

Military Resistance 13J7



Congress Attacks Military Pay And Benefits:

**“Pay Raise In January A Full
Percentage Point Below Expected
Growth This Year In Average
Private-Sector Wages”**

**“Third Consecutive Year That The
Military Pay Raise Would Fall Below
Civilian Levels”**

Housing Allowance Cut, Prescription Drug Costs To Go Up

October 17, 2015 By Leo Shane III, Staff writer; Army Times [Excerpts]

Military advocates lost on almost every big benefits fight they waged in the legislative run-up to the fiscal 2016 defense authorization bill.

The legislation is still in limbo, awaiting a presidential veto that could end up scuttling nine months of Capitol Hill work on the annual military policy measure.

But in the lobbying arena, Pentagon penny pinchers who pushed for trims in military personnel spending accounts already can declare victory, having swayed lawmakers to their side.

If the measure becomes law, troops would see growth in the Basic Allowance for Housing steadily shrink in coming years, to cover only 95 percent of average off-base housing costs. Tricare co-pays would rise on a host of prescriptions obtained through off-base retail pharmacies.

Troops are in line for a 1.3 percent pay raise in January, a full percentage point below expected growth this year in average private-sector wages — the third consecutive year that the military pay raise would fall below civilian levels.

But Pentagon planners argued that the savings are needed to rein in personnel costs, and that troops would be able to accept reductions in some anticipated pays and benefits in exchange for better training and equipment support. [!!!]

“The signal that sends is disappointing,” said Norb Ryan, president of the Military Officers Association of America.

“We’re on a trajectory here that could send the all volunteer force into a ditch,” Ryan said, noting that lawmakers “have argued that each of these cuts in isolation wouldn’t be overwhelming, but we’re looking at three years of lower pay (raises) now. We had hoped to see the Senate align with the House, not the other way around.”

YOUR INVITATION:

Comments, arguments, articles, and letters from service men and women, and veterans, are especially welcome. Write to Box 126, 2576 Broadway, New York, N.Y. 10025-5657 or email contact@militaryproject.org:

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AFGHANISTAN WAR REPORTS

Insurgent Arms Fire Damages F-16 In Paktia Province



(Photo: Master Sgt. Val Gempis/Air Force)

October 19, 2015 By Andrew Tilghman, Staff writer; Army Times [Excerpts]

A U.S. aircraft was damaged after it came under fire in Afghanistan last week, defense officials said.

Small arms fire struck the Air Force F-16 Fighting Falcon on Oct. 13 in Paktia province and damaged one of the aircraft's stabilizers, the movable surfaces at the back of the aircraft that help control flight direction, defense officials said.

As a "precautionary measure," the pilot jettisoned two fuel tanks and three munitions before landing safely, Navy Capt. Jeff Davis, a Pentagon spokesman, said Monday.

The F-16 pilot was not harmed by the enemy fire, said Capt. Bryan Bouchard, a spokesman for the 455th Air Expeditionary Wing in Afghanistan.

Taliban Capture District Police Chief With At Least 25 Policemen In Faryab: “20 Soldiers Also Lost Lives”

Oct 20 2015 By KHAAMA PRESS

Taliban militants have captured a district police chief with at least 13 policemen in northern Faryab province.

Head of Faryab's provincial council says that the police chief of Ghormach District was captured by Taliban along with 18 policemen on Monday.

Abdul Baqi said that 20 soldiers also lost lives in severe clashes erupted in Ghormach District.

Naqibullah who is representing Faryab province in the Lower House of the Parliament or Wolesi Jirga also confirms the capture of Ghormach Police Chief by Taliban.

However, he put the number of policemen captured by militants along with the police chief at 25.

After severe clashes between Taliban and security forces, government lost the control of the governor's office and police HQ of Ghormach District on Sunday.

Taliban later claimed to have captured the police chief of Ghormach District along with 13 policemen.

More Resistance Action: “Afghanistan Facing ‘Security Problems’ In At Least Nine Districts”



[Graphic: flickr.com/photos]

Oct 20 2015 Khaama Press & Saudi Gazette

Three security guards of the United Nations Assistance Mission in Afghanistan (UNAMA) have been wounded in a bomb explosion in Jalalabad city, the capital of eastern Nangarhar province of Afghanistan.

Colonel Hazrat Husain Mashriqiwal, spokesman for the police HQ of Nangarhar said that the bomb was attached to a police vehicle which exploded around 12:30 pm this afternoon.

The victims were shifted to Nangarhar Regional Hospital for treatment.

This was at least the fourth explosion in Jalalabad city in less than two weeks. Two of them including the one that occurred close to the house of Haji Abdul Zahir Qadir, first deputy of the Lower House of Parliament or Wolesi Jirga, have been claimed by Daesh.

Elsewhere in the country, troops were battling Taliban in three districts in southern Helmand province — Musa Qala, Nad Ali and Nawzad, Sediqqi said.

Officials said the insurgents had fought their way to within 10 kilometers (6 miles) of the provincial capital Lashkar Gah.

Seddiqi said Afghanistan was facing “security problems” in at least nine districts, though he declined to provide details.

Taliban Capturing Afghanistan’s \$1 Trillion In Mining Wealth: “Up To 10,000 Natural Wealth Deposits Aren’t Under Government Control” “Minerals Are The Taliban’s Second- Biggest Income Source After Narcotics” “Afghanistan Needs To Continue Receiving International Funds -- Otherwise The Country Won’t Remain Functional At All”

October 20, 2015 by Eltaf Najafizada, BLOOMBERG Business News

Taliban fighters aren’t just making gains on the battlefield: They’re also bleeding away a revenue source that is crucial for Afghanistan to pay for its military without U.S. help.

The Afghan government will earn about \$30 million in 2015 from its mineral sector for the third straight year, far short of a previous projection of \$1.5 billion, according to Mines and Petroleum Minister Daud Shah Saba.

