

the ACTivist

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Newspaper of the
ACT for Disarmament Coalition

Volume 5, Issue 1 • Winter 1989 • pay what you can

STEALTH



"My guarantee as a member of the cabinet, as a member of the federal government, that we are not testing stealth or armed cruise missiles, that we aren't proposing that, or would we."

**•Otto Jelinek,
Conservative Party
Cabinet Minister,
January 22, 1988**

The Conservative government is stealthing its way further into militarism.

The new cabinet's decision to allow testing of the new American stealth cruise missile intensifies the government's desire to militarize Canada. Instead of working towards peace, the Conservatives, by allowing the US Air Force to test advanced cruise missiles in Canada, have sent a clear signal to the new Bush administration that Canada is complicit in American aggression.

On Feb. 1, External Affairs Minister Joe Clark announced that the United States had asked Canada for permission to test its new, deadly and sophisticated cruise missile over Canadian territory.

Less than 24 hours later, without regard for public opinion, the elite Cabinet Priorities and

Planning Committee rubber-stamped the American request. Neither public inquiries nor parliamentary debates were held to determine popular opinion of the proposed tests - the Tories simply announced that, whether Canadians like it or not, an AGM-129A stealth cruise missile will be nestled under the wing of a United States Air Force B-52 bomber and test-flown over the traditional northern Alberta-Dene (Northern Territories) cruise test route.

The decision means Canada will increasingly be seen as an active and leading participant in the global arms race. Instead of hopping into the global superpower sandbox, Canada must seriously pursue its often talked-about role of a peacemaker.

Canada has allowed the testing of American air-launched cruise missiles since 1983, when Pierre Trudeau's Liberals first agreed to test cruise. However, the stealth cruise represents an ugly turn of events: cruise technology is, in essence, first-strike technology, and both systems can carry the same 200-kiloton nuclear bomb - nearly 17 times as powerful as Little Boy, the American atomic bomb which killed more than 92,000 people at Hiroshima, Japan on August 6, 1945.

What is particularly insidious about the stealth weapon, however, is that it carries far more offensive punch than the old (AGM-86B) model. In an External Affairs

brochure on cruise missile technology, the government admits the stealth cruise is "capable of bursts of high speed to penetrate air defences". Surely we're talking about OFFENCE, not defence.

Both missiles fly slower than the speed of sound, but the new missile is faster and harder to spot on radar than its predecessor. It can also fly 4-5000 km, much farther than the 2400 km range of the old cruise. Finally, it can be easily retargeted while in flight.

Allowing this sophisticated killing machine to be tested in Canada is only a symptom of a larger problem: the Conservative government's commitment to increasing Canadian participation in the global arms race.

This commitment is outlined in the government's White Paper on Defence, a clear example of Red Scare propaganda worthy of the McCarthy era.

Indeed, Canadian defence policy during the last four years has been most offensive.

Canada has shown its strong support for the Nato alliance's "Deep Strike" warfighting doctrine (which calls for offensive defence in a European war) by bidding for a Nato base in Nitassinan (Labrador). Low-level test flights of B-52 bombers by several Nato states have all but destroyed the way of life of the Innu people who live in the region (see p. 2).

US Navy nuclear submarines practise underwater war games at the Nanoose Bay, BC test range,

while our own government clings to its almost childlike obsession with buying its own nuclear-powered subs.

The whole country has become a testing ground for missiles, bomber planes, submarines...weapons which only bring closer the next war.

Canadians from coast to coast have literally taken to the streets, sometimes in the thousands, to protest the tests.

ACT for Disarmament, originally the Against Cruise Testing coalition, has been at the forefront of the peace movement's

campaign to end weapons testing in Canada and, ultimately, to end Canadian involvement in any military alliance.

The military blocs - both east and west - must be broken if there is to be any hope of world peace. Your help is needed now more than ever to "Refuse the Cruise".

• by Saul Chernos



It takes 2 to hold an arms race

The superpowers' dance of death goes on.

