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THE ACTIVIST

Newspaper of the ACT for Disarmament Coalition
Volume 2 Number 1

STAR WARS — Hollow Victory

by Doug Harrison

On September 7th, Prime Minister Brian Mulroney changed the pronunciation of the word "yes" to make it sound like "no", and most of the country, including parts of the peace movement, believed him. Just listen to what he actually said, and to the revelations that came forth in the House of Commons the next week - sheer hypocrisy at its finest.

No, Canada won't "officially" participate in Star Wars research, but the Canadian government believes in the concept of Star Wars, and supports U.S. research as prudent. The key word is "officially", and it opens the door to all sorts of interpretations.

Most Canadian defense research is done by universities and private corporations. Canada does not have a government-run defense research agency, as do most European nations. Therefore, "official" government participation, especially based on Mulroney's definition, could mean little more than what we have now actually been stuck with.

Canada has not said "No" to Star Wars. Universities and private industry will still get government grants to participate. Now, however, the overall project will never be debated in the House of Commons. Instead, Mulroney can easily approve and fund projects on a one-to-one basis, secretly, in cabinet meetings. The Canadian public will never know, and the information will be classified.

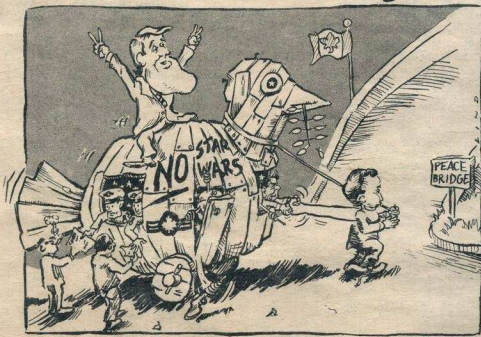
Perhaps the most flagrant example of the government's manipulation of the Star Wars issue is that of the National Research Council (NRC). The NRC is a government-funded body, and

yet it is not to be considered "official" and may therefore go ahead with Star Wars research. So the question becomes: when is a government body "official", and when is it not? Does Mr. Mulroney keep a copy of 1984 on his bedside table?

Unfortunately, a part of the peace movement itself has been swayed by the Star Wars double-talk, and a great victory has been declared by some. It was only too tempting to believe that petitions and postcard campaigns had determined the government's position on this issue, and that Mulroney has bowed to such pressure. The problem with this analysis is that it protects Mulroney from ever having to bow to real public pressure by making it all too easy for him to merely buy it off with empty and meaningless phrases.

Surely the peace movement must press for real victories, not hollow ones. It is our job to educate the public about government hypocrisy on the arms race, not to feed into the lies and half-truths ourselves.

Yes, we need a victory, but we need a real victory, for the sake of this planet. Let's not lend legitimacy to the pretenses of the Conservative government, and by doing so mislead the very public we are trying to educate.



It is not surprising that many of those who were so eager to claim an immediate victory on Star Wars were also just as impatient to leave behind the issue of cruise missile testing as a lost cause. The fact that there may be up to six cruise missile tests in Canada this winter is somehow, no longer worth worrying about to these people. Better to claim a hollow victory at whatever price

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Cruise Testing Continues ... But

No, the cruise missile has not gone away, it is still (horrors!) alive and well and will be tested in Canada (perhaps six times) this winter. Cruise missile testing is still Canada's most obvious contribution to the nuclear arms race and it is still imperative that the peace movement organize publicly to try to stop it, and to keep the issue in the public eye. ACT is planning a series of protests in response to cruise tests this winter to include symbolic actions, an M.P. pressure campaign and dem-

onstrations. As well, we are developing a high-profile educational campaign to raise public awareness prior to the time the tests actually take place. We cannot stop the arms race overnight but neither can we give up overnight - not when our very future is at stake. Let's get together and say NO to cruise testing again this winter. Join the ACT campaign to get the cruise missile out of Canada. No, the cruise missile has not gone away - but neither has the Canadian peace movement.

The Canadian Peace Movement

Building on Solid Ground

ON THE WEEKEND OF NOVEMBER 9th, A CONFERENCE WILL BE HELD IN TORONTO TO DISCUSS ISSUES AFFECTING THE CANADIAN PEACE MOVEMENT. MUCH DEBATE HAS ARISEN, CENTERING ON THE ORGANIZATION OF THE CONFERENCE AND ON THE ASSUMPTION THAT THE MAJORITY OF CANADIAN PEACE GROUPS AND ACTIVISTS SHARE THE ORGANIZERS' VIEWS ON HOW AN OFFICIAL "ALLIANCE" SHOULD BE STRUCTURED.

THE FOLLOWING EDITORIAL DESCRIBES ACT'S POSITION ON THE ISSUE, AND DETAILS SOME OF THE CAUSES OF THE DEBATE.

There is a great deal of discussion going on in many Canadian peace organizations over the possibility of forming a "national" structure for the peace movement. The following

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ACT Strategy '86

Act Strategy Conference:

The Act for Disarmament Coalition will be defining its strategy for another year at a conference to be held on Sunday, November 3rd, at the ACT headquarters, at 139 Robert Street.

The discussion and decisions will range from the overall political situation and priorities to the nitty gritty of specific actions and educational work, etc. A consistent campaign will be launched, which will interconnect the work of the ACT high school network, the ACT community college network, ACT U of T, the Ontario ACT chapters and ACT community groups.

Preliminary discussion has already taken place at an all day strategy meeting held in September. Consensus was reached on the continuing importance of the cruise testing issue and the necessity of focusing on the Canadian government, while working in an international context. We have already begun to plan our Against Cruise Testing Campaign for this winter and an educational campaign on Star Wars and Cruise testing.

Final discussion and decision making will take place at the strategy conference. All are welcome to participate in the discussion and all ACT members will have a vote. Proposals from ACT members are encouraged, just drop them by the office or bring them with you to the conference. There is a lot of work to do next year so get involved! See you on November 3!

November 11th

ACT will be holding a November 11th commemoration service this year, just as we have in the past. We have found that a tasteful service in the name of peace, on this day, can have a powerful impact on the hearts and minds of many people.

Please join us at the Cenotaph as we remember all those who died in war and express our hope that no more will ever have to die.

The service will include representatives from many faiths and cultural backgrounds. A wreath will be laid by war veterans. Remembrance day is an important one for all of us who hope for a better future. Please come.

7 to 8 p.m., the cenotaph, Old City Hall.

Peace Movement

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proposal is based on ACT's own experiences of successfully networking the campaign against cruise testing and April demonstrations over the last three years. Our strong cautions grow from our experience in the Peace Petition Caravan Campaign, and from our own observations of structure-oriented, rather than action-oriented organizations and their effects on peace work in a number of cities. We also fundamentally believe that the Peace movement's main constituency has to be the Canadian Public and not just "left" or "progressive" forces—or the government. The proposal was submitted for circulation to Canadian peace organizations in late July. Your comments would be appreciated.

THE CANADIAN PEACE MOVEMENT - WHY A NETWORK?

The Need for Cooperation

The ACT for Disarmament Coalition (formerly the Against Cruise Testing Coalition) believes that regional and national networking is essential to the Canadian Peace Movement. In the past, networking has been very successful in helping the diverse groups of the Canadian peace movement work together in reaction to events such as cruise tests and visits by Pentagon officials. We must expand and strengthen the loose network of groups that already exists.

Such a network could facilitate discussions - discussions which would rise the imagination and generate enthusiasm through the free exchange of ideas. Telephone and mail networks could be expanded. Our ability to mobilize effectively and quickly could be heightened. Cooperation on particular projects could be encouraged. Regional and national conferences could be organized to facilitate the flow of information and the exchange of views. Through such a process we believe that the peace movement can:

- 1) gain the support of a majority of Canadians, and
- 2) mobilize this support in a way that can truly change government policy.

Involvement in the network must be open to all groups and must not be limited by any formal representation requirements. Groups should be autonomous and should represent themselves to the public and the media. A network must not seek to play that role.

Only by progressing slowly,

surely and democratically can we build a strong and unified peace movement in Canada. It must be built from the ground up, and the foundations must be solid. The ACT for Disarmament Coalition believes that establishing a Canadian network of disarmament groups can be a promising first step towards such a goal.

For any process to be helpful in dealing with the problems that the peace movement faces, it must be democratic and all participating groups must be able to express their views and disseminate their proposals through it. We must keep in mind that the peace movement has been effective through its actions and the issues it has raised. These actions have been organized and implemented by local or regional groups. A national body, therefore, must not attempt to organize and make decisions on demonstrations, meetings and other public events for these local groups, since this would stifle the activity of these groups and thus create a vacuum that no national body could fill. On the other hand, what is needed is sufficient communication to enable each group to decide what actions it should undertake and to gain a clear insight into how its choices would fit into the national and global picture. It is in this regard that a national network could be very useful.

The Role of a Network:

A Canadian network would do the following:

- 1) Organize national conferences.
- 2) Facilitate cross-country "meetings" and therefore a forum for communication among Canada's peace groups.
- 3) Facilitate debate and discussion on major issues facing the peace movement.

DANGERS TO BE AVOIDED:

In organizing any type of national body there are some grave dangers which must be avoided for the sake of a healthy peace movement.

- a small group of people establishing themselves as a national "organizing committee" claiming to represent the peace movement as a whole;

- this "organizing committee" deciding who could join and what the conditions of membership would be;

- this "organizing committee" not being controlled by participating groups, but instead seeking to exclude any groups or individuals who are



Globe and Mail

Letters

We look forward to correspondence on the issues raised in the ACTIVIST. We hope to publish as many such letters as possible, unless otherwise requested.

ACT Chapters

Get involved! Contact:

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

ACT Cornwall
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1308 Princess St.
Cornwall, Ontario
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THE ACTIVIST

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The ACTIVIST is published 6 times per year in Toronto by the ACTIVIST Collective.

