

Australia Dossier by Robert Barwick and Rhys McGuckin

Is the Army To Kill Australian Citizens?

The Coalition government and the Labor Party are pushing shoot-to-kill laws, to defend globalization.

The House of Representatives has rushed through a bill giving the government power to call out the military against Australian citizens, authorizing it, on “reasonable grounds,” to shoot to kill. The timing of the new law, entitled the Defense Legislation Amendment (Aid to Civilian Authorities) Bill 2000, is linked to the Sydney Olympic Games in September. Under its powers, defense forces would be allowed to enter buildings, cordon off areas, erect barricades, and stop traffic to search, seize, and detain people and property, and to use “lethal force” if “domestic violence” flared or if it was felt that the “Commonwealth’s interests” were threatened.

With the support of the opposition Australian Labor Party (ALP), the Liberal Party/National Party Coalition government got the House to pass the bill in record time on Aug. 17, and it was expected that the Senate would pass it and that it would become law around Aug. 28.

However, that is where its support ends: It has been met with outrage by state governments, whose constitutional powers it infringes, and a host of others, including unions, civil rights groups, immigrant communities, and other political parties. Its real agenda was nailed by the state chairman of the Curtin Labor Alliance party in Western Australia, former federal Member of Parliament Adrian Bennett, who on Aug. 21 said the bill is “a fascist form of social control, which is aimed at only one thing: providing the government of the day the right to effectively become a military dictatorship, complete with the ‘right-to-kill.’”

Bennett charged, “The purpose of

this legislation is to enable the government—whether ALP or Coalition—to deal with the looming global financial crash. Both major parties have endorsed this legislation, because both are committed to the globalist policies which will inevitably cause such a crash, and that in the near future.”

Australia is a member of what U.S. statesman Lyndon LaRouche has called the “Gang of Five”—Britain, the United States, Canada, Australia, and New Zealand—which are the enforcers of globalization and free trade, through which the Anglo-American financial oligarchy is assaulting every nation in the world. New symptoms of the financial crash are bombarding Australia with increasing frequency, including a blow-out in fuel prices; institutional chaos in the over-stretched public health system; and escalating crises in key parts of the agricultural sector, such as in sugar, dairy, and wheat; and in what is left of the manufacturing sector.

In turn, these symptoms are fueling a rapid rise in opposition to the major political parties. The establishment’s intelligence agencies have been working overtime to create countergang insurgencies which are used as a pretext for the new laws. Most prominent among these is the so-called S-11 group, a rainbow coalition of green, union, indigenous, and social activist groups, which is planning a demonstration against the Sept. 11 World Economic Forum meeting in Melbourne, to follow on from last November’s demonstrations at the World Trade Organization meeting in Seattle, and the Washington demonstrations against the International Mone-

tary Fund earlier this year. “Seattle + Washington = Melbourne,” S-11’s website promises.

S-11 pledges to be non-violent, but the presence of expatriate Brit David Glanz, and other leaders of the British Socialist Workers Party subsidiary and British intelligence asset, the International Socialist Organization (ISO), on its organizing committee, portends the opposite. The ISO has made a name for itself carrying out violent demonstrations and infiltrating trade unions and union demonstrations as a provocative element, in its role as the left-wing “guard dog” for Melbourne’s Anglophile establishment.

The strongest official opposition to the federal government’s new powers are state governments and police force commanders, who, in the case of New South Wales, are responsible for Olympic security under their constitutional role of keeping the domestic peace, as distinct from the role of the military in defending against foreign aggression. Victoria Police Acting Deputy Commissioner Peter Nancarrow bluntly stated, “There is no demonstrated need for the legislation.” N.S.W. Cabinet office Director General Roger Wilkins warned that the bill “leaves open the possibility of conflict between state police and Commonwealth defense forces.”

There is a precedent for what the government is planning: the dark days of the 1890s in colonial Australia, when the British Crown-appointed governments used the military to smash the fledgling trade union movement. On Aug. 31, 1890, during the great Maritime strike, 1,000 troops were called out against a peaceful union demonstration in Melbourne, whose commander, Capt. Tom Price, ordered, “Fire low and lay them out—lay the disturbers of law and order out. Let it be a lesson to them.”