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the ACTivist

Holiday Book Supplement Inside

Newspaper of the ACT for Disarmament Coalition - Volume 6, Issue 6 • Pay what you can

Peace in the Middle East!

On August 2, the government of Iraq, under Saddam Hussein, invaded the neighbouring country of Kuwait. On August 7, circumventing the United Nations attempts at a peace process, the US government launched "Operation

contained — the consequences would be beyond imagination. At best, hundreds of thousands would die, both civilians and soldiers. There could be no winners, only varying degrees of losers.

How then is the peace movement to respond?



editorial

Desert Shield" and began sending troops into the Persian Gulf to force Iraq to withdraw; and on August 10 the Mulroney government followed suit. There are now about 1700 Canadian troops in the Gulf, nearly 300,000 American troops, and many others from around 30 other countries. The US forces are equipped with over 368 nuclear weapons of different capabilities, including the Tomahawk Cruise. Iraqi forces have thousands of tons of chemical weapons. We are on the verge of a nuclear/chemical war that could not be

Oppose all Intervention

Clearly, we must take a principled position and condemn all militarism, and all invasions of small countries by those larger and stronger. The US and its allies, on their side, have clearly taken an aggressive, combative stance, choosing to deploy the threat of massive violence without giving any other measures a chance to work. They are, moreover, there as an outside force, imposing the "simplicity" of the war option on a complex situation, trying to act as if the current crisis had nothing to do with the long-standing and interconnected problems of the Middle East. The invasion of Kuwait is not without context.

West created situation

It must be remembered that it was the US, France and the USSR that armed Iraq during the war with Iran, and gave it the massive offensive capacity it turned upon Kuwait. It must also be remembered that it was the West that imposed the client king/dictator system that made people like Saddam Hussein possible, because it suited their economic interests at the time. We must realize that, to the extent Saddam Hussein has popular Arab

support, it is because the Arab world has suffered for so long under Western interference, based on Western greed for oil.

US intervention hypocritical

We cannot be expected to take seriously the sudden concern of George Bush for the Palestinians, whose efforts for independence the US has ignored and hindered for years. We cannot take seriously his sudden stance against intervention when the United States has recently itself intervened in

Panama, and turned a blind eye to countless invasions that happened to suit its interests (Indonesia in East Timor, Turkey in Cyprus, Morocco in Western Sahara, Israel in Lebanon, etc). Protection of oil supplies, not concern for self-determination, have motivated American actions.

US intervention undermined the Arab League, which opposed foreign intervention in an August 3 resolution condemning the invasion of Kuwait. And it turned US and Canadian nationals and other foreigners in Kuwait into enemy aliens — into hostages.

We must realize, too, that this war is being used to justify the continued military buildup in the US and the survival of the military-industrial complex now that the Soviet Union is no longer around as a convincing enemy.

Canada violates tradition

The Canadian government, following the US apparently unquestioningly, has broken a 37-year-long tradition of not intervening militarily in the affairs of other nations without United Nations sanction. And Mulroney did this without even bothering to recall Parliament, taking upon himself Presidential power — as he also

ACT for Disarmament Open House

ACT for Disarmament — Toronto invites supporters and the public to an open house at our new peace centre on Sunday, December 9 from 2-4 pm.

The ACT Peace Centre is located at 736 Bathurst Street, a block and a half south of Bloor. Use the south entrance; we're located below the Annex Theatre.

Come learn more about the work of ACT for Disarmament, meet the people who make it all happen, or just drop by for a coffee. We look forward to seeing you!

- Free East Timor Dec 7 • Remember John Lennon Dec 8 •
- International Human Rights week events December 6-10 •
- See "Activist's Notebook" • page 11.

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Stop Press.. Page 4

Gulf between war and peace

(From page 1)

did in the Oka crisis. No public discussion, no Parliamentary debate. Canada has never been a perfect "peacemaker", but it has never been as blatant a warmonger as it is today.

No excuse for Kuwait invasion

None of this exonerates Saddam Hussein. Canadians are asking, "What about Iraq?" We must not remain silent on the question—particularly when small nations are invaded by larger powers. If we respect the principle of international justice, we must condemn, too, the invasion of Kuwait.

We must be aware that a country can hardly be "liberated" by an Iraqi government which has systematically wiped out all political opposition, which has used chemical weapons on several occasions against Iran and against the Kurdish quarter of the population of Iraq itself.

Neither is the argument that Kuwait's borders were artificially drawn very convincing: it can be made of all Middle Eastern borders. The border that makes the former Ottoman province of Mosul (populated mainly by Kurds) part of Iraq was drawn at the same time, by the same British colonizers. Hussein has not suggested making Mosul an independent Kurdistan. We cannot accept any invasions—the people of Kuwait must be allowed to decide their own destiny in a genuinely free election (something Kuwaiti dissidents demanded in demonstrations last spring. And where are these dissidents now? Not, anyway, in the good graces of Saddam Hussein).

Therefore, ACT for Dismantment calls for:

- A peaceful settlement of the Gulf conflict in line with the principle of non-intervention, and support for the self-determination of all the peoples of the Middle East, particularly Kuwaitis, Palestinians and Kurds.
- An immediate withdrawal of Canadian and all other foreign troops, and an end to the US-led military intervention.
- An end to all arms sales to the Middle East, and establishment of a Middle Eastern nuclear- and chemical weapons free zone as a step towards building peace in the region.
- Economic sanctions and non-violent action to encourage Iraqi withdrawal from Kuwait, including a boycott of Iraqi oil but not a blockade on food and medical supplies.
- Policies to reduce dependence on oil in favour of conservation and non-nuclear alternative energy sources. ☪

When and if fighting breaks out in the Gulf, immediate demonstrations will be held, including non-violent direct action at US and Canadian government offices (call for details). In the meantime, ACT for Dismantment is conducting a "Peace in the Middle East" campaign. We have petitions, campaign kits (\$5), leaflets for Canadian troops and recruits, and other materials—get in touch for details.

"Freedom needs institutions":

By Stephen Dankowich

Citizen movements for social change realized a critical step forward in founding the Helsinki Citizens' Assembly (HCA).

Over 800 prominent activists for peace, ecology, women's rights and human rights from across Europe and North America gathered in Prague, Czechoslovakia, on the weekend of October 19-21, to give real life to the Second Prague Appeal — a 1990 document establishing the HCA with broad goals for a world free of fear, demilitarized, environmentally sustainable, and in respect of all human rights (see *The ACTivist* March April 1990 for the text of the Second Prague Appeal).

The HCA will function to ensure citizen input into the deliberations of the official Conference of Security and Cooperation in Europe (CSCE). The CSCE is a 34-country, non-treaty organization of governments who signed the 1975 Helsinki Final Act. The Helsinki Final Act's statement of intentions dealt with security in Europe, cooperation in the fields of economics, science and technology, and with cooperation in humanitarian concerns, including human contacts, information, culture and education. All European countries (except Albania), the Soviet Union, the USA and Canada are represented in the CSCE.

PRESIDENT HAVEL WELCOMES THE HCA

The founding HCA Conference opened with greetings from Czech and Slovak Federal Republic President Vaclav Havel in Prague's centrally located Obecni Dum (Community Hall). Havel and other Charter 77 spokespeople were swept into political office by the dramatic "people's power" politics of East and Central Europe just one year ago.



"A few bricks to build": Stephen Dankowich at the Berlin Wall.

Havel's eloquent address empowered us to remain true to consciences which urge us to act on our beliefs and for our goals. Once marginalized, often imprisoned, and at the very bottom, Havel was taken from a police interrogation room to the committee rooms of government, in what he described as "a miracle of history." He recounted how Western journalists often told them that they "were just madmen, producing little pamphlets, that the totalitarian system was too great and that workers were just apathetic." Consciences told them to act and this carried them to the highest responsibilities.

Havel agreed that the time has come for the CSCE to assume a new role with new

content. The CSCE should be transformed into a structure of binding agreements for a network of a future united and integrated Europe. Here, "borders should lose their significance, replaced by a network of links both horizontal and vertical that will guarantee freedom for all citizens of Europe." However, said Havel, "it is even more difficult to build a different and better system than to bring down a totalitarian system."

COMMON PROBLEMS DEMAND COMMON SOLUTIONS

It is to this challenge that we addressed ourselves during the three Conference days of plenary debates and workshop discussions. This was organized through six per-

Czechs confront nuclear threat

By Saul Chernos

Anything goes in Czechoslovakia.

