

NATO ALLIANCE: WHAT FOR?

France, Iceland, Germany, the Netherlands, Turkey, Belgium, Italy, Norway, Britain, Denmark, Greece, Luxembourg, Canada, Portugal and the United States; what these countries all have in common is that they are members of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization(NATO).

NATO is a military alliance. Still more than that, NATO is the major consolidation of a monstrous, military machine used by the Anglo-European-U.S. corporate elite to maintain mastery over the greater part of the world's natural, mineral and technological and human (human labor) resources. In most cases, the protection of the exploitation rights to these resources involves the maintenance of standing armies in countries foreign to the natural boundaries of the NATO countries. Some NATO countries(Portugal and Greece, for example) must operate openly, fascist regimes to maintain any semblance of control of their peoples' in their home territories.

In 1949, at the instigation of the United States, these fifteen countries signed an agreement stipulating that member countries would grant protection to each other from internal and external attacks against their governments. NATO military integration includes operational planning and joint management of supplies and communication, and, the supply of each other with weapons for mutual forces.

But getting back to mineral and human resources: Where are these resources that the NATO military alliance protects for American, British and European "big-shots"? Most of the resources are located in Third World countries, that is, the countries of South America, Asia and Africa. The Portuguese colonial situation in Africa gives, possibly, the clearest example of how the big-corporation-run NATO Alliance functions to control mineral and human (peoples' human labor) resources so they can be "ripped-off" by the big corporations.

NATO Allies Fight AFRICAN LIBERATION

For the past 500 years, Portugal has enslaved and exploited the Black people of Angola, Mozambique, Guinea-Bissau, the Cape Verde Islands, Sao-Tome and Principe. With a population of about nine million in a 35,00 sq. mile corner of Europe, Portugal still attempts to rule 1 million Blacks occupying nearly 800,000 sq. miles in Africa. Portugal, the only remaining European country with a major colonial empire has shown no indication of relinquishing her control. The Black Africans, until 1961, addressed the Portuguese for peaceful settlement, only to have their men, women and children massacred, napalmed, machine gunned and imprisoned by the fascist, Portuguese armies. Since 1961, armed African freedom fighters have been challenging Portugal's brutal exploitation of African land, resources and human labor. As Europe's poorest country, Portugal is incapable of financing its wars against Africans alone. It has received the necessary funds from western governments and multi-national corporations like Gulf Oil; Gulf has invested two hundred million dollars in Portuguese occupied Africa. In 1971, the U.S. government agreed to pay Portugal a total of \$435 million for the use of a military base on the Azores Islands. Through NATO, Portugal has received both money and weapons. All of this in the face of United Nations resolutions that have called for the U.S. to stop its military aid and assistance to Portugal.

The Azalea Festival: Celebration for Thieves and Murderers

Yes, there is one thing the rulers of the NATO countries have in common: They will all steal. Another common bond between these thieves is: They will resort to the most barbarous crimes against anyone who attempts to stop their stealing. The rulers of NATO, in reality, is the multi-national corporate elite, they rule NATO through their puppets in the militaries and governments of the NATO countries. A strange paradox is that poor and working class people of Norfolk pay for a celebration to honor these rulers who kill and rob poor and working class people around the world. The same monopoly corporations and politicians - the same imperialists - who put down the freedom struggles in Africa are responsible for racist attacks on Black people and attacks on the living standards of all poor and working. The corporate elite gets the profits of our labor and we get police brutality, wage controls, and skyrocketing prices. WE CANNOT AFFORD TO HONOR THESE CRIMINALS WITH THE AZALEA FESTIVAL! WE MUST STOP THE AZALEA FESTIVAL!