

the ACTivist

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Newspaper of the
ACT for Disarmament Coalition

Volume 3, Issue 4 Fall 1987 pay what you can

Cruising through the Summit

By David Webster

So, it finally happened. Ronald Reagan and Mikhail Gorbachev signed an agreement to eliminate all medium range missiles in Europe.

After the December 7 signing of the agreement many Canadian peace activists began celebrating. Champagne corks were popped and the media was told "this is what we've been working for all these years."

But what was really done when the superpower leaders met for drinks and public relations in Washington?

True, the cruise and Pershing 2 intermediate-range missiles are to be removed from Europe. True, this is the first arms reduction agreement ever signed by the United States and the Soviet Union (previous agreements have always placed limits on the number of nuclear weapons allowed to each side). But the reality is far different from the glowing reports we've all read.

What's been eliminated is a class of missiles (3% of the world's nuclear arsenals) which attracted mas-

sive public opposition, especially in Europe. The Euromissiles in West Germany, Britain, Italy, and Belgium will go. So will their counterpart SS-20s in East Germany and Czechoslovakia. However, these land-based missiles are to be replaced by sea and air-launched missiles. One Trident 2 submarine can house all the cruise missiles to be removed from Western Europe.

And it's not just submarines. Air-launched missiles, especially air-launched cruise missiles, will also be used by NATO to get around the arms agreement. As always, Canada is an enthusiastic partner. We'll continue to allow the testing of the cruise missile under a new agreement with the US Air Force, with ever more sophisticated types of cruise missiles flying over our North. The original rationale for cruise testing, the presence of Soviet SS-20 missiles in Eastern Europe was always a little thin. Now that rationale is gone, but the tests will continue.

As to reasons, our government can only keep repeating "NATO commitment" like a broken record.

Brian Mulrooney must have had his fingers crossed when he praised arms control.

The arms race is being shifted to less visible areas, not reversed into a 'peace race'. The superpowers hope that peace protests will stop, as has happened after previous arms treaties. You can't have a Greenham Common peace camp at a submarine.

The Reagan-Gorbachev arms agreement could be made a positive first step towards a nuclear-free world. It's shown that both the superpowers are vulnerable to public pressure at the grassroots level.

The danger is that the peace movement and the public will see it as enough and think that peace is on its way. It's not, and we have to increase our efforts, not let them die off. We have to stop the cruise, and work against arms races at sea, in the



air, or in space. We have to keep up the pressure on the military blocs which are at the heart of the problem, by getting Canada out of NATO and supporting independent peace initiatives in East bloc countries. The arms agreement is the beginning of a critical period, and it makes this winter's campaigns against cruise testing and the April 23 sixth annual spring protest for peace more important than ever.

Free Trade: Canada at the Crossroads

By Dr. John Bacher

The past issues that have faced the Canadian peace movement — the nuclear tripping of Bomarc missiles, cruise testing, low-level flights and Star Wars — all pale in comparison with the proposed Free Trade agreement between Canada and the United States. If approved, the continentalist momentum unleashed by Free Trade will create enormous pressures for full annexation to the United States. This would bring about the sorry sight of former Canadians dying to support such aggressive U.S. actions as the invasion of Grenada, the bombing of Libya or intervention in Lebanon.

Although the Canadian peace movement has rightly criticized policies of our government which encourage global militarism and the

arms race, this should not blind us to the importance our national independence has played for world peace. Canadian governments have refused to be lured into desperate moves by American governments to sustain long wars against other countries. We rejected mad schemes to return the unpopular Chinese Nationalists to power by boycotting wheat sales to China. Canada has traded with Cuba ever since its revolution. Along with almost every other nation, Canada has condemned such flagrant violations of international law as aid to the Nicaraguan contras.

Under Free Trade, continentalist assumptions will dictate the erosion of any concept of a Canadian national interest which so far has distanced us from disastrous U.S. military adventures.

As even its supporters admit, the rationale behind Free Trade is a supposed Valhalla to be found in exporting to a fabled U.S. market.