We're talking, after all, about a country where a dissenting playwright moved in a very short time from the confines of prison to the height of political power. About a country where "experts" quoted by the Western news media say inflation could range between 15 and 1,000 percent next year. About a country where ecological groups flourish but where birth defect and cancer rates are skyrocketing. About a country where, two decades ago, Soviet tanks rolled through cobblestone streets, crushing humanity as if it didn't matter. Today you can buy a Red Army uniform at the historic Charles Bridge for the equivalent of about \$40 Canadian. Border guards almost smile at you as you take that uniform home for a costume party.

Independent political activities such as the recent founding conference for the Helsinki Citizens' Assembly, which is intended to empower civil society and promote "process from below", are held in complete freedom, but all is far from well in the nation many observers feel has led the Eastern European exodus from totalitarian control.

Ontario's new NDP government has declared a moratorium on the construction

of new nuclear power plants, but Vaclav Havel's Civic Forum regime has decided to continue the nuclear power program launched by the Communist regime.

"Nuclear power plants are presented as the only solution to the ecological disaster facing our country," says Prague environmental activist Antonin Hradilek in an open letter to peace groups around the world. "According to the official propaganda, safety problems are a peculiarity of the Soviet technology and can be prevented by imports from the West."

Hradilek says the German company Siemens has been the most successful in gaining access to the Czech market and has won a contract to build controlling systems in the Mochovec nuclear power plant. Siemens is also reported to want to start a joint venture with Skoda Works in Plzen, building nuclear technology for electricity generation and for communal heating.

Hradilek does not deny his country is facing "an ecological disaster and a disintegrating economy." But he told *The ACTivist* that "a group of economists is gaining the upper ground now. They're supporting the free market. They think we have to introduce capitalism, but that won't be an automatic cure for our problems."

East Bloc countries are distancing themselves from centrist Soviet control and are

becoming more integrated into a global economy. They are passing through a stage of extreme vulnerability, as prices double and triple and debts pile up. People are demanding action, and protests continue almost everywhere. Yet some regimes, such as that in Romania, have changed little more than the party name.

Western governments are failing to back previous anti-Communist rhetoric with hard, unconditional currency. The United States, for example, says recessionary times have left the government with few funds for foreign aid. But American companies such as Westinghouse can still find spare change to compete for lucrative contracts to build nuclear facilities in Czechoslovakia.

Totalitarian regimes may have been evicted in Eastern Europe, but activists there remain largely tenants with new, though maybe more benevolent, landlords to contend with. The company that builds Skoda cars is looking for a western partner so that it can increase production, but Hradilek says his country needs to concentrate on industry which helps both the economy and the environment. It's this dependence on heavy industry, he explains, which is used to rationalize the construction of nuclear power plants.

The answer? During the opening plenary at the Helsinki Citizens' Assembly,

Helsinki Citizens Assembly is formed

manent commissions: on demilitarization and disarmament, economy and ecology, nationalism and federalism, human rights, women, and European institutions.

The working commissions are broad enough to encompass everyone's specific interests and goals. It was a joy to witness activists from both sides of the Cold War Divide finding common language, sharing in each others' visions, and appreciating further that we share common problems which demand the discovery of common solutions.

Herein rests the greatest potential for the HCA. The discussions, debates and dialogue between non-aligned activists from East and West throughout the 1980s are now finding their institutional basis in the HCA. Eastern activists, who always stressed the indivisibility of peace and human rights, continue to teach us about what we should not want—totalitarianism and the marginalization of citizens' initiatives. Western activists tell our counterparts cognition about the limitations of a consumer economy founded on a limited electoral democracy.

Together, we can continue to expand "civil society" (defined as citizen actions independent of governments) by gaining the convergence of all independent social movements "from below" as we build structures resistant to centralized State authorities. In this way, we can make borders lose their significance.

Security can no longer be defined in purely political-military terms. People to people initiatives ultimately are the best guarantee for peace. Humanitarian, cultural, economic and ecological aspects become the issues when the military-political aspects no longer define a common security.

ACCOMPLISHMENTS OF THE HCA

Social movements generally react to issues and situations already beyond our control. Even ACT (as the Against Cruise Testing Coalition) was, in our formative years, but a reaction to Canadian government policy.

The HCA is a project radiant with prescience. In helping to precipitate many of the changes now transforming the European continent, we are making real the intent of the 1975 Helsinki Final Act (CSCE).

The heads of CSCE governments just met in Paris, November 19-23, and institutionalized narrowly the process of cooperation and consultation among governments. Via the HCA, social movements have institutionalized the Helsinki Process from below—cooperation and consultation among citizens. Citizens have now organized before governments have.

In this sense, we are more a parallel organization to the CSCE. Agreement was reached in Prague to issue this statement to the Paris CSCE meeting:

"We ask you to recognize our activities as the counterpart to your own work. We want to establish working relations between your organization and our organization. We think it is important to discuss proposals, ideas and approaches in an open and constructive way. We offer a method for the direct involvement of concerned citizens and citizens' groups in your deliberations... Our goal is to integrate Europe from below, to construct a pan-European democratic civil society."

The HCA will have a permanent secretariat based in Prague and will convene

annual conferences in Prague to advance the work of the six Working Commissions.

National committees will continue outreach to all sectors of civil society while informing their CSCE institutions of citizens' goals for peace and democracy.

Participants to date in the HCA do not represent all civil society — we are just a part of it. Our citizens' network can only get stronger with greater participation.

POLITICAL AUTHORITY SHOULD REST IN CIVIL SOCIETY

We are aware that governments' resources are infinite relative to our own as social movements. Perhaps they will attempt to wear us down again. But the world is at an historic watershed. When will our leaders lead and take advantage of the increasing awareness that military intervention and war itself is obsolete? When will they deal with the larger problems of global environmental degradation and North-South social injustices?

Such incapacity is seen most vividly in the charade to retain NATO. At the Paris CSCE, Mulroney and Clark reaffirmed their

commitment to an aggressive NATO which continues to build on the old divisions of Europe. Can they really expect the fast-disintegrating Warsaw Pact to be the starting point to a new Europe?

The HCA asserts to the CSCE governments that citizens want more than numerical reductions in the conventional forces in Europe. Fully one half of the world's one trillion dollar arms race was spent on maintaining the Cold War status quo in Europe.

The radical "anti-politics" of the HCA demands that governments open the door to citizens who are not prepared to be bystanders to any new Yalta for Europe. The HCA asserts that citizens have the democratic right to involvement in making foreign policy.

WE NEED EACH OTHER

The HCA is a breeding place for new ideas and initiatives. This citizens' institution can help the community of the world to transform itself more democratically.

With the founding of the HCA we have realized that we need each other. The first priority of the HCA is civil society itself. ☺

The greening of Ukraine

By Maria Arraial and Stephen Dankowich

- 1,028 towns and cities in the Ukraine affected by radioactive contamination
- Over a million inhabitants at risk from higher radiation levels
- 5 million hectares of land contaminated: 1.5 million hectares of forest, 3.5 million hectares of prime agricultural land
- Water tables, lakes, rivers and reservoirs used for drinking water show signs of increased radiation
- 93,000 people (28,000 of them children) evacuated from the 30 km zone around Chernobyl
- Increased levels of childhood leukemia, thyroid problems, anemia and deaths
- Hampered medical assistance due to lack of modern equipment, shortage of drugs, poorly trained medical staff.

Chernobyl. To most of us in the West this is but a reluctant reminder of the dangers associated with nuclear power, but to those living in the areas surrounding this nuclear power plant, Chernobyl is a living hell.

The Chernobyl story was told in full by Ukrainians who lived it at an October public forum at the University of Toronto, sponsored by ACT for Disarmament along with Ecolos, a Ukrainian Canadian institute working to raise awareness of the ecological catastrophe that is Ukraine, (Ukraine, known as the bread-basket of Europe, is the second-largest republic in the Soviet Union, with a population of 52 million.)

The forum featured the North American premiere of a video updating the situation and speeches by two activists from the Ukrainian environmental movement Green World, Yuri Mischenko and engineer-economist Anatoli Panov.

