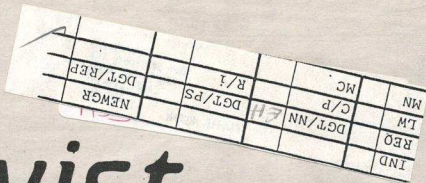


# the ACTivist



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*Newspaper of the ACT for Disarmament Coalition • Volume 7, Issue 2 • February 1991 • Pay what you can*

## Nuclear weapons use feared in Gulf

THE ACTIVIST, WITH  
GREENPEACE USA REPORTS

Fears are growing that nuclear weapons will soon be used in the Gulf war. Canada says it would not be involved in nuclear attacks — but the denial seems an increasingly hollow one.

The nuclear dimension has loomed large in the Persian Gulf conflict. The Iraqi nuclear weapons research program engendered early fears that Iraq would get the bomb, and has certainly, until recently, gotten more attention than the substantial US presence of nuclear weapons in the region. After two weeks of war, nuclear confusion exists on two fronts: the Iraqi nuclear complex was attacked with unclear results and effects, and the US government, on the brink of a bloody ground war, still remained predisposed to keeping its nuclear option open, but specifically to retain some measure of threat against Saddam Hussein, and not to create any precedent in repeating their use.

Despite frequent questions, American officials have refused to rule out using some of their more than 1000 nuclear weapons — some 30% of the Navy's non-strategic reserve — stationed in the Gulf. When asked to disavow the "nuclear option" while visiting England on Feb. 1, Vice-President Dan Quayle declared that American "policy is very clear, and that is that we don't rule options in or out."

Defense Secretary Dick Cheney adds that "we don't rule options in or out.... We've got a wide spectrum of capabilities."

Would such an escalation involve Canadian Forces? Prime Minister Brian Mulroney says no: "There are no circumstances that I can conceive of wherein nuclear weapons would be used that involved in any way the government of Canada." But with Canadian CF-18s flying escort missions for American and allied bombers and providing air cover for warships, the line the government is trying to draw between nuclear and conventional roles for Canada seems more than a little artificial. As Liberal leader Jean Chrétien points out, "The CF-18 are not being built to distribute milk ... and these Canadian soldiers are

not being trained to be the Red Cross. They are part of a war."

A nuclear attack launched by any of the coalition partners could not help but involve Canada.

It's not only American nuclear weapons that are present. Among the multinational forces, Britain, France and the Soviet Union have nuclear capability in the Middle East. Israel's nuclear arsenal is estimated at 100-200 bombs — and Israel has vowed to return an all-too-likely chemical attack by Iraq with nuclear retaliation. Volatile Pakistan, a US ally where thousands have signed up to fight for Saddam Hussein, is thought to have nuclear capability.

And although Iraq's effort to obtain a "nuclear option" of its own was probably averted when American stealth fighters hit 4 research sites and 2 reactors on the first night of bombing, nuclear contamination is a very real fear. American military officials reveal more by what they don't say than by what they do: in response to questions about possible environmental contamination, they will say only that release of radiation is not "significant."



< A thousand people demonstrated for Peace in the Middle East at a rally organized by ACT for Disarmament on Feb. 2. The protest doubled its numbers in an exuberant march up Yonge Street to the Queens Park Peace Camp.

• For details, turn to page 7.  
• Anti-war calendar — page 8.

## Under the oil cloud, waters burn

BY MAGGIE HELWIG  
THE ACTIVIST

Black rain is falling in Iran now. The best predictions about the ecological consequences of a Gulf war are beginning to come true, as deliberate attacks on the environment emerge as the latest new military tactic.

The most spectacularly horrifying example is the huge oil spill from the Mina Al Ahmadi crude oil tank farm. Though the spill was not reported until January 25, the Pentagon claims that

oil had been pouring from the offshore pumping station since January 19. The Mina Al Ahmadi spill — apparently caused by an intentional opening of the valves by Iraqi forces — is now far and away the largest oil spill in history, already three times larger than the 1979 spill in Ixtoc, Mexico, perhaps four hundred times larger than the Exxon Valdez, and still spreading. The most reliable estimate now states that about 462 million gallons of oil are spreading through the Gulf waters.

