

the ACTivist

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ACT for Disarmament Coalition
February-March 1987

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We Have a Dream

By Lesley Williams
Martin Luther King Jr., born January 15, 1929, was an eloquent advocate of achieving civil rights through non-violent means. He gained world-wide recognition as a leader of Black Americans in their struggle against discrimination and race prejudice.

In terms of the magnitude and extent of the wrongs to be corrected, the number of individuals affected, the courage of its participants, and the steps taken by governments to grant Blacks the rights to which they were entitled, the civil rights movement has been the most important social upheaval in the U.S. during the past two decades.

It would be fatal for the nation to overlook the urgency of the moment and to understand the determination of the Negro.

Though the ill-treatment

of Blacks has gone on for many years, it was not until after World War II that America disturbed by Hitler's racist ideology, began to view the Blacks' claim to what was due to them under the constitution as morally justified. Furthermore, great numbers of Blacks were migrating to urban centres. The increased Black population in Northern U.S. cities gave Black America political power with which both major parties had to contend. These developments continued to be the most significant elements in the civil rights movement. When Southern racists reacted by silencing the voice of Blacks with physical violence and illegal official action, the conscience of America was aroused.

However, the leaders of the movement decided that the shortest route to lasting liberty and equality would be



through tactics completely directed by Blacks and not by sympathetic white liberals. To dramatize the protest of Black Americans, and to present to President Kennedy and Congress a series of demands, a march on Washington was organized. Government officials, aware that a demonstration of this type could provoke a major riot,

sought to organize it so thoroughly that it would be harmless. The choice of Dr. King as keynote speaker ensured that the tone of the rally would be one of nonviolence. The Men in High Places did not anticipate the power of non-violence.

Standing in front of the Lincoln Memorial on August 28, 1963, Dr. King amplified

already-held views and moved his audience along uncritically. Many left the rally realizing that the existence of racial bigotry is an unending slur on the values of their society. Any society which permits people to suffer continuous injustice is a society towards which one should feel repugnance.

So we have come today to dramatize an appalling condition.

Today, in 1987, Canadians have good reason for similar feelings of repugnance with respect to Canada's role in the arms race. Canada has been involved in cruise missile testing since 1983. Many Canadians are unaware that the umbrella weapons testing agreement signed by our government allows for the testing of other, more sophisticated weapons. Should Canadian travellers visit Nanose Bay, B.C., they will find themselves lodging in the company of cruise missiles and other weapons. Many Canadian high school students are educated by government-funded films on the subject of ecology. It is natural for them to feel slightly perplexed upon learning the ecology of our North is being devastated by bombing runs over Labrador.

Continued on page 11

Fifth Annual Spring Protest

Saturday April 25, 12 noon
at Toronto City Hall

The themes are "End weapons testing from Nanose Bay to Goose Bay", "No tritium exports or transport", and "Remember Chernobyl, stop Darlington".

From coast to coast Canada is increasingly a test ground for weapons of mass destruction. Sea launched cruise missiles (SLCMs) are tested on our west coast near Nanose Bay, the air launched cruise (ALCM) is being tested each winter over Alberta, biological and chemical weapons research goes on in Saskatchewan, and on the east coast nuclear-capable NATO warplanes fly from Goose Bay at very low altitudes over native lands to practice for "Deep Strike".

Ontario Hydro is aiming to increase Canada's involvement in the arms race by exporting tritium to the USA where it will be used for hydrogen bombs. It is less than one year since the Chernobyl nuclear reactor disaster, yet Ontario's Peterson government continues to break its election promise and to disregard the wishes of most Ontarians, by pressing ahead with another nuclear power station, Darlington.

Toronto's march is in solidarity with anti-militarism protests happening the same day in Washington D. C. and San Francisco. These will focus on US policy towards Central America and South Africa. In addition, Sunday April 26 is Chernobyl Day and for it there is an international anti-nuclear protest shaping up.

Now More Than Ever: Protest Cruise Testing!

By Bruce Allen

This winter the U.S. Air Force will begin another round of cruise missile tests in Canada. In response, the ACT For Disarmament Coalition is once again networking with other disarmament organizations to stage as wide a series of protests as possible.

No issue in Canadian history has provoked larger, more sustained popular protests than cruise testing. Beginning with the massive protests in late 1982 and throughout 1983 this issue revived the Canadian peace movement in much the same way as Euromissile deployment ignited the peace movement in Europe.

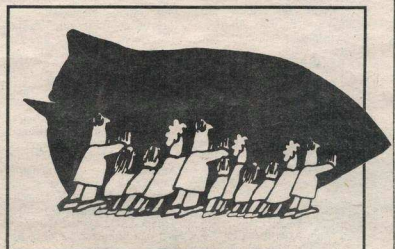
However, once the actual tests began cruise testing was increasingly treated as a dying issue. The mass media

encouraged this trend. But this view ignored the greater significance of cruise testing as a focal point for opposing Canada's deepening involvement in the arms race.

Key aspects of this phenomenon include the following. Canada is now destined to become directly

involved in SDI in a major way through the North American Aerospace Defense Agreement (NORAD). Already a minor linkage has been established insofar as cruise tests are now tracked with the Teal Ruby satellite; a

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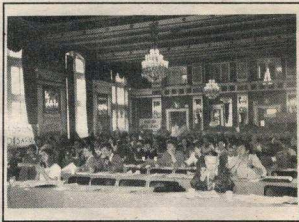


Editorial: Winnipeg and Beyond

From its inception the Canadian Peace Alliance has been the product of compromise. Now, in the wake of its second convention this past autumn in Winnipeg the process of constructing a widely diverse organization on the basis of one compromise after another has led to a deadlock.

This was most apparent concerning the contentious issue of the organizational structure of the CPA. At Winnipeg this question dominated the first half of the convention's proceedings. It led to a situation where the Alliance's very existence hung in the balance, once again demonstrating the very tenuous fragile nature of this organization. As the political struggle came to a head on Saturday Nov. 1 the atmosphere in the ballroom of the Fort Garry Hotel was both electric and tense. Everyone present could appreciate the potential consequences of the confrontation over this question.

Principally, two tendencies within the CPA were, and still are, at loggerheads. One, which includes ACT For Disarmament, seeks to retain the CPA's character as a network. It is also characterized by a generally non-aligned critique of the arms race and a desire for a broad perspective which incorporates peace-related issues such as nuclear power, superpower intervention in the Third World and a focus on the relationship of patriarchy to militarism. The other tendency wants to centralize the structure of the CPA to make it a hierarchical body which initiates and co-ordinates campaigns on behalf of all member groups of the Alliance. Its adherents, for the most part, align themselves with the disarmament policies of the East bloc and favour a narrow issue focus directed mainly at weapons systems. It shuns attention to issues which imply the need for a radical critique of the arms race critical of both military blocs.



Neither tendency fully prevailed as yet another compromise was reached retaining the definition of the CPA as a network but also altering the wording and leaving much ambiguity. Without question, this seemingly endless process of compromise will not be able to continue. If it were to it would inevitably result in the CPA's demise. One tendency in the ongoing debate over this pivotal question is going to prevail and this is likely to happen a year from now at the next convention.

The outcome will determine much more than simply the structure of the CPA. It will also determine the Alliance's political content and direction. Critically, it is certain to determine whether the CPA continues on its present, implicitly aligned political course by which discussion of issues which imply the necessity for protest and resistance against the militarism of both

blocks is taboo. Furthermore, and even though the CPA is not representative of the entire Canadian peace movement, our entire movement will be profoundly affected by what happens.

Specifically, should we find ourselves saddled with a centralized, tactically conservative and essentially pro-Soviet organization inflicting Canada-wide campaigns and acting as if it is the embodiment of Canadian peace politics. Our movement would be smothered under the weight of a bureaucratic, institutionalized edifice. Gone would be the days of mass popular protest. Gone would be the spirit of resistance. Gone for a long time will be the prospects for the Canadian peace movement evolving into a dynamic, visionary social force empowered by a desire to realize a world without militarism and the threat of nuclear war.

We in ACT For Disarmament are committed to avoiding such a fate and as such are determined to organize both inside and outside the CPA to realize a non-aligned, grass-roots and de-centralized movement of protest and resistance against the arms race in all its aspects and Canada's deepening involvement in it. That is why we are networking within the CPA with activists who share a similar vision of the peace movement. That is why we are networking nationally with groups inside and outside the CPA to protest against further cruise testing and low-level flight testing by the NATO powers over Innu land in Labrador. And that is why we hope to see a series of major protests this April demanding an end to Canadian involvement in the arms race.

ACT For Disarmament is continuing to grow as a regional coalition and in terms of our political perspective. Our links with other non-aligned peace groups in Canada and internationally multiplied in 1986. All of this is certain to continue throughout 1987. Now in our fifth year as a coalition we are very confident about our future as an organization and as an important voice in the Canadian and international peace movements. We invite all persons and organizations who can find common ground with us to make contact and to work with us to realize our shared dreams and mutual goals. Canada Out of the Arms Race! For a World Without Militarism!



Fallout Shelter gets big Yahoo from fan

ACT for Disarmament,

ACT's regular Friday night coffeehouse is an event which deserves more support. I had the good fortune to attend a performance of Pam 'Afua' Cooper, a local Toronto dub poet, accompanied by members of percussion unit Gayap Rhythm Drummers on Friday, September 23. It was a memorable performance.

'Afua' and the Rhythm Drummers have not played together for very long (in addition, they had to fill in for one member who couldn't perform that night), so there were some rough edges. But this was more than made up for by the dynamism of the presentation. Pam seemed a little unsure of herself, but she definitely has a forceful presence and talent, and the political commentary/music pieces she and the band attempted were a promising form of agitprop.

These tunes ranged from a lament for Jamaica's vanished Carib Indians to a critique of Columbus' 'discovery' of America. Particularly impressive was the fine drumming, led by Rico, well-respected local activist from Trinidad, and a guest set by X, a conga drummer friend of the band.

The music had an intensely spiritual quality, demanding of its listeners that they feel their bodies and get out of their heads (where so many of us live) and inhabit the here and now. Dancing by local artist Audrey Rose was also an unexpected treat which complemented Afua's dignified and expressive stylized movements.

This performance broke down the barrier between artist and audience and forced us to make ourselves a part of it. It was an example of 'planetary' culture—of people conscious of their roots, and yet linked together by bonds of international oppression and striving for liberation. There are very few places in Toronto where one can go to hear one's 'own' performers in a relaxed and convivial atmosphere and support the growth of a cultural movement to complement our activism. If ACT keeps up the calibre of the artists profiled in the Fallout Shelter, together with Native Expression night every Wednesday, there is every expectation that the coffeehouse (located at 456 Spadina, second floor, just down from the El Mocambo) will flourish and become a welcome addition to Toronto's cultural scene.

