

## War crimes tribunal prepares to try U.S.

Former U.S. Attorney General Ramsey Clark is currently conducting a series of politically explosive hearings and press conferences around the world, in preparation for trying the United States of America for war crimes in January 1992, for its role in last year's Gulf war against Iraq. Speaking on Nov. 26 at a press conference at the United Nations, Clark demanded the immediate lifting of economic sanctions against Iraq, denouncing their effect as "genocidal." Four days later, on Nov. 30, Clark led a Germany-wide hearing for the War Crimes Tribunal in Stuttgart, the first of many planned in the next weeks in Madrid, London, Oslo, and other major European capitals.

Joining Clark at the press conference at the U.N. were spokesmen from several concerned organizations, including the Harvard Study Team, the Women's Peace Ship, the Team of Medicine for Peace, the National Association of Religious Women, Campaign for MADRE, and the Fellowship of Reconciliation. Dr. Abdul Amir Al-Anbari, Iraq's ambassador to the U.N., also spoke.

A press release read at the opening of the press conference stated, in part: "It can only be said that the Iraqi people are being held hostage to the political maneuvers of the Bush administration domestically. And in light of the extreme repression and lack of human rights in Kuwait and Saudi Arabia, the bombing of the civilian Kurdish population by Turkey, a NATO member, and Iraq's compliance with all demands, the U.S. position can only be explained as a colonialist policy of domination in the Middle East. There is no legal or legitimate basis or justification for the United Nations Security Council to continue the sanctions."

In his opening remarks, Clark questioned the morality of a nation which boasts on the front pages of its press of "infanticide," glorified as a political expedient, as had the Nov. 25 *Washington Post*. Faye Williams, aide to U.S. Rep. Mervyn Dymally (D-Calif.) and participant on the Women's Peace Ship (which was attacked during the Gulf war by the U.S. military), gave a report on various initiatives to lift the sanctions, including the resolution introduced by Rep. Henry Gonzalez (D-Tex.), to which, she said, U.S. leaders have been "shamefully slow" in responding. Williams also cited the "commendable efforts of certain citizen groups," mentioning by name the Philadelphia National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP), which passed a resolution supporting American farmers who have sent powdered milk to Iraq, and the Committee to Save the Children in Iraq, which had recently organized the delivery of



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medical supplies from Sweden to Iraq, via an Iraqi plane.

*EIR* asked Clark whether he saw the continuing operations against Iraq as part of a population war, rather than just an oil war, citing the recently declassified National Security Study Memorandum 200, drafted under Henry Kissinger's direction, which targeted Third World nations for depopulation. "There is no question that the United States is specifically targeting Third World nations," Clark responded, particularly those who have exhibited a degree of technological and scientific development, like Panama and Liberia, as well as Iraq.

### An 'imperial President'

Clark's indictment of the United States in the hearing in Germany was even more biting. The U.S. invasion of Panama broke "all the same laws" that Iraq did in invading Kuwait, he said. Only during the U.S. invasion of Panama, four times as many Panamanians were killed by the U.S. as Kuwaitis killed by Iraq. But nobody insisted that the U.S. withdraw from Panama or pay reparations for the thousands of lives and hundreds of millions of dollars of damage done.

He recalled the U.S. bombing of Grenada and Libya, actions taken without consulting the U.S. Congress. "They trashed the U.S. Constitution. We have an imperial President who acts without respect for the law," he said, warning that the United States may very well bomb Libya again before the end of the year.

Clark called the Gulf war a "slaughter," in which at least 250,000 civilians died as a result of the bombing. The U.S.-led assault, he said, violated all three principles established at the Nuremberg War Crimes Tribunal after World War II—all the accepted laws of armed conflict.

The final resolution passed at the tribunal called for an unconditional lifting of the embargo against Iraq. Clark will conduct further hearings in the coming weeks throughout Europe, leading up to the tribunal, to be held at the beginning of the new year.