence hardware.

## **Proliferation Security Initiative**

The Howard Government is actively supporting the US campaign of vilification and threats against the Democratic Peoples Republic of Korea (DPRK).

Australia hosted a meeting of 11 governments held in Brisbane in July 2003 which set up the so-called Proliferation Security Initiative. This is the “interdiction” of north Korean ships alleged to be carrying weapons of mass destruction. Such an act would not only be provocative but an act of piracy.

The Howard Government is threatening a socialist state which may possess one or two of the world’s 30,000 nuclear weapons, the vast majority of which are stockpiled by the western imperialist powers, especially the US.

In the event of a war, the influential think tank Australian Strategic Policy Institute says, “it is very likely the US would request, and expect, a much larger contribution” of Australian forces than was committed to Afghanistan or Iraq.

It is clear that Canberra would respond enthusiastically.

## **Cost too high**

Australia’s current military spending of **over \$43 million a day** steals the resources needed to provide human and social needs.

It has been estimated by State governments that an extra \$600 million (about 2 weeks military spending) spent on public hospitals each year would overcome their critical shortcomings.

Similarly huge strides could be made in upgrading schools, reducing the cost of university education, supporting childcare, developing Medicare, assisting the needy in our community and maximising

employment opportunities in Australia if a good portion of these finances were diverted from war preparations.

## **DEFENCE CAPABILITY PLAN**

The Defence Capability Plan reveals the Federal Government's intention to spend \$50 billion on military equipment projects over the next ten years.

Announced on February 4, 2004, the plan includes:

- Ø \$1 billion for 12 pilotless surveillance aircraft (probably the US Global Hawk)
- Ø \$15.5 billion for new combat aircraft to replace the F-18s and F-111s
- Ø \$4.5 billion to replace the Orion maritime surveillance aircraft
- Ø \$1 billion for 12 troop transport helicopters
- Ø \$600 million for 59 second hand US Abrams tanks.

The spending spree also includes \$6 billion for three air-warfare destroyers for the Navy. These will be used for theatre "missile defence". The full cost of Australia's commitment to the US Star Wars program has not been revealed and is not included in the \$50 billion Defence Capability Plan.

Global Hawk spy aircraft have been used by US forces in Afghanistan and Iraq. Taking off from Australia, it can reach as far as the Korean peninsula.

The Federal Government has announced spending on items that fit into support for US pre-emptive strike plans but have little to do with the security of the Australian people.

## **STAR WARS — MISSILE DEFENCE**

The Howard Government announced in November 2003 that Australia will become involved in the United States "missile defence" or "Star Wars" program.

