

German students against the Gulf War.

The following text was written by the students of *Frei Universitaet Berlin* and sent to all German student representative councils on Friday, January 25, 1991.

We, the students of the Federal Republic of Germany firmly condemn all military aggressions currently happening in the Gulf War. We demand that it be stopped immediately. In the age of chemical, biological and atomic weapons, state warfare can never be a means of conflict solving because it threatens the lives of thousands of civilians and soldiers, if not the survival of humankind as a whole.

In our country we specifically protest against the massive German involvement in the war: The German government wants to contribute billions of Marks to finance the war. This money will come from a massive increase of taxes and cuts in social welfare and other social services. On the other hand, German economic interests will profit largely from the war.

Most important, various German export industries, especially the chemical and the weapons industry have engaged in the deadly business of providing Iraq with a major part of its dangerous military

potential. To some extent these exports were illegal, but to a far greater extent they were conducted with the knowledge and the consent of the German government.

For these reasons, our protest activities over the last ten days have more and more focussed on these particular issues.

Because the U.S. mass media are not interested in reporting about the anti war movement in Europe

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or elsewhere, here is some news from Germany: The anti war movement in this country encompasses a wide range of people of all ages and a broad spectrum of societal groups. During the first days after the war started, hundreds of thousands of people took to the streets all over Germany. For example, in Berlin, on Thursday, January 16th, 1991, there was a rally of about 150,000 people ex-

pressing their opposition and outrage concerning the war.

Other forms of protest include school boycotts, short, symbolic union strikes, different actions directed against military bases, junctions, silent vigils in front of embassies and campaigns against the draft.

We wish to emphasize that we condemn all military actions directly related to the war at the Persian Gulf: Iraq's annexation of Kuwait and its missile attacks on Israel as well as the large scale bombings of Iraq and the Iraqi troops by the multinational forces under the leadership of the USA.

We also condemn the gross violations of every peoples' right to self-determination which have long been happening in the Near East. Here we refer specifically to Israel's occupation of Palestinian and Arab territories and the oppression and killings of the Kurdish people by Iraq and Turkey. All foreign troops must be withdrawn from all foreign countries in the Near East. We demand that an international peace conference with the specific task of developing a scheme for solving all the prob-

lems in this region is called into being immediately.

Like in the U.S., Saturday, January 26, 1991 was declared "National Day of Protest" in Germany and other European countries. You can be sure, while you people are marching in Washington, San

Francisco and in other places in the USA there are hundreds of thousands of anti war demonstrators in the streets of European cities joining the action against this atrocious war.

Let's keep the struggle alive and growing.

ATTENTION NEWS STAFF

There will be a News staff meeting on Tuesday, February 5 at 7:00 p.m. in the Brunswickan Office. All staffers or anyone interested in writing for the News section are urged to attend.

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