WHEN ONE of the four Chernobyl reactors exploded on April 26, 1986, the amount of radiation released into the environment was phenomenal: 76 tons of over

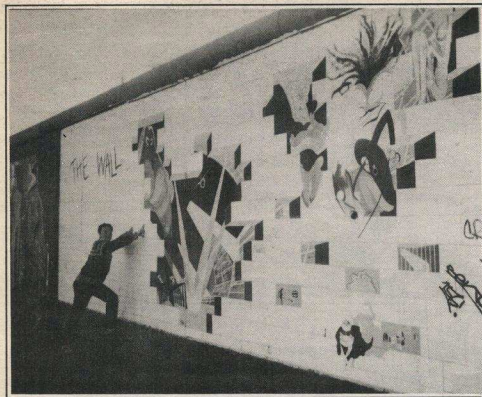
200 different radioactive substances, the radioactive equivalent of 300 Hiroshimas. According to Ihor Kobryn, director of the video, over 4.5 million Ukrainians now live in radiated areas.

Attempts were made to contain and neutralize radioactive materials. The machines to be employed in the removal of contaminated debris were often inoperable due to the high level of radioactive contamination, leaving the majority of the work to "volunteers" who often were not aware of the extreme danger they were in.

When people were notified of the nuclear accident at Chernobyl, 3 days later, they were told it was nothing serious. People continued to live in contaminated areas without knowledge of the high level of radiation to which they were being subjected. When the government finally acknowledged these contamination zones it offered those living there 16,000 rubles for their homes so they could relocate — a home in Kiev would cost 60,000 rubles. There are others who return to their homes in contaminated areas because this is all they have.

Today women are being encouraged not to have children because of the possibility of birth defects, certain types of cancer are on the rise and mutations of trees, apples, grass, leaves and animals are evident. Pigs are being born blind or without eyes. This contaminated meat is then sold. In rural areas, where control isn't as strict as in more populated areas, most of this contamination goes unchecked. Where regulations are in force, meat that is below a certain level of contamination but which is still affected is mixed with uncontaminated meat until the level of contamination reaches an acceptable/tolerable level.

ZELNY CVIT, or Green World, was formed in the immediate aftermath of the 1986 Chernobyl disaster, born of an increased environmental awareness. It rapidly grew in membership after the Soviet



Gaps in The Wall: Saul Chernos in Berlin. Countries of the former Soviet bloc face hard environmental decisions.

conference co-organizer and Dutch delegate Mient Jan Faber spoke about what he called process from below. "Where will political power be centered? Should we spread it to prevent control by a few?" he asked. Civil society, he explained, can be achieved through "non-governmental social institu-

tions that appeal to people to get involved for public and social change."

For more information on the campaign to boycott Siemens and any other company which, in Hradilek's words, is "trying to exploit our present situation," contact ACT for Disarmament (Toronto) ☺

RamJoe Clark plays war

The overblown windbags on Parliament Hill are still trying to keep a low profile following a summer of discontent and an autumn of discontent. A lot of hot air has been expelled by Ottawa seafarers over the sending of Canadian forces to the Gulf, but nothing's changed as a result. Lying Brian Mulroney has been particularly invisible. (Could it be that Tory leaders are following the lead of deceased czar

Jo Peacenik

Leonid Brezhnev's handlers by keeping alive a brain-dead figurehead?)

But on November 8, External Affairs Minister Joe Clark took time out from his Gulf posturing (stomping loudly and carrying no stick) to address a conference on Canadian peace-keeping forces. Clark led with his chin, demanding that Canada "move from a peace-keeping to a peace-making role". Fine words, until you get the official translation: Canada will make peace by going to war in the Middle East, with or without United Nations approval. Visions of Canada's 1700 military personnel in the Gulf invading Iraq failed to impress his by-invitation-only audience (at least one "known peace activist" was asked to leave before Clark's arrival).

Two, three, many Chernobyls

In a news brief Oct. 31, *The Globe and Mail* told readers that "two reactors in Bulgaria's only nuclear plant have been shut down because of an accident." Quoting Bulgarian Radio, Reuter news pundits said the accident, in the city of Kozloduy, "had not affected the country's Soviet-designed nuclear reactors." Readers are not told if the plant continues to operate and there is no word about what effect the accident had on the environment and human health.

Ah, glasnost.

Environment Follies

This column exists to seek out hypocrisy wherever it rears its ugly and all too frequent head, without regard to ideology. Sadly, this brings our own movement into the sights of Jo Peacenik.

The Toronto Disarmament Network (TDN) has embraced environmentalism with all the enthusiasm of a new convert, to the extent that their annual fall peace walk on October 20 barely mentioned the war looming in the Middle East. But when will the born-again greens at TDN stop contributing to the deforestation of Ontario? TDN has been raking in profits which exceed the annual budgets of some comparable groups with an dead tree sale every Christmas.

But maybe this is unfair to TDN. Maybe their trees are G-R-E-E-N products.

"Vote for me, I'm white"

Now that several socialists have left the Toronto School Board and City Council for the big playpen at Queen's Park, there's been a rush of seekers after their old job. Not all of them are as harmless as your typical local politico. Prominent in the by-election are candidates from the Nationalist Party of Canada, a modern fan club of Benito Mussolini. They are party leader Don Andrews and Janice Andrews, running to give "the white woman's perspective," whatever that is. Can you say "fascist", boys and girls? ☺

Innu flag flies at Parliament

By Maggie Helwig

For supporters of the native Innu people of Nitassinan (Labrador and eastern Québec), the biggest event in the last few months was the arrival of the Freedom for Nitassinan Walks, east and west, in Ottawa. On November 11, the walkers, the Innu, and hundreds of others gathered on Parliament Hill for the biggest Innu support rally in Canada to date. Two days later, early in the morning of November 13, the Innu and their supporters arrived at the Department of War, and set about non-violently shutting it down.

The Innu and their supporters have been campaigning for an end to Nato low-level military flight tests over their land, which make the traditional Innu hunter-gatherer way of life impossible.

People from across Canada blocked both vehicle and pedestrian access to the War Department building, headquarters of the Canadian Forces under whose auspices the flight tests are conducted, for about two hours in the face of considerable police violence. As the last blockaders were being taken away, some demonstrators threw human blood (taken from many of those involved the night before, by a sympathetic nurse) on the pillars of the War Department. 116 people were arrested; five of them were Innu, including elder Elizabeth Penashue and band councillor Penote Ben Michel. Most of those arrested were charged with mischief—the Innu, however, refused to speak any language but Innu-eimun and were released without charges.

The rally and blockade, both organized by the Alliance for Non-Violent Action, were a powerful conclusion to the months of walking, talking and telling the Innu story across Canada.

At the same time, less spectacular but equally important developments were going on in Nitassinan itself. The old Naskapi-Montagnais Innu Association is now gone. In its place is the Innu Nation (comprising, so far, the communities of Sheshatshit and Davis Inlet), and the change of name marks a change of attitude — "We name ourselves Innu people," says Sheshatshit Chief Daniel Ashini. "We consider ourselves a nation." The Innu in Quebec continue to be represented by the Conseil Attikamek-Montagnais, but the Labrador Innu hope that the two groups can soon come together.

The firm resolve of the Innu to grasp their self-determination now is signalled not only by the founding of the Innu Nation. On November 5, Innu people went to the



Peenamin McKenzie School in Sheshatshit and chained the doors shut. In a statement signed by Daniel Ashini, elder Matthew Penashue, Rose Gregoire, Mary Ann Michel and student Theresa Numa, they explained that the school would remain shut until the Minister of Education addressed the Innu demands for control of their own educational system. "We no longer can tolerate the present situation of our children's future being managed by non-Innu who are insensitive to, and unconcerned about, the past, present and future of our people." The school is largely staffed and run by non-Innu, and most courses are taught in English.

On November 9, the Minister of Education did come to Sheshatshit, and agreed to a transition committee of Innu who will negotiate matters of finance, staff and property with the intention to soon form an Innu board to run the school. This, though it got little attention in the media, may be ultimately as significant as the Nato decision to cancel the proposed base in Nitassinan. ☺

Petition campaign nears 50,000 names

ACT for Disarmament's year-old petition is fast approaching a total of 50,000 signatures to support the Innu in their campaign against low-level military flight testing.

Plans are under way to hand the petition in to Parliament in December. An installment of 20,000 names was handed in to the Nato meeting in May which decided not to

build a new base in traditional Innu territory.

It's not too late to send in petitions for the December presentation! Contact ACT Toronto for details. ☺

Stop Press...Stop Press...Stop Press...

US Nuclear Weapons said to be en route to Saudi Arabia

The American Friends Service Committee has received the following information from a confidential source at Westover Air Force Base in Massachusetts, the key supply base for Operation Desert Shield, about what is presently being loaded onto planes for shipment to Saudi Arabia.