Producing for the needs of a distinctive Canadian society will be forgotten as will massive industries such as wine, clothing and textiles. If all our future markets are to be continental, great pressures will be brought to create the same merging of defence and foreign policy. Soon, Canadians will be dying in the numerous undeclared American wars.

Free Traders should look at one area where Free Trade already exists, defence production. Under the Defence Production Sharing Agreement, a situation exists where the Canadian military has to buy the same dollar value in arms that we export to the United States. In 1964, the Voice of Women pointed out that the chief aim of Canadian foreign policy had become the promotion of our duty-free arms exports to the U.S. This was an important factor in government decisions to deploy BOMARC missiles in Canada and to allow cruise testing.

The relatively few jobs in defence industries pale in comparison with the massive leverage that will be given to the U.S. under Free Trade's extreme integration. Given the new orientation of our economy to our southern neighbour, to pursue an independent course in foreign policy would be virtually impossible.

Free Trade challenges the whole assumption of a distinct society. We are less militarized than our American cousin, we spend less on the absurdities of 'defence', our programmes of research and development

are geared primarily to civilian uses. We have been spared the pain of peacetime conscription. Shouldn't a distinct Canada be preserved?

It is important for peace activists to understand the close connection between the militarization of Canada posed in the new White Paper on Defence and the integration of Canada into the United States posed by Free Trade. The White Paper will ensure that Canadians pay the same

burden of defence expenditures that faced by Americans, who lack a health insurance system while spending millions on the pursuit of lunatic Star Wars schemes. Perhaps that is Canada's contribution to a level playing field: levelling all obstacles to the schemes of the U.S. military-industrial complex.

Next issue: the Defence White Paper

Refuse the Cruise!



Vancouver
On the day of each test, assemble at 12 noon at Robson Square, followed by a march to the American Consulate and rally.

On the Saturday after the first cruise test, assemble at Robson Square for a rally and entertainment also at 12 noon.

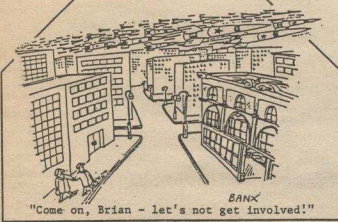
Toronto
On the day of the first cruise test, there will be a rally at the U.S. Consulate (University, south of Dundas) at noon.

On the Saturday following, a demonstration will start at 12 noon at **Conservative Party headquarters** (121 Richmond, east of University) ending with a rally at the City Hall Peace Garden.

St Catharines
On the day of the first cruise test, assemble at 4 p.m. for a rally at City Hall (Church & James).

On the Saturday after, rally at 1 p.m. at City Hall.

Oakville
On the day of the first test, protest in front of M.P. Otto Jelinek's office (Lakeshore & Allan) at 4 p.m.



ACT for Disarmament Coalition: IN ACTION

ACT For Disarmament chapters have continued to be active participants in the Canadian peace movement. Since our last issue (July 1987) much has been done. Much more is planned.

Our traditional Hiroshima Day commemorations on August 6 were well-attended with 5 chapters participating. Over 80 people rallied in downtown Kitchener. Oakville activists staged an 8:15 a.m. die-in on August 6 and held a Nagasaki Day vigil in the pouring rain on August 9. In St. Catharines, 35 activists participated in a City Hall die-in and later over 50 marched in protest.

Peterborough and Toronto held demonstrations protesting Canada's contribution to the arms race

through exports of uranium to nuclear weapons producing states. Canada provided the uranium which made possible the Hiroshima and Nagasaki bombs. Around 400 peace-niks marched in Peterborough on Hiroshima Day, and then joined with Kawartha Ploughshares in a vigil on Nagasaki Day, and someone stopped the Town Clock at ArtSpace at three minutes to midnight. Toronto's candlelight demo brought out close to 400 activists. At the City Hall rally, over 100 people crowded the stage, arms around each other's shoulders, swaying back and forth while singing Give Peace a Chance.

