

# the ACTivist

IND			NEWGR
REQ	DGT/NN	DGT/PS	DGT/REF
LW	C/P	R/i	
MN	MC		

Newspaper of the  
ACT for Disarmament Coalition

Volume 5, Issue 2 • Spring 1989 • pay what you can

## May 13: Demonstrate for Peace and Ecology Stop Weapons Testing

Once, there were a few weapons testing ranges in Canada. Now, the whole country has become a testing range. It starts off the west coast of British Columbia at the Canadian Forces Experimental Test Range at Nanoose Bay and goes all the way to Canadian Forces Base Goose Bay in Labrador.

In between, no province is free of preparations for nuclear war.

To name just a few cases:

- At Nanoose Bay, US nuclear submarines practise war games off the coast of Vancouver Island.
- Nanoose, Vancouver, Victoria and Halifax welcome frequent visits from nuclear-armed warships.
- B-52 bombers practise for Nato's "Deep Strike" warfighting strategy for the European theatre in northern Ontario, Québec-New Brunswick, northern Alberta, central BC and Nitassinan (Québec-Labrador).
- Nitassinan is threatened with a proposed Nato base which would increase low-level jet flights by the

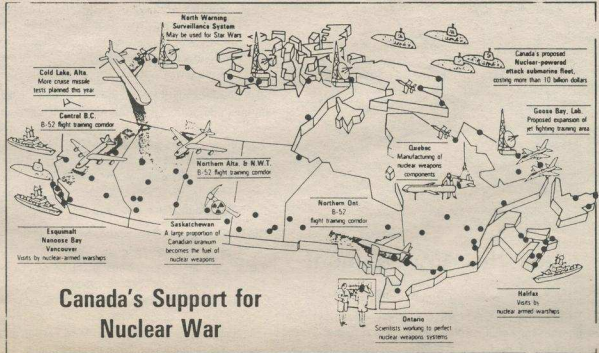
Canadian, US, British, West German, Dutch and Italian air forces from 50 to 200 a day.

- Cruise missiles which fly over Alberta and the Dene Nation of the Northwest Territories have been joined by the new (and highly secret) stealth cruise missile.

Much of this weapons testing is relatively new. It has gone ahead in Canada only because Canadians who want peace have let it go ahead.

When only a few people protested against 1989's first cruise missile test, the Conservative government knew it had the green light to test the deadlier stealth cruise.

Until Innu women and men began to put their bodies in the way of Nato jets, few protested against the war training over Innu lands in Nitassinan and the proposal to build the first Nato base in North America there.



Every dot represents a test facility, production plant or transport area for nuclear weapons systems.

### Canada's Support for Nuclear War

See Weapons, page 2

## Protect the Environment

For the environmental and peace movements to succeed they must become indistinguishable from each other, in the same way as efforts to secure peace and human rights must.

Jan Kavan (spokesperson for the Czechoslovakian human rights organization Charter 77 in the West) has pointed out that it would be absurd to have human rights in a nuclear winter or peace in a concentration camp. Equally, it would be a hollow victory to rid the world of nuclear weapons just to suffer the horrors of a reactor meltdown. Similarly tragic would be to end the threat of a nuclear winter only to have the earth scorched into a desert by the depletion of the ozone layer from burning rain forests to make way for cattle ranches.

The links between militarism and the destruction of the environment go back to the first use of heavy metals as weapons. Much environmental devastation was caused by the mining of these ores and by the razing of forests to provide fuel for refining smelters. The terrible impact of such devastation can be seen in the denuded moonlike landscape around Sudbury and the acid rain that is killing our soil, forests and lakes.

Military technology has given a death focus to the tools which, in a sane world, would provide a way for humanity to live in reverence with nature. So many inherently

ecologically disruptive products have been spin-offs of warfare. Chemical pesticides and fertilizers replaced natural manures and processes as a spin-off of the use of chemicals for poison gas and defoliants. Artificial nitrates for explosives. The destructive force of nuclear power so evident at Chernobyl and Three Mile Island was the result of mad efforts to create "atoms for peace" to disguise the consequences of the nuclear weapons industry.