Items being sent include: 100,000 body bags, 10,000 units of blood plasma with a shelf life of 60 days, units of people to work with POS's and unknown items that are being loaded as per guidelines and regulations for handling nuclear weapons.

During the 1980s US forces were trained to fight tactical nuclear war in the Middle East. 55mm howitzers are dual capable, able to fire conventional and nuclear shells, and some forces have backpack nuclear weapons.



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Indian Country

Drumbeat: Anger and Renewal in Indian Country
Boyce Richardson (ed.)
Summerhill Press/Assembly of First Nations
pp. 304, \$14.95 (pb)

Reviewed by Daphne Taylor

Drumbeat, a book put together by the Assembly of First Nations, manages to present the fears, frustrations and hopes of native people in one volume. By using examples from across the upper part of Turtle Island, it brings to light the plights of many First Nations.

Some of the tribes who tell their story in this book are from here in Ontario, and have had support from outside their communities, such as the Teme-Augama in their struggle to save Temagami — presented here in an essay by Chief Gary Potts. Others have only recently come to public attention.



Chief Mike Mitchell of Akwesasne tells of the situation of the Mohawks before the blockade at Oka, and his article gives important background to a situation that, for many non-natives, seemed to erupt out of nowhere. He tells of their traditional governments, disrupted by government interference and violence, and the “divide and conquer” strategy that played a large role in creating the Warrior Society.

Daniel Ashini, chief of the Innu of Sheshatshit, talks about the situation in Nitassinan, and makes it clear that much more than just low-level flying is at issue, important though the fight against flight testing is (see facing page). There are articles as well from the Mi'kmaq, the Lubicon, the Gitskan and Wet'suwet'en, and the Golden Lake and Barriere Lake Algonquins.

Drumbeat speaks not only of

the present-day struggles for survival, but also the sources of these problems, usually dating back to the first encounters with Europeans. Also, the book tells what is being done and what needs to be done to achieve racial equality. Georges Erasmus, national chief of the Assembly of First Nations, speaks in the last chapter of the things that First Nations want done in order for the two separate cultures, native and non-native, to co-exist in a healthy, undisrupted way.

The hypocrisy and arrogance of the Canadian government becomes ever more apparent throughout *Drumbeat*. Those who want to understand the plight of native peoples here and abroad should pick up this book; not only is it informative about the issues, it also carries with it the wisdom of the people who wrote it.

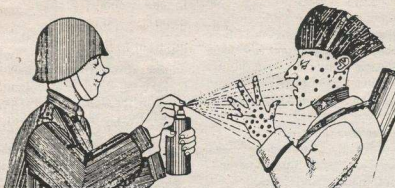
In order to come to terms with the racial problems here at home, and deal with them, non-natives are going to have to become better educated. *Drumbeat* is a good book with which to begin or further your education. **✶**

Canada's chemical wars: creating the new technologies of death

Deadly Allies: Canada's Secret War, 1937-1947
John Bryden
McClelland and Stewart
pp. 320, \$6.95 (pb)/\$28.95 (hc)

Reviewed by John Bacher

Those who harbour illusions about the insignificance or virtue of Canada on the world stage should be prepared to abandon their illusions on reading John Bryden's *Deadly Allies*. Rather than the usual portrait of the passive Canadian responding to the whims of the setting British and rising American empires, what we see in *Deadly Allies* is Canada as a pioneer in the fiendish technologies of chemical and biological warfare. Canada, prodiged by the insulin discoverers Frederick Banting and Charles Best, dragged reluctant allies along the path of developing aggressive strategies for mass destruction. Repulsive scenarios such as the mass breeding



of insects to serve as vectors to carry germs to civilian populations were dreamed up by Canadian experts, who sometimes appear as caricatures of the proverbial mad scientist.

Bryden shows how close the Allies came to violating the 1926 Geneva Convention Protocols against biological and chemical warfare. The US, which did not sign the Convention, was only deterred from using poison gas in the war against Japan by President Franklin Roosevelt's overriding of the entire military chain of command — a wise decision

even from a conventional strategic standpoint, since Japan had a strong biological warfare capacity, and had tested these weapons on prisoners of war. Winston Churchill was only prevented from unleashing the scourge of chemical and biological weapons by the distaste of British army officers for such methods.

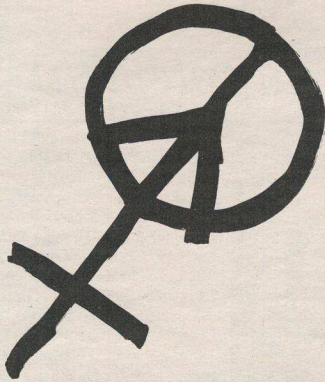
Bryden shows how Operation “Knockabout” was developed to retaliate in case Germany used poison gas to repel the Allied landing in Normandy. This would have involved large-scale gas attacks

on German cities, which would have resulted in “the three million people of Berlin — men, women, children and infants — going painfully blind simultaneously while suffering lung damage and blisters ... a nightmare that may have well surpassed the A-bomb tragedies of Hiroshima and Nagasaki.” In response, Germany would have launched an attack on civilian areas in the south of Britain with its deadly nerve gasses, unknown to the Allies, which would have resulted in casualties on a similar scale.

Deadly Allies ends in 1947, since the restrictiveness in Canada's Access to Information Act made it impossible to obtain the documents necessary for an understanding of Canada's role in chemical and biological warfare after that time. This situation, however, only deepens the problem of the lack of accountability of the Canadian “defense” establishment to the public. This is

so severe that in 1970 Canada's ambassador to the United Nations Conference on Disarmament, George Ignatieff, denied that Canada had any stockpiles of chemical or biological weapons. Ignatieff was shown to have been deceived only a year later, when an enterprising *Toronto Star* reporter was told that at the chemical weapons testing ground (yes, Canada does still conduct chemical weapons testing) in CFB Suffield, Alberta, there were some 637 tons of mustard gas.

Such disinformation undermines international agreements to control chemical and biological weapons, and also highlights the dangers of the Suffield facility. A key demand of the peace movement should be to clean up this thousand-mile stretch of prairie and return it to the ducks, antelope and bison that once lived there. **✶**



From diversity for diversity

Healing the Wounds: The Promise of Ecofeminism
Judith Plant (ed)
Between the Lines
pp. 276, \$15.95 (pb)

Reviewed by Kate Sandilands

In her introduction to *Healing the Wounds: The Promise of Ecofeminism*, Judith Plant writes the need to value "diversity above all else" in our efforts to save the earth and the lives in and upon it. I take this to mean both that we must struggle to preserve diversity in ecosystems, the richness

myriad species currently threatened by global ecological crisis, and diversity in our actions and visions, local politics based on a variety of social and cultural experiences of the world. This dual meaning — fighting from diversity for diversity — is one of the few threads binding together the works in *Healing the Wounds*. The twenty-six pieces included in the book (some original, some previously published) span a broad spectrum of feminisms and ecologies, range from intensely personal narratives to theoretical discussions

about women and nature, and vary drastically in their sophistication, quality and "promise."

The book is divided into four sections (in addition to a forward by West German Green Petra Kelly). In the first, subtitled "The Meaning of Ecofeminism," the central focus is on constructing an ecofeminist philosophy, particularly on the origins of the intertwined dominations of women and nature and the role of an ecofeminist "movement" in addressing them. The second section, subtitled "Ecofeminist Politics," moves to more particular women's struggles to resist local degradations and to develop strategies for change, in India, on Haada Gwaii (the Queen Charlotte Islands), in response to imperialism in "developing" countries and in response to Western medicine. The third, on "Ecofeminist Spirituality," examines a wide variety of contexts in which spiritual concerns form part of a holistic, healing vision. Finally, in the section on "Ecofeminist Community," issues of individual and community awareness, power and process are examined as components in a developing politics of personal/political change.

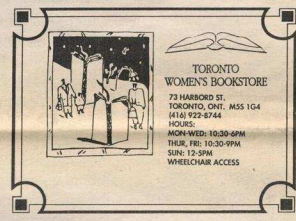
Through these four sections, however, runs another division — those who speak of "woman" and those who speak of "women." In the former category, authors such as

Sharon Doubiage state that "women have always thought like mountains," that in re-embracing the essentially female qualities of nurturance and empathy (and self-denial, no?) woman will "heal" the earth. Woman is, here, more closely allied to "nature" than is man; it is male "consciousness," male "values," male fear of woman's "lifegiving capacities" which has caused us to deviate from our true, feminine, harmonious path of ecological soundness. Poetic, to be sure, but also reductionist, oversimplistic, and ironically dualistic and oppressive. These arguments take as given, as "natural," the traits of femininity imposed upon women by "patriarchal development" — are they something we wish to perpetuate, at the expense of all other characteristics of humanity that we might value, such as critical thought, commitment, or selfhood?