Also in August, ACT for Disarmament was involved in protesting the presence of warships in the harbours of Vancouver, Toronto and Port Colborne on the Welland Canal. ACT Niagara floated mock dead bodies near the Oliver Hazard Perry warship and waved a large 'Disarm the Seas' banner. In Toronto, several ACT members were arrested at a TDN-organized protest against the same ship of over 200 peace-niks. Chanting "the warship is the obscenity", the crowd surged the police, who refused to release the arrested activists. Charges were later dropped. (See p. 4 for an account of the warship actions in Vancouver.)

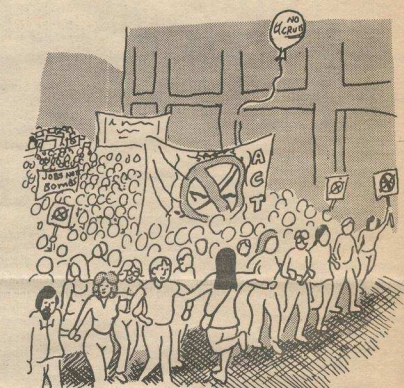
ACT members participated in two September conferences, the Ontario Peace Conference in London and the third gathering of the Coalition for a Nuclear Free Great Lakes.

Active Cruise Response

On October 27, the cruise missile was launched again over Canada's North. ACT chapters immediately began to mobilize public demonstrations in protest.

In Oakville, around 20 young activists picketed in front of cabinet minister Otto Jelinek's office. A dozen members went to his upstairs office to demand to speak to him. After a 45 minute wait, Jelinek phoned. He told the group to make an appointment in future and to go protest in Moscow. ACT Oakville told him to demand of cabinet that they provide more than 48 hours notice of future cruise tests, and that they would be honoured to protest in Moscow if he would be so kind as to pay the costs!

ACT Toronto responded with two press releases and a 1000 poster spree. The group convened a press conference at City Hall, with speakers Janice Alton of Voice of Women and Peel Peacemakers, Steve Shallhorn of Greenpeace, Eldon Comfort of the United Church Peace Network, David Kraft of the Toronto Disarmament Network and Simon Threlkeld of ACT for Disarmament. All 3 major dailies, many radio stations and 3 TV stations attended. A rally was held at the City Hall Peace Gardens. A black coffin



draped in the Canadian flag was carried to the peace flame. Many spoke in opposition to continued cruise testing.

Peterborough activists distributed a leaflet and picketed on the day of the test. In Kitchener, a large rally was held on the 31st at Speakers Corner. A rally at St. Catharines City Hall was reported extensively on two radio stations. Peace groups also protested in Edmonton, North Bay and Sault Ste. Marie.

Public Peace Forums

Chapters have continued doing educational work. ACT Niagara recently convened forums on the Defence White Paper and on European peace movements. More forums are

scheduled for St. Kitts throughout 1988.

ACT Toronto and the Toronto Universities Middle East Group co-sponsored a very well attended forum with Mair Vanunu, a younger brother of alleged Israeli nuclear spy Mordechai Vanunu.

ACT Vancouver will be participating in Langara College's Nuclear Awareness Week of January 25-29. There will be films, forums and a peace party. A Nuclear Awareness Week will also take place in Peterborough during April. Forums, films and a rally will highlight the week. ACT Oakville will be hosting peace films on a regular basis and is now inviting speakers for a series of public forums.

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Letters



Dear Activist
Re Bert Keser, Gia Lim and Chris Reid's article "Which Way Forward for ACT?", the experience of the Cruise Missile Conversion Project may be relevant. I initiated the process of becoming a member of the organization about three years ago, in part because they were one of the more radical peace groups around. At that time, they had an annual budget of \$8000 to produce the CMCP newsletter which, with the resources available, could have become the radical Canadian peace journal raising discussion of the "hard" issues (non-alignment, the roots of militarism etc) that the ACTivist has begun to raise.

CMCP was at the time a multi-issue organization and had a large membership. I decided not to finalize my membership when it became clear that the founders of the organization — the single-issue dogmatists — were going to insist that the organization divert its resources into a single issue campaign, and fulfill their "Christian duty" by tolling the bell to uninterested workers at the Litton plant about cruise missile conversion. Today, three years later, CMCP has officially disbanded. Maybe there's a lesson in that.