The ACTIVIST is the newspaper of the ACT for Disarmament Coalition. Its 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 editorial collective.

Contributions of articles and photos are always welcome.

Subscriptions to THE ACTIVIST are offered in six issue installments. We welcome subscriptions for 6, 12, or 18 issues. A regular subscription is only \$5.00 per installment. The rate for institutions/funded agencies is \$10.00 per installment.

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Get involved!

Contact: **ACT**

I enclose \$ 10 (includes subscription to THE ACTIVIST)

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ACT IN ACTION

ACT Remembers Hiroshima

by Gareth Lind

Despite scarce resources, an uncooperative City Hall, hostile police, three arrests, and rain, ACT's Hiroshima Day Candlelight march was a huge success.

After waiting patiently at the corner of Yonge and Bloor for over half an hour, some 2500 to 3000 people proceeded down Yonge Street - a number that far exceeded ACT's expectations and made this year's Hiroshima day commemorations one of the largest yet held in Toronto. The amount of media coverage of the 40th anniversary of the bombings of Hiroshima and Nagasaki, as well as the growing concern for disarmament, contributed to the great turnout. The five hundred candles that ACT supplied went fast and it was a good thing that many people brought their own. As it was, there were many more people than candles. Bearing banners, placards and candles, the people sang and chanted their way down the street.

PROBLEMS AND harassment:

Four days before the march, City Hall advised ACT that the Peace Garden would be unavailable due to a rehearsal of the Master's Games ceremonies, although ACT had been previously assured that there would be no problem. On the morning of the demonstration, ACT was able to reach one of the Games' organizers, and the insurmountable conflict that City Hall had presented was erased immediately. We simply agreed to arrive later, giving the Masters Games organizers time to rehearse.

The police, who during past demonstrations have been helpful, were unusually hostile this time. Only three policemen were assigned for traffic control, and they were totally unprepared for the size of the crowd. At College St., with the line of protesters stretching back for many blocks, the police stopped the demonstration to force each streetcar through.

Parades, which have the same permit as demonstrations, are usually allowed to block traffic

until three or more streetcars are waiting. As well, the police repeatedly tried to summon traffic through the crowd. Demonstration marshals tried to protect people by standing in front of cars until people had marched past. At Dundas St., three of them were arrested for "causing a disturbance by impeding traffic".

In other incidents, one marshal was standing in front of a car that a policeman ordered to proceed. The car did, and ran into her. Thankfully she wasn't hurt. In another similar situation, witnesses heard the police tell a car driver "You have my permission to run them over!".

After these incidents, the police relinquish their duties of traffic control. At the front of the march, as it turned from Yonge Street onto Queen, there were no policemen on hand, and it was up to the marshals again to block traffic.

Then the rain came, briefly but furiously, and the chant "Reagan started the rain" echoed off the walls of Simpson's and Eaton's. By the time the march had reached city hall, Reagan had apparently had second thoughts and called the rain off.

A BEAUTIFUL ENDING

People gathered around the Peace Garden, candles still alight, to hear a speech by Angela Browning, chairperson of ACT, and two members of the ACT High School Network. The Mayor of Hiroshima had sent a moving message to the demonstration, and a hushed silence fell as it was read to the crowd. As well, greetings were read from the British CND and the West German Greens' Parliamentary Caucus. To end the demonstration, Lief Baker sang a few songs, ending with "Give Peace A Change" which was eagerly taken up by the crowd. In those moments, as we all sang together, despite problems with the rain, City Hall and the police, we knew that somehow we really would GIVE PEACE A CHANCE.



Ms. Angela Browning
Chairperson
Against Cruel Testing Coalition
376 Queen St. E.
Toronto, Ont. M5A 1T1
CANADA



Takashi Araki
Mayor

OFFICE OF THE MAYOR
THE CITY OF HIROSHIMA

MESSAGE

On behalf of the citizens of Hiroshima, I would like to take this opportunity to extend my warmest greetings to you on the occasion of "Hiroshima Day 1985" commemorating the fortieth anniversary of the atomic bombing here in Toronto.

At 8:15 a.m. August 6, 1945, the City of Hiroshima was instantly destroyed by the world's first use of an atomic bomb. There are a large number of A-bomb survivors still suffering from its aftereffects.

The holocaust by nuclear weapons is not equivalent to the devastation by conventional war, but it would lead to the annihilation of life in every form and would mean a total denial of the existence of human beings.

"Let all the souls here rest in peace for we shall not repeat the evil." This epitaph, which is found on the "Memorial Monument for Hiroshima, City of Peace" (the cenotaph for the A-bomb victims) in the Hiroshima Peace Memorial Park, bears the common pledge for peace of all human beings. It is the "Spirit of Hiroshima" itself, hoping for the total abolition of nuclear weapons never to repeat Hiroshima and for lasting world peace.

Hiroshima is not merely a witness of history. Hiroshima is an endless warning for the future of humankind in the nuclear age.

Let's work hand in hand with all the peace-loving people in the world to make this year be the great turning-point toward the total abolition of nuclear weapons and the attainment of lasting world peace.

In closing, I would like to make a pledge that we, the citizens of Hiroshima, will continue to share every effort with all of you.

August 6, 1985

Takashi Araki
Takashi Araki
Mayor of Hiroshima City

4-1, Kokurinomachi 1-chome, Nakaku, Hiroshima, 730-81, Japan. Telephone (083) 942-8122
Telex 863-793 HIROKUM-J

Three Days in the Peace Garden

by Gareth Lind

A spontaneous singing of "Give Peace a Chance" marked the end of the Hiroshima Day demonstration and the beginning of a three-day round-the-clock vigil in the City Hall Peace Garden. The feelings of hope and deter-

mination generated by this communal singing, and by the successful demonstration as a whole, started the vigil with great momentum. A crowd of 30 people sat in circles singing, talking or simply thinking in the candlelight.

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When it's raining missiles ... Don't forget your umbrella!

by Kathleen Slose

The world unfolded in front of Progressive Conservative Party Headquarters. Missiles appeared, threatening it from all sides. The US and the USSR stalked each other with deadly warheads. The US put in place a mighty shield, an umbrella of tissue paper, to protect itself. The people of the Western Hemisphere confidently paraded with paper cocktail umbrellas.

This is the scenario that greeted Conservative Party Headquarters on August 23, an illustration of ACT's attitude towards Star Wars, and towards the decision of the Parliamentary Committee (which came to no decision). The ACT dramatization received prominent media coverage on television news reports,

and hopefully supplemented our briefs to the Joint Committee on Star Wars.

In addition to our theatrical presentation in front of the P.C. headquarters, an ACT delegation also presented a statement to the P.C.'s inside their office. The statement called for Canadian condemnation of Star Wars and outlined the massive evidence against this new arms escalation into space. We pointed out how "unofficial participation" in the form of government subsidies and industrial contracts is unacceptable for a nation concerned about world peace. The picket outside the P.C. building rounded out the day's activities and helped to bring home our message: Canadians want peace not Star Wars.

Vigil

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The vigil continued from Hiroshima Day to Nagasaki Day (Friday August 9) at noon. The mood throughout was positive and relaxed, with the number of people fluctuating but remaining strong throughout. Support and help was given to the vigil by AGAPE, a Christian group, advocating non-violence.

More Harassment

City Hall authorities were notified in writing several months in advance of our plans. However, we encountered unusually harsh resistance from both the City Hall and the police.

We were informed five days before the vigil was to begin that because it coincided with the launching of the First Annual Masters' Games, an international Olympic-style sporting event, we would have to leave the Peace Garden on Wednesday evening to make way for the ceremonies. At this time speeches by Mayor Art Eggleton and others were to take place, using the Garden as a background.

After last-minute negotiations, we agreed to have only six people in the Garden during the crucial 45-minute period when the speeches were to be made. We would also restrict our signs to two in number, each being no larger than two by three feet, in accordance with a by-law that didn't seem to apply to the corporate sponsors of the Games. Their signs, which lined the square were at least three times that size.

We abided by the agreement. The police had the garden cordoned off and kept a close eye on the number of people inside. But when the ceremonies were over, the crowds and cameras gone, they told us that the limit extended for the entirety of the vigil. The twenty or so who had come to join it were denied entry, even though members of the general public were allowed to wander through as they pleased. Only those who were there expressly to remember the victims of Hiroshima and Nagasaki were barred entry.

Then a further restriction was imposed by the Department Bureaucrat on the spot: only three people from each group, ACT and AGAPE, could be in the Garden. The AGAPE people had left for the moment; there were five ACT people. Two of us were ordered to leave. Everyone refused. So, before twenty people lining the barricade, holding candles and singing, the police arrested and dragged two people into a paddy wagon for "trespassing on public property".

I was inside the Peace Garden with two others, singing along with those on the other side of the barrier, a metre away. The same City Hall official that had ordered the arrests and a policeman told me that the permit was for a "peaceful" vigil - which meant quiet. Therefore, I should stop singing and I refused. The policeman repeated the request. I ignored him. So he grabbed my arm and said, "I'm



GOSH, FOLKS, ISN'T IT REASSURING THAT ANYBODY CAN COME TO THIS LOVELY PEACE GARDEN TO SIT AND READ OR SIMPLY CONTEMPLATE AND REMEMBER THAT THERE MUST BE NO MORE HIROSHIMAS.

taking you away for engaging in a prohibited activity." I sat down. He let go and stood over me for several minutes as I continued to sing. Then he walked away.

At around midnight they decided to take down the barriers. Everyone could enter; there would be a meeting in the morning.

The vigil continued for the most part unharrassed. There was no meeting. A vain attempt was made by a security guard to again limit the number of people to six. But he was told by the policeman who answered his call not to waste his time.