On the other side of the coin are those pieces which originate in struggle, which

begin not from a stereotypical vision of the "feminine" but from women's experiences of ecological degradation, of sexism, of colonialism, of racism, and of efforts to build politics and new forms of community out of their varying experiences. Together, pieces by Owen such as Cwagan and Helen Forsey highlight the complexity of the issues facing feminist ecologists, the tangled web of social processes which have led to contemporary crisis. These are the contributions worth buying the book for; they do more than point out the linkages between feminism and ecology, to underline the interconnections among different local issues, than could any totalizing notion of "woman" or her relationship to "nature."

But these conflicting versions are part of Judith Plant's plural vision of ecofeminism, a vision which I deeply respect. I only wish that more of her contributors also valued such diversity. ♪



The new cold war: oppression and resistance in Latin America

It is becoming increasingly clear that the true target of American foreign policy is the developing world. This was true during the Cold War for both the United States and the USSR, who used each other in a mutually beneficial way to justify intervention into the developing world and Eastern Europe. With the Soviet economy in ruins, and a leader with some vision in charge, the USSR has turned its attention to the home front. But the entrenched business interests in the US — and, importantly, in Canada — still hang on to increasingly obviously stupid and short-sighted colonialist tactics.

Northern Shadows can tell you lots about that. And anyone who is protesting American policy in Central America should read this book. Then they might want to spend some time working against Canadian policy, and especially Canadian business. In fact, go home and write Inco and Noranda mines and tell them their work in Nicaragua was disgusting; they personally propped up

Somoza for years (decades), while working off the blood of Nicaraguans. The only reason Noranda didn't apply for compensation when the Sandinistas nationalized the mines (and incidentally made it possible for miners to work there without dying at age 35) was because they didn't want it revealed just how many

"liberal" Trudeau, when the US said "Jump," simply asked "How high?"

Between War and Peace in Central America is one of those books from the academic hierarchy. Lots of charts and tables. Butti does have good technical data about human rights abuses in Central America, and where Canadian aid has gone,

and its exploitation machinery, they will send their money wherever business tells them to. And business will tell them to send it wherever the profits come best and easiest.

One thing I liked about this book was that it was actually willing to bring up Nicaragua's bad points, which is usually a no-no on the "left." It of course details the far-reaching vision and progressiveness of the Sandinistas, but they aren't gods (ask a Miskito) and *Between War and Peace* is willing to say so.

Relentless Persistence is an inspiring book, one that shows the strength, innovation and beauty of true grassroots nonviolent action in Central America. Documenting nonviolent resistance, in areas ranging from labour, to woman-led struggles, to indigenous peoples' struggles, it shows the raw spiritual strength of people faced with the most disastrous consequences of superpower exploitation. It is written to include case studies and testimonies from the people who

were actually there on the scene, on the frontlines. It gives a feeling, illustrated by anecdotes and personal colour, of actual down-to-earth people, telling their story, a story one can relate to.

There are excellent sections on the spirituality of nonviolence and preparation for nonviolence, which deal with some of the theory behind nonviolent action. It shows the ideas behind some of the training done in Latin America, and is interesting in light of the training used in Canadian nonviolent action (which is surprisingly similar).

In light of the importance of nonviolence in attacking the basic assumptions our corrupt culture is based on, this book is vital. I would recommend it to anyone working on Latin American solidarity, or to anyone seriously doing nonviolent resistance. It shows what true resistance is all about, and how, when done with *firmeza permanente* (relentless persistence) it can move mountains, and oppression. ♪

Northern Shadows Peter McFarlane Between the Lines pp. 240, \$14.95 (pb)/35.95 (hc)	Between War and Peace in Central America: Choices for Canada Liisa North and CAPAC (eds) Between the Lines pp. 300, \$18.95 (pb)	Relentless Persistence Philip Mcmanus and Gerald Schlabach (eds) New Society Publishers pp. 312, \$19.95
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Reviewed by Macdonald Scott

miners they killed.

Northern Shadows is full of information about Canadian business and government policy in Central America, like the fact that Diefenbaker was actually the one Prime Minister to try to make an independent Canadian foreign policy (working with Mexico to go behind the US's back), while

and who our government helps exploit. It also gives recommendations about where Canadian aid should go, and so on. I think this may be an academia problem, you write a book and you figure the government will pick it up and say, "Oh! So that's what we should do!" Nope, sorry ... Until we directly confront and stop our government

Quick Takes

While Christian "lefties" languish in relative obscurity, the "Christian" right virtually owns the airwaves, exhorting us to enact such well-known sayings of Jesus as "Steal from old ladies" and "Vote Republican." The "Christian" Right, however, get more attention than even they ever wanted in Sara Diamond's *Spiritual Warfare: The Politics of the Christian Right* (Black Rose Books, pp. 304, \$18.95 pb). The book traces the rise of the American "Christian" Right in the 80s and is not, thankfully, a Christian-bashing tirade; Diamond repeatedly quotes the many Christians who have condemned Operation Rescue, and she deserves credit for pointing out that "evangelical" is not necessarily synonymous with "conservative." While *Spiritual Warfare's* American, and therefore Protestant, focus renders it less than one hundred percent useful to Canadian activists, it is still an entertaining and necessary read, although ultimately a depressing one. Dorothy Day, co-founder of the Catholic Worker movement, once expressed her dream of building a society in which "it would be easier for people to be good." Diamond's book reminds us that there will always be misguided, even dangerous, people who make it that much harder for good people to want to call themselves Christians.

Kathy Shaidele

ACT Niagara member Bruce Allen has updated his popular 1988 book, *Germany East* (Black Rose Books, pp. 171, \$14.95 pb), which analyzed the potential of the independent movements for social change in the former DDR. The revised book reflects on the reunified Germany and examines the situation of citizens and the new State.

Stephen Dankowich

Intifada is the only Arabic word to enter the English language in recent times. The Palestinian "throwing off" of the authority of the Israeli military rulers of the West Bank and Gaza caught the imagination of the world, and fundamentally changed the attitudes of the Palestine Liberation Organization (which adopted a two-state solution to the Israeli-Palestinian conflict for the first time) and the United States (which recognized the PLO for the first time). The image of unarmed children and mothers resisting Israeli soldiers touched even the conscience of Israel.

Most importantly, according to the editors of *Intifada: The Palestinian Uprising Against Israel Occupation* (Middle East Research and Information Project/Between the Lines, 426 pp., 1989, \$16.95 pb), it altered the situation of the Palestinians themselves. In essays, articles reprinted from Merip's magazine, *Middle East Report*, photos, and poems, *Intifada* recounts the story of the uprising, and how the Palestinians have used it to begin freeing themselves. And it appeals to the world to help them.

David Webster

The war all around us: US first strike

Nuclear Empire

Robert C. Aldridge
New Star Books
pp. 160, \$11.95 (pb)/\$24.95 (hc)

Reviewed by Vannina Sztainbok



For those who are not yet convinced that the US is pursuing a first strike nuclear weapons policy, this book provides a convincing argument. Robert Aldridge, himself a former nuclear engineer for the Pentagon, examines the types of weapons

and technology being developed, and their purpose, and concludes that they point to an undeclared first strike strategy. Smaller, more accurate warheads to target Soviet missile silos and other strategic sites; improved submarine devices; and the "anti-fratricide" design that would enable the Cruise to function in an environment already devastated by nuclear blasts — all these are indications that the US has been planning for first strike.

Aldridge doesn't mention the low-level training exercises of the US and its Nato allies, but these too are clearly aimed at preparing for a first, "surgical", strike.

Aldridge examines, as well, the increasing ability of the Pentagon to control the US war machine almost independently, circumventing Congress and the President. Excerpts from Congress sessions make it clear that, to a large extent, government officials themselves do not really know what the "defense" establishment is doing. And he addresses the limitations of existing and proposed arms control treaties between the two superpowers, pointing out that these are too narrow, and concern too few nuclear nations, to really reduce the nuclear threat.

Nuclear Empire also discusses the destruction caused by US expropriation of lands in the Pacific and the In-

dian Ocean for military use — the book focuses particularly on the Philippines and Diego Garcia. Though it would be good to see more attention paid to the military occupation of native lands within North America, it is important that the topic is covered at all. It shows the ravages of the arms race right now, the myth of "the war that will never be fought." For the people of the Philippines and Diego Garcia, of Bikini and Enewetak, for the Shoshone of Nevada and the Innu of Nitassinan, the war has begun, and it is being waged against them.