Behind the Gorbachev peace rhetoric is the reality of a Soviet military which is "modernizing" its nuclear arsenal every bit as much as the US military, and an arms race which goes on and on, feeding off itself.

Soviet arms reduction proposals are of course welcome. Their acceptance by the Cold Warriors of Washington, Ottawa and other Nato capitals would make for a safer world. But they don't tell the whole story.

Within days of Canada's agreement to test the stealth cruise, a Soviet spokesperson

admitted that the USSR was producing its own AS-19 air-launched cruise missile. Among the targets for this Soviet cruise are Canadian cities.

The irony is that this would never had happened if we hadn't agreed to allow US cruise testing in Canada six years ago.

Arms reduction treaties aren't much use if they cover up a continued arms race. With cruise, the form of the arms race (withdrawal of ground-launched missiles from Europe) may have changed but the substance (continued production and deployment of sea- and air-launched missiles) remains intact.

**Protest • Sat Feb 25 • 12 noon • PC Party
headquarters • 121 Richmond St W • Toronto**

Innu protest against Nato in Nitassinan

September of 1988 marked the beginning in a dramatic sequence of events in the lives of the Innu people of Nitassinan (the area of Labrador and northern Québec, also spelt Ntesinan). The people have protested against the low-level flight training (50 flights a day, 30 meters above the ground, at very high speeds).

September 22 -

Protest camp at the end of the Goose Bay runway set up.

Sept 27. 200 people march length of runway. Evening: 100 demonstrate outside banquet hall where Premier Peckford addressed the Northern Ministers Conference. Innu from Mingan arrive to show support.

Oct 4. 90 Innu take runway from 2 points, closing down airport. 9 arrested, charged with mischief and jailed overnight.

Oct 5. Bail hearing to determine conditions of undertaking: keep the peace, not enter fenced area of CFB Goose Bay, meet with federal and provincial ministers. The group refuses to sign undertaking and is jailed. 70 Innu enter the runway again and are arrested but released, to appear Oct 11.

Oct 7. 8 prisoners sent to St John's penitentiary. CTV covers the entrance of 75 Innu onto the picket fence. 3 are arrested and held.

Oct 8. Another protest on runway is staged, partly in response to

reports that a woman in lock-up was not taking food or water. 2 arrested.

Oct 11. Court appearance for 13 Innu. 6 prisoners choose to return to St John's penitentiary to be a public witness to the wrongs being perpetrated on the Innu by the Canadian government.

Oct 17. Innu chiefs and an Assembly of First Nations vice-chief arrive to show their support.

Oct 22. 45 Innu protest at the MAC club where there is a banquet celebrating the close of flying season.

Oct 26. 50 Innu evade security surveillance and set up a tent, complete with boughs and stove, in front of the commanding officers' homes. The protest emphasizes that this is Innu land.

Oct 27. Chief Daniel Ashini and elder Sylvestre Andrew address Oxfam annual general meeting in Ottawa and meet with the Assembly of First Nations (AFN).

Nov 4. Supporters in Toronto stage an all-night vigil in front of Conservative party election headquarters on behalf of the Innu.

Nov 12. 200 protest in Nathan Phillips Square in Toronto for the Innu cause.

Nov 15. Chief Ashini travels to British Columbia to address the BC Union of Chiefs and the Physicians for the Prevention of Nuclear War.

Nov 16. 4 Innu participate in a large Ottawa protest. After a rally in front of the Department of National Defence, a group walks to the British, German and Dutch embassies to deliver a letter from the Innu people. Meanwhile at CFB Cold Lake, 75 Innu protesters gather outside the gate near the new German hangar. Another group of 40 enter the runway by climbing

over the security fence at the opposite end of the base from the protest camp. None of the 21 previously arrested enter the fenced-in area. Around noon, the entire group moves to the base entrance, where, through placards and a prepared statement, environmental issues are raised. In Holland, supporters organize a meeting with Dutch government officials and politicians to voice their support of the Innu struggle against low-level flying and the Nato proposal.