That's also a quarter of what smugglers -- mostly linked to the Taliban and local warlords -- earn annually selling rubies and emeralds, he said.

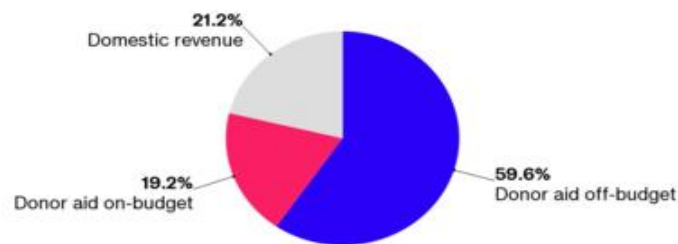
"Unfortunately we have failed to well manage and well control our mining sector," Saba said in an interview. "With the current fragile and messy situation, it's really hard to say when Afghanistan should expect any profits from it."

Afghanistan's struggles to generate cash signal that it could be decades before Kabul's leaders wean themselves off funds from the U.S. and its allies. U.S. President Barack Obama last week decided to keep 5,500 troops in the country indefinitely after 2016, underscoring the Taliban's strength after 14 years of war.

International donors led by the U.S. are paying for about two-thirds of Afghanistan's \$7.2 billion budget this year. The country's mineral wealth -- estimated at \$1 trillion to \$3 trillion -- is crucial to bridging that gap.

Afghanistan's Expenditure

Bulk of total spending comes from donor aid outside the budget



Source: IMF 2013

* Of total spending that equalled 52% of GDP, 31% of GDP came from off-budget aid

Bloombera

Saba, who joined President Ashraf Ghani's cabinet after last year's election, criticized his predecessor for saying Afghanistan would earn \$1.5 billion in annual mining revenues by now and become financially self-sufficient in a decade. "The revenue projections of the previous government weren't realistic," Saba said on Oct. 14 at his office in Kabul. "Afghanistan needs to continue receiving international funds -- otherwise the country won't remain functional at all."

Shortly after taking office, Ghani said he would use Afghanistan's mineral wealth to transform the economy. The country holds vast amounts of copper, gold, lead, rare earths and lithium, a metal used in batteries for cell phones.

Yet so far, the country's two biggest mining projects have been mired in delays and contract disputes. And falling global commodity prices in the past few years have made it more difficult for companies to take on risky investments.

Metallurgical Corporation of China, awarded a \$3 billion contract in 2007 to mine the world's second biggest copper deposit at Mes Aynak, is disputing an obligation to build a

railway and power plant, Saba said. The Chinese government-owned company also wants the royalty rate reduced, he said.

Delays over the security situation, land transfers and the need to excavate Buddhist relics at the site have hurt the economic viability of the project, according to an e-mailed MCC statement. The company is seeking negotiations under the contract to find a "win-win" solution, it said.

A consortium of six companies led by Steel Authority of India Ltd. has also stopped talks on mining an iron ore deposit, Saba said. Once valued at \$11 billion, the project was forecast to generate \$200 million in annual government revenue by 2017. Steel Authority didn't respond to an e-mail seeking comment.

"Mining projects including Mes Aynak and Hajigak are now turning into a nightmare," Mohammad Zakaria Sawda, head of the Afghan parliament's natural resources commission, said by phone. "Afghanistan will continue to shamefully remain the world's biggest beggar."

As large-scale mining projects fail to take off, the Taliban is profiting off smaller mines throughout the landlocked nation. Up to 10,000 natural wealth deposits aren't under government control and may face looting, Saba said.

Minerals are the Taliban's second-biggest income source after narcotics, a United Nations Security Council committee wrote in a February report.

The group earns cash in three ways, it said: Directly extracting resources such as marble, extorting money from mining companies and providing services like security and transportation for unlicensed mines.

"Afghanistan doesn't receive a penny," Saba said. "Just as we can't prevent terrorists in border areas from entering or leaving Afghanistan, we can't stop smugglers from putting precious stones in their pockets."

FORWARD OBSERVATIONS



“At a time like this, scorching irony, not convincing argument, is needed. Oh had I the ability, and could reach the nation’s ear, I would, pour out a fiery stream of biting ridicule, blasting reproach, withering sarcasm, and stern rebuke.

“For it is not light that is needed, but fire; it is not the gentle shower, but thunder.

“We need the storm, the whirlwind, and the earthquake.”

“The limits of tyrants are prescribed by the endurance of those whom they oppose.”

Frederick Douglass, 1852

**He is whipped oftenest, who is whipped easiest.
-- Frederick Douglass; My Bondage And My Freedom**

No More Purple Hearts



Photo by Mike Hastie

From: Mike Hastie
To: Military Resistance Newsletter
Sent: October 03, 2015
Subject: No More Purple Hearts

No More Purple Hearts

**Mike Hastie
Army Medic Vietnam
Veterans For Peace**

October 3, 2015

Photo and caption from the portfolio of Mike Hastie, US Army Medic, Vietnam 1970-71. (For more of his outstanding work, contact at: hastiemike@earthlink.net) T)

One day while I was in a bunker in Vietnam, a sniper round went over my head. The person who fired that weapon was not a terrorist, a rebel, an extremist, or a so-called insurgent. The Vietnamese individual who tried to kill me was a citizen of Vietnam, who did not want me in his country. This truth escapes millions.

Mike Hastie
U.S. Army Medic
Vietnam 1970-71
December 13, 2004

White House Explains How It Identifies Dead Enemies: “The Government Thus ‘Has A Clear Financial Incentive To Make Sure That Everyone It Kills Really Is An Enemy’”

October 20, 2015 Rooters Agency

WASHINGTON – The White House today, “in the interest of transparency,” acceded to requests that it disclose the criteria used in classifying victims of its overseas “targeted killing” operations.

