

# the ACTIVIST

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Newspaper of the  
ACT for Disarmament Coalition

Volume 4, Issue 4-Christmas 1988-Pay what you can

## ACT for Disarmament in Action: 1988

During 1988, ACT for Disarmament (Toronto) has organized or participated in:

Cruise protests (19,22 & 23 January) • "Troops out of Honduras" U.S. Consulate protest (19 March) • Tritium cavalcade from Bruce to Darlington (9 April) • April 23 Sixth Annual Spring Protest for Peace (No Weapons Testing - Tritium Transport or Export - Uranium Mining or Export - Cruise Testing; Yes to Peace) • Leafletting Sea Cadets (1 May) • March for international Disarm the Seas week (28 May) • Toronto Summit demonstration (19 June) • Move-a-thon for the Environment (5 June) • Iran-Air protests (4 July) • Protest at port visit of HMCS Ottawa (9 July) • Hiroshima silent candlelight walk (6 August) • Protests at USS Antrim warship's visit (23-26 August) • Distribution of Czechoslovakian Charter 77's Prague Appeal for human rights and peace at Black Ribbon day (23 August) • Public forum on low-level flight testing over Western Shoshone lands in Nevada (28 September) • International day of solidarity for Mordechai Vanunu at Israeli consulate (30 September) • Picketing tritium users conference (3 October) • Innu support picket at PC Party headquarters (5 October) • Walk for Peace (29 October) • Picket at Malaysian consulate for rain forests (31 October) • Demonstration and 17-hour vigil for Innu at PC Party headquarters (4-5 November) • Return to PC headquarters for more Innu support (10 November) • East Timor picket (7 December) • Collection of General Electric boycott pledges • Button blitzes, conferences & more.



## Be a part of the action • see inside pages

To continue working on these and many other peace campaigns, we need your time.

You can help the peace movement grow by distributing posters and leaflets in your community (to schools, libraries and community centres), joining our emergency action phone tree (getting an important message out fast), collecting signatures on petitions (see p. 3), attending our monthly general meetings, participating in canvasses and button blitzes, helping to plan and organize peace events, designing and producing flyers, putting out this paper, coming to demonstrations, telling your friends.... Whatever you can do.

Hope you get the message. There is lots to be done, and many ways to be part of a movement for change. Please get in touch. Give us a call at 960 2228. The world can't change without you.

It's not too late to make your donation for our work for peace!

We thank all of you who have given generously already. Your contribution is going directly to our peace campaigns. Still, we desperately need to receive something from everyone. You are the peace movement.

If you have taxable income, you can receive a 75% tax transfer on any contribution of up to \$200, 50% thereafter. See p. 4 for details. As the deadline for tax receipts is 31 December 1988, we will gladly pick up cheques at the door. It's an affordable way to make a larger donation than you might otherwise have been able to provide. Please call 960 2228 for pickup in the Toronto area.

If you want action for disarmament, GIVE TO ACT FOR DISARMAMENT. Thank you very much!

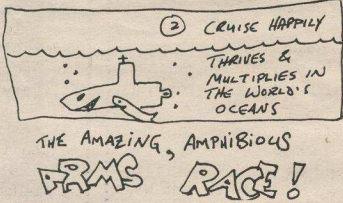
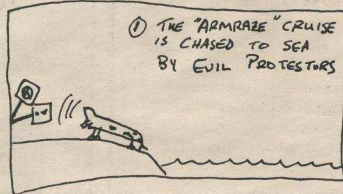
# HAPPY NEW YEAR - CRUISE FLIES AGAIN (and that's not all!)

Six years and 11 flights later, the cruise missile still flies free over Canada every winter. In recent years, it's been joined by low-level flight testing of Nato military jets over Innu lands in Labrador and Québec (see p. 3), nuclear submarine testing at Nanoose Bay BC, renewed flight tests in northern Ontario and British Columbia and increased testing of "conventional" weapons - including the chemical warfare experiments at Suffield Alberta.

continues to accelerate. More and more, though, the tests are done out of sight, whether underwater, behind locked doors or, in the most common case, over the lands of native people like the Innu of Labrador and the Dene of the Northwest Territories.

Cruise testing is no longer the only issue. But it is still important, still Canada's most visible part in the arms race. In Canada, the testing continues: around the world, the deployments of their delivery systems, continue. The year-old

INF agreement may have removed cruise from Europe, but cruise has only migrated to sea and air.



