



Cho Yong-soo/Reuters

International workers from 16 countries join South Korean unionists against the WTO. Seoul, South Korea

## Global Day of Action November 9th 2001

**WTO Retreats to the Desert, Doha, Qatar.  
Decentralized actions against the  
Ministerial meeting:**

Armed with anthrax antidote and gas masks, delegates

flock to the WTO's Fourth Ministerial in Doha, Qatar, a desert dictatorship where all protest is banned. Meanwhile, across the Persian Gulf, US cluster bombs fall on Afghanistan during the first stage of the 'war on terror'. The summit nearly collapses again, but heavy pressure by the US and EU on poor countries force into place a new round of trade liberalization. "We are made to feel that we are holding up the

rescue of the global economy if we don't agree to a new trade round here," says the Jamaican delegate. Weeks before, US Trade Representative Robert Zoellick warned the developing world that no serious opposition to the American trade agenda would be tolerated. "Our new coalition [against terrorism] depends on economic growth," he said. He ends the summit saying, "Today the members of the World



Guarding the delegates at the WTO conference centre. Doha, Qatar

Trade Organization have sent a powerful signal... we have removed the stain of Seattle."

A decentralized global day of action is called by Peoples' Global Action under the slogan, "They can run, but they can't hide: we are everywhere."

Numerous NGOs and labour unions also call for actions. An unprecedented number of events take place, many of them linking war and neoliberalism. At least 71

countries participate – from the Congo to Cameroon, Burkina Faso to Bosnia-Herzegovina, Sweden to South Africa, Mauritius to Mongolia, Taiwan to Tunisia, Bulgaria to Bangladesh.

In Thailand alone, 100 cities take action against the WTO. In one village, protesters express outrage about US patents on indigenous jasmine rice by cursing the summit with the traditional ritual burning of chili and

salt to bring bad luck. In Geneva, Switzerland, (home of WTO headquarters) 10,000 people march and plaster huge hand-made posters over the façades of banks and corporate headquarters. "Governments have taken refuge in Doha because they are afraid of the people who elected them," says Swiss peasant leader Fernand Cuhe.

Italian Prime Minister and media tycoon Silvio



Kamal Kishore/Reuters

**Huge crowds take to the streets rejecting the WTO. New Delhi, India**

Berlusconi, declares a 'USA Day' and buses thousands of people into Rome in an attempt to outdo the protests. Despite blanket media coverage by his own TV stations, only 30,000 turn up, while 150,000 march under the slogan, "No to this military, social, and economic war", and actions take place in 100 other cities across Italy. Meanwhile, in Washington DC, a 70 foot tall dragon spews smoke at the offices of US

trade representatives. Public institutions are given mock privatization ceremonies in Barcelona, Spain, as WTO 'delegates' jump out of a special show bus which tours the city with its sound system blasting anti-WTO messages, ending up in a large street party. At the same time, thousands from the National Alliance of Peoples' Movements, a grassroots coalition of farmers and other

groups, force their way into grain warehouses across India to distribute the surplus grain to the poor, and 500,000 take to the streets of Delhi. The (self-described) first ever antiglobalization gathering in the Middle East takes place in Beirut, with hundreds of activists from across the region attending and planning future actions, while 500 workers and students rally in Iran, and a ferry is



Protesters head towards the US embassy. Manila, Philippines

occupied in Copenhagen by activists demanding that the Danish government provide transport to Qatar for WTO protesters. In Aotearoa/New Zealand, the hometown of WTO Director-General Michael Moore, several hundred people go on a “tour of capitalist greed”; Niketown, Starbucks, several banks, and a telecom office are visited. Despite heavy snow in Slovenia, 2,000 people have a street party in

downtown Ljubljana, while a caravan of 400 workers and the unemployed crosses Turkey. In Seoul, South Korea, 20,000 workers march and two days later 10,000 rice farmers armed with bamboo sticks clash with police. “[The WTO] is trying to kill us,” says the farmers’ spokesperson Lee Ho-joong. “We don’t have any more ground to lose.”