

A Call for Peace Poised for War

continued **▲** from Front

dom Rides and the famous march from Selma to Montgomery when participants were beaten severely. He was jailed more than 40 times.

The fallout from that march resulted in the Civil Rights Act and the Voting Rights Act of 1965.

"We didn't strike back," Lewis said of being attacked by the Ku Klux Klan, the police and countless angry mobs. "We accepted non-violence as a way of peace, a way of living."

Lewis recalled the speech made by President Johnson after the violence of Bloody Sunday.

"He condemned the violence and introduced the voting rights act. He said, 'We shall overcome, we shall overcome,'" Lewis said. "Martin Luther King was sitting next to him and tears came down his face."

Lewis said it would take a non-violent revolution of values and ideas to forge a lasting global peace. New leaders and new participants will have to step forward he added.

"If we believe in democracy surely we must work to make it happen," he said. "We need to get in the way and push and pull."

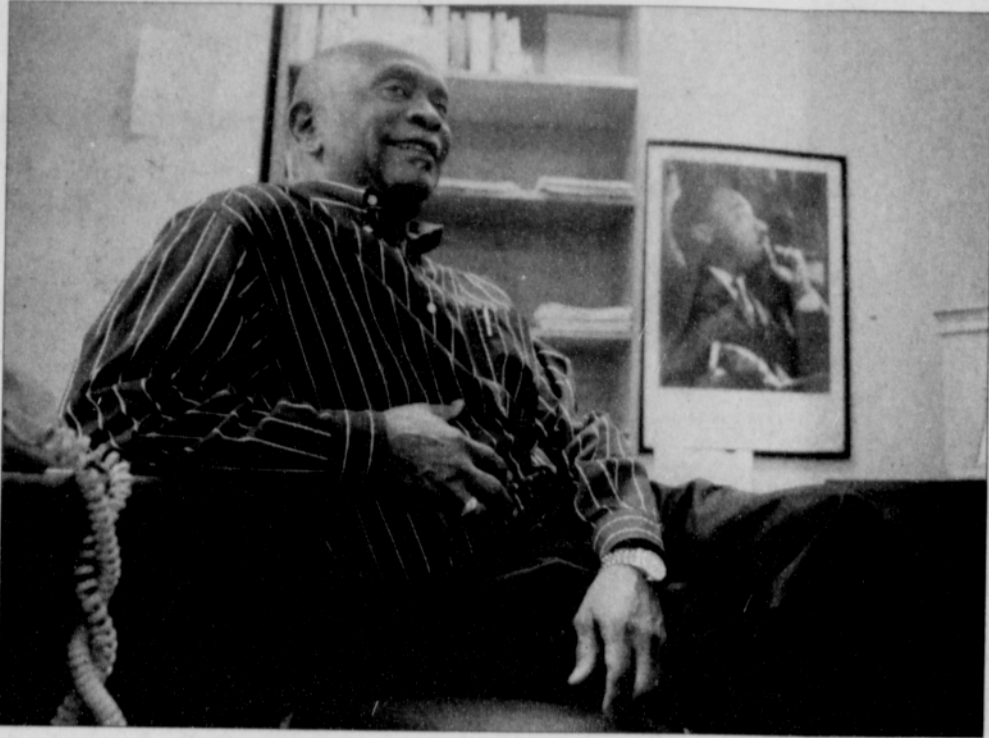


PHOTO BY DAVID PLECHL/THE PORTLAND OBSERVER
Sam Jackson of Holy Redeemer Office of Ethnic Affairs has been a life long fan of John Lewis. "He reminds us a lot of Dr. King," he said.

Nothing has unsettled me more in the last 40 years than what is about to happen now. We must tell our government to use our resources to build and not to kill.

- Georgia Congressman and civil rights leader John Lewis

Lewis called the war in Iraq a distraction from domestic issues and a drain on the future of America's children.

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now," Lewis said. "We must tell our government to use our resources to build and not to kill."

Lewis' speech was followed by a standing ovation.

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series of steps at home to protect against terrorist attacks.