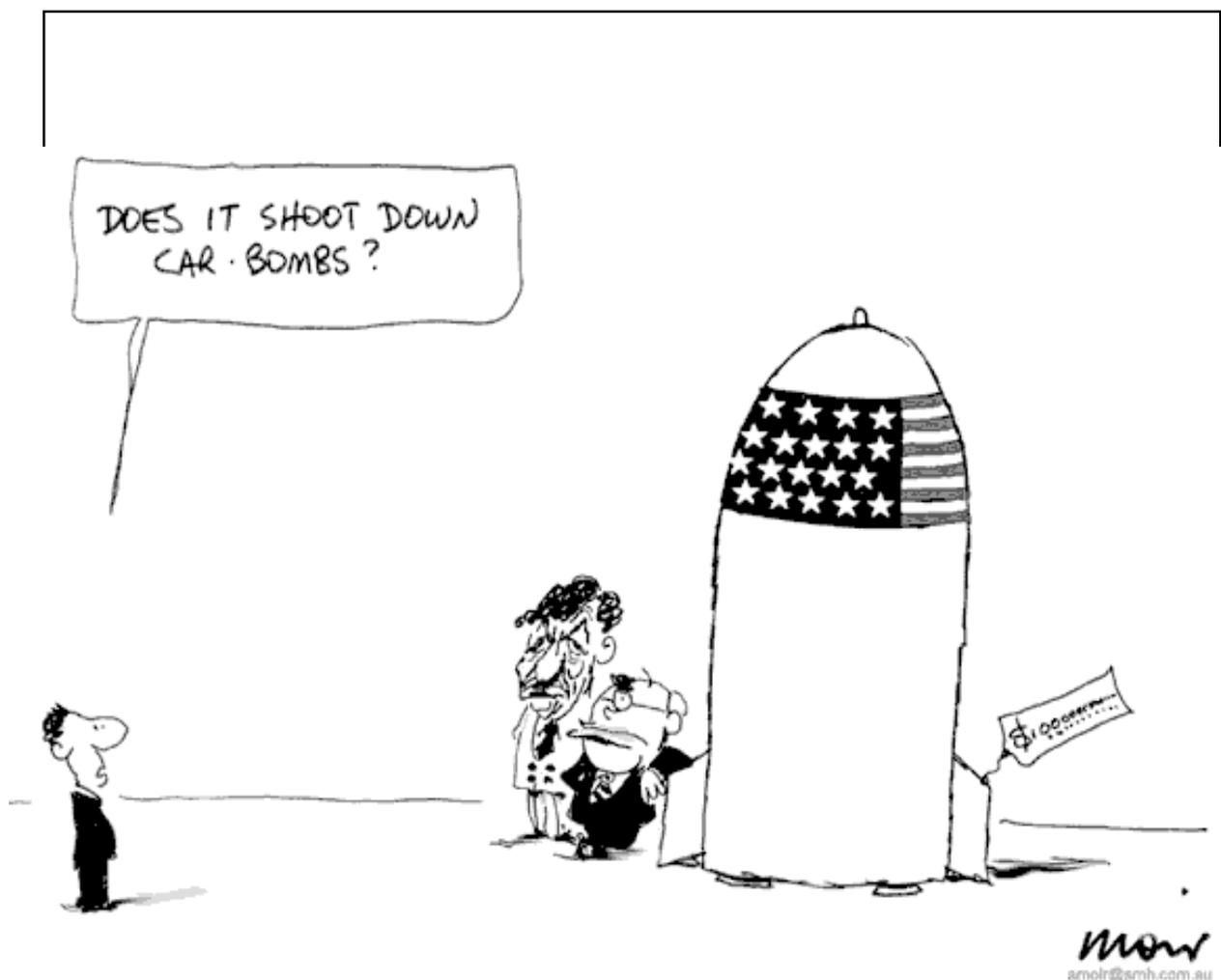
Star Wars is about attack, not defence. From behind a “missile shield”, the US can launch a pre-emptive strike against any country which does not do its bidding, without fear of retaliation.

Space-based weapons are an essential part of this plan. The US military plans to base weapons in space and to control and dominate space and from it the Earth below.

Bowing once again to US pressure, the Howard Government will spend millions to join the controversial and expensive US “missile defence” system and is one of the few countries in the world to do so.

The Australian Government already provides facilities for part of the system at the Pine Gap base near Alice Springs.

The US is also pushing for early deployment of **theatre** missile systems which will be used to virtually surround China with US deployments in Taiwan, Japan, and South Korea and on ships and planes throughout the region



# JORN

Australian radar facilities will also become an important component of the US Star Wars program.

The Jindalee Operational Radar Network (JORN) consists of two radars located in Laverton, WA, and Longreach in Queensland. The radars are controlled from the JORN co-ordination centre in Salisbury in South Australia. There is also the Jindalee research and development radar located near Alice Springs in the Northern Territory.

In a press release on 24 February, 2004, Defence Minister Robert Hill said that a government decision to upgrade and enhance JORN will “support research and development designed to meet emerging national security requirements - making the project potentially a key component of Australia’s contribution to the United States missile defence program.”

## **Provocative and destabilising**

Defence Minister Hill claimed the decision “will contribute to global, regional and Australian security”. In fact, national security will be compromised by joining the US “missile defence” program.

Mr Howard is ignoring warnings from neighbours. China has repeatedly warned that US “missile defence” plans are provocative and destabilising.

Indonesian MP Djoko Susilo, a member of the Indonesian parliament’s commission for security, defence and foreign affairs, said Australia’s purchase of warships with long-range anti-missile capabilities would be seen as an aggressive gesture.

“Why do they need to buy that kind of sophisticated ship if they don’t want to bother Indonesia?” he asked.

In February 2002 Australia’s Office of National Assessments warned that the US “missile defence” system could provoke a regional arms race and “would not be in Australia’s diplomatic or security interests”.

The US is spending \$50 billion a year (the cost of providing clean water for everyone on earth) on Star Wars.