Sincerely,
Don Alexander
Peterborough Ont.



A Twelve Page ACTIVIST?

Due to fiscal restraints and a lack of paid subscribers, we have had to reduce the size of the *ACTivist* from 12 pages to only 4. This results in a

saving of over \$500 per issue. We hope that you enjoy this issue. If all of our supporters were to send us even \$1, we have the energy and

material to return the paper to its former size and improve on its quality.

PEACE EDUCATION

The *Journal of European Nuclear Disarmament (END Journal)* is seeking subscriptions to keep up its excellent coverage of the peace movement in both Eastern and Western Europe and of the escalations of the arms race by both sides. This is the premier magazine of the European peace movement and deserves the support of everyone concerned about peace and non-alignment. \$15/year (5 issues) from END, 11 Goodwin St, London N4 3H9.

The *Phoenix* is the membership magazine of the Canadian Alliance in Solidarity with Native Peoples. Reports in past issues have included uranium mining on native lands, land claims struggles, native people in prisons, and low-level flights over Innu lands in Labrador. Often it is the native peoples who suffer the most from the military machine. CASNP membership: \$15/year, \$5 for elders, students and unemployed, from CASNP, 16 Spadina Rd, Toronto Ont. M5R 2S7.

Option Paix, affiliated with the Coalition Quebecoise pour le Désarmement et la Paix, is a non-aligned voice for peace in Quebec. Each issue focuses on a single theme, like conversion of the military industry to peaceful production, militarization of native lands and civil disobedience. \$8/year (4 issues) from Mouvement Option-Paix Inc., 21 Beuchamp, Hull PQ J8X 4E7.



The October 15 issue of the *McGill Daily* was a special issue on peace and disarmament. The centre spread featured an article on ACT's forum at the Ontario peace conference last September in London. "Independent Peace and Ecology Movements in the Soviet Union and Eastern Europe: Learning from our

Counterparts" examined the situations in East Germany, Czechoslovakia, Poland and the USSR. *McGill Daily*, 3480 McTavish, room B-03, Montreal PQ H3A 1X9, phone (514) 398 6784. And thanks to London's Nuclear Awareness Committee for their superb organization of the three-day conference.

A new networking bulletin for activists East and West has started up, called *On Gogol Boulevard* after the Moscow street which has become a favourite youth and counterculture hangout. The first (fall 1987) issue contains news from Poland, the USSR, the USA, Yugoslavia, East Germany, Hungary and Czechoslovakia. They are asking for subscriptions and short reports on East/West networking activities of groups and individuals. Letters, articles and commentary are also welcome. \$5/year (4 issues, all cheques payable to "Aspect Foundation") from 151 First Ave #62, New York NY 10003, United States, phone (718) 499 7720.

An Appeal to Protest Cruise Missile Tests in Canada

The Canadian government is once again giving the U.S. Air Force permission to launch cruise missiles over Canada's North. American B-52 bombers will test the cruise missile's readiness for use in a nuclear war.

For the sixth consecutive year, in the ACT for Disarmament coalition (formerly the Against Cruise Testing coalition) appeal to you, our friends in the national and international peace movements, to join with us in organizing public demonstrations against the Canadian government's most blatant contri-

bution to the arms race.

The next series of tests can be expected to begin in January or February. They will likely involve newer, more advanced types of cruise missiles, such as the 'Stealth Cruise Missile'. By allowing this new round of cruise testing, the Mulroney government is greatly contributing to the international arms race.

But that is not all. The new round of cruise tests must also be understood as part of NATO's likely plans to compensate for the removal of land-based Euromissiles by the use

of sea and air-launched missiles. Canadian cruise missile tests help to undermine progress towards a nuclear free Europe and perpetuate the division of Europe into two armed camps. This fact alone constitutes more than adequate justification for a national and international series of actions in response.