Don Alexander

Fallout over name

Dear Fallout Shelter, I hear you changing your image, so to speak, by opening up your space as a rent-out performance and other artistic/meeting space. Wonderful.

May I make a suggestion? Change your name. I personally feel

Shelter" to be a wry, negative jab at the nuclear situation. I certainly understand the bitterness. And I feel it gives our alternative future a 'bad name'... bleek sardonic note.

Please hear this as coming from a friend.

Blessings,
Taylor Green

Russian Gold

Act For Disarmament,

Please find enclosed a blank donation slip that we are sending to you. It stands for:

1) The blankness of your "global non-aligned movement for peace & disarmament" statement, do you really think that Moscow will do this or even pull out of areas around the world that they are occupying (Eastern Europe, Afghanistan), helping out (Africa, Central America). "WAKE UP PEOPLE, THE RED BEAR IS GROWING AND NEEDS MORE LAND"

2) Why do you need donations — reports show that the KGB (Moscow) through companies and small groups are giving disarmament groups the cash they need to weaken the WEST.

Signed
PAAD
(People Against Act for Disarmament)

Subscribe Now!

For almost three years now *The ACTivist* has published articles on disarmament issues concerning the Canadian peace movement as well as a review of the activities of the ACT For Disarmament Coalition, now active in several cities across Canada.

The ACTivist has a circulation extending across Canada and beyond. This imposes a considerable financial burden on our coalition and requires us to make the newspaper's circulation increasingly subscription-based. Toward this end we are asking our readers to purchase a \$5.00 annual subscription. If you cannot afford the \$5.00 but wish to continue to receive *The ACTivist* please write and tell us how we will keep you on our mailing list.

The prospects for the future of *The ACTivist* and the ACT For Disarmament Coalition are very encouraging. With your support of *The ACTivist* they will be even better. Don't miss out on a single issue!

The ACTivist
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On Thursday December 4, 1986, distinguished biologist and broadcaster Dr. David Suzuki gave a well attended lecture for ACT Toronto at Bloor St. United Church. The following are some selected quotes.

"We live in a strange world of contradictions. We have instant pictures, live from round the world; we have more exchange and understanding of other cultures than ever before in human history yet the entire planet is held hostage by two immense superpowers raging at each other. It's no longer enough in the insanity of today's war equations to speak of destroying one's enemy once, we now weigh our superiority in terms of the number of times we can kill our enemy again and again."

"By 1990, one species of plant and animal life will be going extinct every hour... in 30 years there will be no wilderness areas left on the entire planet... in 150 years, 50% of all the plants and animals will be extinct and in 200 years, 80%."

"Over one half of all scientists around the world now carry out work that is paid for directly by the military. The vast majority of the remainder



SUZUKI

By Tim Piper

For the last 5 years the Northern Lights have been the most important defense on earth against the most advanced satellite system in the world: NAVSTAR. This American system is the biggest hi-tech development in the nuclear arms race and in military strategy and has gone largely unnoticed by major peace groups in Canada. Yet the northern lights screw up NAVSTAR. But NAVSTAR developers have struck back at the lights in what can be called an unbelievably outrageous move — more this later.

What is NAVSTAR? It is made up of 27 satellites that will circle the earth (18 will be in constant use) strictly for military purposes and will be up in total by 1987.

NAVSTAR is the most accurate satellite system in the world and it enables Navstar receivers to track anything on Earth to within 10 meters. No matter where you are on Earth you will be within range of 4 NAVSTAR receivers. Altitude, latitude and longitude can be assessed and as an added feature velocity can be detected to within 10 meters per second.

NAVSTAR has three purposes:

- 1) Nuclear attack
- 2) Intervention strategy
- 3) Civilian surveillance

Nuclear attack:

The U.S. has the best first-strike capability in the world. However, protest from the peace movement has given the first-strike weapons program bad publicity. To get around this, the U.S. has developed NAVSTAR which enables it to put satellite receivers on old weapons which makes them much more accurate than before. Thus the U.S. doesn't need to develop new first-strike weapons.

of the scientific community are not working in hospitals and on problems of poverty and disease in the Third World, or cancer in developed countries. The majority work for private industry. What this says then is that the primary determining factors in the application of science are destructive power and profit."

"The reason that we are not in control of our technology is that history informs us that any new technology has long term costs that simply cannot be anticipated. The benefits are usually immediate and obvious, that's why we like technology and we go for it over and over again. But history shows us that its true costs cannot be assessed until much later."

"You can be absolutely sure... if nuclear war ever happens, the technology will not perform as expected."

"The most reliable and dependable source of accidents and breakdowns today are human beings... Human beings are the major defect in the whole system."

"... we have to develop a new consciousness... that puts

science in its place... that comprehends the limits of science, the history of science, the social context with which science is carried out and applied because an understanding of that contextual aspect of science will give us some hope of putting it or keeping it in its place."

"We need to see most clearly our place in nature. Human beings are not technological beings above all else. We are animals. We are dependent on an intact ecosystem for our well being. I believe we have to develop a spiritual sense of the importance of the environment and our place within it."

"... when children understand the complexity and the beauty of nature then when they see giant trees being cut down... they will feel physical pain, they will say that hurts me because that's me — since I'm part of that system... when they see factories spewing poisons into the air and water, they'll feel physically ill and say how dare we do that... and when they contemplate nuclear weapons they will feel outrage and shame. I hope it will truly be the children who will lead us into the future."

attended by police chiefs, security people (spies) and prison officials who were brought together to discuss NAVSTAR and its benefits for them.

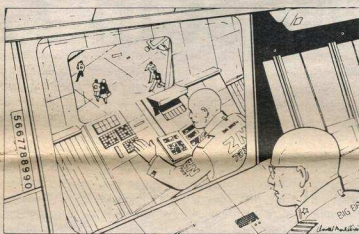
Canada's Role

Canada is deeply involved in NAVSTAR's development. NAVSTAR receivers are built in two places — in Texas and in Kanata, Ontario (a suburb of Ottawa) by Canadian Marconi. Research is being paid for by the Canadian government's sinking in \$50 million of taxpayer's money. As well, Canadian universities such as the University of New Brunswick are involved in research for NAVSTAR.

A little hope in this bleak scene lies in the northern lights. When you see the northern lights display you are seeing electromagnetic radiation — a result of solar particles interacting with the atmosphere giving a beautiful display. However, the northern lights serve a function within the nuclear arms race. The lights deny us the satellite system. NAVSTAR doesn't work when the northern lights are going.

Not to be outdone by nature, the U.S. military has been funding Canadian research efforts in Northern Manitoba for the last four years to shut down the northern lights. In 1983 Canadian scientists managed to shut down 40% of the lights by firing water bombs from makeshift rockets.

So when the U.S. wants to use NAVSTAR it will ask Canada to shut down the lights with water bombs. Next time you see the northern lights you had better thank your lucky stars. By the looks of it, they are our best chance at stopping the biggest potential abuser of human rights and nature: NAVSTAR.



NAVSTAR

The first-strike capability of NAVSTAR was disclosed recently in Congressional testimony where it was said that 17,000 NAVSTAR receivers have been bought to equip nuclear weapons making them accurate enough to knock out Soviet missiles with a direct hit (within 10 meters).

The high-profile Cruise missile, for which Litton Canada was making the guidance system, has the same accuracy but extensive peace activism has given it a bad name. So now we have a sophisticated satellite system that no one is paying attention to although it is more dangerous than any single easy-to-spot weapon.

Intervention Strategy

To add to the woes of the Central American Solidarity activist, NAVSTAR is very strategic for placing intervention capabilities anywhere the U.S. wants to put them. How? Well, instead of Reagan sending in battalions of troops to direct strikes at targets say, in Central America,

he can send 'advisors' to plant receivers in strategic spots. He can only send a maximum of 100-150 'advisors' but if you are giving them NAVSTAR receivers the U.S. military can set up shop and be prepared for a strike.

Civilian Surveillance

Perhaps the most incredible affront to human rights ever designed, NAVSTAR's civilian surveillance capabilities can follow any vehicle to within 10 metres anywhere in the world. All that is needed is a little antenna (that can fit into the palm of your hand), put it in a car, boat or plane and its every move is known by the U.S. Government. The U.S. military is now looking at adapting the system for people.

Local Peterborough researcher Derek Rasmussen found out about this ability of NAVSTAR by accidentally coming across some papers in the Ottawa Public Library that discussed the proceedings of the Kamohani Conference in Kentucky. The conference was

The ACTivist

Second class Mail Registration # 6769

The ACTivist is the newspaper of the ACT For Disarmament Coalition. It's purpose is three-fold:

- 1) to present the views of ACT
- 2) to provide a forum for debate within the peace movement and
- 3) to act as a source of information on events and campaigns which are of importance to the peace movement.

- Signed articles do not necessarily reflect the viewpoint of the ACT Coalition or the ACTivist Collective.
- Contributions of articles and photos are always welcome. Articles should be typed and double-spaced.
- All articles may be re-printed without permission as long as the source is cited.
- Subscriptions are offered to the ACTivist in yearly installments. We welcome subscriptions for one or two years. A regular subscription is only \$5.00 per installment. The rate for institutions and funded agencies are \$25.00 per year. Supporting subscriptions for individuals are \$25.00 per year. Larger donations are greatly appreciated. For foreign subscriptions please add the cost of postage.

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For the first time in North America, a peace conference was held with the goal of uniting peace and social justice activists in the Eastern and Western blocs. This has been a feature of the European peace movement throughout the 1980's, where the conventions of the European Nuclear Disarmament (END) network have provided a forum for peace, ecological and social activists to meet for common goals cutting across both the blocs and the barrier of concentrating on different single issues. The ACT East/West peace festival, held in and near Toronto, October 14-19, and involving approximately 300 participants in a variety of seminars and cultural events, was an important step in bridging these gaps in our continent.

The festival began on Oct. 14 with an address at Toronto City Halls Council Chambers by Jan Kavan, a voice for the Czechoslovakian human rights organization, Charter 77. Kavan's speaking in Toronto sparked a debate in the Canadian Czech community which went to the heart of what the festival sought to accomplish.

Certain elements of the Czech community threatened to disrupt or boycott Kavan's talk on the grounds that he supports the peace movement. These people dismiss non-alignment in the peace movement as a "tactical move" designed to build popular support for the peace movement without changing its pro-Moscow aims. Other Czech groups see working with the peace movement as a dangerous move that would turn the American government against organizations concerned with human rights in Eastern Europe. Kavan indicated that such concerns among the Czech exile community in Britain had hindered the peace movement five years ago, but has since been overcome.