At 11:02 a.m. on August 9: the time of the Nagasaki bombing, five minutes of silence were observed for the victims of Nagasaki. The vigil ended at noon, when there were speeches by two Hiroshima Hibakushu (survivors) and by the chaplain of the air force unit that dropped the bombs on the two cities, who has since devoted himself to peace work. The initial speaker in this ceremony organized by the Hiroshima/Nagasaki Relieved Committee was none other than Mayor Art Eggleton. Ironically, he told us how great it was that the Peace Garden was a place where people could freely come to read and contemplate, and said he sincerely hoped that there will be no more Hiroshimas or Nagasakis - exactly the point we had been trying to make, in spite of the City Hall and police harassment.

The two people arrested at the Peace Garden, Angela Browning and Bill Lewis, will be going to court December 11, despite the fact that it was unanimously decided in City Council on a motion by Alderman Jack Layton to ask the police to drop the charges. ACT is pursuing all possible legal options as part of our continuing campaign to protect and extend the right to protest for peace both East and West. Any new developments will be reported on next issue.

Ottawa Hosts Ontario Peace Conference

by Kathleen Solose

Those that attended the Ontario Peace Conference in Ottawa (Sept. 20-22) came away with a feeling of progress and accomplishment. The conference, superbly organized by the Peace Resource Centre in Ottawa, was open to all groups and individuals in the peace movement, and provided an opportunity to debate some of the ongoing issues within the Canadian peace movement - from new issues such as Tritium, to our attitude towards the Star Wars decision, to our views on the proposed Canadian Peace Alliance.

There was fairly extensive debate on the nature of the relationship between Ontario peace groups, and whether there is the need for a formal structure. The general consensus favoured a network, with information exchange through regular mailings. The editors of Peace Magazine also generously donated a page to networking news for the Ontario region.

Another area of discussion was representation to the Canadian peace movement convention in November. It proved to be a delicate topic. The proposal that this did not necessarily mean fair representation, since it would not take into consideration differing policies and conflicting strategies, especially in centres where there has been a long political evolution. In the end, an amendment was made which allowed any group that felt it was not adequately represented to appeal to the delegates committee, and to the convention, if necessary, for fair representation.

Brodsky Appeal Endorsed

A great step forward was made with the endorsement by the Ontario Peace Conference of the Brodsky appeal, sponsored by ACT. This appeal was made to the Soviet Government to free Soviet peace activist Vladimir Brodsky, who was close to death from a hunger strike after being

sentenced to three years hard labour. The resolution passed with an overwhelming majority, which clearly shows that the large majority of peace groups in Ontario are concerned with the rights of peace activists everywhere, and are definitely not aligned with either superpower in their pursuit of peace. This is incredibly good news for the peace movement, and is another indication that we are alive and well and international in scope. We thank everyone for their concern over the Brodsky case, and especially those who forfeited lunch to present the statement and protest at the Soviet Embassy.

Cruise Issue Omitted

One serious omission was the lack of even a token discussion of the cruise testing issue. It was not covered by campaign strategies, or any other pre-planned workshop. ACT therefore sponsored a spontaneous workshop on the subject, the small size of which was compensated for by a strong consensus that cruise testing remains a major issue for the peace movement. The workshop recommended strongly that we begin to arouse public awareness once again of upcoming 1986 tests, and organize protests in reaction to this program. It was stressed that these actions should be as imaginative as possible, both to attract the attention of the public and to have strong media impact.

We should not forget the reports of excellent workshop results such as "Despair and Empowerment, Burnout and Renewal, and others". Oddly enough, the workshop "How to run a effective meeting" was cancelled due to lack of interest! But for the most part, people emerged from the conference feeling encouraged by the similarity of experiences and renewed contacts. Next year's conference is set for Espanola, in northern Ontario (Aug-1986), right in the heart of uranium mining country. We are already looking forward to that occasion.

FREE BRODSKY



DRAWING BY BERGET BRODSKY MADE AT PSYCHIATRIC HOSPITAL IN AUGUST 1982.

SUPPORT THE RIGHT OF PEACE ACTIVISTS WORLDWIDE

DEMAND THE RELEASE OF DR. VLADIMIR BRODSKY
A MEMBER OF THE MOSCOW TRUST GROUP, WHO
WAS SENTENCED TO THREE YEARS HARD LABOUR

Sat. Nov 2 Peace Garden CITY HALL
1 pm

MEET MARK Wednesday, Nov 13
HART HOUSE Debates Room

REITMAN 8 pm

ONE OF THE FOUNDERS, ALONG WITH BRODSKY, OF THE MOSCOW GROUP
TO ESTABLISH TRUST, AND PERSONAL FRIEND OF DR. BRODSKY, DR.
REITMAN WILL SPEAK OF THE GROWING PEACE MOVEMENT IN THE 1980S



ACT FOR DISARMAMENT

139 ROBERT ST., TORONTO, ONT. M5S 2A6 363-7677

Government Encourages Military Contracts

by John Bacher

Since the announcement of its Star War's decision, the Mulroney government has conveyed the impression that future arms sales under this scheme will be the result of the independent efforts of Canadian arms manufacturers. It is continually stressed that no "government to government" dealings will be involved. This characterization shows either a shocking lack of understanding of the operation of the US-Canada Defence Production Sharing Agreement (DPSA) by government ministers, or, is intended to provide a smoke-screen of confusion.

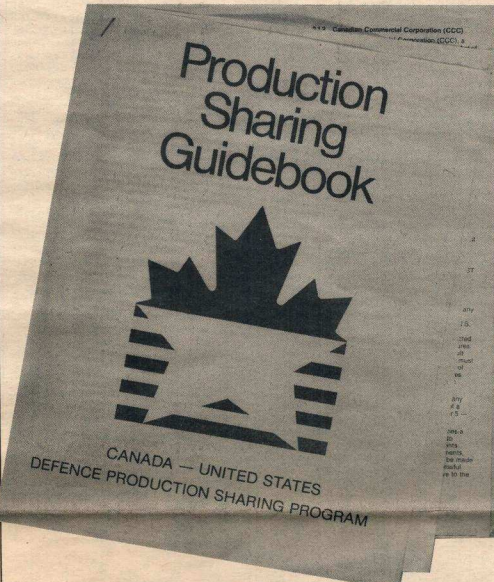
All arms sales by Canadian manufacturers to the US military are covered by the DPSA. It provides Canadian companies with an edge over other foreign rivals for American military contracts. This is done by waiving US custom duties, the "Buy American Act", and balance of payments directives of the US Department of Defence. The Canadian government also exempts such sales from any requirement for an Export Control Permit.

The Production Sharing Guidebook, a guide for Canadian manufacturers, published by the Defence Programs Bureau of the Department of External Affairs, makes plain that defence contractors in Canada must go through the Canadian government to make US arms sales. This requirement helps the Canadian government to provide arms makers with more marketing assistance than is given to the exporters of any other Canadian commodity. The guidebook notes that when bids are made by "US military acquisition agencies", they are "submitted to close scrutiny to determine whether they are suitable for a Canadian buyer." This is done by a crown corporation, the Canadian Commercial Corporation. The CCC, the guide notes, will help Canadian firms which it determines have the capacity to meet US requirements in preparing their "bid, proposal or quotation." Companies are told that "regardless of the channel

The Mulroney Government Presents

Cruise Testing Reruns!

and now... Star Wars



through which a Canadian firm receives a solicitation from a United States acquisition agency any response must be submitted to the Canadian Commercial Corporation, Ottawa." The CCC signs the actual arms contract with the American military agency concerned. The crown corporation, after this is concluded, in turn places a back-to-back contract with the Canadian company concerned."

The Mulroney government should be as clear to the Canadian people as it is to arms makers, by explaining the assistance it provides to would-be Star Wars contractors and other Canadian arms exporters—with the help of their tax dollars.

Star Wars

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than to continue on the long hard path towards real change.

When the development of a massive public movement (such as was seen against the cruise) is not seen as a victory, while a piece of doubletalk from Mulroney is, then there is something wrong with our priorities. Such an analysis presumes that the arms race can be stopped through letters and appearances before government committees, rather than by the development of a massive public movement. It encourages reliance on those most "expert" at lobbying and drafting briefs, while transforming the mass of people, who are the real peace movement, into a passive financial base. This process makes it easy to institutionalize the peace movement as just one of many "interest groups" within our "pluralistic" society. Such co-optation has already been shown to be a favourite tactic of the Mulroney government. And why not, when approval and even support cost only a few empty gestures? He gets away with it so easily.

Was Mulroney's Star Wars decision a victory? No! Not even close. As the facts emerged, the situation smelted as fishy as the rancid tuna scandal. Mulroney has merely set us up to silence us and to win our praise. Thankfully, the peace movement will continue to press for real victories, and to grow in size and strength so that these can be won... without the help of those who are so easily brought under the government umbrella.

High School Students Say NO!

Mr. Gareth Park (ACT for Disarmament High School Network): Mr. Chairman and committee members, I am Gareth Park and I am here today representing the ACT for Disarmament High School Network. The High School Network represents 40 schools across Metro Toronto, I am also a member of the Don Mills Collegiate Peace Club.

I have found that there is a lot of interest and support for our school peace clubs. I have talked to a lot of kids in my school and I find many of them believe that something must be done to stop the arms race very soon or else they are certain there will be a nuclear war.

This is the reason the network wanted to appear before this committee. This committee is indeed important. It is vital that the next generation - us - play an important role in your decision. We will have to live with the consequences of what you decide. It is our future more than anyone else's that you hold in your hands. This could be the most important problem you will ever resolve. Do not underestimate the role Canada plays in the arms race. We serve as an example to others and I hope it will be a good one.

