

November 29, 1990

Letters to the Editor
Los Angeles Times
Times Mirror Square
Los Angeles, CA 90053

This letter was NOT printed

Dear Editor,

George Black's column affirms what we in the peace and justice community have said for years--that Washington's sins against the Third World are at least the equal of those attributed to the Soviet Union. ("The Cold War's Devils Were on Both Sides," Op-ed, November 29). Indeed, we may have committed the greater evil, because, as Black suggests, the genocidal campaigns against third world peoples who tried to break out of their poverty by the only way open to them--armed revolution--were probably unnecessary in the face of honest acceptance of their aspirations.

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The mainstream press, including the Times, bears a major responsibility for Washington's devastating success in preventing positive change in the Third World. I have for years tried to persuade your foreign desk to report more on the Third World than was acceptable to the White House (particularly on Angola, El Salvador, and Nicaragua). I was met with jaded defensiveness, arrogance, and more than one attempt to con me. In fact, the paper that is "there for us every day" has done only the absolute minimum in informing its readers of the horror their tax money pays for in the Third World.

Consequently, in frustration and no little sympathy for those reporters who must chafe under the unspoken restrictions they face in reporting contrary to Washington's agenda, I have finally decided to cancel my subscription to the Times. This, of course, is my last letter.

Bill Becker