The Japanese Government has already spent \$207 million over three years on their involvement in US system. Howard and Hill refuse to give any estimate of how much taxpayers' money they will contribute. The Union of Concerned Scientists reports that the "technology needed for an effective missile defence system still doesn't exist".

## **Master of space**

The US is planning to militarise, commercially exploit and to control space, becoming the master of space and taking corporate globalisation to a new and more terrifying level.

US Space Command says openly that its job is "*dominating the space dimension of military operations to protect US interests and investment*".

Air Force Space Command says it has the vision and the people to ensure the US achieves space superiority, adding that the US will not allow any other power to get a foothold in space. This includes allies as well as enemies.

Space-based weapons are an essential part of this plan. The US military plans to base weapons in space and to control and dominate space and from there, the Earth below.

The space missile program is providing super profits for the armaments corporations including Lockheed Martin, Boeing, Raytheon and TRW. This is corporate greed on a global scale. "Missile defence" is the armed wing of globalisation.

There is no benefit for Australians in joining Star Wars. We will suffer economically, our security will be damaged, trade and diplomacy will be undermined, relations with our neighbours will be hurt and our sovereignty will be diminished.

Outer space is the common heritage of human beings. It should be used for peaceful purposes and for the economic, scientific and cultural development of all countries as well as the well-being of mankind.

Space must not be filled with weapons and turned into another arena for the arms race and for warfare.

# **SEA SWAP**

Sea Swap is an agreement between the United States Navy and the Australian Government to allow the rotation of US Navy crews in Western Australia.

In late 2002, in the lead-up to the Iraq invasion, the Howard Government agreed to allow the US military to use Fremantle to rotate crews on US warships operating in the Persian Gulf and Indian Ocean.

The arrangement was trialled in 2003. Ships taking part arrived in Fremantle and the crew handed over to a completely new crew flown in from the US, before returning home themselves.

The program will reduce the time needed for crew changes. This is important for the US because it means US warships will be available when quick action is needed for pre-emptive strikes in the Asia-Pacific area or the Persian Gulf.

It is also designed to save fuel and money, keeping the ships on station for longer and reducing the amount of time taken returning to the US. It has been predicted that each swap will save the US Navy roughly US\$9 million in fuel and overheads.

If the trial is a success, it is likely that many more ports will host swaps as the US Navy expands the concept.

## **Environmental concerns**

There are serious environmental concerns regarding sea swaps, ranging from accidents involving nuclear weapons or reactors to other toxic chemicals in munitions, fuel, paint and thinners, greases, heavy metals, acids, PCBs, oils and solvents.

There is not a US military base in the world that has not resulted in some soil and/or ground water contamination.

There are also significant social implications, including an increase in anti-social behaviour, crime and sexual related illnesses.

The US Navy has a long history of operating in areas outside the US, leaving behind a trail of destruction, pollution and negative social impacts within communities.

The WA State Labor Government is considering a broader agenda than just crew changeovers. There is talk of using the Australian Marine Complex at Cockburn Sound for ship repairs, which would probably require dredging the Sound to accommodate larger US ships, causing unknown environmental problems.

There are also proposals for routine use by the US of the Lancelin Defence Training Area near Perth for weapons testing and naval and aerial bombing.

## **NEW US BASE**

In November 2003 the United States proposed shifting military equipment and supplies to northern Australia, setting up a “defence staging post” intended to improve the operational integration of Australian and US forces for possible aggression against Asian countries.

The Pentagon’s highest-ranking military officer, Joint Chiefs of Staff Chairman General Richard Myers, repeated this call during a visit in mid-January 2004.

General Myers called for a US training and logistics “staging post” which would house equipment, including tanks, aircraft, fuel and ammunition, to allow the rapid deployment of US troops into theatres of war.

General Myers denied that US troops would be garrisoned there. However, it is widely believed that the base will become a permanent military training camp for Australian and American forces.

It may well be one of the series of US facilities being constructed around the world which the US military calls “lily pads”, bases to which US troops could jump like so many well-armed frogs from the homeland,

# Darwin

It is likely that the new base will be in or near Darwin,

It is worth remembering that Halliburton, US Vice President Dick Cheney's corporation, has just built what is a strategic railway from Alice Springs (near Pine Gap) to Darwin.