As well as the pumping station spill, tankers stationed at Mina Al Ahmadi are also spilling oil. A second intentional spill has been created at Mina Al Baker, in the northern Gulf, also creating a large slick. An Iraqi tanker is spilling oil in the Northern Arabian Gulf after being bombed by US Navy planes.

In Saudi Arabia, the AlKhafji oil storage facility has been leaking since January 22 as a result of Iraqi fire, washing oil up on the beaches of Saudi Arabia; and in Kuwait, at least three oil storage facilities and some pipelines are on fire. It is the smoke from these fires that is creating the black rain. Parts of the Mina Al Ahmadi spill are also burning.

Right now, winds are keeping the huge spill away from the desalting plants in Saudi Arabia, so fresh drinking water is still available. But no one knows how to control a spill this large, and it is only a matter of time until it reaches the plants. Only a matter of time until the water supply in Saudi Arabia is partly or wholly cut off, poisoned by crude oil.

Worse, no one seems to be trying. Twelve days into the spill,

only a single Norwegian ship had started skimming crude oil off the surface. One Saudi official shrugged off questions, saying, "we haven't got time for the environment." And a spokesperson for one of the companies contracted to clean up flatly admits "this is not a cleanup. It is trying to minimize the impact."

As well as the loss of drinkable water, the spills will cause the fish in the Gulf to be largely inedible, and to suffer mutations and reproductive damage in the long term. The ingestion of even very small quantities of oil is fatal to birds. Mud flats, sea grass beds and coral reefs will accumulate the oil indefinitely.

In brief, the Gulf waters could soon become a dead zone, undrinkable, empty of all life for perhaps generations, the sea bottom covered with a layer of tar that will look like highway asphalt.

Cleanup crews, for all the brave rhetoric, seem quite at a loss — booms and skimmers are not much use against a spill this size, and the other alternatives, which include setting the spill on fire and treating it with chemicals, would probably cause as much environmental damage as leaving it alone, if not more.

Anyway, reportedly, military authorities have denied UN Environment Programme experts any access to the spill area, or indeed any detailed information about the spill.

All we can do is wait and watch the wind blow, and watch the oil move, and hope that it might not be quite as bad as it clearly seems.

Turn to "Oil", page 3

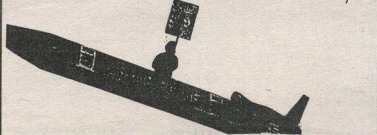
**NO CRUISE NO WAR  
NO TESTS NO MORE**

The cruise missile is still being tested over Canada.  
The cruise is being used in the Middle East. Isn't it time we called a halt?

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Sat. March 2

Conservative Party headquarters  
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March to Queens Park Peace Camp





# Cruise: made in Canada, used in Iraq

By SAUL CHERNOS  
The ACTivist

By testing American air-launched cruise missiles over northern Alberta, Canada helped pave the way for the showdown in the Persian Gulf.

Almost immediately after the Canadian government signed an agreement in 1984 to allow the missile over Canada, the Against Cruise Testing coalition (later to become ACT for Disarmament) led nationwide protests. Other groups initiated ground-breaking legal actions and tried direct interference with missile flights and with the production (which is still going on today) of the cruise guidance system at Litton Systems in Rexdale, Ont.

Yet, protests diminished in the wake of arms talks and thaws in the Cold War, even though cruise testing escalated to include the new stealth cruise missile in 1989, shortly before the collapse of the Berlin Wall. Peace was around the corner, many activists said. Yet cruise tests continued. Iraq invaded oil-rich Kuwait last August, the United States led an attack against Iraq Jan. 16, and now the whole world is officially at war.

In the first few days after the United States escalated hostilities, US ships launched

more than 200 conventionally-armed Tomahawk II cruise missiles at Iraq and Kuwait. Boasting precision and accuracy, one senior military official said "you can fire these things from a ship several hundred kilometres away and drop them between a pair of goal posts."

Canada calls itself a peacemaker, yet it tests and helps to manufacture weapons of mass destruction. Radar-proof, cruise technology is first-strike technology and is capable of nuclear attack. Instead of helping to perfect guidance technology for cruise missiles, Canada should contribute to international security by ceasing to test weapons, by withdrawing its troops from the Gulf, and by working to end the war through peaceful means. Immediately.