"We know that our interests have been attacked abroad. And we should prepare for potential attacks, either here or abroad at this time," said Homeland Security Secretary Tom Ridge.

The plan, dubbed "Operation Liberty Shield," heightens security at the nation's borders, at airports, seaports and railways, at nuclear and chemical plants and elements of the nation's food supply and distribution system. Ridge said governors are being asked to deploy National Guard troops or extra state police to help.

At the State Department, Secretary of State Colin Powell said 30 nations had joined the administration's "coalition of the willing," and that another 15 had quietly pledged support.

At least two of the 30 nations, Spain and the Netherlands, have explicitly ruled out the use of troops to invade Iraq, though. Another, Japan, was identified as only a post-conflict member of the coalition.

With war looming in the Persian Gulf, the diplomatic and political fallout circled the globe.

In London, the House of Commons debated British Prime Minister Tony Blair's strong endorsement of Bush's policy. "The Liberal Democrats, unified as ever in opportunism and error," the prime minister snapped at one point.

French President Jacques Chirac,

whose country led opposition to war within the United Nations Security Council, said the action Bush had chosen would undermine future efforts at peaceful disarmament. "Iraq does not represent today an immediate threat that would justify an immediate war," he said.

German Chancellor Gerhard Schroeder said much the same thing, and said U.N. weapons inspectors should have more time to try to disarm Iraq of weapons of mass destruction.

But by Bush's word, laid down in a stern speech Monday night, the time for diplomacy - and weapons inspections - had clearly come and gone.

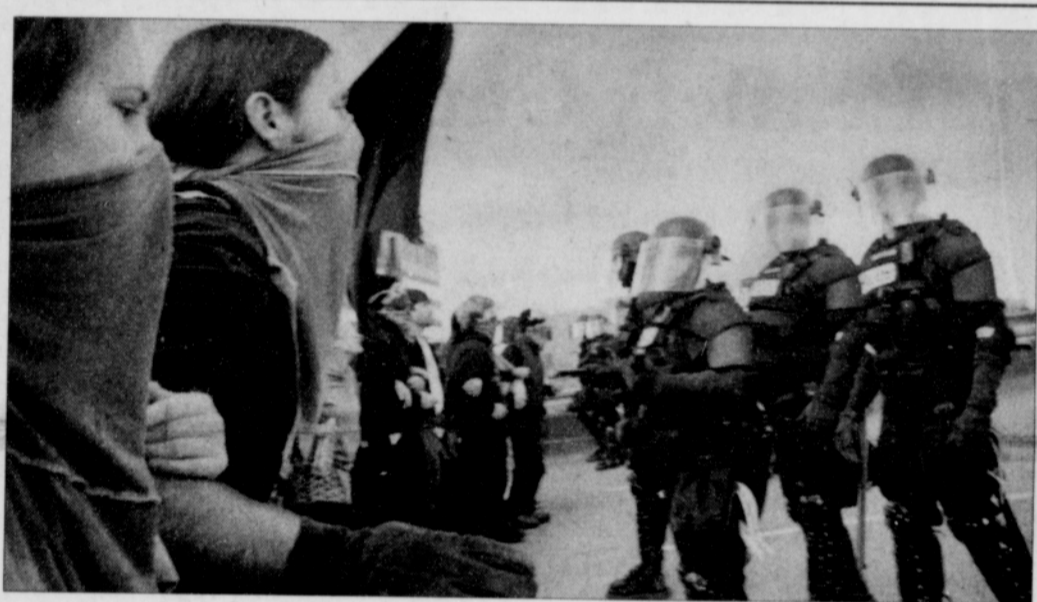
Arab League Secretary-General Amr Moussa scrapped plans for a last-minute peacemaking trip to Iraq. And the U.N. peacekeepers boarded a plane out of Iraq, their mission at an end.

For his part, the Iraqi leader appeared on television wearing a military uniform for the first time since the Persian Gulf War in 1991.

Iraq's al-Shabab television, owned by one of Saddam's sons, said the decision to defy Bush's ultimatum was made in a leadership meeting chaired by the Iraqi leader.