Our hope is to see a day when there are no more nuclear weapons on earth. Imagine the day when we dismantle the last nuclear weapon. Think of the joy and happiness of that moment. The great sense of relief we will all feel when we know we need not fear the destruction of all life by a nuclear holocaust. That night would be a night of parties and dancing in the streets. We will have drawn back from the abyss. We will have turned back from the path. No future generations will have to live with the threat of the bomb. We will conquer hate and the desire to destroy one another. This is our dream and our goal.

I do not see SDI bringing this day closer. I see it making it further away until it disappears all together. We cannot sit and wait for the computer error that seals our fate; we must act. Canada must act. We must reject the easy solutions that give us no safety. We must take the harder path that will end nuclear weapons forever.

Those of you who are parents, do you not remember telling your children to face their problems and solve them the hard way, not to take the easy way out? Do you remember your parents saying that? It is true.

Also, when it comes time to make your decision, all of you, go home and ask your kids, your grandchildren, your nieces and your nephews or even your neighbours' children. Ask what they want the world to do about nuclear weapons and about SDI. Do they want such weapons gotten rid of forever, for once and for all? I bet you will find most do.

Star Wars is just another weapon in the arms race like the MX or the SS-20. Do you want to use the same old justifications that got us into this mess or do you want to move towards the day when we will be rid of that greatest menace that has faced mankind since our beginning? Thank you.



IS HAVING A HALLOWEEN COSTUME PARTY
WHEN: OCT. 26, 8pm.
WHERE: 40 CHESTER AVE.
COST: 2.50 COVER
PRIZE FOR BEST COSTUME

COME ONE!
COME ALL!

Free Brodsky Campaign

Soviet Peace Activist Sentenced to 3 Years

by Bruce Allen

Disarmament activists must have the right to protest in both the East and the West. This has been the motivation of the ACT for Disarmament Coalition in its three year long history of campaigning in solidarity with independent peace movements in the Soviet bloc. It is in this spirit of solidarity that ACT's campaign currently focuses on the plight of the latest independent Soviet peace activist to fall victim to the heavy hand of state repression.

Dr. Vladimir Brodsky was arrested on April 15 of this year. He was on his way to an independent peace protest in Moscow, intended to raise public awareness in the USSR of the likely medical consequences of the use of nuclear weapons. The action was jointly sponsored by members of the Moscow Group for Establishing Trust Between the USA and the USSR and a visiting delegation from the Dutch Inter-Church Peace Council.

The Soviet KGB alleges that while taking him into custody Brodsky assaulted some of their officers. The KGB's proof was the absence of three buttons

which he supposedly ripped off the uniform of one of the policemen. This alleged offence led to him being charged and later arrested for "malicious hooliganism". A month later this member of the pacifist Moscow Trust Group was sentenced in a closed trial to three years in prison camp.

Brodsky has yet to reach his assigned prison camp. On the day of his arrest he began a hunger strike to protest the KGB's charges. The resulting deterioration in his health subsequently forced authorities to place him in a Moscow prison hospital instead. Brodsky's wife is the last person outside the hospital to acknowledge seeing him alive. She visited him early this month and reported that he was too weak to walk. The only nutrition Brodsky has received is as a result of force feeding.

ACT Launches Campaign

ACT first became aware of Brodsky's plight in May. Its protests soon followed. Telegrams went to Soviet government bodies, including the official Soviet Peace Committee, concerning Brodsky and other activists harassed this past spring. In July, phone calls protesting Brodsky's imminent trial were made directly to the official peace committee's offices in Moscow. The first of these received a furious response.

After Brodsky was sentenced the campaign was stepped up. ACT launched an appeal to the Soviet government which has been signed by numerous disarmament activists and other persons sympathetic to the peace movement. In September ACT decided to go directly to the Soviet Embassy in Ottawa.

Soviet Embassy Receives Activists

The Soviet representatives knew we were coming on September 21 and that we intended to bring other participants from the Ontario-wide peace conference slated for Ottawa at the same time. Initially the Soviets refused our request for a meeting with the consul termed the ACT appeal "slandersous". However, when some 30 demonstrators, including members of Project Ploughshares and World Federalists, appeared outside their building, we were invited in.

About a dozen of us accepted and we filed into a plush reception room adorned with a bland portrait of Mikhail Gorbachev. What followed was a forty-five minute discussion kicked off by ACT Chairperson Angela Browning who read the Brodsky appeal to our host, a consul to the ambassador.

We were mainly interested in talking about the persecution of Brodsky and other independent Soviet peace activists. He was not. However, he did re-iterate the standard Soviet responses. Our host maintained that no one is persecuted for peace activity in the USSR. He went on to note that there are ninety million Soviet citizens in the official peace movement as an indication of the pointlessness of independent peace activity. Independent peace activists were in his words "publicity seekers".

Our Soviet host was more interested in discussing Soviet peace proposals and skillfully tried to concentrate the discussion on them. It was more secure ground. These proposals include a proposed ban on further nuclear testing and a ban on the militarization of space. None of us disputed the fact that these proposals have merit. Nonetheless, his overall perspective which attached exclusive blame on Western militarism for endangering world peace rang as hollow in our ears as his comments about the dubious intentions of independent peace activists.

There were intense moments but generally the atmosphere was exceedingly cordial. The whole event was stage-managed down to the smallest detail including the very casual attire of our well-rehearsed host and his "friend" situated elsewhere in the room. If only the same cordiality were extended to our counterparts like Brodsky in the East!

After leaving, we learned that the sidewalk across the street had been lined with uniformed Mounties. All but two were gone when we walked out the embassy doors. We can only speculate about the motives of the RCMP in dispatching these undesirable observers to the scene.

Point Well Made

Such considerations aside, the embassy protest was well worth the effort. Our point was clearly made and the message got through to many in the Ottawa area via detailed television coverage. The icing on the cake came the next day. The participants at the Ontario Peace Conference voted by a large majority to endorse ACT's appeal for Dr. Brodsky's release.

These accomplishments notwithstanding the ultimate impact of the protests is dependent upon what happens to Brodsky and other Soviet peace activists in the future. Further acts of repression will meet with further and more determined protests by disarmament activists throughout the West because our principles demand that we not be silent. Silence is complicity.

Conversation with the

by John Bacher

From a personal visit as delegate to the 12th International Festival of Youth and Students this summer, I can report that the independent peace movement in the Soviet Union is alive and well, and growing, although still facing severe repression by its opponents within the most Statistic segments of the Soviet hierarchy. Although we can be encouraged by the independent peace movement's continued life, our support for its activists suffering persecution must not be diminished. Besides being important as acts of solidarity, such actions will strengthen the elements of Soviet society which favour new initiatives for peace.

This year the Moscow Trust Group has held four major public demonstrations. The first, which took place on January 9th, was the first time received the endorsement of the official Soviet Peace Committee due to



ACT FOR DISARMAMENT 960-2ACT
112a Harbord St. Toronto M5S 1G6

TO: His Excellency,
The Ambassador to Canada of
The Union of Soviet Socialist Republics.

ON THE OCCASION OF THE ONTARIO PEACE CONFERENCE IN OTTAWA

We are here to express our deep concern about your government's treatment of some members of the Moscow Group to Establish Trust Between the United States and the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, an organization that has been working for peace in Moscow since June, 1982. We are quite familiar with Group's aims of reducing world tensions by fostering more contacts between the U.S. and the U.S.S.R. at all levels, and know that it enjoys the support of thousands of Soviet citizens and many other people in support of similar groups in eighteen other Soviet cities.

We also know that, since its establishment, some members of the Moscow Trust Group have been continually harassed for their involvement in peaceful activities. This harassment has ranged from police and K.G.B. intimidation and beatings to incarceration in psychiatric institutions, and even sentences in labour camps. Western peace activists are aware of this situation through many direct and indirect contacts with the Moscow Trust Group and its members. Through them, we learned that Moscow physician and Trust Group activist Dr. Vladimir Brodsky had been arrested on three counts of "hooliganism" for:

1. attempting to show a photo-documentary of a peace protest at the Rocky Flats nuclear facility in the U.S.'s Academy of Sciences requesting a study of the consequences of the "nuclear winter" phenomenon,
2. for allegedly assaulting police while in custody; the loss of three buttons being the only evidence presented.

(In order not to further publicize his activities, in the final trial no mention was made of the first two charges)

We are shocked that Dr. Brodsky was sentenced to three years in a labour camp at a closed trial in August, and is currently close to death from a hunger strike in the psychiatric hospital of the Krasnaya Presnya IV-48/3 Moscow Transfer Prison.

Some of us had contacted the Soviet Peace Committee in Moscow in June and July to protest Dr. Brodsky's arrest and upcoming trial. The response was a denial of unfair treatment. We subsequently found out about his unjust conviction and excessively severe sentence from the globe and Mail and the New York Times. It must be mentioned that such news reflects badly on your government's peace initiatives and proposals in the minds of the western public.

The responses to the telegrams that we and our colleagues have sent, and to the telephone calls we have made, have been unsatisfactory. We must therefore inform Your Excellency that we regard Dr. Brodsky's treatment as an affront to the conscience of your government, to the worldwide peace movement, and therefore to all of us, and appeal for your urgent attention and secure Dr. Brodsky's immediate release. We must inform you of our intention to persist with this matter until we have achieved a humanitarian resolution.

Finally, those of us who know Dr. Brodsky personally appeal to Your Excellency on humanitarian grounds. We know that Dr. Brodsky was first treated at the hospital in Ottawa and that his young wife will be having a child in October. Dr. Brodsky should be alive and free to help nurture that child.

As we are sure you will assure, children are the hope of the future.