Kavan's talk centred on the crucial role played by Charter 77, since 1981, in the East/West dialogue between human rights groups in the East and Western peace movement. Charter 77 was uniquely qualified to play this role, for it defines its interest in peace as emerging out of its comprehensive definition of human rights. Kavan frankly described some of the difficulties Charter 77 has encountered.

The Charter's statements on peace have generated the most controversy and the least public support in Czechoslovakia. The constant propaganda of the state, including television displays of Western peace demonstrators as supporters of the Soviet and Czech governments, has caused the word peace to become "drained of all content" in Czechoslovakia. Likewise the propagandistic use of the term "human rights" by Western governments, has caused similar hostility to these of this term by many peace activists from the West.



East meets West in T.O.

Kavan outlined how Charter 77 has bridged this gap between persons from the two blocs concerned with human survival by developing a concept of a "democratic peace." This would be neither the "peace of the concentration camp" desired by the Warsaw Pact militarists nor the "human rights in a nuclear winter" that would emerge from the scenarios of their NATO equivalents. The proposals for a democratic peace are outlined in a recently released document, "Giving New Life to the Helsinki Accords," produced out of co-operation between Charter 77 and the European Network for East-West dialogue, formed after the 1984 Perugia END convention. Such a democratic peace based on civil liberties and social justice," would be "wholeheartedly supported and defended by all European citizens. Among the documents proposals are "the liquidation of all foreign military bases and facilities" and "the dissolution of NATO and the Warsaw Pact" and all other "bilateral and multilateral military treaties."

Concerns about a disruption were relieved when a Czech exile warmly began his remarks after Kavan's talk by saying "We welcome you to Toronto." Kavan's audience of approximately 50 people included many people of Eastern European background who were unlikely to have previously attended a peace meeting. Rather than being disruptive as feared, the questions addressed to Kavan reflected many of the basic concerns of the festival.

Kavan outlined Charter 77's concern for the

environment. He described how it printed a previously top secret report written by the Czechoslovakian Academy of Sciences, which details the extent of environmental destruction in the nation. Among its findings were that acid rain was causing widespread forest destruction. He described the fate of one Czech scientist who has been imprisoned, despite international protests, for describing the extent of the loss of environmental quality in a private letter.

Questions also led Kavan to report on the persecution of the Jazz Section of the Czechoslovakian Musicians Union and growth of peace activism in the country. A peace demonstration was held last year in Prague to commemorate the death of John Lennon. A memorial to his death in the city has become a shrine to young peace activists and has been destroyed by police on five occasions.

On the 15th and 16th of October the festival continued with a successful fund raising concert and film night. Conference discussions resumed on Friday, October 17th with seminars on "Youth and Peace" and "The New International Peace Movement." Bruce Allen of Act Niagara spoke on the significant role that END played in stimulating the East/West dialogue. Hanns Sinns addressed the importance to the peace movement of a German peace treaty and the removal of foreign troops from Europe.

Jean François Beaudet, of the Quebec Union des Pacifistes, outlined the evolution of the growth of a

non-aligned perspective in the Quebec peace movement. He explained how peace activists were able to successfully challenge the Canadian Communist Party-dominated Quebec Peace Council, which maintains that any discussion of either freedom for peace activists in Eastern Europe or the connection between nuclear weapons and nuclear power is "divisive" and would threaten the "unity" of the peace movement.

Beaudet was the key speaker in the ecology workshop the following day. He focussed on the development of an ecological consciousness in the Third World. Whereas as little as five years ago, ecology had been dismissed as a concern of the rich West, it has subsequently become the focus of national liberation struggles. He outlined how ecological activists played a crucial role in the recent overthrow of the Marcos and Duvalier dictatorships in the Philippines and Haiti. Ecology activists are also a growing political force in India, where they have grown up from the Gandhian non-violent tradition.

Ecological concerns were also prominent in the Saturday discussions involving exiled members of the Moscow Trust Group. The panel was chaired by Dr. Frank Sommers, a founding member of the Canadian Physicians for Social Responsibility. He provided the information on how to minimize radiation hazards that was distributed in Moscow on August 3 by members of the Moscow Trust Group and U.S. anti-nuclear activists from Brooklyn, New

York. The conference heard a report on that action from participant Ann-Marie Hendrickson.

During the Saturday evening plenary discussion, exiled Moscow Trust Group member Olga Lusnikova pointed out how important such solidarity actions are. She indicated that members of the Trust Group could not have dreamt of so important an action when it was originally founded four years ago.

Also on Saturday night, the Ontario Federation of Labour's endorsement of the festival was given by its representative Louis Lenkinski. He spoke of his organization's opposition to the CIA-established Agency for International Labour Development; both to its manipulation of the trade unions in Latin America and its supposed "support" for the Polish Solidarity union. Polish Solidarity representative in Canada, Wojciech Gilewski, outlined the positions of the Polish independent peace group, Freedom and Peace.

Tom Harrison of the U.S.-based Campaign for Peace and Democracy East/West, outlined the basis for a "democratic" approach to American foreign policy that would concern itself with human rights in both blocs. Peace activists who fail to criticize actions of both blocs, he pointed out, are actually giving credibility to their militaristic opponents who charge they are agents of a foreign power. In contrast, he pointed to the Ellsberg Appeal, in which peace activists living in both blocs denounced both the U.S. intervention against Nicaragua and the USSR's invasion of Afghanistan.

Long-time Canadian peace activist and publisher Dimitrios Roussopoulos, argued that the unexpected strength of the million strong 1982 New York City peace protest was a result of the fusing of the new concerns of ecology and feminism with the concerns of the peace movement, a fusion that had developed after the ferment of the 1960's. Sister Leyla Rafael describe quite movingly the heroic, but largely unknown, efforts of women to achieve peace in Lebanon. This involved such brave symbolic actions as giving out flowers at roadblocks established in imitation of those of Beirut's para-military units.

On Sunday, October 19, the Peace Festival ended with a commemoration of prisoners of peace East and West. This event involved 60 persons in a simple and moving ceremony at Toronto's Peace Garden. Persons spoke on behalf of peace activists imprisoned in the United States, Turkey, the USSR and Hungary, and placed a memorial flower in the Peace Garden. This gesture of solidarity with imprisoned peace activists in the two blocs was a fine end to a historic conference.

Trust Group Update

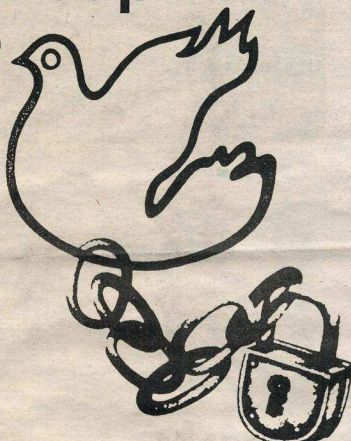
By Bob McGlynn

Although repression has continued unabated against the independent peace and anti-nuclear Moscow Trust Group it continues to thrive. This is the case despite recent expulsions of leading Trust Group activists whose apartments were used as organizing centres.

The latest repressions include: The September 27th incarceration of Nina Kovalenko in a Moscow mental hospital until her release in December and subsequent exile to the U.S. Nina previously made world news in August when she was briefly detained by the KGB after accompanying Western anti-nuclear activists who handed out leaflets on radiation hazards.

On November 26th Sergei Svetushkin was arrested on charges of "parasitism". This law has frequently been used against critics who often have trouble finding employment due to their views. Sergei faces a possible two years imprisonment.

On November 26th as well, Anatoly Cherkasov, an associate of the Trust Group from the city of Kuybyshev, was arrested in Moscow's subway. Anatoly carried a statement signed by four persons from Kuybyshev encouraging Reagan and Gorbachev to agree to a proposal that the USSR stop jamming



Western broadcasts in return for increased Soviet broadcasting to the U.S. He has been interned in a Moscow mental hospital.

Also of note is Alexander Chukayeva. He is serving a long prison sentence for involvement in an unauthorized socialist group. In addition, Viktor Smirnov is a counter-culture activist involved with the Trust Group who remains incarcerated in a psychiatric facility in Belye Stol'y.

It is not a waste of time to protest to the Kremlin about these cases. Over and over when Western disarmament activists have exerted concerted pressure on the Soviets they have released individuals or yielded concessions. Make your

voice heard. Write:

Mikhail Gorbachev
The Kremlin
Moscow
USSR
Committee of the
USSR
285 Charlotte St.
Ottawa, Ontario
K1N 8L5

For further information contact the Trust Group Centre Abroad through Sergei Batovnin, P.O. Box 1073, New York, N.Y. 10040, Tel. (718) 4997720 or The East European Working Committee, c/o ACT, 456 Spadina Ave., Toronto, Ontario, M5T 2G8.

Cruisewatching In Britain

Cruisewatch is a network of people from all walks of life, including Campaign for Nuclear Disarmament (CND) members, Greenham Women and other peace campaigners from across the South, Southwest and Midlands of England. It is part of the international campaign against Cruise missile deployments.

By monitoring the Cruise convoy dispersal exercises Cruisewatch has shown that the United States Air Force (USAF) cannot achieve its declared objective of the Cruise 'melting into the countryside'. Simply by witnessing and frustrating the convoy's movements, the Cruisewatch has made this plan impossible. This has increased public awareness about the dangerous situation which these preparations for nuclear war represent.

Cruisewatch started from a handful of people who would not accept the Cruise even after its arrival. Like the protests at Greenham Common Women's Peace Camp, Cruisewatch's actions will not stop until the Cruise is sent back. Every exercise so far has been tracked, with protests at each disposal site. Simple, effective, non-violent methods are the key to all forms of protest used. The following quotes, courtesy of Mel Goertz, capture the spirit and the type of experiences characteristic of the participants in Cruisewatch.

Sept. 19, 1986

"It's Cruise Alert again. It came out of Greenham the

19th, just after midnight, [and] went to Salisbury Plain. This time it was a double convoy — 8 launchers and 4 nuclear control vehicles. It's not long since the last one went back into the base, less than a fort-night ago."

"The Sept. 4th convoy — it was literally plastered with paint — stopped 4 times on route back to base... paint on wind screens... they had to smash them to see."

"Last night it came through Hunderford — over a narrow bridge. People were coming to their windows and shouting support to the protesters! A man was there from the radio recording it."

"Three people were arrested last night. People were also arrested when the support convoys came out earlier in the day. Ian Lee was put straight in prison till morning."