On March 2, Canadians will have their chance to be heard at cross-Canada protests against cruise testing and war. ☸

**For time and place of demonstrations planned for March 2, contact:**

In Toronto, 531-6154  
In Edmonton, 433-4648  
In Vancouver, 731-2663



A peace flag was raised to mark the establishment of the Queens Park Peace Camp. The Camp will be maintained around the clock as a constant non-violent presence. (Photo: Saul Chernos)

## Kurds forgotten in war frenzy

By DAVID WEBSTER  
The ACTivist

The Kurds don't know which way to flee.

A nation of 20 million people, the Kurds have been denied a state of their own for 70 years. Their homeland has been occupied and divided between Iraq, Turkey and Iran; all three countries practise policies that aim to destroy them as a distinctive people. Kurdish refugees are forced to flee war and repression from one country to another, then find the new country no better.

It's hard for them to say which of their occupiers is the worst. Iraq, home to 4 million Kurds (nearly a quarter of the population), was historically supposed to be the most tolerant — or at least the least repressive — going so far as to promise a Kurdish autonomous region in 1970. But it never

happened. In 1975 Saddam Hussein launched a vicious attack on the Kurds. The United States had been backing Kurdish opposition to Saddam; now it abandoned them to their fate.

During all this time, Iran was waging war against its own 5 million Kurds. When Iraq launched an attack on Iran, it spelt a reprieve for the Kurds, who began to reclaim control of their land and their lives. But autonomy was to be short-lived.

Saddam Hussein's use of chemical weapons against unarmed Kurdish villagers is now infamous. In 1988, cyanide, mustard gas, phosphorus and nerve gas rained down on villages far from the war zone. The PC-7 warplanes used for the attacks were bought from Switzerland, and powered with Canadian-built engines from Pratt & Whitney. The world condemned Saddam's actions, but did nothing.

Turkey has banned the Kurdish language since 1925 and refuses to acknowledge that its 10 million-strong Kurdish population is anything more than "mountain Turks." Advocating Kurdish rights

carries a sentence of up to 15 years. Hundreds have been raped and tortured under Turkey's eight-year old civilian government. But nonetheless, it looked safer than Iraq after the chemical attack. A wave of 120,000 refugees crossed the border and are still confined to refugee camps, denied basic rights.

Now, there is the war to contend with. On January 20, reports reached Kurdish exile groups opposed to Saddam that American and other allied planes had bombed military bases and several cities, including Kirkuk and Mosul, in northern Iraq. Several hundred Kurdish civilians were reported killed in the bombings. Again, refugees are fleeing, this time from American bombs. Some 5000 villagers are trying to find safety in Iran, according to the Kurdish Socialist Party in Paris.

Recent reports say some 80,000 Kurds conscripted into Iraq's army have deserted to the valleys of Kurdistan.

The governments of Iraq and the United States admit none of this. The Kurds must be wondering if they'll ever be heard. ☸

## Oil spill highlights threat

(From page 1)

And the eco-terror continues. Iraqi forces are reportedly firing shells at the Safaniya oil well, the world's largest offshore oilfield, off the Saudi coast. The consequences, if the shells hit, are beyond what anyone would want to imagine.

Beyond oil spills, we know that there has been carpet bombing by allied forces. The damage done by carpet bombing in Vietnam has been documented — it simply tears up and devastates the land. On February 3, there were reports from French military officials that chemical weapons production facilities in Iraq had been bombed and "toxins" of an undisclosed type and amount released into the atmosphere. Iraq possesses the nerve gases tabun and sarin, as well as mustard gas, which can leave areas contaminated for several generations. Even a small release of chemical weapons material would be destructive — a large release would be devastating.

Flash floods have been reported in eastern Iraq, and disruption of the monsoon weather patterns east of the Gulf could affect the livelihood of upwards of a billion people.

The environment is now among the innocent casualties. But

this is a casualty whose death would mean all of our deaths. If this ends with the Gulf as a dead ocean, much of the Middle East a cratered wasteland under floods of black rain, without any drinkable water or living birds; with a giant oil cloud circling the earth and billows of nerve gas and mustard gas settling into the waters; what will the consequences be for all of us?

How livable will our world remain, when this is over? ☸



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to Toronto's only peace newspaper: The ACTivist. We are now into our seventh year of news and analysis of peace, human rights, First Nations, the environment and the activities of the ACT for Disarmament coalition — and so much more!