In reporting the results of drone strikes in foreign countries, the government normally classifies the dead as “militants,” “enemy combatants,” or, rarely, “collateral damage.”

(The last term is a broad category covering people who happened to be present in pharmaceutical factories or other buildings, wedding parties, children too young to have been counted in the latest census, and various other types of “unpeople.”

At a press conference today, White House Press Secretary Jed Lee Earnest declared, “We want to be up front and open. We don’t want to hide things from the American people, especially if the Intercept has already made them public.”

Earnest said that the government has “very clear and firm criteria” for determining whether a corpse is an enemy combatant or collateral damage. “These criteria are quite reliable, even when what we’re looking at is not much more than a few bits of charred flesh,” he maintained.

“The most important determinant in judging the deceased is the question: ‘Are they dead? If they are, the presumption is that they are enemy combatants, because otherwise they would be collateral damage, and it has long been the policy of the US government to avoid or at least minimize collateral damage.”

Furthermore, Earnest pointed out, in the rare cases where collateral damage occurs, the US pays compensation “to victims’ relatives if any are still alive.”

The government thus “has a clear financial incentive to make sure that everyone it kills really is an enemy.”

Therefore, if any relatives of the dead asked for compensation, it was likely that this could weaken the United States financially, which implied that the askers were hostile to the United States, and probably their dead relatives shared their attitude.

As regards reported drone attacks on wedding parties, Earnest said, “The United States government has always firmly supported the institution of marriage, so it would be absurd and counter-productive for us to attack weddings, even if they were non-Christian weddings, which don’t really count.”

As proof of the reliability of the government’s classification of the dead, Earnest cited an experiment conducted in an unnamed country – “It’s not secret, but I’ve forgotten its name.”

After a randomly selected drone strike in which some of the wounded had not yet died, CIA agents parachuted into the area and questioned the only one of the dying who was still able to speak.

“We were pleased to learn that we had got it right and struck the enemy. In his last words before he died, this militant admitted that he really hated the United States.”

MILITARY RESISTANCE BY EMAIL

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ANNIVERSARIES

**October 21, 1837:
Betrayal And The Stain Of Foul
Dishonor:**

Courtesy Of The United States Army



Osceola ("Black Drink") (circa 1804-1838) Seminole leader
By George Catlin, 1838

Carl Bunin Peace History October 15-21

The U.S. Army, enforcing Pres. Andrew Jackson's Indian Removal Act, captured Seminole Indian leader Osceola (meaning "Black Drink") by inviting him to a peace conference and then seizing him and nineteen others, though they had come under a flag of truce.

The Seminole had moved to Florida (then under the control of Spain) from South Carolina and Georgia as they were forced from their ancestral lands, then forced farther south into the Everglades where they settled.

Under the law Jackson urged on Congress, they and the others of the "Five Civilized Tribes" (Choctaws, Chickasaws, Creeks and Cherokees) were to be moved, by force if necessary, west of the Mississippi (Arkansas and Oklahoma).

Npg.Si.Edu [Excerpt]

Although neither a hereditary nor an elected chief, Osceola was the defiant young leader of the Seminole in their resistance to Indian emigration.

In 1835 he plunged his knife into the treaty he was asked to sign that would move his people from their swamplands in the Southeast to the unoccupied territory west of the Mississippi. This action precipitated the Second Seminole War--a seven-year game of cat-and-mouse in the Florida swamps against federal troops.

Tricked into talking peace, Osceola was captured in 1837 while carrying a white flag of truce and was imprisoned in Fort Moultrie, South Carolina.

This treachery so outraged George Catlin that he went immediately to the prison. He and Osceola became friends, and Osceola willingly posed for his portrait.

“This gallant fellow,” wrote Catlin, “is grieving with a broken spirit, and ready to die, cursing the white man, no doubt to the end of his breath.”

Soon after this portrait was completed, Osceola died of malaria. Osceola’s name was derived from the Indian term “Asiyahola,” the cry given by those taking the ceremonial black drink that was supposed to cleanse the body and spirit.

Hungary October 23, 1956:

“One Soldier, Then Two, Had Offered Their Guns To The People”

“By Dawn Some Of The Soviet Soldiers Were Leaving Their Vehicles And Joining The Mass Demonstrations”

“Some Of The Tank Crews Decorated Their Tanks With The Flag Of The Revolution”

Marxist.com/ [Excerpts]

This month is the thirtieth anniversary of the Hungarian revolution of 1956.

Even though its outcome was a tragic defeat, in which at least 20,000 Hungarian workers were killed and countless others injured, imprisoned and forced into hiding or exile, it nevertheless was undoubtedly the most significant pointer to future developments in the Stalinist states since the consolidation of the bureaucracy around Stalin in the 1920s.

The tremendously inspiring events of the Hungarian October are full of lessons for the workers of Eastern Europe and the whole world.

Stalinist commentators have tried to paint a picture of these events as the work of CIA agitators and counter-revolutionaries.

Nothing could be further from the truth.

The revolutionary traditions of the Hungarian working class in themselves make such a claim incredible.

Even prior to world war one there were big strikes and wage demands. In 1905 there was a big movement of landless laborers against wage cuts. In the Hungarian revolution of 1919 the workers moved to overthrow the fragile regime of the bourgeois liberal Karolyi because it could not satisfy their revolutionary demands.



www.sziszki.hu

Shortages began in the shops, especially of meat. People had to queue all night to get the things they wanted.

At the same time the bureaucrats carried on with their opulent existence.

The revolution of 1956 was a revolution to rid society of this gang of parasites, torturers and murderers, who claimed to rule in the name of the working class, and to reassert the traditions of 1919 of the involvement of the working class in the revolution and the subsequent running of society.

One worker from the giant Csepel plant told a western correspondent: "The West should not believe that the workers fought to bring back Horthy or the landowners and counts. We shall not give back the land, the factories or the mines."