Every weapon manufactured produces toxic waste which frequently ends up in people's backyards — as the residents of Love Canal found to their surprise as it bubbled to the surface. Every tank, bullet, fighter aircraft, mortar or cannon requires in its manufacturing minerals that must be torn from the earth, creating wastes that cannot be buried.

Wars today in Afghanistan, Ethiopia, Central America and Southeast Asia are fought against the environment. US and Soviet puppets repeat the crimes of Vietnam as they burn forests and poison rivers because they give cover to oppressed peasant and tribal peoples.

As the causes of militarism and environmental destruction are linked, so are the solutions. Throughout the world environmental activists are showing the power of non-violent resistance

as an alternative to armed conflict.

The Chipko movement of India defends the forest by clinging to trees to stop the axe. In Brazil the rubber workers union (mainly Indians) defends the rainforest by blockading machinery.

In Canada the Haida and the Teme-Augama Anishnabai of Temagami block roads to stop loggers, while the Innu block runways to stop war test flights that disrupt caribou migration.

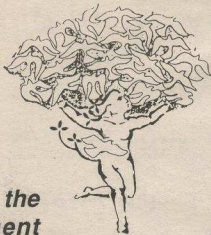
In Poland, the strength of the millions of members of Solidarity defied Communist dictatorship by ensuring the shut-down of the polluting Lenin steel mills.

Environmental activism on both sides of the East-West and North-South divides promises to unite the victims of environmental degradation against polluters, whether in a capitalist or communist guise. The Iron Curtain cannot shield anyone from the dangers of acid rain. Forests are dying from acid rain as surely in Czechoslovakia as that are across the border in West Germany.

Environmental activists of both Germanies have united to protest against the policies that have made East Germany the dump for the chemical wastes of West Germany. Environmentalists of both blocs are campaigning to stop a joint Austrian-Hungarian-Czechoslovakian dam that would turn the Danube River into an open sewer.

See Environment, page 10

### 7th annual Spring Protest for Peace



- Stop Weapons Testing
- Protect the Environment

## Saturday, May 13

12 noon, Queen's Park, Toronto  
(Queen's Park subway, College & University)  
Protest March to City Hall, 2 pm

A project of  
ACT for Disarmament (Toronto)  
456 Spadina Ave, Toronto Ont, M5T 2G8  
(416) 960-2ACT

We need your volunteer help and donations

## Secret Document Outlines Plans For Tritium Export

A secret Ontario Cabinet Submission on tritium exports was leaked to environment and peace groups in February. The document, dated December 28, 1988, and prepared by the Ontario Ministry of Energy, outlines "Analysis and Policy Options" as well as "Proposals and Recommendations".

The bottom line is: "that Cabinet adopt a policy to make tritium available for international fusion research...[and that] Ontario Hydro work with the Ministry of Energy to develop a communications strategy and plan for the announcement of this policy and future contracts for the supply of tritium."

The communications plan outlined under Policy Options states: "The Ministry of Energy will develop a communications plan in consultation with Ontario Hydro. A decision to export tritium will be well received by the technical, scientific and business community. Some members of the public and some groups will likely oppose it. The communications objective will be to assure the public that any sales of tritium by Hydro, whether for domestic or export markets, will be only for peaceful purposes and with a high regard for safety. The key message will be that fusion is expected to be a major, environmentally benign energy supply option in the next century and tritium will make it happen."

Most discouraging is the glaring omission in the document of any mention of the U.S. tritium supply crisis. Another large weakness is a reliance on Atomic Energy Control Board Guidelines for Tritium Export which contain an enormous loophole allowing exports of any quantity of tritium to any country with Ministerial approval. The Guidelines are reproduced in the Cabinet Submission, but the sentence describing the loophole was omitted.

The document actually proposes a policy option which will cause the displacement of foreign tritium by our exports. This, despite the Ontario government being on record as opposing the sale of tritium under those circumstances. One thing the Cabinet Submission does point out correctly under another option is that storing tritium on site "eliminates any uncertainty and all arguments about potential for diversion and displacement." This situation would be ideal, of course, because even if exports are banned, a domestic industry for tritium lights is being considered. Nuclear Awareness Project favours a com-

plete ban on tritium sales, even domestically, since the environmental and worker health risks of handling tritium are so great.