Last winter was an inspiration. ACT for Disarmament not only managed to hold protests against renewed cruise testing in several Canadian cities. We also networked a significant series of international protests thanks to the co-operation

of European Nuclear Disarmament (END) in London, the West German Greens in Bonn and many others. In spite of the scant 48 hour notice given by the U.S. Air Force prior to its cruise missile tests, we plan to do much better this time around.

So we are appealing to you to consider a public response of some kind to the start of a new round of cruise tests, likely in January or February. We also hope that you will inform us concerning what you might do, and especially, the results. We will report back with a short summary of all the protests against

renewed cruise missile testing in Canada.

This appeal is going out to peace groups and activists throughout Canada and internationally. In Europe, responses are once again being co-ordinated by our good friends at END (11 Goodwin St, London N4, United Kingdom). Here in Canada, the Canadian Peace Pledge Campaign is organizing a nationwide setting-up of ballot boxes on the day of the first cruise test where people can vote for or against the test.

Peace: Locally and Globally

Tritium Cavalcade

Peace groups throughout southern Ontario are joining together in an exciting new project to protest against Ontario Hydro's plans to transport radioactive tritium (in the form of tritiated water) from the Bruce and Pickering reactor complexes to Darlington. Hydro also plans to export the tritium, which will almost certainly find its way into the US nuclear weapons programme.

A car cavalcade will travel the entire tritium transport route on Saturday April 9, stopping in several towns along the way. So far, groups from Port Elgin, Orangeville, Tottenham, York County, Toronto (including ACT for Disarmament) and Durham Region are involved. Contact: Tritium Cavalcade Project c/o Randy Dryburgh, RR43 Conn Ont. N0G 1N0, phone (519) 323 1074.



Plutonium Overflights

Most Canadians were horrified to learn of an agreement concluded this year by the United States and Japan which would allow the transport of plutonium from France to Japan. The dangerously radioactive shipments would be done by plane

over the Canadian North. The Transport Ministry has said that Canada won't allow these overflights "at present", but has left open the possibility of allowing them to go ahead later. A petition against plutonium overflights has been started and other actions are planned if the government decides to back down and allow the flights. Contact: Canadian Alliance in Solidarity with Native Peoples, 16 Spadina Rd, Toronto Ont. MSR 2S7.

Blockade at Nanos Bay

October 26, the 25th anniversary of the Cuban Missile Crisis, saw the largest ever act of civil disobedience at the Canadian Forces submarine test range at Nanos Bay BC. Eighteen people were arrested after a blockade organized by the Nanos Conversion Campaign (NCC) which shut down the base for three and a half hours in the morning. Members of ACT for Disarmament Vancouver were among those carted away from the peaceful protest.

The NCC has also been holding weekly educational forums and publishing its newsletter. They have just moved to: RR#2, Arlington Rd, PO Box 6, Nanos Bay BC V0R 2R0, phone (604) 468 7335. In Toronto, a slide show is available from Lyle Joye (463 4681).

Ecology Networking

Ecological activists from across Toronto came together on December 5 to form the Toronto Environmental Alliance (TEA). A twelve founding groups together have thousands of members in Toronto. The Alliance is planning Metro-wide campaigns to make the environment a municipal issue. A general meeting is scheduled for February 20.

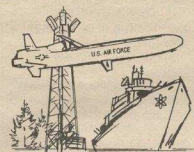
The Ontario Environment Network, a province-wide alliance of groups, has been active for two years. It promotes environmental activism through its newsletter, *Nature News* (\$15 a year), which integrates ecology and peace and is an excellent source for news of the environment. Contact: Ontario Environment Network, PO Box 125, Station "P", Toronto Ont M5S 9Z9.

Budapest Seminar

Following the success of the May 7-9 Warsaw seminar organized by Poland's Freedom and Peace (WIP) movement approximately 120 independent peace, ecology and civil rights activists from both blocs took part in another conference the weekend of November 21-22. This time the event was held in Budapest, Hungary and hosted jointly by the European Network for East-West Dialogue and prominent activists in the Hungarian democratic opposition.