The causes of the 1956 events also lie in the political developments within the bureaucracy.

Mirroring the economic crisis there were tremendous political upheavals.

In 1953 with the death of Stalin there were some signs of a "thaw" in the monolithic rule of Moscow and its puppets in Budapest. Rakosi, a hard line Stalinist, retired. Nagy, who had a reputation as a "liberaliser" and was initially favoured in the Kremlin by Khrushchev, took over.

In several Eastern Bloc countries during the fifties a similar switch was made. Bureaucrats who were denounced later as "Titoists" came to the fore. This layer of the bureaucracy had no objection to a one-party totalitarian system in which the leading layer had enormous privileges, but they did oppose the Russian bureaucracy plundering all the spoils of the nations' economic progress for themselves.

Gomulka in Poland played a similar role.

It was the fact that these bureaucrats had been persecuted by the USSR earlier, for taking an anti-Russian stand, that gave them a certain credibility with the masses.

Some sections of the masses believed that Nagy's "new course" would give the regime a "human face".

But behind the scenes there was a desperate struggle going on within the bureaucracy, and much trepidation within the Kremlin, as to the dangers inherent in even a microscopic dose of reform.

A real measure of just how little "return to legality" took place under Nagy was subsequently revealed during the 1956 revolution itself.

Within the first week 5,500 prisoners of war were released. These were men who had been sent back from Russia eight years before but had been imprisoned again by the hated AVO secret police.

They had not been charged and had no prospect of release.

These people remained illegally in prison, many assumed by relatives to be dead, during the Nagy period of 1953-55.

In fact the prison camps, allegedly intended for the enemies of the revolution, were at this time full of common people, workers, poor peasants, small stall holders, etc.

Sandor Kopacsi, the Chief of Police in Budapest in 1956, who subsequently resigned and got political asylum in the west, gives an account of his tour of inspection of these camps which reads like Dante's journey through hell.

The camps were packed full of dejected demoralised prisoners, who had never been tried, who came up to him and told him of the petty crimes, such as chicken stealing, they had been incarcerated for.

Yet even the minuscule moves in the direction of reform under Nagy proved eventually too much for the nerves of Moscow. Khrushchev changed his attitude towards "the new course".

In April 1955 Nagy was removed from the premiership and expelled from the party as a "right-wing deviationist". Rakosi was wheeled back in with a clampdown on all the new policies.

Yet the zig-zags of the Kremlin bureaucrats only whipped up a mood of discontent amongst the Hungarian masses. When, in February 1956, Khrushchev's speech at the 20th congress denouncing Stalin's crimes came to light, the whole of Hungary began to seethe with discussion. A group of intellectuals, naming themselves the Petofi circle (after the famous poet of the bourgeois revolution who was executed in the defeat of the 1848 revolution and became a national hero), began to meet regularly and semi-openly.

"The Whole Of The Eastern Bloc Was Awash With Discontent"

In his book, Kopacsi makes a very interesting revelation about the morale of the state forces at this time.

In the spring of 1956 a squad of secret police were sent into the Petofi circle and the active element of the Young Communist movement, which was also bubbling with debate.

As the dissidents' arguments became more fully explained the police spies became more and more open to the ideas about reforming the system which were being put forward at these meetings. "Suddenly a majority of these 'spies' declared that they were in agreement with the points made in the Petofi circle!" Kopacsi recounts, "together they issued a statement, which they signed, declaring themselves in solidarity with the ideas put forward by the young reformists of the party."

The whole of the Eastern Bloc was awash with discontent.

The floodgates had begun to burst even as early as 1953 with a massive strike wave and street fighting in East Germany.

In Plzen and Prague, Czechoslovakia there had been riots. In the Hungarian industrial towns of Csepel, Ozd and Diosgyor the masses had come onto the streets in protest against the conditions. Even within the Soviet Union there had been strikes and protests amongst the prisoners within the labour camps.

In May 1956 vast numbers of Russian troops and armoured vehicles were sent into Tbilisi, capital of Georgia, to crush an uprising sparked off by austerity measures.

In June 1956 the workers of Poznan, in Poland rose.

Inevitably this also had an effect on the young people inside the state forces. The Petofi circle even held one famous all-night meeting of 6,000 with people spilling out into the streets around demanding democratisation of the system and intellectual liberty.

This movement of intellectuals was a reflection of the deep underlying discontent amongst the workers. In conditions such as this where all political freedom is barred, it is often the intellectuals who give the first overt expression of the movement swelling up beneath the surface of society.

“The Revolution Was Already In Motion”

Pravda angrily denounced this ferment.

Yet even Szabad Nep, the Hungarian CP paper, under the pressure of the masses was grudgingly forced into agreement, in words, with the more secondary demands.

The bureaucracy in Budapest went into crisis over the question of whether to bring in more reforms in an attempt to restore the ailing credibility of the party, or to bring in more hard-liners and clamp down on all the ferment.

Many bureaucrats dithered between the two positions lacking any confidence in either.

In every subsequent political crisis in the Stalinist states the bureaucracy has divided to differing degrees along these lines.

A further symptom of this indecision was the removal again of Rakosi in July 1956, because he was obviously arousing the hatred of the masses. This time, however, he was not replaced by a reformer but another hard-liner, Kadar. Kadar had been imprisoned and appallingly tortured by the Stalinists. This gave him a certain credibility in the eyes of the masses, but it also made him a compliant tool of Moscow.

Nagy was further demoted, confirming the impression that the leading circles within the bureaucracy were absolutely determined not to tolerate any quarter for reforms.

The so-called Communist Party was by this time a Communist Party in name only.

It had been purged, terrorised, bribed and corrupted into nothing more than a freemasonry of cynical careerists, and an appendage of the totalitarian state.