"Martin Butcher was very roughly treated by the police. We did our singing: 'We are the witnesses of your violence.' We sang very quietly in front of the van — very effective."

Wyn, my son, had his camera smashed by a policeman who tore it out of his hands. About 50 pounds damage. We have to go to the police station today to file a complaint."

Later: "Eleven women got into the area on the Plain of Salisbury where the convoy was hidden. Someone with them had a video camera and filmed them interrupting plans for nuclear war. They were shown on T.V."

Let the People Know!

Cruise testing

Continued from page one

through the North American Aerospace Defense Agreement (NORAD). Already a minor linkage has been established insofar as cruise tests are now tracked with the Teal Ruby satellite, a component of Star Wars technology. Furthermore, the agreement which allowed the U.S. to test the cruise in Canada also provides for future testing of smart bombs, cluster bombs, the stealth cruise missile and other weapons.

Other types of military tests are also underway showing how this country is becoming a testing ground for nuclear war preparations. Specifically, Nanoose Bay off of British Columbia's coast now serves as an undersea testing range used by U.S. submarines armed with Tomahawk sea-launched cruise missiles. At the other end of the country, Goose Bay in Labrador is becoming a sight for low-level flight testing designed to develop NATO's "Deep Strike" war fighting strategy.

Set in this context alone the need for continued protests against cruise testing is clear. However, the upcoming tests will take on even more significance. This is because the Reagan Administration is breaking the limits of the SALT II Treaty by modifying U.S. B-52 bombers to allow them to carry cruise missiles in excess of what the agreement allows.

Continued cruise missile testing must therefore be seen as more than an essentially Canadian issue. It is instead an issue which merits international attention and international protests directed against the Canadian government for allowing the tests to continue even as it pathetically claims to support SALT II. This is precisely why the ACT coalition is networking protest actions which will extend across Canada and beyond into the U.S. and Europe. This is why ACT is appealing to concerned people everywhere to demand that the Canadian government immediately stop cruise missile testing!

Communist Party slags-off ACT/working class

By Dr. John Bacher

Based solely upon a brief account of one session of the ACT East/West Peace Festival which appeared in the *Toronto Globe & Mail*, the Communist Party of Canada's newspaper (the *Canadian Tribune*) wrote a critique claiming that ACT got "what it paid for" in "anti-Sovietism." Ignoring the *Globe's* account of the remarks of long-time Trust Group member Olga Lushnikova, the article focused its fire on Mikhail Ostrovsky. Ostrovsky was exiled from the USSR one month after the Trust Group's founding in June 1982.

The Tribune combined very crude anti-working class and anti-American polemics against Ostrovsky, who after his exile, has only been able to obtain work as a taxi driver in New York City.

The Tribune ridiculed the notion that a simple cab driver would know the size of the independent peace movement in the USSR, its views and the extent of its influence on Soviet policy.

The Tribune also called Bob McGlynn, an American peace activist with the Brooklyn Anti-Nuclear Group, a "U.S. spokesman," who spent his time "Soviet bashing." The paper also disputed the value of his actions in distributing information on how Soviet citizens can take steps to protect themselves against nuclear radiation, since Moscow media "was full of the accident." One wonders if these media accounts contained descriptions of western food boycotts of the agricultural produce of the USSR because of radioactive contamination.

The Tribune's account of the East/West Peace Festival

is just one more example of the Canadian Communist Party's inability to say anything critical of the USSR, unless such criticism is sanctioned by the current leadership of the Communist Party of the Soviet Union.

East/West Peace

Festival Endorsers:

- City of Toronto with unanimous support
- Canadian Labour Congress
- Ontario Federation of Labour
- All Ontario Green Party
- United Church of Canada
- Anglican Diocese of Toronto
- Metro Toronto Labour Council
- Alliance for Non-Violent Action
- North York for Peace
- Laurentian Students Union
- Free University
- Pax Christi
- Intercommunity Centre for Peace and Justice (NY)
- Petry Kelly (West German Greens)
- Dr. Lynn Jones (END)
- Mient Jan Faber (Dutch IKV)
- Nuclear Awareness Project
- Campaign for Peace and Democracy East and West
- British Section of END

ACT Niagara

Linking nuclear bombs to nuclear power

By Lesly Williams

Having decided to take a shot at producing and distributing *The ACTivist*, ACT Niagara has come to realize that embarking on a venture of this far-reaching importance is serious concern. Along the way we have run into some snags and have yet to become completely comfortable with the procedures involved. But on the shiny side of the coin it's been great to see ACT members who have lost touch with our chapter turn up again at general meetings with their ideas and contributions. In this regard, a toast to Bruce Allen for his unflinching financial commitment to the project is definitely in order. At our upcoming "NOLITE TE BASTARDES CARBONDRUM" fundraising party.

We haven't been this motivated since August 9, when ACT Niagara joined area musicians in commemorating and accentuating the horrifying reality of nuclear warfare at a free outdoor concert. We were surprised by the turnout — people from as far away as Buffalo were stretched out on blankets enjoying the music and sunshine.

A short time later, in early September, ACT Niagara sponsored a public showing of the documentary "The Final Chapter". The film was followed by a lengthy discussion led by Graeme McQueen of Action Against Militarism in Hamilton.

October found us participating in the East-West Peace Festival by hosting some highly respected voices within the non-aligned peace movement. In particular, Jan Kavan, a founding member of Charter 77 — the independent Czechoslovak civil rights organization — spoke at Brock University on the topic of independent peace movements in Eastern Europe and the East-West Dialogue. Later on, a talk on Women and Religion in the USSR was given by exiled Soviet feminist and peace activist Tatiana Mamonova.

At the end of the month of October a large group of interested people welcomed three representatives of Northern Scandinavia's Samiid people to a meeting sponsored by ACT Niagara, Brock OPIRG and the Preservation of Agricultural Lands Society. The Samiid's way of life has been radically altered by the effects of the Chernobyl nuclear disaster — fallout has caused their food sources and reindeer herds to become contaminated for

consumption. Afterwards, the Samiid and ACT members escaped to a local pub where we put politics in our back pockets and talked about the differences in our cultures.

ACT Niagara had another successful meeting on November 16. Federal NDP external Affairs critic Pauline Jewett spoke to a full room at the YMCA. She stressed the need for the peace movement to show opposition to Canadian membership in NATO and participation in NORAD. Her views were very well received and an excellent discussion followed the presentation.

We also took an active part in two conferences over the late summer and autumn. One was the Ontario Peace Conference in Sundridge and the other was the conference of Southern Ontario non-aligned peace activists in Kitchener. In addition, two of our members were present at the CPA convention in Winnipeg.

Although we are by no means looking forward to seeing war machines graze over the heads of our fellow Canadians, we anxiously await the opportunity to communicate with those less well informed about the arms race which each new cruise test provides. On the day of the first cruise test speakers sympathetic to the peace movement, an ACT Niagara spokesperson together with a group of friends from the Theatre Arts programme at Brock University will join us in yet another effort to create awareness in a city where striving toward Peace is not something true to today but "something they did in the 60's".

Next on the agenda for ACT Niagara is a fund-raising concert in Grimsby. This happening will take place on March 27, the grim anniversary of the Three Mile Island near meltdown. By commemorating the accident we will be conveying our desire for an end to disasters of this type. The line-up for the event includes Kitten With a Whip and Problem Child; two area bands with positive political views and a full following in Grimsby. This concert will give us another opportunity to bring the message of Peace to free-thinking youth and add momentum to the build-up to the April 25 demonstration in Toronto. We are confident that the "ROCK AGAINST REACTORS" concert will help get us rolling toward nuclear-free Ontario.



ACT Niagara's outdoor concert

Kitchener-Waterloo

Using protest theatre

By Chris Reid

The phenomenal growth of ACT Kitchener-Waterloo continues. The shadows painted for Hiroshima Day'86 are still visible, despite City Hall's best efforts to remove them, and our virtually constant demonstrations seem to attract new members to every general meeting.

In October we hosted the conference which saw the founding of the Non-aligned Network for Peace, bringing together peace activists from a wide variety of groups from across Ontario. ACT K-W also took an active part in the Nuclear Weapons Free Ontario Campaign which culminated in the November 13th vote of the Provincial Legislature declaring Ontario a Nuclear weapons Free Zone. Besides leafletting and lobbying we staged a play inside Kitchener Liberal MPP David Cooke's office the Provincial Legislature declaring Ontario a Nuclear weapons Free Zone. Besides leafletting and lobbying we staged a play inside Kitchener Liberal MPP David Cooke's office in which a very evil "Ronald Reagan" purchased tritium from a very sleazy "Ontario Hydro" official.

The skit dramatized our demand that Ontario should not only be "declared" Nuclear Weapons Free, but should actually prohibit the development or testing of nuclear weapons or their components

and the export of reactors and any nuclear weapons ingredients such as tritium. All three Kitchener-Waterloo MPP's voted in favour of the Nuclear Weapons Free Zone motion and, John Sweeney, gave us written assurance that no tritium will be exported unless the Peterson government is guaranteed that none of it will be used in nuclear bombs or "free-up" existing U.S. supplies for use in bombs. Since tritium production figures are classified military information in the U.S., we intend to strenuously argue that no such guarantee is possible and therefore absolutely no tritium should be exported.



Good-bye Bert!

On August 6th, in Toronto, Bert Keser spoke at his last ACT demonstration. Recent reports indicate he and his companion Kathleen Solose are in retreat somewhere in the

Black Forest near Feiberg, West Germany where Bert has been recovering from the effects of an excess of ACT speakouts.

On November 26th, Kitchener-Waterloo went BOOM! as we joined peace and native rights groups across the country in protesting the use of Innu territory in Labrador and Northern Quebec for Deep Strike training and other military exercises. Our custom sound truck put out over 100 decibels as we recreated the sonic booms heard by the Innu as NATO jets fly over their homes and hunting grounds. Community response was extremely favourable. Over thirty people turned out in cold pouring rain to take part in the protest, including Kitchener Alderperson Will Ferguson who delivered a scathing attack on NATO's policies and Canada's role in the arms race.

High school peace activism has recently mushroomed in Kitchener-Waterloo, with peace groups forming in several schools.

A "Festival For Non-alignment and people's detente" were strengthened by Jan Kavan's talk at the University of Waterloo campus. Kavan is a founding member of Charter 77, the independent Czechoslovak human rights organization. Speaking of the University of Waterloo, students there are now forming an ACT U of W to promote grassroots peace activism and non-alignment on campus.