The Budapest seminar, like the one in Warsaw, encountered concerted efforts by the authorities to prevent it from taking place. But these failed, compelling Hungary's rulers to take the state-controlled Hungarian Peace Council, which attempted to co-opt the event. This tactic also failed. Finally, in a last desperate move, the Hungarian authorities turned to the state-controlled media. Obediently, the media reported on the seminar falsely claiming it was a conference sanctioned by the Hungarian Peace Council.

These official lies notwithstanding, all reports indicate that the seminar was a major success. This demonstrated that the process of East-West Dialogue and 'Detente from Below' is continuing to move forward in defiance of the rulers of both military blocs and is certain to be a central part of peace politics for years to come. Further information on the Budapest seminar and the European Network for East-West Dialogue is available from ACT Niagara.



Nuclear Free Great Lakes

The Coalition for a Nuclear Free Great Lakes, which includes groups in eight US states, as well as Ontario and Manitoba, recently met at Lake Scugog in Durham Region (home to the Pickering and Darlington reactor complexes). Atlastcount, there were 28 nuclear reactor complexes in the Great Lakes basin, a single ecological region. A disaster in any of them would affect the entire region. The coalition publishes a networking newsletter and holds conferences exploring the expansion of nuclear power around the Great Lakes and the links between nuclear power and weapons. Contact: Coalition for a Nuclear Free Great Lakes, PO Box 331, Munro Michigan 48161, United States.

of Canada's major contributions to the arms race. Canada is the world's largest uranium producer, with most of the production being in Saskatchewan. The conference will be on the same weekend as ACT for Disarmament's April 23 peace march in Toronto, which will have as one of its demands "No Uranium Mining or Export". Contact: Jim Harding, 1909 Toronto St, Regina Sask. S4P 1M9.



Peace Forums

The United Church Peace Network of Metro Toronto holds regular educational forums on peace issues at St Andrew's Church, 117 Bloor St E on the third floor. All are on Monday nights at 7:30 pm. **Jan 11:** James Anderson on "New Zealand's Efforts to Become



Nuclear Safety Review

ACT Toronto participated in the Ontario Nuclear Safety Review conducted during the fall by an Ontario government commission. Don Alexander of the Northumberland County-based Human Scale Institute submitted a brief, "The Collapse of Values", on the social and cultural effects of a nuclear disaster at Pickering or the Durham/Peterborough area. A summary of his conclusions has been printed in two Peterborough-area weeklies, and is available from ACT Toronto and ACT Peterborough.

Uranium Conference

A conference on uranium mining in Saskatchewan is being planned for April 22-24 in Saskatoon, the centre of the province's uranium industry. Organizers include the Saskatchewan Greens, Greenpeace and other anti-nuclear groups. This is a very important event, as the mining and export of uranium is one

a Nuclear Free Zone" (video), Feb 8: Johann Galtung on "Defensive Defence and an analysis of SDI" (video), March 14: An update from the congregations on the Kitchen Table Peace Theology Project. April 15: Reports from peace workers in the congregations. May 21-22 (Sat & Sun): Pentecost Vigil with Anglicans for Peace at the Church of the Redeemer (Bloor & Avenue Rd). June 13: Planning for 1989.

THE ACTIVIST

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The ACTIVIST is published 4 times per year in Toronto by the ACTIVIST Collective, plus 1 special edition.

The ACTIVIST is the newspaper of the ACT for Disarmament Coalition. Its purpose is to:

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

Significant articles do not necessarily reflect the viewpoint of the ACT Coalition or the editorial collective. Contributions of articles and photos are always welcome. All articles may be reprinted without permission.

Subscriptions are offered to THE ACTIVIST on a yearly basis. We welcome subscriptions for 2 years. A regular subscription is only \$18.00 per installment. The rate for institutions and libraries is \$25.00 for each year. Supporting subscriptions for individuals are \$25.00 per year.

Larger donations are gratefully appreciated. For foreign subscriptions, please add cost of postage. The editorial and production committee for this issue are the members of ACT for Disarmament Coalition. Special thanks to Richard Campbell of Toronto. Second Class Mail Registration # 6769

Pier Pressure

"That destroyer can't be carrying nuclear weapons, the mayor said it's illegal!"