Nov 24. A delegation of Innu leaders and elders meets with Newfoundland and Labrador church leaders in St John's to explain the Innu point of view and to counter provincial government statements made at an earlier meeting for church leaders hosted by the Newfoundland government.

Georges Erasmus of AFN is present.

Dec 2. The 21 charged agree to ask for a postponement of their trial. Chiefs from the Innu communities arrive. Discussions and a community meeting are held.

Dec 5. Supporters in Holland block runways at 3 airports to protest their government's complicity in taking Innu land.

Dec 9. Dr David Suzuki visits the Innu to learn of their struggle. He spends a day with Innu elders in the country and at the Protest Camp. Public lecture given in Happy

Valley. While in the area, Suzuki also visits with military officials and the Mokami Project Group.

Dec 12. After maintaining the Protest Camp for 3 months, the people decide to close the camp. They discuss possible actions for the spring of 1989.

• by Innu supporters in Goose Bay, Labrador



"I conclude by repeating that the land on which we walk is Innu land - it is part of our homeland, Nitassinan, and we shall never stop struggling to keep it our own"

(Mary May Osmond)

Future actions:

• The trial of the 21 Innu charged with mischief is set for April 4-7. Your prayers and support at this particular time will be greatly appreciated.

• There will be local events and demonstrations in several locations during the week of April 1-7, including Toronto and Ottawa.

• April 8 is international day of action against low-level flight testing.

• A peace camp will be established in support of the Innu on Parliament Hill, Ottawa, from August 6 to 9.

• Please send letters to Canadian and European governments calling for a halt to low-level training and the proposed Nato base.

• Watch for a (still to be confirmed) national tour by David Suzuki later this year.

"The jets seemed to touch the ice. They were so low, you could see the pilots' faces. It is very frightening, especially when they come in 4 at a time."

(Dominic Pokue, Innu hunter)

ACT Chapters

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(416) 934 6233

ACT Oakville
PO Box 7378
Oakville Ont. L6J 6L6

ACT Toronto
456 Spadina Av, 2nd floor
Toronto Ont. M5T 2G8
(416) 960 2228

ACT Vancouver
15 West 40th
Vancouver BC V5Y 2S9
(604) 325 6383

THE ACTIVIST
Vol. 5, Issue 1 Second class
Winter 1989 registration
(Jan-Feb) #6769
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Can you afford to donate 10¢ a week? Sure you can! And, that's all we ask for a subscription to this newspaper! You may think that's not much, and that peace work will continue without your support. Yes, it will, because we are determined. But no, it will not be as effective without your support. Don't delay... send in \$5 today!

And if you are paying taxes, why not give on the Provincial Political Tax Credit? Make your cheque payable to the Riverdale Greens Constituency Association, with a memo "for Peace Education", and mail it to ACT at 456 Spadina Av, Toronto (all money returned to local chapter). On any amount donated from \$25 to \$200, you'll receive a tax transfer worth 75% of your donation (ie. a \$50 donation will only cost you \$12.50). Thanks!

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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: Peace These represent
Ecologist the four main
Conservation objectives and goals
Decentralism of our Greens.

TO: RIVERDALE GREEN CONSTITUENCY ASSOCIATION
c/o 456 Spadina Av, Toronto Ont M5T 2G8

Checkmark(s) indicate where money is to be spent.

Peace and human rights

Activists all around the world are imprisoned and harassed to prevent their working for peace. Although examples could be given for almost every country in the world, space permits only a few here. To find out more, get in touch with us.

Canada

"Activists" not welcome

"What does it say about democracy in Canada when people can be singled out, arrested, jailed and kept out of a public place at the arbitrary whim of political organizers or police? What are the implications for all of us when anyone can be jailed JUST FOR BEING LABELLED AN ACTIVIST?"