An interesting twist in the newspaper coverage of the leaked document saw some editors taking positions in favour of tritium exports, claiming it is our duty as part of the NATO Alliance to supply our protector to the south with tritium in times of shortages.

Copies of the Cabinet Submission and letter of response to Peterson are available from our office.

Irene Kock

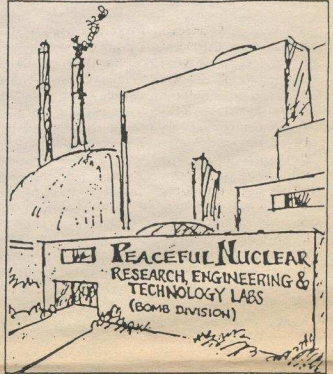


### Nuclear Awareness Project

#### NEWSLETTER

Winter/Spring 1989

Box 2331, Oshawa, Ontario, L1H 7V4 (416) 725-1565



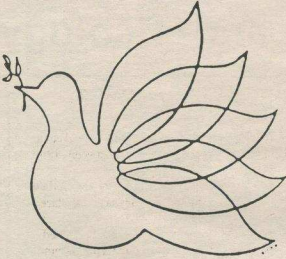
## Stop Weapons Testing

Continued from page 1

With several more years of majority Conservative government looming, protest groups will provide the only opposition to government plans to militarize Canada even further.

But if everyone who opposed the transformation of our country into a testing ground for nuclear war made themselves heard Canada could be nuclear-free.

On May 13 in Toronto, thousands will be calling on Canada to Stop Weapons Testing. By taking to the streets, we can make a difference. See you there!



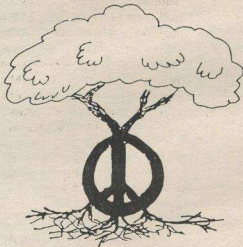
## Protect the Environment

Continued from page 1

By opposing the nuclear fuel cycle here in Canada we are helping the Romanian workers being starved to pay for the Canadian-Romanian CANDU nuclear reactor at Cernavoda.

In understanding the nature of the attack from both blocs on life on the planet, loyalty to the earth replaces subservience to the whims of governments blind to the devastation they are causing in the name of progress.

John Bacher



## Honour Mother Earth Day

Sunday May 14, all day

Algonquin Island, Toronto (via Ward's Island Ferry)

### THE ACTIVIST

Volume 5, Issue 2  
(March-April 1989)

c/o ACT for Disarmament  
(Toronto)

456 Spadina Ave, 2nd floor,  
Toronto Ont. M5T 2G8.  
The ACTIVIST is published 4  
times a year by the ACT for  
Disarmament coalition.

Subscriptions are \$5 per year,  
or \$25 for institutions or  
funded agencies.  
Second class mailing  
registration #6769



**Metro-wide High School Peace Meeting**  
Thursday, May 4, 7-9 pm  
Board of Education Building, 155 College  
(just west of Queen's Park subway)



**ACT Niagara**  
PO Box 284, Main Stn.  
St. Catharines Ont.  
L2R 6T7  
(416) 934 6233

**ACT Oakville**  
PO Box 7378  
Oakville Ont. L6J 6L6  
(416) 845 5092

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

**ACT Vancouver**  
15 West 40th  
Vancouver BC  
V5Y 5S9  
(604) 325-6383

## ACT Chapters & Contacts

**Brantford:**  
Brett Youth for Peace  
PO Box 991  
Brantford Ont. N3T 5S7

**Cornwall:**  
Sean Clifton  
1308 Princess St.  
Cornwall, Ont. K6J 1S5

**Hamilton:**  
Centre for Radical Social  
Change  
45 Melville St.  
Dundas Ont. L9H 1Z7

**Kitchener-Waterloo:**  
Brett Hopf  
PO Box 1490, Stn. C  
Kitchener Ont. N2G 4P2

**Orillia:**  
PO Box 611  
Orillia Ont.  
L3V 6K5

**Peterborough:**  
Sharon MacAlpine  
716 Park St. S.  
Peterborough Ont.  
K9J 3T1

# REPORT ON BUSINESS



## A Farewell to ARMX

Canada's largest-ever weapons show is coming to Ottawa May 22-25

ARMX, "Canada's International Arms Exhibition" has been held every two years since 1983. ARMX '87 was Canada's largest defence exhibition to date, and ARMX '89, in Ottawa's Lansdowne Park, should be even bigger.