On the day of 1987's first cruise test we will occupy Tory MP Walter McLean's office and demand that Mulrooney answer the questions asked of him during ACT Toronto's January 1986 occupation of P.C. Party Headquarters (See *The ACTivist*, March-April, 1986, p. 4). Preparations are also well underway for the 1987 Mother's Day March which will demand an end to all Canadian participation in the arms race.

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Action!

ACT Hamilton takes off

ACT For Disarmament-Hamilton was founded at a meeting at MacMaster University on Sunday December 14, 1986. Several projects were immediately undertaken by our new chapter.

An anti-cruise missile campaign was launched. To start with there will be a protest on the day of the first cruise test at 4 pm at Tory MP Peter Peterson's office, 225 Main St. West at Queen. Note that cruise test times are kept secret until 48 hours before the test occurs. So keep your ears open for the announcement and please call the number below to find out what we are doing for the later cruise tests.

HyperACTIVE as usual

Toronto's new Spadina offices are a bustling centre for protests, speakers, singers, poetry and films

Members of Act for Disarmament Coalition in Toronto (all volunteers) initiated and participated in many political and cultural events in 1986.

Throughout the year, ACT Toronto's Fallout Shelter Peace Café has hosted a diverse lineup of poets, dramatists, and musicians. There have been film nights, book launchings, and meetings of other groups. There were also a number of educational forums on topics such as NATO & NORAD, chemical and biological warfare, independent peace activists in the East bloc, East Timor, etc.

ACT members participated in the municipal International Year of Peace Committee, the Ontario Peace Convention, the national Canadian Peace Alliance, and the international European Nuclear Disarmament convention, and the North

Atlantic Network conference. Our public outreach is typified by the one-to-one contact of the "speak-outs" held at major street corners.

The following is a partial list of ACT Toronto's activities in 1986:

Jan. 21 • picket at David Crombie's office to protest the winter's cruise test

Feb. 25 • demonstration starting at PC Party HQ. Four ACT members are arrested and charged with trespassing while waiting for an answer to questions asked of PCs.

March 15 • human chain linking PC Party HQ with U.S. Consulate to protest renewal of NORAD agreement

April 26 • 4th annual spring protest
May 29-31 • ACT annual conference involving chapters from across Ontario

March. Please call the number below for the exact date.

As well as individuals, participants in ACT Hamilton have so far included members of the following groups: ACT For Disarmament in Ancaster, the Barton Secondary School Disarmament Movement, Action Against Militarism, World Affairs Concerning Cathedral Organization (WACCO) of Catholic young women and Cathedral high schools, Youth Against Apartheid, the United Nations Club of Aldershot High School, St. Mary's Youth For Peace and Physicians For Social Responsibility.

ACT Hamilton has lots of creativity and energy and the groups appear to be able to work well together.

Another positive development in Hamilton has been the formation of a chapter of Project Ploughshares.

ACT Hamilton meets on the first Sunday of each month at 1:00 pm in Weniworth House at MacMaster University. For more information concerning our activities please call 522-1936.

Peterborough: ACT chapter starts with protest at General Electric

By David Webster

ACT held its first action in Peterborough this past August, on the anniversary of the Hiroshima bombing, under the theme "No More Hiroshimas, No More Chernobyls, End the Nuclear Terror." Around 40 people turned out for the candlelight demonstration and the vigil at the Peterborough Cenotaph which followed.

The demonstration started across from the Canadian General Electric (CGE) plant, to protest CGE's role in the nuclear industry. Peterborough's own contribution to the arms race, (the plant makes over half of the nuclear fuel rods used in Ontario Hydro's Pickering and Bruce nuclear reactor complexes—see report on business elsewhere in this issue.)

In October ACT organized a series of events as part of the East-West Peace Festival, including a film night and workshops with Hans Sinn of the Social Defence Project and Dimitrios Roussopoulos of Black Rose Books, on the independent peace movements in Eastern Europe. The major

event of the week was a Saturday night forum on the Moscow Trust Group. Two members of the New York-based Trust Group Centre Abroad spoke on their experience demonstrating in Moscow together with a Trust Group member, and distributing information on health hazards from the Chernobyl disaster to Soviet citizens.

ACT's recent activities have included participation in the Boom Project, a protest against NATO's military racism in conducting low level flight testing over Innu lands in Labrador. Efforts are now under way to set up a city-wide peace network in the high schools.

Our next action will be a symbolic protest on the day of the first cruise test and a demonstration the following Saturday. The demonstration will start in the PVCS school parking lot and walk through downtown, ending at City Hall. Please get involved. Contact us at: ACT Peterborough 219 Hunter St. W., Peterborough, Ontario. Tel. (705) 745-4004.



After the march, the crowd gathered at the Peace Gardens in front of City Hall for music and speakers.



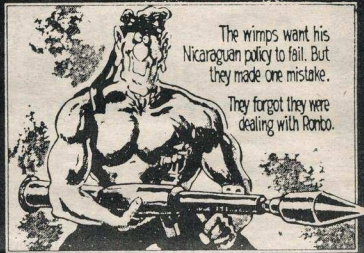
▲ Candle-lit march winds its way through Toronto's streets in memory of Hiroshima and the grim warning given by the Chernobyl disaster.

June 7 • ACT celebrates 4th anniversary of Moscow Group to Establish Trust, calling for release of imprisoned Soviet peace activists
Aug. 6-9 • Hiroshima Day candlelight march and rally at City Hall, followed by a vigil lasting until Nagasaki Day
September 3-5 • ACT

atends second annual Non-aligned Conference held in Kitchener-Waterloo.
Oct. 14-19 • East/West Peace Festival (see article this issue)
Nov. 11 • Remembrance Day Ceremony at the Cenotaph, Old City Hall
Nov. 25 • Exiled Soviet activist Tatyana Mamonova

speaking on the plight of women in the Soviet Union.
Nov. 26 • Boom Project, co-sponsored by the Toronto Disarmament Network, plays deafening roar of low-level fighter planes over native lands of Labrador's Innu
Dec. 4 • David Suzuki speaks at ACT benefit

REAGAN



The wimps want his Nicaraguan policy to fail. But they made one mistake.

They forgot they were dealing with Rombo.

ROMBO

MORE BLOOD PART II

No Congress, no law, no Sandinista can stop him.

Ameri-ka-ka

By Andrew Walick

In the cold despair of winter, a figure — face sunken from lack of food and sullen with resignation — sits at an empty window aimlessly watching an empty street. "Ten years," he thinks to himself, "...ten years." Seeking consolation for the last decade of his existence, he looks to the future but realizes that while not in a conventional prison, he has received a life sentence. For a brief moment the sunlight penetrates the ever-present clouds yet is unable to overcome the foreboding he feels in his heart. Hope seems an opiate which when embraced merely increases the height from which he must fall.

Depressed? Combine with that sentiment the fact that this type of pain is inflicted from without by an oppressor so merciless it would "nuke" a city it already occupied (scene 47); which stages military exercises near a town to intimidate the inhabitants into submission and during which innocent people are incidentally murdered (3:17-34:5); which portrays sexual masochism, megalomania and exploitation as normal female "qualities" and roles (16:2, 23:8, 74); in whose country the abuse of children is more routine (28:6); and which would destroy structures and artifacts a society considered sacrosanct (74:1, 74:6). Combine all that and you have a taste of ABC's feature mini-series "Amerika", broadcast this February.

In this retrospective film set in 1998, the Soviet Union has occupied the United States for 10 years. Tactically that was achieved under two conditions. By detonating a nuclear warhead at high altitude, the Soviets were able to disrupt civilian and military communications because of the electromagnetic pulse effect. Although the U.S. could still have responded militarily, including the use of nuclear weapons, it had become impotent from 20 years of criticism of its foreign policy.

"It was a strong man bending over backward, not to bump anyone, and ending up alone and easily knocked down. How could we not win?" (28:6)

What really frightens me about this film is not only the expected manipulation of old images of innate Soviet wickedness, but also the creation of new, more vivid ones and the deep extremist emotions they are designed to exact — the disgust, hatred, intense paranoia, fervent patriotism.

Here, the relation between the Soviet occupation troops and their cohorts, and American citizens is no less than that between Nazism and the Jews. On at least three occasions this is made evident including an explicit statement by the U.S. President:

"I remember my father talking about the Nazis. Most Jews tried to co-operate, tried to find levels of compromise — the common humanity. Well, they found it. The compromise was die now or later. We all sought to avoid the now — it is now later." (8:64)

Indeed, one of the Soviet strategies is "the final solution to the American problem." (19:0)

Yet, even more terrifying than these feelings are the conclusions which are to accompany them. Remember that the Soviets achieved the domination of the United States with a single warhead. There was no defence. Clearly what are being prescribed are anti-ballistic missile systems — STAR WARS — or more specifically boost-phase and mid-course interceptors the components of which would surely be space-based or in the case of the Braducsil, possibly deployed on Canadian soil. In either situation, the U.S. would have to violate the ABM Treaty (Article V, Section 1, Article IX, respectively) if only the intent sounding the deathknell for disarmament.

Yet another implication relates to the date of the

invasion. It just happens to be the same year as the Presidential elections suggesting that the film is attempting to set some sort of agenda for cultivating popular support for American armament policies past the Reagan Administration.

If this movie is effective as I greatly fear it may be, then it will be in part a function of a lack of appreciation of the suffering U.S. administrations have inflicted and of anti-intellectualism. The examples of American atrocities are legion. It was the Americans, after all, who trained and equipped Somoza's National Guard which (in September 1978) killed at least 5,000 people, left 10,000 missing, 15,000 injured and 25,000 homeless (according to the Red Cross).

And it remains the American government which continues to help Somocesta elements including former National Guardsmen among the FDN Contra group financially and tactically. The CIA provided them with the booklet Psychological Operations in Guerrilla warfare detailing the need to assassinate community leaders and Congress agreed to send \$70 million in military aid and \$30 million in humanitarian aid. Humanitarian aid for terrorists! Nevertheless, in direct contradiction to reality, "Amerika" asserts an intrinsic American moral superiority.

The intent and content of "Amerika" demand collective and individual responses. Try to obtain a copy of the script to read it for yourself. Further information is available from Propaganda Alert at (416) 534-5578 or Performing Artists for Nuclear Disarmament, 736 Bathurst St., Toronto, Ontario M5S 2L4.

Book Review

The Coming of World War Three

In *The Coming of World War Three*, Dimitri Roussooulos warns that "a thermo-nuclear war is not only possible but probable." With considerable care and command of factual detail, he outlines the framework of what the future of the human species will be. Only by "popular international social movements of unprecedented proportions, determination and effectiveness" does Roussooulos believe humanity can turn around the drift to nuclear war.