In the elections of 1945 the CP had got 17 percent of the vote. Dora Scarlett reported an estimate made in 1956 which is only a very rough guide but nevertheless significant, that if an election was held with a guarantee of no interference, the CP would have been lucky to get 10 per cent.

During the revolution itself the CP of 900,000 vanished overnight.

Over the summer of 1956 discussion and opposition became widespread in the colleges and in the factories.

The revolution was already in motion.

Hostility amongst the masses towards the regime reached such a pitch that any spark could set off an explosion.

In October that spark came.

Students in Budapest called a demonstration for the 23rd. It was unprecedented for a demonstration to be organised outside of CP control. The authorities banned it but the organisers announced they were going ahead anyway.

Initially it was over the conditions of students but an atmosphere of excitement spread amongst all the youth and workers of the town.

A series of wider political demands soon were included and eventually the youth were being called to demonstrate in support of the workers of Poland.

What a marvelous testimony to the internationalism of the movement, that the spark which ignited the revolution was actually a demonstration of international solidarity!

Tens of thousands flooded onto the streets.

The secret police (AVO) understood that any reforms whatsoever would inevitably include a calling of them to account for their ten years of crime and organised terror.

In panic they fired on the crowd. When police arrived to try and restore order, the crowd explained to the police how the AVO had fired on defenseless men, women and children.

The young policemen, who knew the cruelty of the AVO, scarcely hesitated before handing over their guns to the crowd.

Anyone who says that the forces of the political revolution are powerless against the arms of the state apparatus should look at the reports of Police Chief Kopaszi as he describes his conversations over the radio with the different police units in the capital.

For example, he describes a conversation over the radio with one of his lieutenants during the October 23 demonstration, a Lieutenant Kiss (someone who "was prepared to sacrifice his life for the party. But for the Stalin statue?"):

"KISS: People are pulling down the Stalin Statue. Please send us orders immediately.

"KOPASCI: Okay Comrade Lieutenant, tell me about this pulling down.

"KISS: There are about a hundred thousand people around the Stalin Statue.

"KOPASCI: Are you sure there are as many as that?

"KISS: Comrade Colonel, there are more than a hundred thousand, if not two hundred thousand. All of Heroes Square, all the edge of the woods is black with people. What shall I do?

"KOPASCI: Okay, how many men have you got?

"KISS: Well, er...twenty-five Comrade Colonel!

"KOPASCI: Useless! Look at what the people are doing and you will know straight away... You see Comrade Kiss these are specialists. They are workers from one or other of the big Pest factories. Only the workers possess the equipment to do what you report."

This is how Kopaszi describes the first news over the police radio that the masses were armed:



Hungarian National Museum

“One Soldier, Then Two, Had Offered Their Guns To The People”

"The tone of the junior officer at the other end was one of catastrophe: 'Comrade Kopaszi the participants have guns.'

“I asked for complete silence in the room. I thought the man I was talking to had gone mad. ‘I don’t quite understand. Repeat Comrade Lieutenant.’ In a measured tone the lieutenant repeated the account of how young recruits has been surrounded by the crowd, told they needed weapons to defend themselves against the security police and then how one soldier, then two, had offered their guns to the people.

"In my office silence reigned. My colleagues looked at me motionless. From the gravity of my voice and the look on my face they understood that the news I was getting was no joke. ‘My boy how many arms have you distributed and what type?’ ...I awaited the reply, the blood frozen in my veins. ‘Twenty-five or thirty rifles and about as many small machine guns. Some rounds of ammunition as

well. What are your orders?' I could only give one: 'Barricade yourselves in and turn out your lights.'"

These conversations clearly illustrate how powerless and terrified the bureaucracy were in the face of an armed movement of the masses.

They show that once the workers are on the move all the seeming strength of the state forces comes to nothing.

Parallel with the rapid conquest of the streets went a very rapid development of political consciousness of the masses.

One meeting held in the town centre began with a demand from the crowd that the government send a minister to address them about what reforms it proposed to make. The bureaucracy hesitated and vacillated for an hour and then decided to send the minister of agriculture.

By the time he arrived the mood of the crowd had changed to hostility towards anything the government may have offered and they booed him off the platform. One of the features of all revolutions is this very quick development of the political consciousness of the masses.

“By Dawn Some Of The Soviet Soldiers Were Leaving Their Vehicles And Joining The Mass Demonstrations”

The Russian bureaucracy responded to these events with panic measures.

On the night of October 23-24 they sent in the tanks.

Everyone fought them in the streets.

People brought small arms out of their homes with which to attack them.

Children as young as thirteen or fourteen set to them with Molotov cocktails.

Such ferocious resistance on the part of the Hungarian workers and youth inevitably made a big impression on the Russian soldiers.

They began to question why they had been sent. Some had been told by their officers that it was a fascist rebellion that needed crushing.

This did not square with such widespread and popular resistance.

By dawn some of the Soviet soldiers were leaving their vehicles and joining the mass demonstrations. Some of the tank crews decorated their tanks with the flag of the revolution (the Hungarian flag with the coat of arms removed).

Russian troops asked for political asylum. They saw in the determination of the Hungarian workers the capacity to set up a new type of regime that would not hand them back to the Russian commanders.

A vast crowd assembled in front of the parliament building.

The AVO fired on the crowd. Russian troops moved in and defended the crowd from the AVO.

All public buildings were taken over by the workers.

The radio was requisitioned for the revolution and the demands of the workers broadcast to the rest of the nation and beyond.

Russian troops used their tanks to give backing to the assault of the workers on the police headquarters.

The prisons were open. Whole labyrinths of underground passages, cells and torture chambers were unlocked. Prisoners walked out like ghosts, men and women who had been assumed dead for years.

In fact the network of secret police passageways under Budapest was so vast that throughout the weeks of the revolution relatives and friends searched for prisoners. Tapings could be heard in the further recesses. Some were so hidden that the revolution never reached them, before they could be found the counter-revolution had struck.