• Laurie McBride

During the fall election campaign, three members of the Nanoose Convention Campaign (Vancouver Island) - Norm Abbey, Laurie McBride, and Brian Stedman - attended a Conservative rally in Nanaimo, planning to question Brian Mulroney on the presence at Nanoose Bay of seven US nuclear-capable warships and hold up a small banner saying "another Canadian" for "nuclear-free harbours". But before they could a Tory organizer spotted McBride and pointed her out as an "activist" to police. The three were arrested and held without charge until the rally was over.

To prevent similar occurrences, they are suing RCMP officers, PC organizers and the Solicitor General for false arrest, assault & battery, false imprisonment and breach of their rights under the Canadian

Charter of Rights & Freedoms (especially the right to freedom of assembly in a public place). The legal case looks good, but money and other support is needed.

Donations, ideas, offers of help, and general encouragement can be sent to: Nanaimo Civil Liberties Suii, PO Box 122, Gabriola Island BC, VOR 1X0.

•from *The New Catalyst*

Philippines

Bases out!

Last March, Rey Fransisco and Jonjon Bustamante were abducted and tortured by men who claimed to be government security forces after putting up "Scrap the Bases" posters in Manila in March 1988. Both were active in the anti-US military bases campaign (the bases violate the Philippines' nuclear-free constitution and allow American dominance of the country and interference in other countries), through Kadena (Youth for Democracy and Nationalism) and the Nuclear Free Philippines Coalition. Both were left for dead in a field with an unidentified woman. Although Bustamante recovered and accused the Presidential Security Group with responsibility, no action has been taken.

Another of the many cases of "disappearances" of Philippine activists is that of Benjamin Lazaro, a writer and member of a theatre group critical of the US bases. Lazaro was kidnapped by agents of the Intelligence Service of the Armed Forces of the Philippines last October and has not been seen since. Letters asking for an investigation can be sent to: Brigadier General Galileo Kimtarn, ISAFP, Camp

General Emilio Aguinaldo, Quezon City, Philippines.

• from *The New Abolitionist, Peace & Democracy News*

Czechoslovakia

Playwrights and hooligans

Vaclav Havel has been hounded and harassed by Czechoslovak authorities for years. On January 16, during police attacks on human rights demonstrations in Prague, the authorities finally arrested Havel and two others and charged them with "hooliganism" - apparently just for attending the demonstrations.

Havel is internationally known as a playwright and founding member of Czechoslovakia's human rights organization Charter 77. Over 1000 Czechoslovak artists have signed a petition for his release.

Also imprisoned are Tomas Dvorak and Lubos Vydra, members of the new Independent Peace Association, who have been charged with "preparation to commit incitement" for handing out leaflets announcing a peace demonstration. IPA member Hanna Marvanova is accused of "writing materials which evoked feelings of distrust toward the role of the Czechoslovak Communist Party and undermined the role of the armed forces". All face up to three years in jail.

Letters of protest can be sent to: Gen. Secretary Milos Jakes, 11908 Praha-Hrad, Czechoslovakia.

•Peace & Democracy News

Birds and predators, a benefit for Czech writers and prisoners: Sat. March 4, 9 pm, Trinity St Paul's Church (427 Bloor).



US-USSR

Antiwar activists "twinning" by supporters

Sergei Troyansky (USSR) and Rainbow Hawk (Paul Knapp) (USA) are anarchist counterculture and antiwar activists busted on unjust drug charges. These prisoners have been "twinning" by supporters in both countries working for their release.

Troyansky was a founder and key organizer (and the main financial supporter!) of the youth antiwar group Free Initiative in Moscow. In October 1986 he was arrested and his apartment in Moscow was searched. Police have confirmed finding brochures protesting the war against Afghanistan and materials from the Moscow Trust Group and Australia's Canberra Peacemakers (on non-violent defence), which have shown no proof of drugs. Write him at: USSR, Smolenskaya Oblast, Sychovka, Institution Ya/0-100/7,

Special Phychiatric Hospital (section 8), Troyansky, Sergei Vyacheslavovich. Letters of protest to: Mikhail Gorbachev, Moscow, Kremlin, USSR.