With the aid of appendices composed of newspaper accounts of western militarists and thundering banalities of Soviet bureaucrats, Roussooulos demonstrates the common interests and ideology of the militarists of the two competing blocs. While East German officials proclaim that "Peace Must Be Armed", to counter the critics of their independent peace movement, British Young Conservatives similarly proclaim peace through strength by distributing leaflets noting that "Hiroshima was a nuclear free zone."

Throughout *The Coming of World War Three*, Roussooulos notes that to be effective the peace movement must become a truly international challenge to the militarism of both blocs. He quotes E.P. Thompson's insightful observation that the "Cold War agencies of both sides are now anxious to power the Western peace movement" in the narrow position of serving "the interests of Soviet diplomacies and strategies." In the book's third section, Roussooulos outlines the growth of the independent peace movement in Eastern Europe.

Slandered as proponents of "hostile and slanderous fabrication about the foreign and home policies of their former motherland", by Yuri Zhukov, President of the Soviet Peace Committee, and largely ignored by the Western mass media, these groups have been sustained by the solidarity actions of the non-aligned Western peace movement. He also demonstrates the growing alliance between the underground Polish Solidarity Union and the non-aligned Western peace movement. As Solidarity spokesperson Jan Minkiewicz told the European Nuclear Disarmament Campaign's convention, it is being increasingly recognized that, "in our nuclear world, peace and justice are also inseparable in a very practical political way."

Roussooulos assembles convincing evidence that the current policies of the two superpowers encourage a drift to human destruction. Using such irreproachable sources as

the memoirs and recollections of Eisenhower, Haldeman, Nixon and Robert Kennedy, Roussooulos demonstrates how after the Nagasaki bombing to 1973, the United States threatened the first use of nuclear weapons on 15 occasions. One particularly absurd episode, in 1958, saw the United States threaten China with nuclear annihilation over a dispute involving the tiny island of Quemoy. Added to such dangers of nuclear war over the proverbial eggshell, Roussooulos adds the risks of accidental nuclear war demonstrated by the 31 known U.S. nuclear accidents prior to 1977. The most dangerous of these took place in Goldboro, North Carolina in 1961. Then an explosion 1,800 times more powerful than the Hiroshima blast, was averted by a single safety switch.

The core of *The Coming of World War Three*, consists of Roussooulos outlining how the peace movement has grown from being an expression of single issue protest to a movement of resistance to militarism. This has involved such inspiring examples as the 170 British municipal nuclear weapons free zones, the peace educational materials and funding for peace activism given by such councils, the efforts of the Greenham Common women to plant grain to feed Eirean famine victims on a cruise missile base, occupations of West German nuclear power plants by 30,000 persons and new innovative strategies for tax resistance and the publication of military secrets.

The book also has an impressive global tour of resistance actions that vary from the refusal of Spanish anti-nuclear power protesters to pay electricity bills, to the Japanese city of Kobe's decision to ban all vessels carrying nuclear weapons from its harbour, as well as New Zealand's more famous achievements in achieving nuclear free ports. In his upcoming second volume, Roussooulos plans to illustrate how such resistance is in turn evolving into social change, so vividly illustrated by the integration of ecological and pacifist visions in the green movements on both sides of the bloc system in Europe. It is a message that one hopes will be heeded by the Canadian peace movement, the only one which has a less developed international affairs policy than its leading social democratic party, the NDP.

The Coming of World War Three, by Dimitris Roussooulos. Published by Black Rose Books. Reviewed by Dr. John Bachar.

The ACTivist

REPORT ON BUSINESS



General Electric

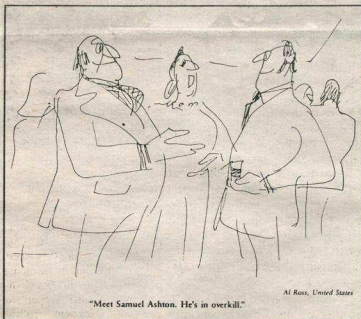
By David Webster

In the wake of Chernobyl, investors may be tempted to get out of the nuclear field. Be assured that such a move would prove to be a grave investment error.

Although many countries have cancelled nuclear power plants due to safety concerns (even those like the Philippines, which had already sunk \$2.1 billion into nuclear power generation), Ontario is protecting its investment on Darlington. Polls showing 40% of Canadians in favour of abandoning nuclear power and only 13% in favour of increased reliance on it are not a cause for worry. According

to Tom Campbell of Ontario Hydro, further nuclear power stations after Darlington have "not been ruled out."

All of this is good news for stock holders in Canadian General Electric. The fuel rods for the Pickering reactor near Toronto are supplied by CGE's nuclear fuel fabrication plant in Peterborough and a "ceramic factory" at Landsdowne and Dupont streets in Toronto where uranium dioxide is cast into pellets and shipped to the Peterborough plant. The occurrence of a leak of uranium dioxide which went undetected for 24 years is not considered hazardous to investors. CGE's profits should rise as Darlington



"Meet Samuel Ashton. He's in overkill."

At Ross, United States

comes on stream, increasing the demand for nuclear fuel.

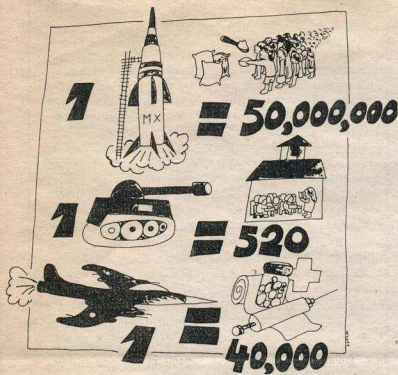
Recently, the Nuclear Products division in Peterborough registered seven separate patents for new discoveries in the nuclear field, causing its division manager to remark "Nuclear products

continues to be a hotbed of creativity proving that our programmes to maintain our number one position by continued change and improvement are working."

In the event of a downturn in the fortunes of the nuclear industry as would result from

another occurrence similar to Chernobyl, CGE has its military production fall back on. In 1984 CGE's aerospace sector doubled its business, thanks to frigate engine subcontracts from the Royal Canadian Navy, a CF-18 fighter programme and CGE's work on the Stinger missile. The frigate engine programme alone is valued at \$60 million to "the world leader in high-performance marine engine technology."

The financial stability of CGE is assured by its affiliation with transnational supercorporation General Electric, the third largest military contractor in the U.S. With Canada's nuclear and military programmes on the increase the prudent investor should consider increasing his/her holding in Canadian General Electric. However, being too close to your investment in Darlington is advised against.



It's Tax Resistance Time!

By Chris Reid

If you work for peace, why pay for war? This year, more Canadians than ever before will refuse to pay taxes to finance the military.

Tax resistance is the act of refusing to pay taxes for military related purposes. It is an international movement

which seeks to have governments establish a legal "peace tax fund" into which taxpayers may, as of right, pay that portion of their taxes which would otherwise be used to finance armed forces and weapons production. In Canada, tax resistance is organized by Conscience Canada Inc. and the Peace Tax

Fund Committee of Victoria, B.C. (see the address below). The participating taxpayer withholds that portion of his/her taxes taxes which would be used for military purposes (9% of the federal budget in 1986) and instead pays the amount withheld to the "Peace Tax Fund in Trust."

To participate: complete your Income Tax Form down to Balance Due (Line 465), then go back to Net Federal Tax Payable (Line 420) and calculate 9% of that amount. Write a cheque to the Peace Tax Fund in Trust, make a photocopy of the cheque and subtract the amount of the cheque (9% of Federal Tax Payable) from your "Balance Due" and write a cheque to the Receiver General for the result. Enclose a photocopy of the cheque to the Peace Tax Fund in Trust with your completed tax return, along with the cheque to the Receiver General Write a letter to the Minister, Revenue Canada (House of Commons, Ottawa, Ontario K1A 0A6) telling him what you have done to direct your taxes to peace rather than to war and why and request that the government establish an official peace tax fund. Finally, send the Peace Tax Fund in Trust cheque to Conscience Canada Inc. for

deposit in their trust account.

Here is a sample letter. Your letter will be much more effective if you do not copy this letter but express in personal terms your own reasons for wishing to direct your taxes to peace rather than war.

Minister, Revenue Canada
House of Commons
Ottawa, Ontario
K1A 0A6

Dear Mr. McKay:

I object, on conscientious grounds, to my taxes being spent for killing, training others to kill, preparations for war and for military related purposes in general. Since the Charter of Rights and freedoms Section 2(a) guarantees my "freedom of conscience and religion," I request that the government establish an official peace tax fund, to which the military related portion of my federal tax could be directed instead.

Until this is done, I have directed that portion of my federal tax to the Peace Tax In Trust Fund Account, maintained by Conscience Canada Inc., 505-620 View St., Victoria, B.C. V8W 1J6. When the government does establish an official peace tax fund, my peace taxes will be transferred to it, to be used for

the development of a more peaceful world.

Yours for Peace,
(your signature)

Copies of this letter should be sent with your Income Tax return to the Data Centre and to your member of Parliament.

After you file your return, along with your letter to the Minister and copy of a cheque to the Peace Tax Fund, you will receive an assessment. Most likely you will be told that "there is no provision in the Income Tax Act to allow you to direct your taxes to any program." Of course there isn't - it is such a provision that we're asking for. You can then write and telephone revenue Canada officials and/or file a Notice of Objection. The notice of Objection must be filed within 90 days from when Revenue Canada mailed the notice of assessment or reassessment. On the back of your assessment you will be told which form to use for your objection. Revenue Canada will confirm or vary its previous assessment (most likely confirm). You then have 90 days to launch an appeal. Where an assessment is under objection or appeal, the taxpayer (effective 1985) need not pay the amount in

Continued on page 11

The Right Honourable Brian Mulroney
P.C., M.P.
Prime Minister of Canada
Langevin Block
Ottawa, Ontario, K1A 0A2

Dear Prime Minister Mulroney,

Your government has a policy of encouraging visits to Esquimalt Harbour by vessels of the United States Navy. Many of these vessels almost certainly carry nuclear weapons. The Victoria area has also been regularly visited by nuclear-powered vessels of the United States Navy.

I am writing to you to propose a comprehensive public inquiry into the advisability of these visits and the potential risks to our residents and our community from them. The inquiry should also examine the question of whether, in permitting these visits, indeed welcoming them, the Canadian Government is giving support to the nuclear arms race, which itself poses the greatest threat to the security of people in this area and beyond.

You have been quoted as saying, "Canada is nuclear-free and that's the way it's going to be." It is a position which has widespread support, particularly here in Victoria.