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*War is going on all over the world. Millions are dying in the more than 30 armed conflicts that were raging as 1991 opened. For all the end of the Cold War, the world has not been at peace.*

*Some of these wars are civil, some international. Some are fought by peoples struggling to carve states of their own out of artificially-drawn borders. Some are fuelled by outside (usually superpower) interference; others are purely indigenous. But they all have one thing in common: the high cost in human life.*

*Below The ACTivist summarizes some of these wars, and the Canadian contribution to them. Much of the information is taken from Project Ploughshares and Peace Magazine.*

# LIFE DURING

## Central America

**Guatemala:** Various guerrilla groups have been waging low-intensity warfare against one of Central America's consistent human rights abusers since 1967. Death squads are also responsible for killing hundreds of civilians. Although civilian casualties dropped from 100,000 in 1989 to 43,000 in 1990, violence reached a new peak during November elections.

**El Salvador:** The government of the far-right Arena party, with American backing, has been fighting a war against the Farabundo Martí National Liberation Front (FMLN) since 1977. A new peak in civilian deaths of 47,000 annually was reached in 1989 and 1990, while military deaths were around 20,000 annually. Death squad vigilantes, bombing, landmines and torture by the armed forces continued to terrorize the population. Canadian-made helicopter components have been sold to El Salvador via the US.

## South America

**Colombia:** Tens of thousands have died in fighting between government forces, leftist groups, and drug cartels since 1978. Death squad attacks on civilians continue. Guerrilla attacks intensified in February in protest at their exclusion from a new forum to rewrite the constitution. Canadian components have been included in weapons sales to Colombia.

**Peru:** Government forces and the Sendero Luminoso rebel army have been terrorizing civilian populations for the past ten years, claiming tens of thousands of lives. The majority of the deaths have been among the Inca people of the Andes mountains. Canada sold close to \$400,000 worth of military equipment to Peru in 1989.

## Europe

**Northern Ireland:** The Irish Republican Army has been waging a campaign of terrorism to unite Northern Ireland with Ireland against the British government since 1969, sparking repressive responses by the government and Protestant paramilitary attacks on Catholic areas.

**Lithuania:** Twenty people were killed in January when Soviet forces invaded Lithuania in an attempt to overthrow its government. Tensions remain high.

## Africa

**Western Sahara:** Despite UN-sponsored peace negotiations meant to lead up to a referendum, fighting continues in a 15-year old war between Morocco, which invaded the former Spanish colony in 1975, and the pro-independence Polisario front. Canadian arms sales to Morocco totalled nearly \$600,000 in 1989.

**Liberia:** A bloody civil war which broke out in late 1990 continues despite the intervention of a West African task force. Latest estimates of the number killed are 10-20,000. Pratt & Whitney Canada manufactures aircraft engines which are used in Liberian government warplanes.

**Sudan:** The need to combat famine has not put an end to fighting between the government and the Sudan People's Liberation Movement, a group demanding autonomy for the Christian/animist south of the Islamic country. Repeated coup attempts have failed to topple the government. Direct Canadian arms sales were over \$2 million in 1989. In terms of lives lost (500,000 in 1989, 300,000 in 1990, mostly as a result of interference with food relief efforts), this has become Africa's most costly war.

**Ethiopia:** The government of Mengistu Haile Mariam clings to power despite coup attempts, advancing forces from Tigrayan, Oromo and opposition groups, and the removal of Soviet support from one of Africa's most repressive regimes.

In the last 2 years, 640,000 have died in Ethiopia and Eritrea. Canada has supported the government through indirect arms sales and financial aid to its "villagization" programme.

**Eritrea:** The Eritrean People's Liberation Front controls 90% of the country, annexed by Ethiopia in 1962, but fighting with Ethiopian government forces continues. Peace talks mediated by former US President Jimmy Carter are deadlocked.



**Somalia:** After a ten-year war, rebels from the Somali National Movement succeeded in capturing the capital Mogadishu and overthrowing Mohammed Siad Barre in January. Somalia is home to US bases and the recipient of indirect Canadian military sales.

**Rwanda:** Civil war broke out again in 1990 between Hutu and Tutsi armies. French and Belgian troops intervened in the conflict.

**Angola:** Peace talks continue between the government and Unita rebels, but skirmishes continue. Pro-Unita South African and pro-government Cuban troops were withdrawn in 1989 as part of the deal giving independence to Namibia.

Canadian indirect arms sales have aided Unita.