Darwin is a port city ideal for control of the strategic Timor Gap naval passage and for US plans for containment of China.

A suitable site would be at or near Robertson Barracks in Darwin, the base of Australia's 1st Armoured Regiment, since the Howard Government has given in to US demands and agreed to purchase 59 second hand US Abrams tanks.

The bait was the offer for Australia to use US-owned tanks in Darwin. US and Australian personnel would train together. The lure for the Government is access to about 100 Abrams tanks for the price of 59, and potential savings on servicing.

However, many defence analysts say the Abrams are too expensive, are inappropriate for the region because of their great size and weight (up to 68 tonnes), have high fuel consumption and would require extra logistical support.

The final decision points to the Government's strategic plans – lighter tanks are better for the poor roads of the South Pacific and Asia while heavier ones are suitable for far-flung operations with the US.

## Not wanted

Australia already has too many US military facilities on our soil. We do not want another one.

The Governor of Okinawa has said the US bases on his island brought a major increase in the crime rate. It has increased levels of prostitution, drugs, alcoholism, rape, sexually transmitted diseases, abuse of women and children and other social problems.

There are also major dangers of pollution from repairs and maintenance programs and from weapons firing.

New United States military bases will undermine Australia's security and add even more to the already out of control Australian military budget.

## **War games**

The US already has free run of training bases in Australia and a new training base is not necessary.

It has conducted large-scale exercises with Australian forces for years, including the Tandem Thrust war games, staged every two years since 1995. The last two Tandem Thrust exercises rehearsed invasions of unspecified countries in the region.

The Crocodile 2003 military games, held in September 2003, were used to practice invasion of the DPRK and interdiction of DPRK vessels.

The war games involved 7,000 Australian and 3,000 American troops together with ships, planes and other equipment. They were held at Shoalwater Bay and other areas around Rockhampton and in the Coral Sea.

The Crocodile '03 exercises were part of preparations for the next war, making sure Australian troops can follow US orders efficiently.

## **PINE GAP**

Pine Gap, 20 kms southeast of Alice Springs, is one of the largest and most important United States war fighting and intelligence bases in the world. It is a satellite ground control station.

Established in 1968, it consists of a large computer complex with eight radomes protecting its antennae from the elements and satellite reconnaissance.

Every branch of the US military as well as the National Reconnaissance Office, National Security Agency and the CIA are stationed at Pine Gap.

Pine Gap provides targets for US missiles and bombs, intelligence for US economic and military activities, military command and control functions and early warning of missile launches.

Pine Gap's most important role is processing information gathered by satellites and transmitting that information to the United States. The satellites span a strategically important third of the globe, encompassing China, southern Russia and the Middle East oil fields.

Pine Gap receives from satellites and forwards to the US early warning of missile launches. It also provides information on the launch site, missile type, velocity, and what kind of warhead the missile may carry, intelligence for US economic and military activities.

US satellites transmitting through Pine Gap monitor missile launches and military, economic, political and domestic telephone, microwave and VHF radio communications from allies and enemies alike.

They provide photographic surveillance of terrain, buildings, troop movements, the results of bombing raids, etc. The satellites can also intercept radar emanations, allowing mapping of air defences, anti-ballistic missile radars and early-warning radars.



Pine Gap - the US military base near Alice Springs

The first generation of satellites were launched in 1970, the year Pine Gap became operational. They were designed to spy on Soviet missile developments and for general espionage in Asia. They were used during the 1971 Indo-Pakistan war, in Vietnam and to spy on China.

A new generation of satellites was launched on the space shuttle Discovery in January 1985. These were huge receivers designed to pick up information on Soviet missile tests and military and diplomatic communications. Pine Gap was expanded to receive the increased volume of signals from these satellites.

## **Star Wars front line**

Pine Gap has secretly been converted into a front-line base for the US Star Wars system.

A Satellite Relay Ground Station at Pine Gap replaced the US base at Nurrungar (South Australia) and controls the US Defence Support Program (DSP). The DSP satellites have infrared sensors which detect the hot exhaust plumes of missiles in their boost phase just after launching.

The latest system, called SBIRS (Space-Based Infra-Red System), is planned to be operational by 2004. This system is a key element of NMD – National Missile Defence.

In an interview with Channel 9 in July 2000, then US Secretary of Defence William Cohen said Pine Gap had been “very much” involved in NMD.