Nonetheless, Secretary of State for External Affairs, Joe Clark, has conceded that there is a "long-standing arrangement... for submarines carrying nuclear weapons to visit ports, and these submarines are occasionally given the opportunity to dock at Canadian ports." I understand that the nuclear-capable and nuclear-powered United States Navy vessels visiting Esquimalt Harbour and using nearby Canadian waters do so under the terms of Canadian-American governmental agreements, the terms of which are not public. None of these arrangements has ever been put to the people who are potentially at risk. To the best of my knowledge, these arrangements have never been put to Parliament for approval nor have been subjected to any form of public inquiry.

As you may be aware the United States Navy has reported that it was involved in more than 600 nuclear weapons accidents from 1965 to 1985. No information was made available on whether any of these accidents occurred in Canadian ports. One of the most recent visits to Victoria was from the nuclear submarine U.S.S. Hawkbill which has a history of dangerous coolant leaks from its reactor. In one accident five workers were contaminated from radiation.

We are all aware of the disasters at Three-Mile Island in the United States and Chernobyl in the U.S.S.R. We all know the high level of legitimate public concern about the safety of land-based non-military nuclear reactors and the disposal of radioactive wastes. In Canada, land-based non-military nuclear reactors, all of which incidentally are in eastern Canada, are subject to strict regulation by the Atomic Energy Control Board. Why should it not be a minimum condition of entry into Canadian harbours that any nuclear-powered vessels be subject to AECB regulations and inspection. What is good for residents in eastern Canada living near nuclear reactors should surely be available for residents near ports visited by ship-based nuclear reactors and nuclear weapons.

There is available plausible public information that the risks of accident from nuclear weapons or nuclear-powered vessels are probably greater than the dangers from non-military nuclear reactors. The consequences of even low-level radiation leaks from these vessels would be disastrous to the health of this community and to its environment. More serious accidents are too terrible to be ignored. I am told that Admiral Hymon Rickover, the founder of the United States Navy nuclear propulsion program, prohibited nuclear submarines from visiting most foreign and United States ports. He is quoted as saying the Navy "must not move these ships around the way they were accustomed to move conventional ships... What if something happens and you irradiate a city and you are called upon to prove there really was a military necessity to go there? What are you going to say?"

Yet in recent years the number of visits of nuclear-powered vessels or vessels with a capacity to carry nuclear weapons has sharply increased. Last year, the first full year of your government's term in office, there were, apparently, at least 134 "ship-day" visits to Esquimalt Harbour of such vessels, up from 41 in 1984.

We are also concerned about the heightened risks of international terrorism. It is only a matter of time, the experts suggest, before terrorists hold cities at ransom by threatening to explode conventional devices on one of their nuclear capable vessels. If the vessels aren't here, the threat doesn't exist. Perhaps if there was some evident military purpose with the visits, the people here might have a different reaction. At this point no military purpose is apparent and certainly none has been advanced.

I should emphasize that the people of Victoria are not against military visits in themselves. We would welcome Navy visitors for years. The concern is with the nuclear reactors and the probability of nuclear weapons in our waters.

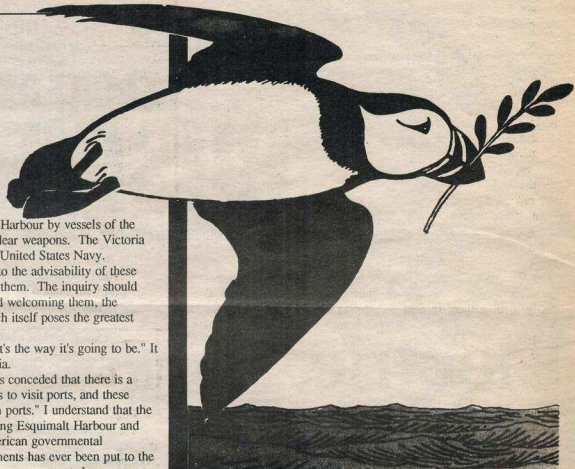
In all these circumstances, I am writing to propose the following:

1. That your government convene a formal public inquiry to review all aspects of the issue of visits to Canadian ports, including Esquimalt, nuclear-powered and nuclear weapons capable vessels.
2. In establishing the inquiry, I would ask that your government consult directly-affected provincial and municipal governments on the terms of reference and the personnel of the inquiry. Limited funds should be provided to public groups to prepare submissions.
3. Until the inquiry has reported, permission should be rescinded on all further visits into Canadian ports of nuclear-powered vessels or vessels capable of carrying nuclear weapons unless there is a declaration that no nuclear weapons are on board.
4. If you are unable to accept an interim ban on such vessels, I ask you to direct the Atomic Energy Control Board to regulate the nuclear facilities on these ships on the same basis as it regulates land-based nuclear facilities.

I look forward to your reply and to an early initiation of steps leading to the proposed inquiry.

Yours very truly,

Gretchin Brewin
Mayor, City of Victoria



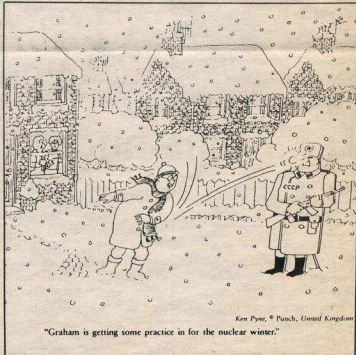
Report on East Timor

On October 27, ACT Toronto and the Centre for Non-Violence co-sponsored a talk on East Timor by Julia Marrigan co-ordinator of the Indonesia East Timor Programme (IETP). Since Indonesia's illegal invasion of the tiny former Portuguese colony on December 7, 1975, an estimated 250,000 people have died in the fighting between Indonesian troops and Timorese Fretilin guerrillas, a third of the country's population. Yet we hear almost nothing about this bloody war.

We hear even less about Canadian support for the invasion. Canada is one of the few countries in the

world which has refused to condemn Indonesia. This is probably because of our extensive business links. As the third largest western investor in Indonesia, our stake there exceeds even that of the U.S. Canadian support even extends to military sales to the Indonesian dictatorship.

IETP is a Church-funded organization working to oppose Canadian complicity in the slaughter and to support human rights in Indonesia, East Timor and West Papua New Guinea (another area where cultural genocide is being practiced). IETP can be contacted at: 615 Clinton St., Toronto, Ontario.



Ken Price, © Punch, United Kingdom
"Graham is getting some practice in for the nuclear winter."

M.L. King

Continued from page 1

on cold nights has ambitions that stretch beyond the perimeter of the province of Ontario. Tritium, a deadly by-product of Ontario Hydro's CANDU reactors, is for the U.S., a top weapons' priority. Our government, every day more eager to do business with the U.S., is building a \$100 million plant to extract tritium from heavy water-based nuclear reactors. Neither do many Canadians realize the Top Secret five year renewal of the Canada-U.S. NORAD agreement may one day directly involve them in Star Wars.

Movements for social change do not come about simply to give intelligent people a sense of purpose. We strive to prevent or correct these horrors which are before us and those we will be confronted with as more years go by.

On April 23, 1983, in Toronto, 25,000 men and women protested the imminent cruise testing agreement, prompting Pierre Trudeau to remark to Vice-President Bush that "we have a slight problem with this in Canada". This kind of condescension by Men in High Places causes some Canadians to look on us as people who are not to be taken seriously. Rather than become discouraged, we are moving forward as did Martin Luther King, a man who did not hate but knew he was hated; and who loved when he knew he was not loved.

We must forever conduct our struggle on the high plain of dignity and discipline.

Passive resistance attacks the sources of legislative power, provoking deeper social values. Movements are wide-spread and welcome participation by minorities. They involve structure — not hierarchies of specialists who follow selfish logic but rather broad alliances. Discipline is not maintained by fear but by common values and popular participation. "What touches all must be decided by all".

Non-violent resistance should not be looked upon as simply a conflict technique to be latched on to the general programs of groups working for social change. Its particular vision of a good society makes it an ideology in its own right.

Again and again we must rise to the majestic heights of meeting physical force with soul force.

Fussing and fighting will continue to grant the greedy some of their wishes, but the way in which struggle is conducted determines the nature of the society that emerges in the end. Again, in the words of Martin Luther King Jr.,

"The choice is no longer between violence and non-violence but between non-violence and non-existence."

Testing

Continued from page 1

satellite; a component of Star Wars technology. Furthermore, the agreement which allowed the U.S. to test the cruise in Canada also provides for future testing of smart bombs, cluster bombs, the stealth cruise missile and other weapons.

Other types of military tests are also underway showing how this country is becoming a testing ground for nuclear war preparations. Specifically, Nanosec bay off of British Columbia's coast now serves as an undersea testing range used by U.S. submarines armed with Tomahawk sea-launched cruise missiles. At the other end of the country, Goose Bay in Labrador is becoming a sight for low-level flight testing designed to develop NATO's "Deep Strike" war fighting strategy.

Set in this context alone the need for continued protests against cruise testing is clear. However, the upcoming tests will take on even more significance. This is because the Reagan Administration is breaking the limits of the SALT II Treaty by modifying U.S. B-52 bombers to allow them to carry cruise missiles in excess of what the agreement allows.

Continued cruise missile testing must therefore be seen as more than an essentially Canadian issue. It is instead an issue which merits international attention and international protests directed against the Canadian government for allowing the tests to continue even as it pathetically claims to support SALT II. This is precisely why the ACT coalition is networking protest actions which will extend across Canada and beyond into the U.S. and Europe. This is why ACT is appealing to concerned people everywhere to demand that the Canadian government immediately stop cruise missile testing!

ACT is branching out. If you would like more information about ACT activities in your area, or have articles or information to pass on to *The ACTivist* please write to:

ACT Ancaster
c/o Barry & Jackie Randall
475 Jerseyville Rd.
Ancaster, Ontario
L9J 3M7

ACT contact in Cornwall
Sean Clifton
1308 Princess St.
Cornwall, Ontario
K6J 1S5

ACT Branches

ACT Hamilton
c/o 125 Ward Ave.
Hamilton, Ontario
L8S 2G1

ACT Kitchener-Waterloo
Box 1490
Station C
Kitchener, Ontario
N2G 4P2

ACT Niagara
P.O. Box 284
Main Station
St. Catharines, Ontario
L2R 6T7

ACT Peterborough
c/o 219 Hunter St. W.
Peterborough, Ontario
K9H 1L1

ACT Toronto
456 Spadina Ave.
Toronto, Ontario
M5T 2G8

Langara Students Union
Peace & Disarmament Committee
100 W. 49th Ave.
Vancouver, B.C.
V5Y 2Z8

In our next issue...