Nuclear Empire is not without drawbacks. Aldridge can get carried away by jargon and technical questions — he describes how sound travels in water in far too much detail — and he can slip into the use of Pentagon terminology which undermines (as it is meant to) the urgency of the issue. And, since the book was written before the extraordinary upheavals in Eastern Europe, it focuses on US-Soviet relations, while now the most threatening nuclear flashpoints are in areas like the Middle East.

Though by no means a comprehensive treatment, *Nuclear Empire* is a good glimpse at what the Pentagon is up to, and a reminder that many wars, and threats of war, are not yet over. **✪**

The games nations play

Funu: The Unfinished Saga of East

Timor
José Ramos-Horta
Red Sea Press
pp. 208, \$14.95 (pb)/\$29.95 (hc)

Reviewed by David Webster

Funu means war in Tétum, the main language of East Timor. This book could have been called nothing else. It is the story of the war that East Timor's people have been fighting against the Indonesian army that invaded their country in 1975. It is the story of their fight for recognition of their rights, of their very existence, by the international community.

East Timor, a territory of 700,000 people between Australia and Indonesia was for many years a Portuguese colony. When the independence movement, Fretilin, declared Timor independent in November 1975, Indonesian forces invaded, and within three years had won an apparent military victory, at the cost of over 200,000 Timorese and 10,000 Indonesians dead. Timorese culture was suppressed and a deliberate cam-

paigned of genocide against the indigenous Timorese instituted.

"The war will end / smiling love / / Seed that ruptures / blossoms into a flower" wrote Timorese poet Fernando Sylvania at a time when hope seemed bleakest for East Timor. The people have never stopped resisting: guerrillas in the mountains, children in the streets, teenagers in the churches.

Few are better placed to have written this intensely personal account of the abandonment of Timor and its people by the world. José Ramos-Horta, a founder of Fretilin, was himself exiled from Timor to Mozambique for suggesting that "if Portugal is too poor to develop Timor, better give it to the Americans." In 1975, at the age of 25, he became Minister for External Affairs and Information for independent East Timor, part of a group which observers said more resembled a graduating college class than a cabinet. Days later, he was in exile, left to fight for his country's freedom at the United Nations for the next decade.

Funu is an extended attempt to



José Ramos-Horta at the UN, 1976

answer the question posed to Ramos-Horta by the former head of East Timor's Catholic Church: "What is the United Nations doing? Why don't they help us? What are the Americans doing? They are the ones who give the weapons to the Indonesians, so they have the power to stop the war. You have been in the United Nations. Tell me, why isn't the United Nations doing anything?" It is perhaps more about the United Nations and the injustices of the world order, about "the games nations play" which have allowed East Timor to be swept under the carpet, than it is about East Timor itself.

But it is no less valuable for that. For anyone who advocates a world order built on the United Nations, for anyone concerned about international justice, for anyone who has watched the crisis over Kuwait with concern, *Funu* should be required reading. **✪**



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Speaking from the fire of Tiananmen

Voices from Tiananmen Square
Mok Chiu Yu and J. Frank Harrison
(eds)
Black Rose Books
pp. 204, \$19.95

Reviewed by Maria Arraial

Instead of purporting to be the ultimate source on the subject, *Voices from Tiananmen Square* recounts the events of spring and summer 1989 which culminated in the massacre of thousands of students and their supporters by the People's Liberation Army of China. The book offers a background, a chronology of the Chinese Democracy Movement, and a collection of documents from the participants.

The movement began as a protest against the Communist Party's removal of the wreaths placed in memory of reform leader Hu Yaobang, and student-led marches swiftly grew into a gathering of thousands of people in Tiananmen Square. After presenting a section of theoretical statements on Chinese politics and society from the students involved, *Voices* gathers writings from the heart of the struggle; for instance, the seven-point petition which the students attempted to present to the government on several occasions. The seven points were: 1) reevaluation of Hu Yaobang's achievements, 2) rejection of the 1987 "anti-bourgeois liberalization" campaign, 3) freedom of the press, 4) freedom to protest and demonstrate, 5) publication of the financial holdings of senior government officials, and 6) abolition of the regulations controlling demonstrations in Beijing. The government would not at any time consider the petition.

This section of the book also includes appeals from the students to the workers and even to the soldiers of China and the statement of the May 13 hunger strike that involved 3,000 students.

Some common elements in the students' writings are concern about the problems of top-down control and abuse of government power due to its unlimited nature, rejection of passivity and its link to exploitation, concern for the misinformation given to soldiers, and especially anger and frustration at having their Democracy Movement called "turmoil, a riot" by the Party. One hunger striker said, "Democracy is a desire intrinsic to the human condition. Freedom is an inherent human right."

Support for the students grew among the workers, who founded the Beijing Workers Autonomous Federation in response to the student protests. *Voices* includes founding documents of the BWAFF: "We formally declare that the Politburo must accept the ... student demands ... Further, let the workers of the whole nation know that the workers of Beijing are now organized."

Students worked with journalists, and they marched in support of each other. Even Communist party members stated that the students deserved support. But Premier Li Peng declared martial law on May 20, and by June 2, 200,000 soldiers were stationed around Beijing. Yet even a few soldiers dared to write letters, presented in *Voices*, expressing their support for the students. And yet ...

On June 3, the army battalions, allegedly drugged, certainly operating out of disinformation and fear of the

punishment that could come if they disobeyed, opened fire on the Square and surrounding streets. Perhaps 5,000 people were killed. The government declared the Autonomous Student Union of Beijing Universities, and the Beijing Workers Autonomous Federation, illegal, and set up hotlines for informers. *Voices* includes terrifying, eyewitness testimony of the slaughter, and statements from some students who managed to escape briefly, or even make their way out of the country to safety.

The government seized back control by its willingness to use massive, bloody force and by the abruptness of the attack, but it is clear that a desire for democratic freedom is widespread in China. After the people of Beijing, and the rest of the country, experienced the possibility of freedom in April and May of 1989, it is to be hoped that the struggle for freedom in China is not over but recuperating. \square

The Information Managers

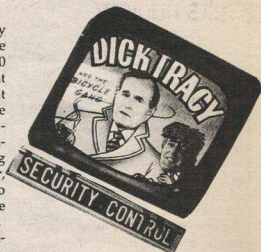
Sultans of Sleaze: Public Relations and the Media
Joyce Nelson
Between the Lines
pp. 168, \$14.95 (pb)/\$34.95 (hc)

Reviewed by Maggie Helwig

It is true, I guess, that we never see the world as it fully is, and if the doors of perception were cleansed every thing would appear as it is, infinite; and dealing with this is beyond any political agenda. But it is also true that our pictures of the world are being made progressively more narrow and flat and full of technicolour banality as we allow the media to shape our perceptions — and as we allow the media to be shaped by the corporate and political elite.

It is the Information Managers who hold the real and most secret power in the modern world. It is the Information Managers — the people controlling your newspaper, your magazine, your television — who define for us "what happened" — so thoroughly they hardly need to tell us what we should think about it.

Joyce Nelson, in *Sultans of Sleaze*, looks at the Information Managers in



action in a few specific cases. The book is somewhat disjointed, and different sections vary a good deal in quality, but she is one of the first in Canada to practise this kind of Applied Chomsky, and her work would be valuable for that, if for nothing else.

Sultans of Sleaze begins with a look at several Central American military dictatorships who have hired American PR firms to boost their image overseas while death squads patrol the country, and goes on to the selling of the Free Trade deal — the government's under-the-table advocacy ad campaign, and Mulroney's acrobatic poll-riding, fighting a "cowardly" image by making anti-gay remarks about MP Svend Robinson, then dragging his mother onto the nation's televisions to reassure old age pensioners. It also looks at the recent use of "ecological" imagery and rhetoric in corporate PR.

But perhaps the strongest chapter in the book is the one least related to specific media strategies — Nelson's examination of the Free Trade Zones. In the Zones, which exist in many Third World countries, there are no labour laws, no health and safety standards, no income taxes on corporations, and no sort of protection for the workers, mainly women, with their 112-hour weeks and their three to five years of "usefulness" before their bodies are destroyed forever. The Zones, she notes, are now being sold to Britain, the US and Canada by the multinationals and their marketing apparatus.