20th of September, 1985

LD Live from Moscow: with the Trust Group

the intervention of a visiting Dutch peace activist Kelly Kanard. It involved the distribution of 250 paper cranes and informational leaflets on the group's seminars. The three other demonstrations were not endorsed by the Peace Committee and consequently resulted in the arrests of most of the 50 to 60 participants. These arrests involved demonstrators being held for three-hour identification checks. On March 9th a demonstration was held for the Freedom of Prisoners of Peace. On April 12th the Trust Group held a demonstration to call on the Soviet Academy of Sciences and Ministry of Defence to give more attention and publicity to the phenomenon of nuclear winter. On May 16th a demonstration was held for the unity of non-aligned peace activists which involved the participation of Dutch and Inter-Church peace activists.

Dangerous Information

Much of the work of the Trust Group has involved raising pub-

lic knowledge about the dangers of nuclear war in the Soviet Union. No hard information about Soviet weaponry is published there, and even the code names for Soviet missiles are those adopted by Western intelligence. The group has made use of materials of the Stockholm Institute of Peace Research, but this has to be supplied by Western visitors who sometimes have such documents barred at the airport. Films such as *The Day After* and *If You Love This Planet*, which detail the consequences of nuclear war, have not been shown in the Soviet Union. Even science fiction which once dealt with these themes is no longer available. The Moscow Trust Group holds weekly seminars on such issues and a broad range of other topics to attempt to bridge this information gap. Recent subjects have included the western Green political movements, alternative defense, the conversion of the military industries of East and West to peaceful uses, the pacifist writings of Gandhi and Tolstoy and the activities of the UK Trust-builders.

The Moscow Trust Group sees the revitalization of the Soviet Peace Committee as one of the important consequences of its activities. Until the group's formation, the Soviet Peace Committee had not held a single anti-nuclear demonstration. Even though such peace demonstrations require formal invitations to attend and involve people being released from work, they do in the Trust Group's view serve an important educational purpose. Also, the Soviet Peace Committee has organized the Soviet equivalent of the American Physicians for Social Responsibility which has stated clearly that there is no defense against nuclear war. However, Mark Reisman, one of the Trust Group's founders, points out how only one of the joint programs of Soviet and American physicians were broadcast in the USSR, although, "its participants announced it would become a regular feature." He notes that "some powerful forces" evidently interfered with these earlier plans.

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French Government Murders Peace Activist

On July 9 at 11:45 p.m. in Auckland, New Zealand, two explosions ripped through the Greenpeace flagship "the Rainbow Warrior". The ship went down just four minutes after the first explosion. Still on board was Portuguese-born photographer Fernando Pereira, who drowned as he tried to rescue films from his cabin.

Since then, the evidence gathered by the New Zealand police, combined with world-wide skepticism, has forced French President Mitterand to admit his government's culpability. But Mitterand has refused to issue either an apology or any kind of assurance that such outrageous and warlike acts will not happen again.

All of the nations in the South Pacific have recently reaffirmed their desire for a nuclear-free Pacific, and have condemned nuclear testing in the area. Yet France insists on continuing to use its outdated colonial claims on some islands of the area to flout the wishes of the local people and those of the vast majority of the world, by continuing underground nuclear tests. France also threatens to use force again against any peace activists who attempt to interfere with French nuclear tests.

The worldwide peace movement must condemn these acts in the strongest possible terms. The French government's attack on the Rainbow Warrior was a warlike act of sabotage and, both legally and morally, of murder. A robber or an arsonist who kills someone in the course of his crime is considered responsible for that person's death. Should a government, and especially a government that has made the most brazen attempts to withhold and destroy evidence, be considered any less a murderer? Are actions that are considered heinous crimes within a country to be tolerated when that country's government agencies practice them elsewhere? This is exactly what has happened, as most people in France are more upset at the government being caught and embarrassed than by the crime committed. Peace activists everywhere must speak out in anger at this. Greenpeace must be supported in its ongoing pressure campaign against French nuclear testing.

The third area focused upon was, of course, the East-West dialogue. Its deliberations marked a major step forward for the process. Topics of discussion included Solidarnosc and the peace movement, Charter 77's Prague Appeal and the hearing on the Division of Europe.

Most importantly there was the matter of who spoke for the East. This issue was settled by who turned up. All of the officially sanctioned East Bloc peace councils except Romania's

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Report from the END Conference: East-West Dialogue in Europe

by Bruce Allen

Western Europe's disarmament movement has turned an important corner. With NATO having succeeded in its Euro-missile deployments everywhere except the Netherlands in Holland, where a decision on accepting the Cruise is delayed until November, a new process has of necessity begun. It is one which challenges the existing political status quo in Europe. It is also a process in which the peace movement there achieves a greater degree of permanence. It is a process of East-West dialogue of a new kind.

At the forefront of this process is the London-based European Nuclear Disarmament (END) campaign which set its course by way of the 1980 END Appeal. (See text below.) Commenting on the Appeal five years after it was written, Spanish peace activist Manuel Acartze

has stated that the END Appeal "defines a new radical framework for the popular struggle for nuclear disarmament: A supranational framework". The document specifically aims for a united, neutral and pacific Europe. This means a Europe without military blocs.

The objective of such a transformation of Europe has pointed out the need for and East-West dialogue involving peace and other movements for social change, for the popular struggle for disarmament in both parts of Europe. Three recent historic developments in particular have facilitated its initiation. One was the meteoric rise of the West European peace movement. Another was the birth of Poland's Solidarnosc. The third was the appearance of independent peace movements in the Soviet Bloc simultaneously with the start of an important debate. This exchange involved the human rights movement of Czechoslovakia, Charter 77, and Western peace activists concerning disarmament.

The debate involving Charter 77 started in late 1981. In the same time period independent peace initiatives appeared in East Germany and Hungary. In December 1981 a military coup in Poland forced Solidarnosc underground. Several months later, exiled representatives in Brussels met with people from END beginning an exchange of views between Europe's two most dynamic movements in recent time. Then in June 1982 the Moscow Trust Group was founded sparking great interest in the West. All the necessary ingredients for a multi-faced dialogue were in place.

Over the next three years the process took shape. It has come to constitute the fabric of a kind of people's detente spanning the military blocs imbued with the kind of spirit found in the peace proposals of the Moscow Trust Group.

The major but by no means exclusive role of END in this dialogue has given its annual conventions a special historic importance. Consequently, their significance now exceeds that of a traditional international peace gathering.

END's fourth convention took place this year in Amsterdam. It drew together well over a thousand people from around the globe. There were three areas focused upon. One involved issues of immediate importance to the West European movement. Examples of these issues were the cruise decision in the Netherlands, the anti-NATO movement in Spain and Star Wars. Another unprecedented area of discussion was North-South issues. Specifically, attention was turned to matters like U.S. intervention in Nicaragua, the wars in Afghanistan and the Persian Gulf and China's role as an ostensibly non-aligned nuclear power.



A Friend at City Hall: An Interview with Jack Layton

by Doug Harrison

Jack Layton, Toronto Ward 6 alderman, has been a friend and strong supporter of ACT since its beginning 3 years ago. He has been very outspoken on the nuclear arms race, as well as a variety of other issues.

Jack won an upset victory in 1982, and moved up to senior alderman for Ward 6 after John Sewell resigned. He will be running again for Metro Council, while Dale Martin, with whom he works very closely, will be running for Toronto Council.

For the past fifteen years, Jack has been a community organizer and volunteer, mostly on the municipal level. "People ask me sometimes why I don't want to step 'up' to provincial or federal politics. I don't regard that as a step up. In fact, municipal politics really has that opportunity to be involved at what everybody calls the grassroots, and I find that to be very exciting and very important."

Activist: What is your stand on disarmament and Cruise Testing?

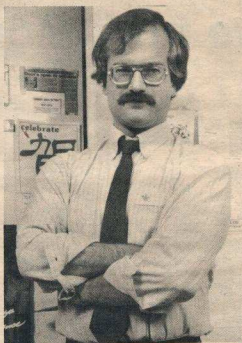
Layton: Well, I've always supported the position that's been adopted by ACT, calling for Canada to take some kind of initiative in reducing the arms race. I think we have to take the first step and say "no, we are not going to test nuclear weapons or participate in any way in their development... and we are not going to support corporations that are involved in that kind of destructive activity. By taking these positions, I think we can show the world... that we are willing to trust our instincts about human nature around the world... So, I support unilateral disarmament on the part of our country.

Activist: Based on what you have said, I assume you are against Star Wars. What do you think of Mulroney's recent decision about Star Wars?

Layton: I think it is a total cop-out, and what surprises me is how some people have reacted positively to it. His statement seemed so full of contradictory positions that it was quite staggering. On the one hand he says we are not going to support Star Wars and on the other hand he says we aren't going to prohibit individual corporations from research contracts and we may even financially assist them. Well, that's precisely what we would be doing if we were supporting Star Wars. This makes it very difficult for those who are concerned about Star Wars research, to find out what is happening. Is the cabinet going to indicate whenever it has been requested to fund a certain research project and ask for public opinion before it makes a decision? I doubt it. In my opinion, this (Mulroney's statement) is a classic case of trying to say one thing and do another.

Activist: What about your ward: do the people care about disarmament, and do they feel it is relevant to city politics?

Layton: I think the question of peace is probably the foremost issue on the minds of the vast majority of people in Ward 6. A good example of it is that when a march is held, a demonstration, a vigil, a concert, whatever, there is a heck of a lot of people coming from downtown Toronto showing up. Not only that, I think people expect their elected people at City Hall to be doing something about the issue. It's important for City Hall to make statements, and that's why I've been encouraging city council to do this, and they have done so. I would like to have seen some more graphic manifestation of Toronto as a nuclear weapons free zone. I suggested that perhaps we have signs or put on our overhead. All these ideas were turned down. The mayor made a lot of fanfare about supporting the resolution



but he didn't want to advertise it anywhere... I tried to organize, as part of the sesquicentennial celebrations, a major conference on peace, which would require some funds, and of course, city council didn't come through there. Lately, I've been working to make sure the peace garden can be used by peace groups for the purpose it was intended. Some cities have gone as far as hiring somebody to be a peace co-ordinator for the city. I think this is something we would look at after the upcoming election.