**Mozambique:** South African-backed Renamo rebels and famine have combined to claim hundreds of thousands of lives and disrupt millions more since 1976, one year after a bloody war gave Mozambique independence from Portugal. In 1989, the civilian death toll hit over a thousand a day. Zimbabwe and other African states have intervened on behalf of the government. Peace initiatives fell apart in June.

**South Africa:** The release of Nelson Mandela brought an end to armed attacks by the African National Congress in favour of negotiations. Western countries have begun to remove sanctions despite the continuation of the apartheid system.

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# NG WARTIME



Clashes between ANC supporters and para-military forces aligned with the Inkatha movement were responsible for a growing death toll in Natal.

#### Middle East

**Lebanon:** An estimated 150,000 have been killed and hundreds of thousands displaced in a civil war involving Christian, Palestinian, Muslim and Druze armies and invasion forces from Syria and Israel. The war may have been ended by a tentative peace agreement late last year which made Elias Hrawi the new president. U.N. peacekeeping forces remain on hand. Tanks with Canadian-made components have been sold

to Lebanon by the US.

**Israel/Palestine:** The Palestinian intifada against Israeli occupation of the West Bank and Gaza was brought to a halt with the imposition of house arrest on the entire Palestinian population after Iraq fired missiles at Israel in January. Israel has said it will retaliate for the Iraqi attack. Canadian aircraft engineers sold to Israel's aircraft industry, and in many cases resold to human rights violators.

**Kurdistan:** Kurdish forces have been fighting the governments of Turkey, Iraq and Iran in an effort to carve out an independent country for themselves. In 1988, Iraqi forces used chemical weapons against Kurdish villagers. Canada has

provided Nato member Turkey with over \$4.5 million in arms and made indirect sales to both Iraq and Iran; the Stockholm International Peace Research Institute also claims that Canada sold helicopters directly to Iraq in 1988, though External Affairs denies this claim.

**Iraq/Kuwait:** Iraq invaded and annexed neighbouring Kuwait in August. Sanctions imposed by the international community gave way to a US-led attack on Kuwait in January, including bombing of civilians. Most Americans want to war to go until the removal of Saddam Hussein from power. Iraq has widened the conflict by firing missiles at Saudi Arabia and Israel and released the world's largest oil slick into the Gulf. Canada has sold weapons or components to Iraq, Kuwait, the US and many of the 25 other countries with troops stationed in Saudi Arabia.

#### South Asia

**Afghanistan:** Mujahideen forces have been fighting the Communist government since 1978. Despite the withdrawal of Soviet troops who invaded the country in 1980, both super-powers continue to fuel the war with arms sales. The Afghan war has produced the highest number of casualties (one million in 1990 alone) and the most refugees of any conflict in the world.

**India/Pakistan:** Conflict for control of Kashmir brought India and Pakistan to war in 1965 and cross-border skirmishes and violence in Indian-controlled Kashmir have continued. In May, US forces in Pakistan went on alert against a possible nuclear exchange. Canada sells weapons directly to both countries. The Indian government has also been in conflict with separatist groups in several regions, including the Sikh homeland of Kashmir.

**Sri Lanka:** Militias from both of the country's peoples, Sinhalese and Tamils, have been fighting government forces since 1983 in a war that has caused several hundred thousand deaths. India intervened for the government but withdrew its last forces in March. Fighting in Tamil regions has intensified in the past year. In 1988, Canada made \$300,000 in arms sales to the government.

**Bangladesh:** Government forces have been trying to put down an tribal-based uprising in the Chittagong Hill Tracts since 1974.

**Tibet:** Although an independence movement led by the exiled Dalai Lama is non-violent, the situation in Chinese-occupied Tibet bears all the other hallmarks of a war. More than a million Tibetans have been killed by the Chinese army since 1950. Government policy has reduced Tibetans to a minority in their own country.

#### Southeast Asia

**Burma (Myanmar):** Karen, Shan, Mon and other hill peoples have been warring with the government since 1948 in the world's longest-running conflict. Several of these peoples have established functioning governments around Burma's borders. A 1988 uprising in Rangoon forced elections, but the military government refused to hand over power to election winner Aung San Suu Kyi and placed her under house arrest. Many non-violent protestors have since joined armed rebel groups.