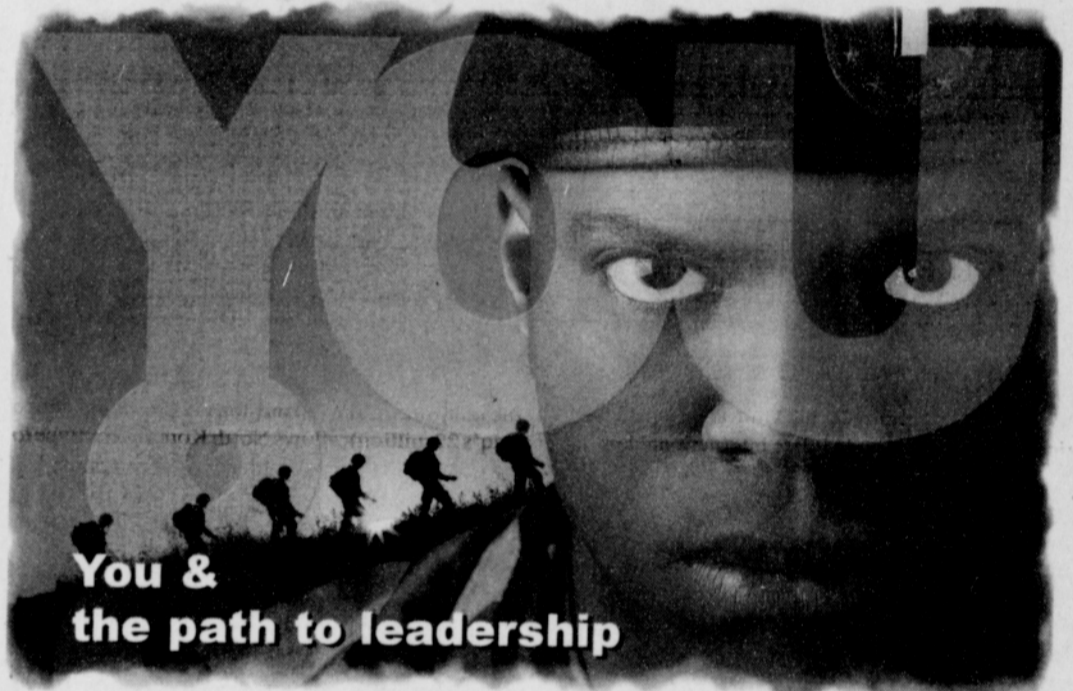
"The pathetic Bush was hoping ... to achieve his evil targets without a fight," it said. "...The march of struggle will continue against the American, English and Zionist aggressors."

In his speech the day before, Bush had demanded that Saddam and his two sons leave Iraq within 48 hours or face invasion. "The tyrant will soon be gone," the president said.



Confrontation on the Bridge

Portland Police officers in riot gear confront a group of anti-war activists who attempted to block the Morrison Bridge a few blocks away from Saturday's peace march in downtown Portland. One arrest was made. The sanctioned march and rally drew a crowd estimated between 20,000 and 45,000 people. At a similar protest in Eugene, several protesters were arrested for sitting down and locking arms in the middle of an intersection. PHOTO BY DAVID PLECHL/THE PORTLAND OBSERVER



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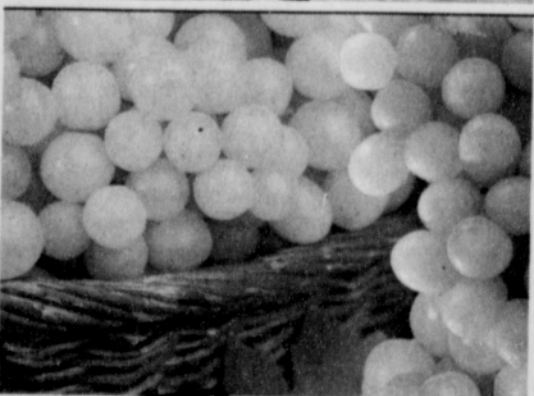
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