Newspapers sprung up everywhere.

One CP eyewitness said "people hungered and thirsted for the printed word as though they had crossed a desert." From six dreary official papers twenty-five lively dailies with circulations going into millions sprang up within a few days. The revolutionary youth, the different sections of workers, peasants, police and army all had their papers. All rejected anti-semitism and fascism.

Arising out of the spontaneous political interests of the masses a number of new political parties sprang into life, including a Social Democratic Party and a Peasants Party.

The right for a multiplicity of political parties to exist was enshrined in the programme of the political revolution.

Without a doubt the experience of the Hungarian revolution shows that the workers had the capacity to take over and run society.

Open suitcases taking collections for the families of those killed in the fighting were left unguarded on the street corners. Peasants showed their support for the revolution by bringing cartloads of food into Budapest and distributing it free. This in a country where people were still living in poverty!

In desperation at their troops defecting to the revolution the Soviet authorities withdrew them from Budapest. In his memoirs Khrushchev recalls the vacillations within the top circles between "crushing the mutiny" or pulling "out of Hungary": "I don't know how many times we changed our minds back and forth."

Desperately seeking a means to contain the situation, in consultation with Moscow through Andropov, then the ambassador in Hungary, the leaders switched once again to concessions. On October 25 the premier, Gero, who had provoked the masses further by a ranting speech on the radio about fascist agents, was removed at Moscow's bidding. Several of the worst Stalinist die-hards were removed from the Politburo and Nagy was suddenly rehabilitated and made premier.

“The Program Of The Revolution”

But despite his reputation as a "reformer", on the crucial questions confronting the Hungarian workers Nagy was no different from the hardline Stalinists.

Moscow persuaded him to declare martial law. He dumbly acquiesced with the Soviet decision to send troops to crush the movement. On the first day of his new premiership 300 workers were killed outside the parliament building by the state forces. His hands were drenched in blood from the outset. But given the tremendous power and sweep of the revolution he was a last line of defence for the bureaucracy because of his reputation.

Nagy offered an amnesty for all those who handed in their weapons. The Soviet authorities started a display of "negotiations" with his new administration, offering the masses the hope of a peaceful withdrawal of Soviet troops from the country.

In reality this was a smokescreen behind which they were preparing for more effective military action.

The truth was that the irresistible sweep of the mass movement rendered the Nagy government completely impotent. Without army, police or mass backing, it was a government in name only, an administration suspended in mid-air.

Rumors flew around as to the actions of the Russian columns. There was much confusion.

Some sections of the masses did not want to believe that a new invasion was in the offing. If they were coming why were they going? Yet to anyone prepared to think things through carefully, it was clear their job had not finished. They were not far outside Budapest and their ranks were being swelled by reinforcements. Soviet troops took over all the airports.

The program of the revolution had gone through different stages as the workers' consciousness leaped forward.

The workers demanded:

Workers' councils in all factories to establish workers' management and a radical transformation of the system of state central planning and directing.

Wage rises of 15 percent for the lowest paid, 10 percent for other workers and an upper limit of £106 on salaries, which in the money of those days would have done away with the privileged position of the bureaucracy.

Abolition of production norms except in factories where the workers' council decided to keep them.

Increases in the lowest pensions.

Increase in family allowances.

A fairer system of taxation.

A more rapid programme of house building by the state.

This was a programme with a wide appeal to the masses.

The revolution had transformed Budapest over the short space of a week.

Kopaszi paints a vivid picture of the parliament building in these days of workers' power.

"This immense 'Westminster on the Danube' was more like the Smolny Palace in Petrograd, Bolshevik headquarters in 1917...than the old parliament chamber in London. The corridors and rooms were packed with delegations of workers, peasants, soldiers, artists, writers and politicians of different parties which had not been seen at all since 1947."

Effectively the workers had taken power. In the provinces the workers had joined the movement and come out on strike. In the mining towns there was a very solid strike. All the workers were on the streets. There was an atmosphere of insurrection.

Amongst the peasantry too there was a big movement. The old Stalinist collective farm managers were driven off with knives and pitchforks.

The peasants elected revolutionary committees. It is true that in some areas they broke up the land from the collectives into private plots. But this was linked with a warning that if any of the landlords tried to come back the peasants would organise a second revolution.

This is how Peter Fryer, a reporter for the British Communist Party paper, the Daily Worker described the workers' councils:

"In their spontaneous origin, in their composition, in their sense of responsibility, in their efficient organisation of food supplies and of civil order, in the restraint they exercised over the wilder elements of the youth, in the wisdom with which so many of them handled the problem of Soviet troops and, not least, in their striking resemblance to the soviets or councils of workers', peasants' and soldiers' deputies which sprang up in Russia in 1905 and again in February 1917, these committees, a network of which now extended over the whole of Hungary were remarkably uniform.

"They were at once organs of insurrection - the coming together of delegates elected by factories and universities, mines and army units, and organs of popular self-government which the armed people trusted.

“As such they enjoyed tremendous authority, and it is no exaggeration to say that until the Soviet attack of November 4 the real power in the country lay in their hands.”

Russian Imperial Invasion Destroys The Revolution

The Nagy government, the last fig leaf of the authorities, effectively had no control. Power was in the hands of the revolutionary committees. The advanced sections of the workers, big sections of the youth and the industrial workers sensed that things could rapidly come to a head.

They prepared to once more defend the revolution. A new wave of strikes began which rapidly reached the proportions of another general strike.

At this juncture the Russian bureaucracy began their second assault on the revolution.

At 4 in the morning of Sunday November 4, Russian tanks, having encircled Budapest, began to bombard it with shells from the hills outside. By dawn they had entered the city and occupied key buildings including the parliament. The attack came across the nation all at once. Every city was pounded by artillery and then occupied.