**Laos:** Government and Vietnamese forces launched an offensive against the United Lao National Liberation Front in early 1990. Fighting is mainly confined to the hill areas.

**Cambodia (Kampuchea):** A Khmer Rouge offensive against the government continues as peace talks flounder. Vietnamese forces who removed the Khmer Rouge from power in 1979 left ten years later, but Vietnam still backs the government with other aid. Forces loyal to former ruler Prince Sihanouk are also fighting the government. Since Sihanouk was overthrown, an estimated four million Cambodians have died in war, famine, and Khmer Rouge deathcamps.

**Indonesia:** The government is waging on-again, off-again conflicts with separatists in Western New Guinea (Irian Jaya), Maluku, Borneo and other parts of the archipelago. A growing Muslim rebellion in Aceh was the most serious for General Suharto's government in 1990. Canadian military sales to Indonesia came to \$100,000 in 1989.

**East Timor:** Guerrillas in the mountains and students in the capital, Dili, continued to fight for independence against Indonesian forces who invaded their country in 1975. More than a third of the country's people have died since the Indonesian takeover and most of the remainder have been relocated to "strategic hamlets."

**Philippines:** A civil war has pitted the government against the Communist-led New People's Army and other groups since 1970. The replacement of Ferdinand Marcos by Cory Aquino as president slowed the war but it has regained its impetus. The Philippines is home to the largest American military bases in Asia, but they are expected to be closed soon if a new deal cannot be worked out. American and Canadian military sales will still go on if the bases close, however. ❧

## Turtle Island Notes



### More jets to Goose Bay?

NITASSIAN (Labrador)—The Dutch air force may relocate their "Tacpol" combat training programme, which requires considerable low-level flying and simulated hostile missile fire, to the Goose Bay range, a report in *Jane's Defence Weekly* says. Dutch, German and British flight tests out of Goose Bay have been the major invasion of Innu land and focus of protests for some years.

Meanwhile three more Innu will go on trial in March for hunting on their land. The RCMP has said that they will no longer arrest natives hunting for subsistence, but the charges against the three will not be dropped. "They can keep arresting me if they want, but they'll never stop me from hunting," says Francis Penashue (Kantukusho), one of the three. And the Innu of Sheshatshai and Davis Inlet have formed a committee to look into pursuing a land claim. However, Sheshatshai Chief Daniel Ashini says the Innu will never accept the government's pre-requisite for negotiations: the "extinguishment" of aboriginal title.

### Lubicon land logged

LUBICON LAKE (Alberta)—The Lubicon Cree of Alberta have a new problem to add to the ongoing destruction of their land and economy by oil companies: the threat of clear-cut logging. Like the oil companies, who have consistently ignored the demands of Chief Bernard Ominiyak that they obtain permits from the Lubicon people for their oil and gas wells and royalties to the Lubicon, the Alberta government is ignoring Lubicon claims to ownership of their land. Alberta has leased an area of forest the size of Great Britain to a dozen multinational corporations. Japanese multinational Daishowa, one of the dozen, has been cutting extensively despite an agreement not to do so until the Lubicon land claim was settled. Thirteen Lubicon have been charged with starting a November fire at a logging camp owned by a Daishowa subsidiary that caused \$20,000 of damage to equipment. They will appear in court in April — the defendants refuse to acknowledge the jurisdiction of the court and will not speak.

### James Bay underway

JAMES BAY (Québec)—Hydro-Québec is forging ahead with the James Bay II Project, a massive hydroelectric development which would flood an area the size of Vermont in the traditional homelands of the James Bay Cree. As well as flooding traditional hunting grounds (as James Bay Phase I did), it would (also like James Bay I) leach mercury from the rock and poison much of the water supply. Road construction to the next dam site is scheduled to begin immediately. The James Bay Cree have pledged to resist construction of the dams.

Bitter disputes around the Environmental Impact Study required for James Bay II to go ahead have already forced the resignation of the head of the Federal Environment Assessment Review Office. Québec has managed to delay the over-all project assessment, over the protests of the Cree or other environmental groups.