March, with only 48 hours notice given of each. The time to prepare for protest is now.

Cruise testing will only be stopped by continued public protest. Last year, ACT for Disarmament networked pickets and marches in immediate response to cruise tests in 13 Canadian cities and beyond to Europe and the United States. In Toronto, hundreds marched in a snowstorm to demonstrate their continued concern.

This year the need for protest is even greater. The arms race may not be going away, but neither are we. When you hear the cruise tests announced, call us for protest details.

## Poland: The Story of Passports and House Arrest

Granting an inhabitant of the Polish People's Republic with a passport is a kind of privilege. By no means is this act a simple right having its source in the fact of Polish citizenship. Granting the passport functions as a prize for good conduct.

To apply for the pass the inhabitant of Poland first has to get an official invitation [from abroad] confirmed by the Polish embassy. Every Polish embassy in the world has special invitation forms for sale. The inviting person has to buy such a form, fill it out, sign material responsibility and send the form to Poland.

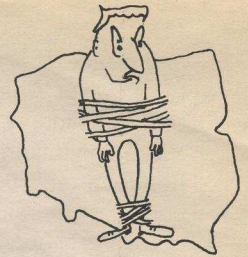
If you are a lucky grantee [many are refused passports] you get your pass which is accompanied by a special card. This card indicates the country you are going to and how long you intend to stay. All apostasies are viewed as an offence and punished with refusing to issue the pass by the next application. When you come back from abroad you have to immediately return the pass to the police and the same procedure repeats if you want to go away next time. These humiliating and long formalities and the fact that no-one is sure if he gets his pass next time are the main reasons for emigration from Poland.

What is most important passports are a tool of political repression in the hands of security service. The government claims that all this is necessary to ensure that Polish citizens are not without livelihood abroad. This is obvious rubbish in a country which absolutely does not care about people's livelihood at home.


Many people have been refused their passports for political reasons, because authorities make it a way of controlling the society. We think they should all be regarded as political prisoners affected with a sort of home arrest. We decidedly demand that all prisoners in home arrest in Poland

are immediately released.

Excerpted from @cappella, newsletter of Freedom and Peace in Gdansk, Poland.



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**In the next ACTIVIST:**

- High School Peace Networking
- International week of action against low-level flight testing
- General Electric, and other weaponmakers
- reviews of *From Below* and *Chernobyl Disaster*
- and more

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## To Our Supporters:

Have you considered making a major donation to ACT but thought you couldn't afford it? Have you decided to make a donation to charity instead, knowing you could get a tax reduction? Now, thanks to the Riverdale Greens, you can make a donation to ACT and get an INCOME TAX CREDIT as well.

The RIVERDALE GREEN CONSTITUENCY ASSOCIATION supports our work for peace, and now has a policy of turning over to ACT any donation it receives from people wanting to support the peace part of its programme. With Ontario election laws, such donations are seen as donations to a political party (since the cheques are made out to them) and thus entitle you to an income tax credit for having donated to a political party.

Donations to political parties are better tax write-offs than donations to charities. This is because the first \$200 gives a 75% rebate on your income tax form.

ACT is composed of members with a number of different political views. The general membership accepted the offer of the Riverdale Greens because it gives people making major donations to ACT some way of receiving a tax benefit for supporting us. *It does not tie us or you to the Green Party in any way.*

Now supporters have two options - sending a cheque directly to ACT; or sending a cheque to the Riverdale Greens Constituency Association with a memo "for peace education". They will send an equal amount to ACT and you will be mailed a receipt for income tax purposes.

We need your support; donations from our supporters are essential for our work to be successful. Thanks to the Riverdale Greens, you can also get a tax break!

# Donate to ACT - Get a Tax Break

ACT encourages all individuals who would like a receipt for political contributions to send a cheque denoting their area(s) of interest(s) to RIVERDALE GREENS CONSTITUENCY ASSOCIATION whose policy is to send A!! monies earmarked for Peace, directly, wholly, and exclusively to ACT.