Yet far from being crushed in one simple and massive assault as the Russian bureaucrats had hoped, the second invasion in fact spurred on the workers to even greater struggle making them more determined than ever to fight for the revolution to the finish.

The consciousness of even the widest sections of the masses exploded into new life.

Those who had not participated previously in the street fighting came pouring out to join the "veterans" of the previous week. The workers fought, along with children, students, the old and the soldiers and police who had come over. They built or rebuilt barricades. They occupied positions before the Russian columns entered the towns.

The fighting was ferocious. The tanks were attacked by the masses from all sides. Russian soldiers later reported that they had never seen such determined resistance.

But this second wave of Soviet troops had very little understanding of what they were crushing. Many of them had been hastily transported from the far-eastern provinces of the Soviet Union and could speak no European languages.

Peter Fryer, in a final dispatch to the Daily Worker, which the editor hid from his staff, said: "Some of the rank and file Soviet troops have been telling people that they had no idea they had come to Hungary. They thought at first they were in Berlin, fighting German fascists."

Some had even been told they were on the Suez Canal. The Hungarian workers attempted to hand them leaflets, but there was very little infantry action because the top officers feared the fraternisation that had occurred before. The Russian tanks came in and pumped shells into the buildings where they thought the resistance was.

The top Soviet officers desperately maneuvered to "maintain the morale" of their troops by shooting those of their men who displayed any sympathy for the Hungarian workers!

For example, one Soviet tank officer was executed because his column had found its road blocked by a line of women and children sitting in their path. Instead of christening the street with their blood he drove his contingent round another way.

Several of the soldiers who complied with this were also executed.

In the prison yards of Budapest such executions continued all day and all night. This grisly fact illustrates that despite all the measures taken by the Russian bureaucracy the Hungarian workers made an impact on the minds of quite wide layers of even this second wave of troops.

Despite this show of strength the bureaucracy almost failed to regain control.

It took fifteen divisions, with six thousand tanks, backed up by MiG fighter planes to quell the movement.

Buildings were pumped with phosphorus to set them on fire. One commentator, Andy Anderson, described it thus: "Smoke from burning buildings, exploding shells and Molotov cocktails mixed with the dust from crashing masonry to create a choking fog. The sight of the mounting wounded created a fog to choke the mind."

Yet even with such brutality on the part of the Russian bureaucracy it took weeks to finish the job. On November 4 the still-born Nagy government, which represented nobody and no-one, was replaced by one under the hard-liner Kadar.

He appealed for the workers to go back to work but the strike intensified. On November 5 he "warned", he "hoped for" and he "requested" a return to work. On the 6th and 7th he "threatened". On the 8th his henchman Marosan declared "it is the duty of every decent worker to go back to work."

But throughout the workers remained on strike and more and more Russian tanks fell victim to the heroic armed resistance of the masses.

The most forceful and long-lasting resistance to the invasion came precisely from the big working-class areas of Budapest.

Hospital figures show that the injured consisted of 70-80 percent young workers.

"Red" Csepel, so called because it had been in pre-war days a bastion of the CP, was one of the last districts to hold out.

Open resistance continued in isolated pockets well into 1957 and even in 1958 and 1959 there were strikes and demonstrations as the workers attempted to resist the remorselessly tightening grip of bureaucratic control.

The victory of the bureaucracy did not come easily.

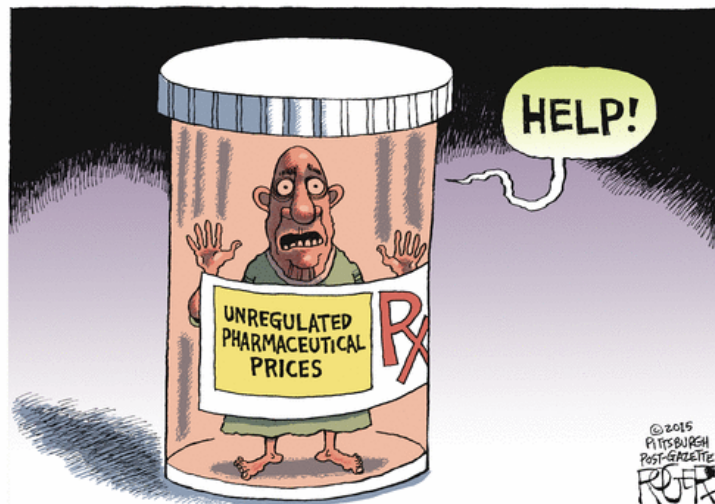
1956 opened up a new period of economic development for the Hungarian economy. The Russian bureaucracy deliberately decided to pump resources into the country. They had been so frightened by the revolution that they wanted to ensure the masses were kept more content to avoid a repetition.

Living standards rose significantly for the Hungarian masses for the rest of the 1950s and the 1960s. To put it in the words of Khrushchev: "We shall shut their mouths with goulash." Even in the seventies there was still substantial progress. This was the basis for the relative stability of the Kadar regime.

The Hungarian Revolution of 1956 was a glorious page in working-class history. It added to the heritage of mankind a priceless experience.

It was in this sense a pointer to the future of mankind. Victory was possible. In reality victory was won, but it was snatched away again by the second Soviet invasion.

CLASS WAR REPORTS



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OCCUPATION PALESTINE



A Palestinian protester burns tires during clashes with Israeli security forces near the Zionist settlement of Beit El, near the occupied West Bank city of Ramallah, Palestine, on October 20, 2015. Shadi Hatem/APA Images via ZUMA Wire

Jerusalem Is A Warning Of Things To Come:

**“Israel Has Little But Stopgap
Measures To Defend Against The
Protests”**

**“Its Intelligence Agencies Cannot Predict
The Lone Wolf, Its Guns Cannot Deter
The Knife, Its Military Might Cannot
Subdue The Craving For Justice And
Dignity”**

19 October 2015 The National

Among Palestinians and Israelis, the recent upsurge in violence has been variously described as the children's, lone-wolf, Jerusalem and smartphone intifadas.