Activist: Do you think there is more that can be done on a municipal level and what would you like to see done?

Layton: Yes, I think that the city should find ways of promoting our opposition to the arms race. This could include sponsoring conferences, bringing people in from other countries and having a peace co-ordinator on staff at city hall. We could work with the board of education to educate the public and our kids about the issue.

Activist: You've always been very supportive of ACT, right from the beginning, helping out with the Yonge St. deputations and recently with the Peace Garden. Any comment?

Layton: Yes, that was one thing I was pleased about; that we were able to open up Yonge St. to demonstrations again. I thought, let's just address the problem and see if we can't change it. And sure enough, we got the businessmen together, set up an experiment and the experiment worked. Now, the people have Yonge St. back again.

Activist: You have an open office and are supportive of many organizations and issues as well as ACT. Would you like to tell us about them?

Layton: Well, one of the reasons I ran for office is because as a full time alderman, you have resources at your disposal: the computer, the computer - things that community groups often need. So, I provide a community office to meet that need. It is also useful to have someone inside City Hall, with a sense of political strategy, to bounce ideas off and to pass on experience from other groups and situations. These are the most important aspects of my job - to be a community organizer and help to raise issues and educate people about them. We work with CIRPA, housing groups, tenants' groups, street vendors as well as the reproductive choice and day care movements, to name a few. We've had some losing battles in the past, but there are some we are on our way to winning like the railway lands debate and the domed stadium obscenity. We have also won some battles, and some of those have been for the peace movement. I think we can all be very proud of those.

Activist: Thank you Jack. We don't know what we would have done without you. Good luck in the election!

help raise money for the campaign for Nuclear Disarmament
and spread the peace message

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Sat. Nov. 16th all day from 9am.

- call or come to -

ACT
FOR DISARMAMENT
B9 Robert St.
(other board)
960-2ACT

BUY ONE
GIVE ONE
SIGN UP NOW!

East-West

continued from page 7

stayed away because they didn't get to participate in the organization of the convention and most likely also because the "dissidents" were invited too. This occurred despite the fact that the "dissidents" were almost all forcibly kept away by their governments. Nonetheless, a number of independent Hungarian activists did make it along with a group of young Poles wearing Solidarnosc pins.

Members of Charter 77 and the Moscow Trust Group compensated for their absence through written submission and video-taped interviews. Exiled members of their groups were present too as was the Amsterdam representative of Solidarnosc. In effect, a vacuum was created by the "official's" boycott which the independent voices from the East bloc filled.

HUMAN RIGHTS

In part due to their involvement, the Amsterdam convention was an event concerned almost as much with human rights issues, East and West, as with explicitly disarmament issues. In retrospect, it was a turn of events, in the context of the Dialogue, which showed that the Eastern activists' insistence that human rights and disarmament issues are inseparable had not fallen on deaf ears in the West. Thus, the convention's deliberations stood as a practical example of how the defense of human rights is an integral part of the growth of a genuinely non-aligned peace movement opposed to the militarism of both blocs.

The strengthened linkage of disarmament issues at the 1985 END Convention was an admirable indication of the maturity and intellectual depth of Europe's non-aligned peace forces. The Canadian disarmament movement would do well to learn from the East-West Dialogue in Europe and from the example being set by END.

ACT ON THE MOVE

Community College Network

by Jeff Smith

The Humber College Peace League proposes the creation of an ACT inter-college peace network. This network would be dedicated to disarmament and social justice.

The advantages to a united peace league would be in an exchange of resources and ideas, a greater sense of achievement, and a stronger voice in each college. Such a network would participate in social education of college students through forums and seminars. This group would also be active in the peace movement itself.

Over the last year the Humber College Peace League has sponsored film screenings, an educational forum on Nicaragua, and has attended several demonstrations. This year we expect

to have more films and educational forums including a "social awareness week" with speakers from the peace movement, from Latin America, South Africa, the Labour Movement, etc.

We believe that this sort of activism should be available to other college students. We realize that the establishment of an organization of this kind demands support. If you are a college student or instructor and would like to organize within your college, please do not hesitate to contact us.

Please call ACT at 960-2ACT or write to:
 Jeff Smith,
 c/o ACT,
 139 Robert St.
 Toronto, Ont.
 M5S 2K6

ACT U of T

On September 19th, ACT U of T held its first public event of the school year with a screening of *Speaking Our Peace* at the University of Toronto. Seventy-nine people turned out, a sign of a healthy interest and consciousness of peace and disarmament activities at U of T.

Speaking Our Peace focuses on the role of women in the peace movement. The film opens with the Greenham Common women in England, and goes on to feature women scientists, economists, activists and politicians. Peace was presented as a multifaceted issue: nuclear weapons, the cold war mentality, uranium mining and refining, civil disobedience, and the economic penetration of the Third World by

both superpowers were all dealt with in the film.

Future projects for ACT U of T include sponsoring forums on subjects such as the independent peace movements in Eastern Europe and the U.S.S.R., and presenting a public meeting with Rosalie Bertell, an expert on radiation and the threat of low level radiation to our health. This special meeting will take place some time in November.

ACT U of T holds informal meetings to discuss and organize upcoming projects at the university. If you would like to get involved, or would like information on upcoming events, call ACT at 960-2ACT.

ACT Niagara

by Ken Rush

Although our group is relatively small in number, we are meeting regularly every week to consolidate further support in the Niagara area. The members of our high school network are organizing a dance at which leaflets containing information about ACT will be distributed. We are well aware of the importance attached to making people aware of the issues which pertain to the arms race before they leave high school and develop the conservative mindset which often accompanies the first direct exposure to economic realities.

As well as our activities in area high schools, we continue to seek support from the student body at Brock University and in the community as a whole. Facilities have been obtained for the purpose of presenting meetings and forums at Brock, and a forum is planned at the St. Catharines UAW hall in early October. In addition, we plan to hand out leaflets at any campus events at Brock that are likely to draw individuals sympathetic to the peace movement. Our group will participate in the October 26th demonstration in Toronto.

The members of ACT Niagara, through determination and patient persistence, are dedicated to increasing our membership and diversifying our activities in the Niagara area. ACT Niagara is extremely concerned with nuclear proliferation and is committed to the goal of verifiable global disarmament. We welcome anyone on the Niagara peninsula who is concerned with these issues and wants information about the ACT for Disarmament Coalition to contact us. We also wish to again express our desire to hear from ACT groups in other cities. To get in touch with us, please write to:

ACT Niagara
 P.O. Box 284
 Main Stn
 St. Catharines, Ont.
 L2R 6T7

or phone: (416) 934-6233

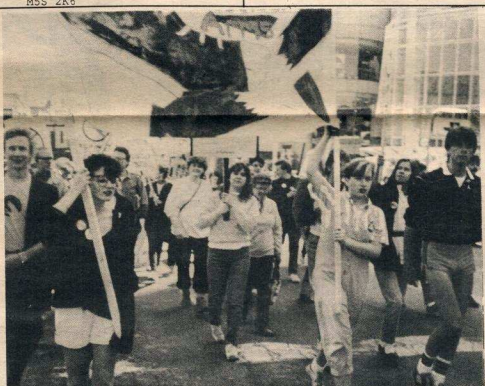
The ACT High School Network

by Mark Absby

Since the first time that the ACT High School Network was mentioned in *The Activist* (April/May 1983), we have been busy working to consolidate and enlarge our group, an organization of students across the city who are concerned about the arms race. We are now reaching out to more schools and have information assemblies scheduled for November at Runnymede Collegiate and Sir John A. Macdonald Collegiate. This year we hope to get more students interested in helping to create an awareness about a very pertinent issue, which threatens the peace of mind of this generation and those to come. Because this is the International Year of the Youth, there is a special incentive for young people all over the world to "stand up and be counted" and voice our opinions, fears or hopes for the future.

As a member of the Network, I feel that with the help of all students who want to have a say in what happens to their future, we can play a big role in, among other events, the annual April demonstration that is held by ACT. Last year, the High School Network presented some speeches to the public to increase an awareness of our organization. This year, I would like to see us constitute a large part of the spring rally and have a place in the march as a recognized affiliate of ACT.

Last year, Scott Bowie, a member of the Network compared



the youth of today to the chess on a pizza, holding everything together. It is now time to make that metaphor a realization. We must start pulling together in order to:

- 1) educate as many students as possible about the issue of nuclear disarmament and encourage them to become active in making others aware;
- 2) encourage students to attend rallies, marches, vigils and any of the other events that ACT and the High School Network organize and;
- 3) keep up interest in the issue of nuclear disarmament among the students involved and at their schools.

Besides the assemblies that are scheduled, the ACT High School Network is planning a number of things for this year. A dance is tentatively scheduled for the twenty-fifth of October. General meetings are held on the first and third Sunday of every month, at the ACT headquarters, 139 Robert St.

New members are always welcome. We are in the last stages of producing an information pamphlet and are considering getting involved with a youth

conference dealing with world issues, which is sponsored by the Alternative Independent Study Program based here in Toronto.

That gives an outline of what the Network has planned for the rest of 1985. With your help, we can become even more active. If you are interested in joining the High School Network, setting up an assembly for your school or just finding out more information, call ACT headquarters or any of the people listed below.

ACT Headquarters/112A Harbor Street/960-2228
 Mark Absby/Sir John A. MacDonalld /493-5945

Sheila Holyer/Northview/782-7629
 Scott Bowie/Runnymede/762-5970

Gareth and Megan Park / Don Mills / 447-6666

P.S.: The ACT High School Network has grown! We now have affiliates in London, Hamilton, St. Catherine's, Kincardine and Cornwall.