We need much more analysis of media management in Canada, done by more people. We need a detailed examination of the role of the press in the Oka crisis — what they covered, and when the Warrior arsenal was never "discovered" during the civil war at Akwesasne, when it existed just as surely; it was never "known" until the government wanted to send in the army). And what questions were never even allowed to exist as questions — for instance, what kind of system could make basically ordinary people in Chateaugay so frustrated they turned into lunatics, alternately throwing Molotov cocktails at the police, and rocks at children and elders trying to evacuate? We need an examination of media strategies around the current Middle East situation, and so much more. A great deal of work must be done, so we can begin to see some of the things we are not "supposed" to see. \square

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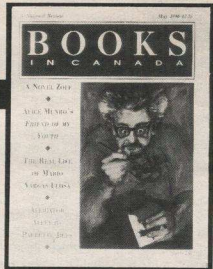
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Green World seeks nuclear-free Ukraine

(From page 3)

military-nuclear complex proposed the construction of 17 more nuclear reactors to be built on Ukrainian territory. Green World now has over 300 member organizations and 500,000 members. It calls for full independence for Ukraine.

Green World's basic principles include: "the primacy of ecology over economy and politics; democracy and total openness in environmental issues and affairs; the participation of all levels of society in environmental decision-making; synthesis of scientific and humanistic principles; and the ecologization of education."

Green World has successfully won a moratorium on more nuclear reactors and has forced the Supreme Soviet to agree to shut down the remaining three reactors at Chernobyl by 1995.

At the last Green World Conference, in September 1990, a resolution was passed to help develop a Green Party of Ukraine. When the Communist Party impeded its ability to even register a candidate for election, large demonstrations were organized.

For the fifth anniversary of Chernobyl in 1991, Green World

is planning to convene a Chernobyl/Nuremberg Trial and People's Tribunal. They will try those who drew up the plans to build a nuclear plant near Kiev, those who gave false information about its construction, and those who lied about the disaster.

ACT looks forward to working with Green World—our national counterparts in Ukraine—and to further exchanges with those who know best the effects of nuclear disasters like Chernobyl. Perhaps we can learn from their experience the perils of nuclear power. ☸

Outreach report: Halifax

By Angelo Gonsalves

All summer and fall members of ACT have been doing outreach at various festivals, concerts and in the streets. Recently went to the East coast and did some outreach there. The trip was so successful a return trip is in order. Halifax being a naval base did not deter the residents, much to my amazement, from signing the petition to stop low-level flight testing and bringing the total number of signatures to over 44,000.

The East coast hospitality and enthusiasm were second to none. In particular, the students of Dalhousie and Mount St Vincent Universities welcomed ACT's message.

ACT joins International Peace Bureau

by Stephen Dankowicz

ACT for Disarmament was unanimously accepted as Canada's first full membership organization in the International Peace Bureau (IPB), at its last conference, held in Paris, France, last September.

The IPB is a global network of independent and non-aligned peace organizations, based in Geneva, Switzerland. Its aim is to serve the cause of peace by the promotion of international cooperation and the nonviolent and peaceful solution of international conflicts. The role of the IPB (as

defined by its 99 member organizations from 37 countries) includes networking between all kinds of peace groups; informing peace movements, governments and the public; monitoring United Nations and intergovernmental negotiations; and campaigning on the fields of action decided annually by the membership.

The IPB is the oldest international peace organizations in the world, having been founded in Rome in July, 1891. It has a long and noble history of working for disarmament and international justice—marked, among other distinctions, by the award of the Nobel Peace Prize in 1910.



ACT for Disarmament is proud to be a part of this rapidly expanding network. ACT has offered to host the IPB's September 1991 conference in Toronto: an event which would bring a large section of the international peace movement to Canada. ☸

I also met Noel Knockwood, the Micmac spiritual leader, who gave me his wholehearted support along with his prayers: "the earth is precious" and "the sacred seven prayer".

In all over a thousand petitioners signed and more names are still trickling in. In addition I also attended the annual general board meeting of Canadian Physicians for the Prevention of Nuclear War as a guest speaker, and did interviews with two radio stations: CKDU-FM at Dalhousie and CKDR-AM which broadcasts over the Halifax-Dartmouth region.

Next stop? ACT organizers plan to go to Kitchener-Waterloo and Brantford this month. ☸

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ACTing up in Oakville

By Ramsay Hart, Andrea Hardy and Rob Ferraz

Yes it's true! Oakville, the very epitome of conservatism, really does have a social conscience. This amazing discovery has been made by the small but growing Oakville chapter of ACT for Disarmament.

A demonstration outside MP Otto Jelinek's office, against low-level flight testing over Innu lands, was greeted with overwhelming public support. The only opposi-

tion we received was inside Mr Jelinek's office. His secretary smugly put down our efforts and refused to sign our petition!

We are also circulating a petition against the apocalyptic military buildup in the Middle East. Other projects include the establishment of a high school peace network and a demonstration on Human Rights Day, Dec. 10, again at MP Jelinek's office (245 Lakeshore E at Allen). For more information call Andrea at 849-3733. ☸

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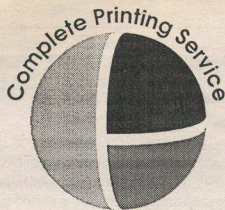
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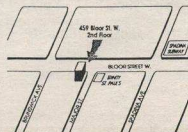
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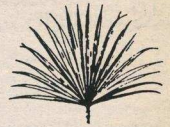
(WHITE PRINT 36"X48" AND LARGER)

GETTING THERE





You either believe in freedom or you don't.



We believe.

In 1975, just ten days after gaining its independence from Portugal, the southeast Asian island of East Timor was invaded by neighbouring Indonesia. As soon as the Indonesian soldiers arrived, they began slaughtering the inhabitants. Since then, 250,000 people, over a third of the population, have lost their lives.

For reasons best known to itself, the Canadian government supported Indonesia at the United Nations and in the marketplace. Fifteen years later, the Indonesian army continues to occupy East Timor. We think the Canadian government should end its support.

The Canadian government says East Timor will never be free. It says that after fifteen years, the people and the land belong to Indonesia. We believe people belong to themselves and the land belongs to those who live on it.

For a long time, people believed that Eastern Europe would never be free. The Canadian government adopted the same attitude to Romanian dictator Nicolae Ceaucescu as it does to the generals who rule Indonesia. But times change.

We ask all Canadians to join us in telling the Canadian government to:

- Support the call of Bishop Belo of East Timor for a referendum on the country's future
- Ban the sale of military equipment to Indonesia
- Condemn the Indonesian transmigration and assimilation programmes aimed at destroying the indigenous Timorese culture
- Speak out for human rights by joining the European Community and the majority of the United Nations in calling for a free East Timor
- Provide humanitarian aid to East Timorese refugees and fight for the free access of the International Red Cross and other non-governmental organizations

We want to get this open letter signed by as many prominent Canadian citizens and groups as possible and publish it in spring of 1991 in newspapers. Can you help with endorsements and the cost of publishing the open letter?

East Timor Alert Network, PO Box 354, Ladysmith BC, V0R 2E0, (604) 245-3068.

Be All That You Can Be—There's No Life Like It!

The Cold War may be over, they say. The arms race may be over. But the peace movement's work is far from over. From working to halt local wars, including the flashpoint of the Persian Gulf, to supporting the campaign for justice for native Canadians, to building towards a more fair and peaceful international order, to making Canada into the peacemaker it has always claimed to be, the need for peace activism is greater than ever.

ACT for Disarmament needs your volunteer help. We have no paid staff: everyone in ACT is a volunteer. Call us at 531-6154 or drop by our office at the south entrance to the Bathurst Street Centre for Social Justice (736 Bathurst, one block south of Bloor) if you can get involved.

You are the peace movement.

Petition Drive

ACT is trying to collect 100,000 signatures on a petition to stop low-level military flight tests over the lands of the Innu people of Nitassinan. People are needed to circulate it to friends, community centres and groups, churches, schools and everywhere else.

Street Outreach

Most weekends activists are on Toronto street corners, collecting signatures on our "Support the Innu" petition, distributing The ACTivist and other peace literature, selling peace buttons and talking to the public. More folks are always needed.

Phoning

Getting the word out to supporters about events and demonstrations, updating ACT's mailing list, and encouraging supporters to donate to the ongoing work of ACT.

Office Staffing

As an all-volunteer group, we haven't been able to maintain regular office hours as much as we would like. Staffers are needed to take care of the day-to-day running of the ACT Peace Centre.

