

# IMF Protesters in DC...

*Photo essay by Matt Robinson*

On the weekend of April 14-16, 2000, a massive protest took place in the nation's capital. The streets of Washington D.C. were inundated by tens of thousands of activists, demonstrators, union members, independent media people, anarchists, and general malcontents, who had gathered to protest -- and if possible shut down -- the annual meeting of the International Monetary Fund and the World Bank. Voicing their opposition to IMF/WB policies that exacerbate poverty and erode democracy throughout the world, but especially in the global South, the protesters took to the streets.

Over the course of the weekend, people participated in conferences and forums exploring issues of poverty, development, and globalization, and examined the World Bank/IMF role in the destruction of environmental, social, and labor standards worldwide. Demonstrators took part in marches and rallies protesting the Prison Industrial Complex, the U.S./NATO devastation of Yugoslavia, the use of sweatshop labor by multinational corporations, and Mexican repression of



*Above: Green Party Presidential Candidate Ralph Nader addresses the International Forum on Globalization on April 14. Above right: The weather was beautiful for the A16 march to the Ellipse. Brightly painted puppets led the way. Below right: Graffiti marks the sentiment of radical activists. Rain dampened the spontaneous, unpermitted marchers on April 17, below left, but the police were few, motorists friendly, and thousands of non-violent protesters briefly had the run of the city streets.*



## ...Met With Stiff Resistance

indigenous rights in Chiapas.

During the massive, non-violent protests against the International Monetary Fund and the World Bank, demonstrators and innocent bystanders alike were treated to force and intimidation by D.C. Police and U.S. Marshalls. Despite anti-democratic tactics, mass arrests, and extra-legal harassment of organizers, protesters, and supporters, the demonstrations were a great success.

For several days the World Bank and the IMF were put squarely in the public spotlight, and delegates to the IMF/WB meetings -- the focus of the demonstrations -- were forced to discuss issues of global poverty and inequality. The meetings were not shut down, as organizers had hoped, but for three days many thousands of people from across the country and around the world joined together to make their voices heard.



*Clockwise, far left: Officer outside World Bank Headquarters watches his back. Independent media shut out of press conference at Convergence Center raid. Phalanx of motorcycle officers at WB building. National Guard troops called out on A16. Outside courthouse, supporters of the incarcerated await news of those inside.*