The Canadian Peace Movement Building on Solid Ground

continued from page 2

not willing to follow their directions;

- this same body deciding for the peace movement what issues it should be concerned with and exactly how they should be approached.

Such a body, if it were able to garner significant resources and to establish an air of legitimacy, would represent a tremendous step backwards for the peace movement. If the problem is that a lack of debate, information flow and sharing of resources has hampered the development of the peace movement, then it should be clear that the centralization of resources and information, the stifling of debate and the introduction of further divisions into the peace movement would drastically aggravate all of these problems.

ISSUES TO BE ADDRESSED:

A great many issues that confront the peace movement have yet to be genuinely considered and debated by all of its constituent groups. First of all, we must debate with the question of whether we see our main intent as confronting the militaristic actions of our government, or of cultivating its favour by demonstrating our respectability within its terms. This discussion must surely begin with the understanding that while it is desirable that all possible channels be explored, it is absolutely essential that the peace movement maintain its independence and freedom of action. We must never act in a way which legitimizes empty gestures designed to divert public attention from increasing military involvement. Neither can we become reliant on government funding which would compromise our ability to directly criticize and confront government policy.

Another basic issue is becoming increasingly more important as the peace movement matures: non-alignment. If we are to represent and involve the Canadian public, then it is important that we be consistently critical of the weapons and military policies of both the United States and the USSR. Genuine non-alignment obviously includes support for the right of all peace activists to organize and publicly protest against the militarization of their own societies. Only by insisting on this basic human right can gain credibility as part of a truly international peace movement.

REPRESENTATION AND MANDATE OF THE NOVEMBER CONFERENCE:

The November Conference must be democratic:

- 1) It must be open to everyone.
- 2) Every Canadian peace group must have a vote.
- 3) Observers must have a voice.
- 4) Delegates and Observers should not have to buy either voice or a vote.
- 5) No decisions on structure, basis of unity, finances or any other

decision should be made prior to the conference.

- 6) All proposals should be brought to and discussed at the conference.
- 7) Any "organizing committee", in the interim, since it does not represent the Canadian peace movement, must restrict itself to the practicalities of mailing, billeting, etc.

The ACT for Disarmament Coalition believes that a non-hierarchical democratic network is the only feasible step the peace movement can take right now. It is essential that the November Conference be a democratic one and that the dangers and issues facing the peace movement be addressed openly.

RECENT DEVELOPMENTS:

There have been some alarming developments which suggest that the move towards establishing a national peace alliance must be examined closely.

1. All meetings have been closed, and at one of two "planning meetings" (the March meeting in Vancouver), the three dozen or so people there actually saw fit to exclude a long-time peace activist, and ACT representative, supposedly because he had not paid \$200. In fact, a Toronto meeting had been previously told that Toronto's delegate was not up for discussion. This person was not even allowed into the room as an observer.

At the second planning meeting in Ottawa an ACT delegate who had paid \$200, well in advance of the meeting was given a voice only on the second day of the gathering, and never given a vote. Such behaviour is abhorrent to a movement that prides itself on openness and non-exclusion, and totally contradicts the most basic principles and strategies for building a mass movement. It is not merely distasteful to exclude anyone genuinely for peace from our functions, it is in the short run unproductive and in the long run suicidal. Only a free and open exchange can hope to result in a genuine consensus on the best strategy for the Canadian peace movement.

2. The elaborate delegate structure, based on one delegate per one hundred thousand, that is to be used for the national conference means that:

- a) peace groups in some sparsely-populated regions will have to somehow meet with groups they may never have met before, and select persons they know nothing about to speak for them;
- b) groups with different opinions will have to somehow choose a delegate that represents them;
- c) a tremendous and somewhat artificial emphasis is being given to geographic representation, to the possible

detriment of full representation of political points of view.

There was some attempt to remedy this situation at the September 20th to 22nd Ontario Conference (see conference article) by instituting an appeal procedure for anyone who feels their viewpoint is not being fairly represented.

The distasteful precedent of closed meetings and mute observers is being carried yet further, with voices only being given to 250 delegates and even the number of observers being artificially limited.

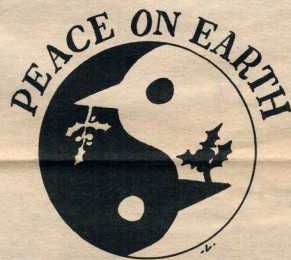
This situation will only be slightly mitigated by the fact that observers will be allowed to speak at workshops. It cannot be stressed

national gathering would be a "delegated" convention. A more obvious one was the unilateral decision to ask the Mulroney government for \$25,000, to help pay conference expenses, despite broad opposition to this move. Such precedents do not do well for the future.

5. Finally there is the whole mechanism of "travel equalization costs" to consider. At first it seems highly commendable that any conference participant, be she in Inuvik or in Toronto, should pay the same amount to get to the conference. But what if the former is a well paid professional, and the latter a penniless high school student? According to the government, the \$25,000 grant is primarily for travel costs. Surely, considering that about 30 of the dele-

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too strongly that all meetings of the peace movement should be open. We do not suffer from a surplus of people interested in getting involved, do we?

4. The "Planning Meetings", and more particularly the organizing committee, has done and is doing considerably more than simply organizing the assembly. They have not only largely predetermined the agenda, but they seem to be setting the framework for discussion, which is being further limited by an artificially early deadline of September.

Perhaps the most subtle expression of this predilection for having a small group of people make decisions they have no real mandate to make was the decision that the

gates will be within easy commuting distance, and at least another 40 or 50 within tolerable busing distance, the remaining number of delegates, whose financial situation (or that of their group) really warrants heavy subsidization could be covered by \$25,000.1 A delegate fee of \$25. or even \$50. is normal at a major conference. Paying \$150. or \$200. is not... at least at any function of socially progressive organizations. Peace organizations should not have to cripple their future activity just to participate.

ACT for Disarmament intends to participate as fully as it can in the November Conference. Our efforts to date have been an only partly successful attempt to ensure democratic participation of the entire peace movement. There are grounds for concern.

Book Review:

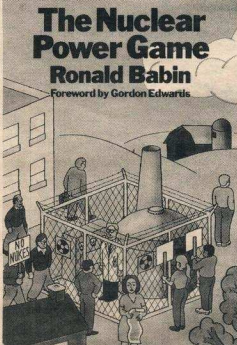
A Deadly Game Exposed

by Georgina Kosanovic

Too often those who are active in the disarmament movement pay too little attention to the question of nuclear power. It is tempting to separate the issues when one thinks in terms of the different spheres that they inhabit: one problem is military, the other civilian. On closer examination, however, the two concerns reveal themselves to be closely linked. After all, the element that fuels both bombs and nuclear power plants is the same: uranium. The origin of both the military and civilian nuclear industries can be found in wartime efforts in conjunction with both the United States and Britain.

With such common ties, it is necessary for anyone interested in one issue to be aware of the other. For anyone who wishes to learn more about Canada's role in the international nuclear power industry, Ronald Babin's *The Nuclear Power Game* is a useful introduction. Babin devotes half of his book to an examination of the roots of the nuclear industry in this country. In the second half, Babin concentrates mainly on the protest against nuclear power plants, but there are also extensive references to the peace movement. The author's approach in this regard is an affirmation of the close and necessarily ties between the two protest movements.

What makes Babin's book interesting is the emphasis he gives to the organizational structure of the nuclear power industry. This structure, he maintains, is what makes the anti-nuclear struggle so difficult. The ownership of the industry bears no relation to its management; therefore, protesters are left unsure who to fight. Nevertheless, fight they do, and Babin tells their story competently.



With its strong reliance on statistics and chronological histories of the industry and its opposition, the text is occasionally a bit dry. However, this is made up for by clean and simple language. (A hat must be tipped to Ted Richmond, the translator.) Here is a sound study of the nuclear power issue in Canada and a fine introduction to a crucial side of today's nuclear protest movement.

Moscow Trust Group

continued from page 7

Peaceniks Persecuted

The Moscow Trust Group views its adversaries in the Soviet government as being "pockets of Stalinism" that use a "fortress mentality" to justify that nation's military industrial complex, which they identify with and benefit from. They see such adversaries as being particularly entrenched in the KGB, which has been responsible for their persecution, and note that harassment of independent peace activity was particularly intense under the leadership of Andropov, a former KGB chief. They believe their continued activity over the past three years is indicative of support of their efforts among "doves" in the highest level of the Soviet hierarchy.

One young peace activist, 25 year-old Nikolai Khramov, has apparently been targeted by the KGB to set an example of the heavy persecution young people can expect if they join the unofficial Soviet Peace movement. Since he joined the Moscow Trust Group in June of last year Khramov has been arrested, imprisoned for 15 days, briefly and illegally inducted into the army and during the Moscow Youth Festival this summer, illegally placed in a VD hospital.

Two cases of persecution of the Moscow Trust Group should be

of particular concern to Canadian peace activists. The only member of the Trust Group to obtain a lengthy prison sentence for a charge directly tied to peace activism is Aleksandr Shatravka. He was arrested while on a trip to Siberia in 1982 for the offence of collecting signatures for the Trust Group's initial appeal. The Trust Group pointed out to me that public opinion in Moscow would have never tolerated such an overtly political trial. Shatravka's own parents in Moscow did not learn of his conviction until 6 months after it had taken place. Shatravka's imprisonment has been further extended by his conviction on trumped-up charges of drug trafficking while in a labour camp.

The arguments used by authorities against Shatravka's appeal of his earlier political offense reveal clearly the mentality of peace persecutors. He was condemned by an academic panel of experts for promoting the "harmful cosmopolitan doctrine" of uniting "social forces in the struggle for peace." The Trust Group Appeal was also deplored for "giving rise to incorrect ideas, especially among the part of the population which is not well-prepared politically." His conviction spoke of the danger of the Trust Group efforts to promote "groups separate from the struggle for the salvation of humanity that the Party and the government leads."