Each describes a distinguishing feature of this round of clashes.

The steady erosion of Fatah and Hamas' authority during the post-Oslo years, as the Palestinian factions proved incapable of protecting their people from the structural violence of the occupation, has driven Palestine's orphaned children to the streets, armed with stones. The growing hopelessness and sense of abandonment have led a few so-called "lone wolves" to vent their fury on Israelis with improvised weapons such as knives, screwdrivers and cars.

These attacks have attracted the most publicity, becoming the equivalent of the second intifada's suicide bomber.

But they serve chiefly as a barometer of Palestinian despair.

Jerusalem is the centre of events, with the Palestinians' only unifying symbol, Al Aqsa mosque, at its heart. For Palestinians, the incremental takeover of the compound – and the West's indifference – is like watching the mass dispossession of 1948 play out again in slow motion.

In addition, Jerusalem is the main fault line. Israel's illegal annexation of the city has left Palestinians there in an extreme form of isolation – indefinitely stateless and supremely vulnerable.

And finally, the smartphone camera has allowed Palestinians to document their suffering and witness unmediated their compatriots' personal acts of resistance and self-sacrifice. Futile knife attacks may appall outsiders, but for many Palestinians they are the moment when an individual briefly reclaims his or her agency and fights back on behalf of a collectively subjugated and humiliated people.

The need for so many different labels for these events reveals another important facet of the current Palestinian struggle: its disorganised nature.

Israel has almost completed the division and enclosure of Palestinians into disconnected enclaves. As they hear the sound of the prison doors closing, Palestinian youths are lashing out at the guards closest to hand.

Because the divisions between Palestinian populations have become so entrenched geographically, and their leaders politically, it is hard for Palestinians to find any unifying vision or organising principle.

Do they fight first against their occupiers or their spent leadership?

But the lack of planning and discipline has exposed Israel's own limitations too.

Israel has little but stopgap measures to defend against the protests. Its intelligence agencies cannot predict the lone wolf, its guns cannot deter the knife, its military might cannot subdue the craving for justice and dignity.

Strangely, in the face of all this, there are signs of a parallel breakdown of order and leadership on the Israeli side. Lynch mobs of Jews patrol Jerusalem and Israeli cities, calling out “Death to the Arabs!” A jittery soldier causes pandemonium by firing his rifle in a train carriage after a bogus terror alert.

An Israeli Jew stabs another because he looks “Arab”.

Meanwhile, politicians and police commanders stoke the fear. They call for citizens to take the law into their own hands. Palestinian workers are banned from Jewish towns. Israeli supermarkets remove knives from shelves, while 8,000 Israelis queue up for guns in the first 24 hours after permit rules are eased.

Some of this reflects a hysteria, a heightened sense of victimhood among Israelis, fueled by the knife attack videos. But the mood dates to before the current upheavals.

It is also a sign of the gradual leaching of the settler’s lawlessness into the mainstream. A popular slogan from the past weeks is: “The army’s hands are tied.” Israeli civilians presumably believe they must take up arms instead.

After six uninterrupted years of the extreme right in power, Israelis don’t blame their government’s policy of relentless force for the backlash.

They demand yet more force against the Palestinians. Polls show Avigdor Lieberman, the former Moldovan bouncer who became the hard man of the Israeli right, is most favoured to lead the nation out of the crisis.

Solutions are being applied most savagely in East Jerusalem, where Palestinians are being locked even more tightly into neighbourhood ghettos. Israel’s “eternal, unified capital” is being carved up by roadblocks. Palestinian residents are made to endure daily searches and insults that will sow the seeds of yet more fury and resistance.

As Israel tries to slam shut the door of one prison cell in Jerusalem, the inmates threaten to break open the door of another, in Gaza. Israel’s leadership has watched uneasily the repeated breaches of Gaza’s fence over the past week by youths enraged by their own misery and what they see happening in the other prison wings.

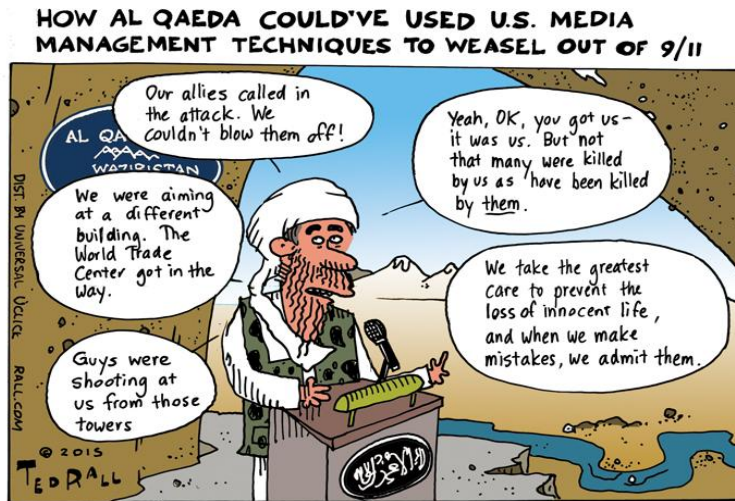
The current unrest may recede, but more waves of protest of ever greater intensity are surely not far behind. Jafar Farah, a Palestinian leader in Israel, has warned of it heading slowly from a national conflict into a civil war, one defined by the kind of debased one-state solution Israel is imposing. The chaotic violence of the past weeks looks like a warning from the future – a future Israel is hurtling towards.

To check out what life is like under a murderous military occupation commanded by foreign terrorists, go to:

<http://www.maannews.net/eng/Default.aspx> and
<http://www.palestinemonitor.org/list.php?id=ej898ra7yff0ukmf16>

The occupied nation is Palestine. The foreign terrorists call themselves "Israeli."

DANGER: POLITICIANS AT WORK



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