Legal News

The ACTivist begins a new, regular feature column concerning legal developments critically important to all peace and social change activists. Know your rights!

Social Defense

Should the Canadian peace movement promote a policy of civilian (non-military) defense?

Czechoslovakia Today

Czech emigre and ACT (K-W) member Peter Cizek reports on his return visit to his homeland. Cizek brings a message of despair and a challenge to the Western peace movements from one of the most repressive states in Eastern Europe.

Tax Resistance

Continued from page 9

dispute. At this point you should seek the help of a lawyer, or you may skip the appeal process and simply continue writing to the Minister and others. The Notice of Objection may be done without a lawyer but you must base it on a Statement of Fact and Reasons. Write to ACT (K-W) or Conscience Canada to receive a draft statement you can use as your own.

What if your tax is deducted at source? 75% of Canadians have their tax deducted by their employers. While this makes tax resistance considerably more difficult, it is not impossible for you to participate in at least a limited way. Complete your tax return down to "Refund" or "Balance Due" then go back to "Net Federal

Tax Payable" (Line 420) and calculate 9% of that figure. Deduct 9% of Net Federal Tax Payable from your Balance Due for, if you are entitled to a refund, add it to the amount of Refund you have calculated. Insert the appropriate figure in the Balance Due or Refund box on your return and file the return along with a letter explaining why you have reduced your Net Federal Tax Payable figure by 9%. Your letter should explain that you object, on conscientious grounds to paying taxes for military purposes and that, until the government establishes an official peace tax fund, you wish to direct that military related portion of your federal taxes to Conscience Canada's Peace Tax Fund In Trust. Be sure to mention that Section (2) of the Charter of Rights and Freedoms guarantees your "freedom of conscience and religion".

When, as it inevitably will, your assessment comes back rejecting your claim for the return of the military related portion of your taxes, file a Notice of Objection. Follow the procedure set out above. If enough people appeal their assessments, tax courts could be seriously

logged up. A test case is currently before a B.C. tax court (Dr. Jerrylin Prior vs. M.N.R.) and regardless of who wins, will be appealed all the way to the Supreme Court of Canada. Be sure to ask in your appeal that no decision be made in your case until the Prior case is finally resolved.

So far about 25% of peace trusters have had the taxes they've diverted collected by Revenue Canada through garnishment or attachment of bank accounts. If this happens be sure to protest that right under the Charter of Rights and Freedoms to be free from "unreasonable search and seizure" has been violated.

There's another way to avoid paying military taxes: take advantage of every charitable donation, tax credit, and tax deferral (ie. RRSP's) available to avoid, if possible, paying any tax at all.

For more information write: Conscience Canada Inc. P.O. Box 601, Station E, Victoria, B.C. V8W 2P3

or

ACT For Disarmament (K-W)
P.O. Box 1490, Station C
Kitchener, Ontario
N2G 4P2

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Bloor Street Peacemakers

• discussion on Canada's northern frontier to prepare response to the Defence White Paper

Monday, March 16, 7:30pm
Bloor St. United Church,
300 Bloor St. West

— all welcome —

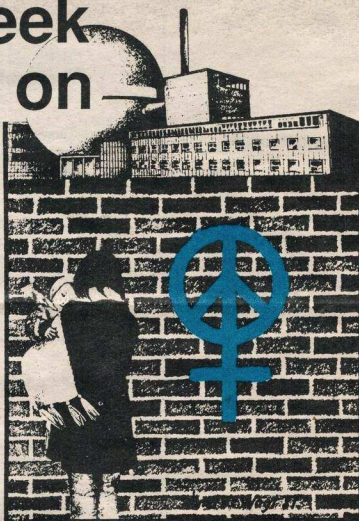
Ontarians Seek Referendum on Nuclear Production

By Dr. John Bacher

A new "Nuclear Free Ontario" campaign has been launched in response to violate its election promises and proceed with construction of the Darlington nuclear power generating station. The goal of the campaign (which is not the same as the Nuclear Weapon Free Zone campaign) is a referendum during the next provincial election to decide the future of the Ontario nuclear industry. The ballot would ask Ontario voters if they "favor the gradual and complete phase out of all nuclear fuel chain activities in Ontario by the year 2020, beginning with the cancellation and permanent shutdown of the Darlington

Nuclear Generating Station.

Such a phase out goes beyond the successful referenda in Austria, Norway, and Sweden, that prevented or phased out nuclear activities in their countries. The appeal for a referendum in Ontario, issued by peace and environmental groups, noted that the "extraordinary proposal for a direct democratic decision" was "justified by the extraordinary risks associated with nuclear power". It says that an accident at Pickering comparable to Chernobyl would cause "fatalities numbering in the thousands", disrupting "the entire fabric of life in Ontario." Should the province continue to expand nuclear power, it is predicted



that a "catastrophic accident" would be "only a matter of time."

The referendum campaign was launched with a tour of three Sammids, a people

whose way of life is being destroyed from the fallout from the Chernobyl disaster. The fallout of Cesium 137 contaminated these herders food sources by making their

reindeer unfit for human consumption. A five year ban on the slaughter of reindeer has been imposed. Mass graves are being dug for 40,000 reindeer that must be killed because they are so radioactive. Fish, berries, mushrooms are also contaminated.

The campaign will demonstrate the economic waste of nuclear power. The call for a referendum notes that hidden subsidies have allowed nuclear continue power in the province to continue to expand, while in the largely free market of the United States, no nuclear power plants have been commissioned since 1976. Darlington's \$11 billion price tag will cost \$3,500 to every household in the province.

In addition to its long term goal of phasing out the nuclear fuel cycle, including uranium mining and refining, the nuclear free Ontario campaign has a number of immediate demands. These include the halt to export of reactors and non-medical radioactive substances to nuclear weapons states and non-signatories of the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty, a ban on the export of tritium, and the shut down of the aging Nuclear Demonstration Project reactor at Rolphton.

What is ACT?

ACT For Disarmament is a non-aligned coalition of activist groups and individuals dedicated to mobilizing Canadians against their country's deepening involvement in the arms race. ACT began as the Against Cruise Testing Coalition and organized some of the largest demonstrations in Canada. It has since continued to focus on this issue as well as broadening out as Canada's involvement in U.S. military strategy becomes more inextricable.

But there is another side to the politics of ACT. As part of the international non-aligned peace movement, ACT is opposed to the militaristic policies of both superpowers and their military blocs. We believe that peace can only be achieved through the united efforts of people, East and West, working independently of their governments. ACT For Disarmament publicly supports the right of people to organize and work for peace, free from government interference, be it in East Germany, Czechoslovakia, the USSR or in repressive NATO countries such as Turkey.

In keeping with our belief that people can bring about change, ACT concentrates much of its energies on mobilizing people, both by building mass demonstrations and by networking on the local and the nation-wide level. ACT believes that sustained, highly public action is the strongest lever we have on government policy and that demonstrations are an effective way of expressing our view in a democratic society.

ACT strives to reach people in all walks of life. ACT is a coalition that includes networks of high school students and the Fallout Shelter Collective which has involved more than 100 performing artists. There are ACT chapters in several centres across Ontario and we anticipate having an active presence in other parts of Canada very soon.

History of Action

- 1983
- Feb. 12th — ACT networks demonstrations across Canada and mobilizes 4,000 Torontonians 45 hours after the umbrella weapons testing agreement is announced in parliament.
 - April 23rd — ACT organizes the historic anti-cruise march of 25,000 in Toronto and networks Canada's largest day of protest to date, about 125,000 Canadians in over twenty cities.
 - July 23rd — ACT co-ordinates a nationwide (and U.S.) reaction to the Cruise Testing Agreement and organizes a march of 6,000 up Yonge St. in Toronto.
 - Aug. 6th — Hiroshima Day commemoration and protest.
 - Oct. 22nd — ACT co-organizes a demonstration on the International Day of Protest which again brings out 25,000 Torontonians.
 - Dec. 3rd — ACT puts the Santa Claus parade back on Yonge St. with a 1,500 person Christmas March for Peace.
 - Dec. 16th — ACT initiates a small but significant Queen's Park protest as part of the successful international campaign to free independent Soviet peace activist Olga Medvedkova.
- 1984
- March 10th — Demonstration in response to the first cruise test is networked nationally. ACT had finally won the right to march up Yonge St. with a permit.
 - April 28th — ACT's second annual Spring Protest attracts over 10,000 participants in Toronto and is once again promoted across Canada by ACT.
 - August 6th — ACT's second downtown Hiroshima Day March of 10,000 is led by federal candidates who responded to ACT's challenge to demonstrate that they really are prepared to act for peace.
- 1985
- Jan. 15th — First cruise test: Press conference and nationally publicized symbolic action at Toronto's Peace Garden.
 - Jan. 19th — "Saturday after" march - over 500 brave the cold.
 - Feb. 19th — Second cruise test: nearly 200 people attend a weekday, noon-hour protest at which they present pictures of their children to PC Party headquarters resulting in international press coverage.
 - April 27th — Third Annual Protest for peace draws over 4,000.
 - Aug. 6th-9th — ACT's Hiroshima Day candlelight march draws 2,500 people and is followed by a three day vigil.
- 1986
- Jan. 25th — 200 people brave miserable weather to protest the first cruise test of 1986 at PC Party Headquarters, then march up Yonge St.
 - Jan. Feb. — ACT Niagara and ACT Kitchener-Waterloo hold protests against cruise tests in conjunction with ACT Toronto.
 - April 26th — 4,000 join ACT Toronto's 4th Annual Spring Protest for Peace. An unusually large number of participants were demonstrating for the first time.
 - May 11th — ACT K-W Mother's Day March attracts 300 people. This is the largest demonstration for peace ever held in Kitchener-Waterloo, showing the tremendous growth in the peace movement in K-W since ACT started there.
 - Aug. 6th-9th — ACT chapters in Toronto, Kitchener-Waterloo, Peterborough and Niagara hold actions on the anniversaries of the Hiroshima and Nagasaki bombings. These involve up to several hundred persons in each community.
 - Oct. 13th-19th — ACT organizes the historic East-West festival in Toronto and other locations in Ontario bringing together independent peace, ecology, labour and women's movement activists from both sides in the Cold War. Nearly 300 people take part.
 - Nov. 26th — ACT chapters in Toronto, Kitchener-Waterloo and Peterborough join the nationally networked BOOM! Project to support the Innu struggle against NATO's low-level flight testing in Labrador.
 - Dec. 4th — ACT Toronto holds a public meeting with Dr. David Suzuki. Nearly 450 attend.
- 1987
- April 25th - Fifth Annual Spring Protest for Peace to be held in Toronto.