NAME _____													
ADDRESS _____													
POSTAL CODE _____	PHONE _____												
If you pay income tax, you can get up to 75% of your donation back in rebate directly off your tax payable (i.e. you give \$100.00, you get back \$75.00, so it costs you only \$25.00).													
FOR:	<table> <tr> <td>Peace</td> <td><input type="checkbox"/></td> <td>These represent</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Ecologism</td> <td><input type="checkbox"/></td> <td>the four main</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Conservatism</td> <td><input type="checkbox"/></td> <td>objectives and goals</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Decentralism</td> <td><input type="checkbox"/></td> <td>of our Greens.</td> </tr> </table>	Peace	<input type="checkbox"/>	These represent	Ecologism	<input type="checkbox"/>	the four main	Conservatism	<input type="checkbox"/>	objectives and goals	Decentralism	<input type="checkbox"/>	of our Greens.
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Decentralism	<input type="checkbox"/>	of our Greens.											
TO: RIVERDALE GREEN CONSTITUENCY ASSOCIATION c/o 456 Spadina Av. Toronto ON M2T 2G8													
Checkmark(s) indicate where money is to be spent.													

## What is ACT?

ACT for Disarmament is a non-aligned coalition of activist groups and individuals dedicated to mobilizing Canadians against our country's deepening involvement in the arms race. We began as the Against Cruise Testing coalition in late 1982 and have organized some of the largest demonstrations in Canada. We have since continued to focus on this issue as well as broadening out as Canada's involvement in U.S. military strategy becomes more inextricable.

We believe that peace and ecology are inseparable. Thus we campaign against nuclear power, which fuels the arms race and poisons our environment. We cannot ignore Canada's increasing reliance on this dangerous technology.

As part of the international non-aligned peace movement, we are 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 work for peace, free from government interference, in both blocs.

ACT strives to reach people in all walks of life. In keeping with our belief that people can bring about change, we concentrate much of our energy on mobilizing people, both by building mass demonstrations and by networking on the local, national and international levels. We believe 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.



## History of Action

1983

*Feb. 12:* ACT networks demonstrations across Canada and mobilizes 4000 Torontonians 45 hours after the umbrella weapons testing agreement. *April 21:* 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 in over 20 cities. *July 23:* ACT co-ordinates nationwide (and US) reaction to the cruise testing agreement - 6000 march up Yonge St in Toronto. *Aug. 6:* Hiroshima commemoration and protest. *Oct. 22:* ACT co-organizes a march which again brings over 25,000 in Toronto. *Dec. 16:* ACT holds a small but significant protest as part of the successful campaign to free independent Soviet peace activist Olga Medvedkova.

1984

*March 10:* National demonstrations in response to the first cruise test. ACT had finally won the right to march up Yonge St without a permit. *April 28:* ACT's second annual Spring Peace Protest attracts over 10,000 participants. *Aug. 6:* ACT's second Hiroshima day march.

1985

*Jan:* Symbolic action marks the first cruise test. "Saturday after" march - over 500 brave the cold. *Feb. 19:* Second cruise test - nearly 200 people present pictures of their children at a weekday, noon-hour protest at PC Party headquarters. *April 27:* 3rd Annual Peace Protest draws over 4000. *Aug. 6-9:* ACT's Hiroshima day candlelight march of over 2500 is followed by a 3-day vigil.

1986

*Jan-Feb:* ACT Niagara & ACT Kitchener-Waterloo join ACT Toronto to protest the cruise tests. *April 26:* 4000, many first-time demonstrators, join ACT Toronto's 4th Spring Peace Protest. *May 11:* ACT K-W's Mother's Day March is the largest peace demonstration ever in Kitchener-Waterloo. *Aug. 6-9:* ACT chapters hold actions on the anniversaries of Hiroshima and Nagasaki. *Oct. 13-19:* ACT's historic East-West peace festival brings together independent peace, ecology, labour & feminist activists from both sides in the Cold War.

1987

*Feb:* ACT chapters in Hamilton, Ancaster, K-W, Peterborough, St Catharines & Toronto protest continued cruise testing. *April 25:* A youthful crowd of 3000 is out for ACT Toronto's 5th Annual Peace Protest. *July-Aug:* ACT Vancouver holds protests against US warship visits. *Aug. 6-9:* Hiroshima-Nagasaki commemorations.

1988

*Jan-Feb:* All 8 ACT chapters hold anti-cruise protests in the wake of the INF agreement. Protests are also held in Europe and the US. *April 25:* ACT Toronto's 6th Spring Protest: 1500 protest in the rain.