A leading Moscow Trust Group member, Dr. Vladimir Brodsky was, in August given a three year sentence for assaulting a police officer. His trial had been delayed during the youth festival. At this time he was illegally imprisoned while

Fallout Shelter Notes

Four Toronto poets were awarded Canada Council Grants to read at the Fallout Shelter. James Deahl, Clifton Joseph, Christopher Dewdney and Lillian Allen will be performing this fall on the Saturday Fallout Series. James Deahl will hold a book-launching for his latest poetry collection *Blue Ridge* (Oct. 5). This will not be the first appearance at the Fallout Shelter for Clifton Joseph and Lillian Allen of the "De Dub Poets". They both performed at the GALA OPENING back in January, 1984 to a sold-out audience. Don't miss any of these top performers! See schedule for details.

The Fallout Shelter was honoured to present a special

performance by "Whispers" on September 20, featuring Steve McCaffery (sound poetry and reeds), Bill Smith (voice and reeds) and David Lee (cello) with their special brand of free jazz cum sound poetry in an imaginative mix.

The Fallout Shelter is now operating both Fridays and Saturdays at 9. Friday features an Open Stage with some great talent and spontaneous contributions. Join new M.C. John Reid for some great evenings! Saturdays will feature specific artists. Drop by, meet like-minded souls, and hear many of Toronto's best performing for peace!

We would like to thank Mrs. Stinson and The Groaning Board for their generous assistance in providing baked goods for the Fallout Shelter.

SHEL OUT FALTER?

Saturdays

at 9

NOVEMBER

2

Aaron Kumove
Jazz Quintet

16

23

Taylor Jane Green
performance

Christopher
Dewdney poetry

and... December 14 Lillian Allen

Dub poetry returns!

COME TO THE FALLOUT SHELTER

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awaiting trial. Brodsky's persecution is seen by members of the Trust Group as an effort by Moscow hawks to strengthen their power in the new government of Mikhail Gorbachev (see Brodsky article this issue).

During the Youth and Student Festival, 19 British and Canadian delegates sent a letter to Gorbachev via the Central Committee of the Communist Party to bring his attention to the cases of Khramov, Brodsky and Shatravka. British, Belgium, American and Canadian delegates also drafted a joint letter with the Trust Group in support of Gorbachev's recent initiative of a unilateral moratorium on nuclear weapons testing.

In the upcoming months Canadian peace activists should support the Soviet Union's nuclear weapons testing moratorium and call on the Canadian government to urge all nuclear powers, especially the United States, to reciprocate. A test ban was called for in the Trust Group's first statement, as an example of the measures which can be taken to build peace on the basis of trust between the governments and peoples of the two super-powers. At the same time we must vigorously defend the rights of peace activists in the Soviet Union whose motivations are the same as our own and whose efforts enhance the global cause of peace.

What is ACT?

Toronto's action coalition dedicated to mobilizing Canadians against our country's increasing involvement in the nuclear arms race.

ACT was originally formed in December of 1982 to organize a campaign against the testing of the cruise missile in Canada. We have since that time changed our name from the Against Cruise Testing Coalition (A.C.T.) to the ACT for Disarmament Coalition. This was done to reflect our increasing concern with other important issues such as Star Wars, while at the same time maintaining our focus on cruise testing.

We are a coalition of over 50 groups in Toronto, including a high school network which is active in 35 schools, a newly formed community college network, and the Fallout Shelter Collective, which has involved over 200 performing artists. In



ACT relies solely on volunteer help. And we always need more, because our activities keep expanding. See where you could fit in... or just come to an event and lend a hand.

ACT High School Network:

We have a membership in 35 Toronto area High Schools and we hope to considerably expand this over the next year. As well, the ACT High School Network has affiliates in St. Catharines, Hamilton, London, Kincardine, Kitchener and Ottawa. Our focus is on film showings, holding assemblies, setting up high school peace clubs and participating in major demonstrations. The network can supply support and resources to students who want to get something going in their schools, but don't know where to start. Young people have their whole future at stake and their voices must be heard. If you are a high school student and want to find out more about the network, call us at 960-2228.

ACT U of T:

This is a dynamic and growing campus group working to educate students on the University of

addition, there are ACT chapters in several locations across Ontario, and we hope to be truly Ontario-wide in the near future.

ACT believes that through mass public protest we can involve the largest number of people in the peace movement and have a powerful impact on government policy. For this reason ACT concentrates at great deal of energy on local and nationwide demonstrations. ACT also responds in an immediate way to current events with focused, peaceful symbolic actions designed to raise public consciousness of the issue.

ACT strives to reach people in all walks of life. That is why we organize in the high schools, on the campuses, in the streets and in the workplace. We spread our message through music, poetry and art at our Fallout Shelter peace coffeehouse and art gallery. We hold educational forums every week, as well as film showings and public meetings. We know that we can stop the arms race. We also know that there is no other choice. Please help us make peace a reality. Make a financial contribution, come out to one of our many events or...join ACT.



Toronto main campus. We need help with literature tables, film and video showings, and other campus activities. If you are interested, give us a call, or drop by our table in the "812 Smith" foyer.

ACT Community College Network:

The community college network links people and groups concerned about disarmament on the various community college campuses, as well as the Ontario College of Art.

ACT Community Work:

Education in the community about peace and disarmament is a major part of our work. For some time now, ACT has been conducting a door-to-door canvass, which has allowed us to meet people on a one-to-one basis. As well, we find that community involvement in major campaigns can be a huge contributor to their success. If you want to get involved in your local area, please give us a call.

Educational Forums:

There are so many issues connected with the arms race - so many viewpoints and concerns to be expressed and so much to be discussed. Every Friday evening

ACT in Action

1983

Feb 12: ACT mobilizes 5,000 in Toronto and networks demonstrations across Canada 45 hours after the announcement of the umbrella weapons testing agreement.

Apr 23: ACT organizes historic march of 25,000 against cruise testing, one of the two largest peace demonstrations ever held in Toronto, and networks similar actions across the West.

July 23: ACT networks a nationwide protest in 23 Canadian cities in response to July 15 cruise testing agreement: 8,000 in Toronto.

Aug 6: The ACT Coalition co-sponsors Hiroshima Day commemoration and protest.

Oct 22: International Day of Protest - ACT co-sponsors the Toronto anti-cruise march and rally; the other of the two largest peace demonstrations so far held in Toronto.

Dec 3: ACT puts the Santa Claus parade back on Yonge Street with a lively Christmas march for Peace of about 1,500.

1984

Mar 10: Demonstration in response to the first cruise test, networked nationally. ACT had finally won the right to march up Yonge St. with a permit.

Apr 28: Second annual Spring Protest. 15,000 Torontonians once again demonstrate against the cruise. This, despite the fact that the first cruise test had already occurred. Persistence will win out in the end!

Aug 6: Hiroshima Day commemoration and protest of about a thousand.

1985

CRUISE TEST RESPONSES:

Jan 15: Press Conference with symbolic action at Peace Garden.

Jan 19th: 500 people march from PC Headquarters up Yonge St. to City Hall and participate in mass workshop on ACT.

Feb 19: 200 people gather at PC Headquarters in a very moving protest. Participants stick a photograph of a beloved child to the door and say a few words. Television coverage extended as far as New Zealand and West Germany.

Feb 22: A delegation makes a presentation at PC Headquarters. (test postponed)

Feb 23: 225 people picket PC H.Q., then march up Yonge St. to City Hall for rally followed by workshops. (test postponed)

Feb 25: A small symbolic protest outside P.C. HQ., using puppets and theatre. (day of actual test)

Apr 27: 5,000 people march through Toronto's entire downtown to protest cruise missile testing in Canada and to say NO to Canadian participation in Star Wars.

Aug 6: Over 2,500 people take part in mass candle-light procession to remember Hiroshima and protest 40 years of nuclear terror.

Aug 6-9 A around-the-clock vigil is held at the Peace Garden. City Hall, from Hiroshima Day to Nagasaki Day.

Be a Volunteer for Peace!

at 7 P.M. these discussions will be taking place at the Fallout Shelter. Come and hear experts in their field speak on Star Wars and the economics of the arms race. Hear peace activists from the Eastern Bloc speak on the growing independent peace movement there. All are welcome to come, listen, and participate in the usually very lively and interesting discussions.

The FALLOUT SHELTER Peace Coffeehouse:

Friday and Saturday nights at 9... see you at the Fallout Shelter!

Friday's are open set nights: bring your guitar, sing, read poetry, or perform your dramatic piece. On Saturday night enjoy some of Canada's finest poets, musicians and other performers who donate their time and talent to the cause of peace.

The Fallout Shelter is always looking for performers and artists, as well as people who can help run, organize and publicize coffeehouse and gallery activities. We are an increasingly popular forum for book-launchings and premieres of all types of performances. Come to the Fallout Shelter and make a contribution to peace... Come and enjoy!

East European Working Committee:

ACT believes that disarmament can only be achieved through the strength of the international peace movement - in the East as well as the West. We believe that this movement must be independent and have the right to work for peace within the individual nations of the world. ACT, therefore, is active in supporting the independent peace movements in Eastern Europe. Spakouts:

Four times a week, ACT members sell buttons, hand out literature and talk to people on the streets of Toronto. This is an exciting and effective means of publicizing events and reaching the public at large about the dangers of the arms race. It also raises money for ACT! If you're interested, we'd love to see you at a speakout. Call the ACT office, or simply come join us:

The ACT Peace Centre:

An open office is an important function of any organization. This is where we do our day to day work, talk to people and hold meetings. We always need help with office staffing and we love to see new faces. Drop by and have a chat.