The ACTivist

Writers, proofreaders, ad salespeople, artists and generally creative people are needed to produce this paper.

Canvass

ACT is planning a door-to-door canvass to raise funds and awareness. Canvassers have the option of keeping up to 50% of proceeds raised while canvassing for ACT.

Fundraising

ACT always needs money. Volunteers to help out with this, or with fundraising ideas, are especially welcome.

Volunteer for ACT for Disarmament

Donate to ACT—Get a Tax Break!

Pay taxes? Want your money to help solve world problems, not help the government create more problems? Now you can!

The Parkdale Green Constituency Association supports ACT for Disarmament's peace work and now has a policy of turning all donations earmarked for "peace" directly and entirely to ACT. Donations to political parties are better tax write-offs than donations to charities: 75% of the first \$200 is returned to you, so a \$200 donation costs you only \$50. And your donation does not tie you or ACT to the Green Party in any way.

ACT for Disarmament encourages all individuals who would like a receipt for political contributions to send a cheque denoting their area(s) of interest to the Parkdale Green Constituency Association whose policy is to send all monies earmarked for "Peace" directly, wholly and exclusively to ACT

Name _____
 Address _____
 Postal Code _____ Phone _____

If you pay income tax, you get 75% of your donation back in rebate directly off your tax payable (ie. you give \$200, you get back \$150, so it costs you only \$50).

To: Parkdale Green Constituency Association
 c/o 736 Bathurst Street, Toronto, M5S 2R4

Reader Survey

Please help us to improve The ACTivist by filling in the following reader survey. Five entries drawn at random (please have them in by December 31) will receive copies of a poster produced for ACT for Disarmament by Six Nations Mohawk Danny Beaton, featuring an print of an original painting by Christia Bordier and signed by the artist.

☐ Are you a subscriber? Or do you pick up *The ACTivist* at a store, or a public event?

☐ How often do you read *The ACTivist*? How much of each issue do you read?

☐ Does *The ACTivist* encourage you to action? Does it help you in your activism?

☐ If not, what do you find to be useful about *The ACTivist*?

☐ Are articles too detailed? Too simplistic? Too long? Not long enough?

☐ Please rate coverage of the following (circle where appropriate, 1 being awful, 5 being excellent):

- (1) Innu campaign against militarism
- (2) Other native issues, eg. Mohawk situation
- (3) Canadian role in arms race
- (4) Linking peace and ecology, eg. nuclear power
- (5) East-West issues, eg. Helsinki Citizens Assembly
- (6) International human rights, eg. East Timor
- (7) ACT for Disarmament campaigns
- (8) Canadian peace movements
- (9) International peace movements
- (10) Jo Peacenic column

☐ What would you like to see more coverage of? Or less?

☐ Would you like to see *The ACTivist* appear more frequently (eg. monthly rather than 6 times a year as at present, or ten times ...)?

☐ Would you be willing to pay more than the current \$5 a year to see *The ACTivist* more often?

☐ Would you be willing to pay more to have *The ACTivist* printed on recycled paper?

☐ Do you like the look of the paper? If not, how would you change it?

☐ Any additional comments?

Thanks for participating. If you'd like a response, or to be included in the poster draw, please fill in your name and address. If not, we still welcome your comments.

Activist's Notebook



November 30 • Earth First! benefit to raise funds for tribunals condemning corporate involvement in the destruction of the Earth, featuring Extended Circle, Soul Fish and Polyester Explosion. Marquee Club, Coxwell & Gerrard, \$6.

December 1 • Boycott Columbus celebrations. Public meeting on recovery not "discovery" of the Americas at Walberg Auditorium, 184 College Street, 7:30 pm.

• Tibetan Bazaar at Trinity St Paul's Church, 11 am—5 pm.

December 6 • Commemoration of the Montréal massacre and women's memorial service. University of Toronto Philosophers' Walk, 6 pm.

December 7 • Protest to mark 15th anniversary of the Indonesian invasion of East Timor. 5 pm, Indonesian Consulate, 425 University (south of Dundas)

December 8 • John Lennon memorial, on the tenth anniversary of his death. Yonge & Dundas, 12-5 pm. Bring candles, tunes, tie-dye etc. We remember John!

December 9 • ACT for Disarmament open house, new Peace Centre, 736 Bathurst Street (south entrance, below the Annex Theatre), 2-4 pm.

December 10 • United Nations Human Rights Day. United Nations Association Toronto branch holds a forum "After Oka: Native Sovereignty and Self-government ... Dream or Practical Reality" featuring speakers from Akwesasne, Kahnawake and Oka communities. Friends House (60 Lowther Ave.), 7:30 pm.

December 12 • ACT holds its last general meeting of the year. 736 Bathurst, 7 pm. [1991 meeting dates: January 9, 23, February 6, 20] All welcome!

March 2 • National Day of Protest against continuation of cruise missile tests over Canada: Vancouver, Edmonton, Toronto and others. Locations to be announced.

May 11 • ACT for Disarmament Ninth Annual Spring Protest for Peace.

Compiled by The ACTivist, with thanks to Canadian Action for Nicaragua for use of the CAN Calendar. Call ACT at (416) 531-6154 for more information.

Subscribe!

to Toronto's only peace newspaper: The ACTivist. For six years we have been providing news and analysis of peace, human rights, First Nations struggles, the environment, reports and updates on the activities of ACT for Disarmament, and much more.

For six years, our subscription price has stayed at \$5 (that's less than a dollar an issue) because we know our subscribers aren't rich people. And the paper has been sent free to whoever has requested it.

Now, The ACTivist wants to expand. This issue's Book Supplement, our first ever, is an

example of ways we'd like to grow. Let us know what you think about the supplement!

We'd like to have more photos and colour, increase the frequency of publication and/or size of the paper and move to recycled paper using vegetable-based inks. So, we need everyone who reads The ACTivist to buy a subscription.

Subscribe now—don't miss a single issue!

Send to:
 ACT for Disarmament, 736 Bathurst Street,
 Toronto, M5S 2R4, phone (416) 531-6154.

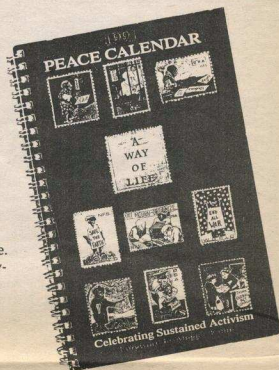
This holiday season...

Give Peace!

Why give your money to department stores and big businesses this holiday season? Why not give a gift twice? An appointment book, T shirt or whatever from ACT makes a great present. And by supporting the peace movement, you are also giving hope for a better world!



"ACT for Disarmament" T shirt. Black and white, 100% cotton. Available in all sizes. [\$12.]



Peace Calendar and Appointment Book from the War Resisters League. The 1991 theme is "Sustained Activism", celebrating longtime peace workers. [\$12.]

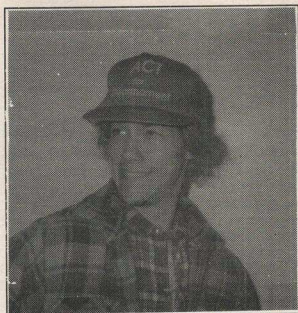
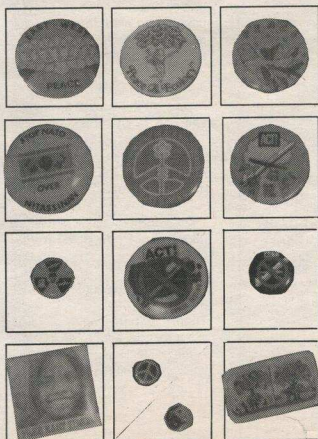
Posters

Large posters produced by Six Nations Mohawk Danny Beaton, suitable for framing. Each features full-colour reproduction of original artwork by the Artists/Environment Forum.

"The Innu and Nitassinan" ... Mike Cywink
 "ACT for Disarmament" ... Christa Bordier
 "Reverence for Life" ... Phillip Young
 "The Light of Dawn" ... Phillip Young

Peace Buttons

The perfect stocking stuffer! [\$1 each]



Baseball cap: blue with yellow print, one size fits all. [\$5]

Or why not give the gift that keeps coming all year: a subscription to The Activist, for just \$5! Tell us who the sub is for and who's being Santa, and we'll send a card.

Send all orders (while supplies last) to: ACT for Disarmament, 736 Bathurst Street, Toronto, M5S 2R4. Please add 15% for shipping costs.