What this means is simply that death merchants from all over the world will be in Ottawa to buy and sell arms and military components - especially Canadian products ("With no general public in attendance, each delegate is a bona fide buyer,

prospect or user" - Canadian Defence Quarterly).

The theme of ARMX '89 is "Training and Simulation". Canada's best chances for "superiority" as an arms producer lie in electronics - guidance systems, surveillance systems, communications and simulation systems. Indeed, the aircraft trainers provided by Canadian companies have proven to be extremely popular with governments in Chile, Honduras, Iran, Iraq, El Salvador . . .

Here are some facts about ARMX '87 likely to be duplicated this year:

- Buyers included government delegations from Chile, South Korea and Taiwan, notorious violators of human rights. ARMX '89 will not release the details of the 20,000 invitations they have sent, but we can assume they include last year's "guests" and more.
- Among the exhibitors were two Israeli armaments manufacturers, Israel Military Industries and

ATG, a subsidiary of Israel Aircraft Industries. Also present were at least twenty companies - Canadian, American and French - involved in the manufacture of nuclear weapons systems.

- Other exhibitors included the provincial governments of Ontario, Nova Scotia and Alberta and three departments of the federal government (External Affairs, Regional Industrial Expansion and "Defence"). The Canadian government is involved in the war industry in many ways,

notably in the \$1 billion paid out to arms companies between 1969 and 1985.

ARMX is a very appropriate symbol of Canada's misplaced priorities. Over the past decade, military spending has increased a full 50% while social programmes suffer. And Canada's role in creating the instruments of repression and human rights violations both abroad and at home continues to grow.

In the first half of this decade, 60% of the countries receiving Canadian military exports were human rights violators censured by Amnesty International.

Canada is waging a war against native peoples, and part of that war consists of training and simulation for war, much of it over native land.

On May 22, buses from throughout Ontario and Québec will bring people to Ottawa for a major rally against ARMX. The Alliance for Non-Violent Action will sponsor a non-violent action or series of actions to resist ARMX at its Lansdowne Place location during the May 23-25 exhibition.

•Maggie Helwig



## Nuclear boycott targets General Electric

"The General Electric boycott is the next critical step to stop nuclear weapons. It is the single most important step to . . . about the power of corporate weapon makers - not just GE, but by implication, all the others."

-Dr Helen Caldwell

General Electric is America's third-largest manufacturer of nuclear weapons.

"We bring good things to life" is GE's motto. Things like light bulbs, refrigerators, appliances. Harmless things. Good things.

What they don't mention are a few other products GE brings to life: the MX missile, Trident nuclear submarine, B-1 bomber. In fact, GE produces parts for more major weapons systems than any other corporation. Since the 1960s, it has produced the triggering device for every nuclear bomb in the US arsenal.

Research contracts for Star

Wars are the newest addition to this impressive list.

GE's Candian affiliate is also involved with weapons work worth several million dollars a year. This work includes components for the North Warning System, helicopter engines, electrical and instrument systems for CF-18 fighter jets, and parts for the Stinger missile.

There are now over 3 million consumers boycotting General Electric until it agrees to stop its weapons work and convert to peaceful production. The boycott was initiated by INFACT, and has already cost GE millions of dollars.

Tactics like this can work. There is no better illustration of this than INFACT, which forced Nestlé's to stop selling its hazardous infant formula in the Third World after a seven-year boycott. With a third of its sales made to consumers, compared to 11% for military contracts, GE is particularly susceptible to

consumer pressure.