Australia is made a nuclear target by Federal Government support and the use of the Pine Gap base for NMD. Additionally, Australia’s reputation and influence internationally is injured by the government’s support for NMD.

Star Wars development involves massive secrecy and denial of national sovereignty.

The Australian parliamentary Joint Standing Committee on Treaties has complained that MPs are kept in the dark about Pine Gap. Although members of the US Congress have visited Pine Gap and received

classified briefings about its functions, the Treaties Committee is “entrusted with less information than can be found in a public library”.

## **THE WAY TO PEACE AND SECURITY**

Lasting peace and harmony will only be guaranteed when the underlying causes of war — the drive for private profit and the racism, nationalism, poverty and oppression that the profit motive creates — are eliminated.

Under capitalism the threat of wars of different types will not disappear, but it is essential to adopt policies which can reduce the danger of war significantly.

Australia needs an independent, non-aligned foreign policy which is effective, affordable and genuinely serves the defence of our country and the need for peace and stability in our region.

Instead of a military alliance, Australia needs friendly and mutually beneficial relations with all countries, particularly with other non-aligned and independent nations.

An independent, made-in-Australia policy for reduced military spending and respect for the sovereign rights of nations to their independence, equality and self determination would best serve the interests of Australia and our neighbours.

### **A just peace requires:**

- An end to the hosting of US war fighting and spy bases on Australian soil and the termination of the ANZUS Treaty. Adoption by the Australian government of an independent foreign policy.
- A change in Australia’s defence policy and military capability to one of defence of our own territory, ruling out aggression against other states.
- No involvement in the US “national missile defence” and “theatre missile defence” programs.
- A public Parliamentary enquiry into Australia’s participation in the US missile defence system and into the role and functions of Pine Gap.
- An immediate reduction in the military budget of not less than 10 per cent.

- No involvement in the production, testing or deployment of any components of nuclear, space, biological, chemical or any other weapons of mass destruction.
- An end to the supply of military equipment and the provision of military training or joint military exercises with repressive regimes in the region.
- Support for steps to outlaw the use or threatened use of military force against any state or group of states. Disputes and conflicts to be settled by negotiation.
- Respecting each state's national independence, and removing the threat of aggression, domination and exploitation.
- Solving the problems of foreign debt burdens and ending discriminatory trade terms and tied aid packages.
- Developing trade, cultural and scientific exchange on the basis of equality and mutual benefit.
- Eliminating all forms of colonialism whether direct or indirect.
- Respecting the rights of indigenous peoples.
- Outlawing political, racial and religious discrimination.
- Replacing current alliances with collective security arrangements from which no country is excluded. Until these new arrangements are possible, no new alliances should be formed and existing ones should not be expanded.
- Support for the Canberra Commission proposals for nuclear disarmament.
- Setting up nuclear-free zones, with guarantees from the nuclear weapons powers.
- An international treaty to reduce and finally eliminate all nuclear weapons by all countries.
- Legislation to encourage the establishment of trade unions within the armed services.
- Peace education in all public and private primary and secondary schools.

- Freeing the Asia-Pacific region of nuclear weapons, particularly naval nuclear weapons, their support systems and bases.
- Setting up nuclear-free zones, with guarantees from the nuclear weapons powers.
- Legislation to encourage the establishment of trade unions within the armed services.
- Peace education in all public and private primary and secondary schools.

## **PEOPLE POWER**

The United States is not all-powerful and is being challenged by the “super power of peace”.

The recent rise of the anti-war movement has brought an unprecedented force onto the world stage – with over 10 million people in the streets around the world in February 2004.

It is more politically conscious, better organised and more inclined to action than ever before. It has drawn into action a greater range of social forces, including in some countries sections of the ruling class which have deep reservations about the Bush doctrine.



Everything depends on the extent to which popular, progressive, democratic and socialist forces can be mobilised.

The drive towards war is being paid for by the peoples of the world. Struggles against poverty, for food, jobs, clean water, for democratic rights are all negatively affected by the political, social and economic costs of US imperialism's drive to war.

The price of failure will be not just global dictatorship, human misery, and environmental destruction but also the possibility of human and planetary annihilation, the ruin of the contending classes

A just and peaceful world is possible. The peoples of the world can and must impose it on US imperialism.