— Private, Canadian Navy

By Susan Moore

Each year the number of U.S. nuclear armed warships entering Canadian ports in general, and Vancouver in particular, increases dramatically. The public becomes more complacent, the media more comatose, and the need for direct, non-violent action more urgent and timely.

The policy of the U.S. Navy to 'neither confirm nor deny' the presence of nuclear weapons seems to soothe the Canadian conscience, and the Canadian policy of 'neither ask nor care' only perpetuates the problem.

The U.S. ships entering Vancouver carry a wide variety of bombs, including B-57 anti-submarine nuclear depth bombs, ASROCs, Harpoon missiles and Standard missiles. You would think that the U.S. would have the respect to tell their northern 'friends' what hazards they may create for us; however, the military has obviously put a lot of thought into how they can suck us in.

The American government constantly tells us that by not letting us in on their little secret, they can prevent the Soviet Union from targeting the ships. Believe it or not, Vancouver citizens buy this, even though common sense says that if the Soviet Union cannot find out which ships are nuclear armed, they will target them all. Why take chances, right?

The peace movement in Vancouver has recognized that in order to change the 'neither ask nor care' thinking, we must move to a direct action campaign to obstruct the warships.

The first action of this kind was taken when a large group of U.S. frigates entered the port a few days before the Sea Festival. They were met by two Greenpeace who climbed 100 feet above Lions Gate Bridge and hung a banner which read 'Nuclear Free Seas'. The climbers hung above the bridge all night to make sure the sign was not disturbed before the warships arrived.

Two days later members of ACT Vancouver, the Green Party and the Nanoose Conversion Campaign were chained to the gang-planks of one of the nuclear-capable ships. Our demands were simple enough.

1. We asked the U.S. Navy to either confirm or deny the presence of nuclear weapons aboard

their ships.

2. We demanded that they allow a citizens inspection of all the visiting ships.

3. We called for the Canadian government to call off its plans to patrol the Arctic with nuclear powered submarines.

Several days after that Greenpeace members chained two zodiacs to the pier where two nuclear armed frigates were trying to dock. The consequences of that action included several arrests and extensive damage to the zodiacs and one police zodiac which was also crushed by the frigate.

The final direct action of the summer involved activists slipping into wetsuits and actually chaining

themselves to the pier pilings in the water at Ballantyne Pier.

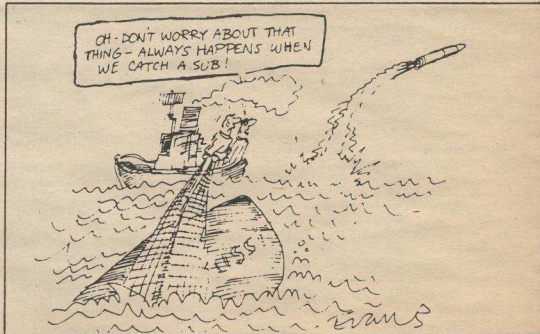
All of the actions of the summer were met with a fair degree of animosity. The anti-warship movement is currently under attack here in the west. Dan Illington of the *Province* referred to our water actions as "boring re-runs" and showed great displeasure with our supposed move to "unilateral disarmament".

Since we found ourselves being accused of over-dramatization, we decided to try yet another tactic. An all-night peace vigil became a popular idea. Nanoose Conversion Campaign came over, and the Green Party and Lawyers for Social Responsibility endorsed the vigil. We were surprised that the crew of the

visiting warship didn't endorse it! The Ports Canada police even helped us. The *Vancouver Sun* printed a very favourable review and a great photo. It turned out to be a fantastic action with musical entertainment, free coffee and \$60 in donations.

And so there you have it. The whole story. What I did with my summer vacation. The end. (and yet only the beginning!)

The issue of warships in Vancouver harbour will be debated at City Council on the January 12. Local activists hope to force Council to take a stand on safe porting and actively encourage the federal government to ban foreign warships from Canadian ports.



What is ACT?

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

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

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

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

History of Action

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