A second purpose of the boycott is to close the "revolving door" between weapons-makers like GE and the US government. GE executives have moved in and out of government posts frequently since the 1940s. There are 120 GE lobbyists in Washington, many of them with an inside track to government decision-makers. The example of rejected Defense Secretary nominee John Tower (Tower accepted \$763,777 in eighteen months as a consultant to nuclear weapons contractors) is more common than anyone realizes.

GE is also guilty of crimes against the environment. The US Environmental Protection Agency has found that GE contributes to a larger number of severe toxic waste dumps than any other corporation in the country.

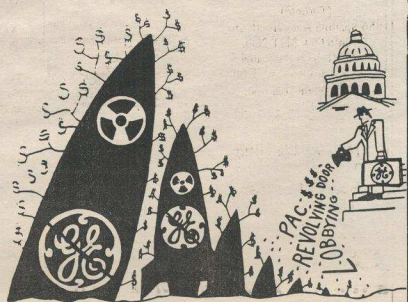
GE Canada, too, is a major polluter. People living near its Peterborough plant have been

hospitalized for severe nausea after inhaling the plant's gas emissions. At its Peterborough and Toronto plants, one of GE Canada's major activities is the production of nuclear fuel rods for Ontario Hydro's reactor complexes at Pickering, Bruce and

now Darlington.

For more information on the boycott of GE in Canada or internationally, contact ACT Toronto or INFACT (PO Box 3223, South Pasadena Calif. 91031, United States).

•David Webster



Toronto

Second Annual

Move-a-thon

for the Environment

ACT

For Disarmament

Toronto

456 Spadina Avenue - Toronto Ont - M5T 2G8 - (416) 960-2ACT

Do you want clean air, safe drinking water, beaches we can swim at, and green space we can escape to in the city?

Join the fun!

Walk, run, rollerskate, wheelchair or bike in the second annual Move-a-thon for the Environment on Sunday, May 7. Together we'll move towards a cleaner, greener environment.

ACT for Disarmament (Toronto) is one of the participating groups in the Move-a-thon, as we were last year.



There are two routes - the scenic urban wilderness of the **Rouge Valley** (10 km) starting at Hillside Outdoor Education Centre, northeast corner of Finch & Meadowdale; and **Downtown Toronto** (10 km walking or 20 km biking) starting at Pollution Probe's Ecology Park, 12 Madison Avenue (one block east of Spadina, half a block north of Bloor).



Please help us by collecting pledges on the sheet to the right. If you can't be there on May 7 yourself, please send us your pledges and we'll find an activist to move for them.

70% of the funds raised will go to ACT for Disarmament, 30% to support the co-ordinating work of the Toronto Environmental Alliance.

If you'll be taking part, please let us know. We can provide you with tips on how to collect pledges, lists of potential supporters in your area, more pledge sheets . . .

Sponsor's Name	Address	Pcode	Phone	\$/Km	Total	Donation	Paid
1.							
2.							
3.							
4.							
5.							
6.							
7.							
8.							
9.							
10.							
11.							
12.							
13.							
14.							
15.							
16.							
17.							
18.							
19.							
20.							

**Prizes Prizes Prizes!!!**

Movers: Collect \$100 or More, receive a free Thon TEA-shirt. Sponsors donating \$25.00 or more will be entered in a draw for prizes donated by Roots, Mtn Equipment Co-op, Renaissance Cafe & Pollution Probe's Ecology Store!

--	--	--	--

**Totals**

**Registration Form—Please Print Neatly**

Last Name \_\_\_\_\_ First Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Postal Code \_\_\_\_\_ Phone No. \_\_\_\_\_

Method of Movement \_\_\_\_\_ Route Chosen \_\_\_\_\_

Person to Contact in Emergency \_\_\_\_\_ Phone No. \_\_\_\_\_

**Bring This Form With You May 7**

Total Pledged / Km = \_\_\_\_\_

Total Distance Completed X \_\_\_\_\_

Total Pledged = \_\_\_\_\_

Donations + \_\_\_\_\_

**Grand Total** = \_\_\_\_\_

Group Moved For: \_\_\_\_\_

Thank you for moving for Act for Disarmament 960-2228