Hawk was active in the anti-Vietnam war movement and has since worked with native peoples in Central America and the counterculture Rainbow Family. Imprisoned in 1983 for unproven drug possession, he has been harassed for refusing to cut his hair, beaten and confined to his cell. He is now being considered for executive clemency. Letters to: Leo Levy, Executive Clemency Bureau, Division of Parole, 97 Central Av, Albany NY 12206, United States. Write Rainbow Hawk (Knapp) at: #84A1415 Drawer B, Stormville NY 12582-0010 USA.

• reports from *Torch* magazine

Calling all high school students

Guess how many high school peace activists can squeeze into one activist of Education Auditorium?

We need you to help promote and attend a Metro wide high school peace networking meeting

Thurs, April 6, 7 pm
155 College St

(5 minute walk west from Queen's Park subway)

For more info call Stephen (daytime • 844-3784) or Alison (after-school hours • 266-9780)

Taking to the streets in Vancouver

The stealth cruise announcement reactivated peace activism in Vancouver. Led by enthusiastic young activists from ACT for Disarmament Vancouver, over 400 people attended a protest rally at Robson Square on Feb. 11.

"This is what ACT for Disarmament is all about. It's about action", said ACT's Brian Salmi. "Peace activists should be returning to the streets to protest the hypocrisy and expanding militarism of the Mulroney government." These sentiments were echoed by other speakers from the Canadian Federation of Students, Green Party, Veterans Against Nuclear Arms (VANA), and the Nanosec Conversion Campaign (NCC).

Protestors grooved to the sounds of local band the Pathological Optimists.

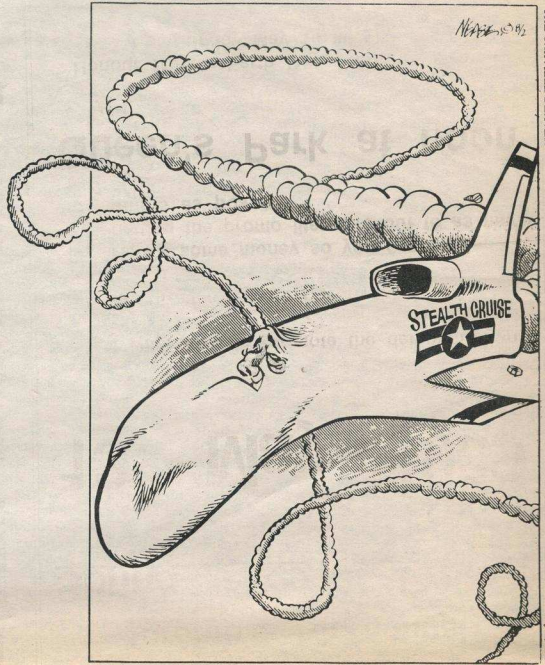
Hundreds of posters and leaflets were handed out in a 10-day flurry of activism preceding the demonstration. Organizers were very pleased at the

spontaneous response by Vancouverites, especially from area community colleges.

ACT Vancouver is already considering future plans and is looking forward to working for peace along with other groups like NCC, the Greens, Science for Peace, Lawyers for Social Responsibility, and many others. Follow-up protests against cruise missile testing and actions vs the nuclear-capable warships which visit Vancouver harbour every summer highlight ACT's plans. Watch for peace "manoeuvres" during International Disarm the Seas week (last week of May). And listen to Radio Peace every Tuesday at 7:30 pm on Co-op Radio (102 FM).

Perhaps the best testimony to ACT Vancouver's success was delivered by VANA's Allet MacLean, a 25-year veteran of the BC peace movement, who told the crowd in Robson Square that she was "encouraged by the sea of young faces here. KEEP IT UP!"

NAPE 8-89



THE OAKVILLE BEAVER

February 8, 1989

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.



Toronto's 7th annual Spring Peace Protest

13 May 1989

- I want to help promote the demonstration
- My group wants to get involved
- Here's some money so you can start getting the promo literature out to as many others as possible

Queen's Park at noon

Honour Mother Earth Day • Toronto Islands
Sunday May 14 all day