Much of the James Bay II project is funded by New York corporations, and state utility Con Edison is slated to purchase the largest share of electricity from the project. A New York group called the James Bay Action Team held a demonstration outside the Canadian Consulate in January, attended by about 200 people including a Cree delegation. Future actions are planned. ■

# New uranium mine threatens north

By Maria Arrai  
The ACTivist

Uranium. Regardless of whether it is destined for military or peaceful uses, it is harmful to our environment. For each ton of uranium oxide—yellowcake—that reaches the market, approximately 40,000 tons of tailings (which hold up to 85% of the ore's radioactivity) remain behind as wastes in unprotected dumpsites. Not only do some of these wastes remain active in our environment for thousands of years, they are also linked with leukemia, bone cancer and lung cancer.

Over 70% of the world's uranium resources lie buried in lands inhabited by indigenous people. As a lure to these communities, mining companies promote the possibility of an increased standard of living due to employment in mines, and a possible share in revenue — promises left largely unfulfilled, with native people holding approximately 10% of mining jobs, most of which are not high level positions. The short-term benefits of low-paying employment are far outweighed by the long-term disadvantages of alcohol-related problems, destruction of culture, and health and environmental problems. Because companies have not been forced to address aboriginal rights nor to establish a collective revenue base with the native peoples, injustices continue unhampered by government intervention.

Now a new mine has been proposed for the Baker Lake region of the Northwest Territories. The proposed Kiggavik mine would consist of two large open-pit mines, an on-site mill complex, a waste water and tailings storage system, a camp for 250 workers, an aviation facility and a 75 km. road to Baker Lake. This mine, proposed by Urangeschellschaft Canada Limited (owned by West Germany, Britain and South Korea), has the possibility of fuel oil and process chemical spills that could affect Quebec, Newfoundland, Labrador, Nova Scotia, Manitoba, the Hudson Strait, Hudson Bay, Chesterfield Inlet and Baker Lake. This potential for destruction is increased by the fact that Urangeschellschaft Canada Limited is not telling where the ore is to go once it is flown into Yellowknife — putting at jeopardy the Thelon Game Sanctuary, Great Slave Lake, Yellowknife and the Mackenzie River System, which are be-

neath the flight path for the transfer of the uranium.

The traditional way of life of the three main native groups, Dene, Metis and Inuit, is one of living off the land in a non-destructive way. They hunt, trap, fish for what they need and spare the rest for future generations. They rely on Beverly and Kaminiurak caribou herds for food. The proposed mine, with its airstrips and roads, could potentially disrupt major caribou calving grounds and migration routes. Contamination of the environment would at risk not only the native peoples' livelihood, but their culture and entire way of life.

There is consensus among the Dene, the Metis, and every major Inuit group in the Keewatin area that the Northwest Territories should be nuclear and nuclear weapons free. This includes an opposition to uranium mining. Support in opposition to the proposed mine is given by the Northwest Territories Federation of Labour, the Public Service Alliance of Canada Conference of the North, and the Canadian Peace Alliance. A plebiscite in Baker Lake, taken in March 1990, showed that of the 72% of people who voted, 90% opposed the Kiggavik project.

At time of printing, Urangeschellschaft is still working on getting their project through by revising their Environmental Assessment Plan. The Environment Canada appointed panel reviewing the proposed mine has not yet acknowledged the requests of the native communities and of Nuclear Free North to have all documents concerning the mine translated into Inuktitut, the primary language of Baker Lake. This demonstrates the concern being taken to minimize the disruption to the traditional native way of life in the Northwest Territories. Show your support for the people of Baker

Lake and surrounding areas. Let's invest in conservation and alternative energy sources rather than the lethal mining of uranium for nuclear energy. Human life and the environment mean more than profits for the nuclear industry. ■



## ACT on Baltics

ACT Toronto sent the following open letter to Soviet Ambassador Richard Ovinnikov, with copies to Latvian president Analojjs Gorbunov and Lithuanian president Vytautas Landsbergis:

ACT for Disarmament condemns the Jan. 1991 military intervention by Soviet troops in Latvia and Lithuania.

The peoples of the Baltic republics have democratically elected their own representatives. They are not responsible for the recent violence. We defend all peoples' right to protest and organize for peace, human rights and self-determination.

We demand that you rein in your Interior Ministry's "black berets" who killed thirteen people and wounded more than 200 others and murdered at least one draft resister in Latvia and Lithuania.

We understand that, by these violent actions, the policies for glasnost and perestroika have been severely undermined. If independence is the Baltic peoples' goal, then it is your responsibility to assure their right to self-determination, particularly as there are no genuine proposals for a federal solution to which all existing Soviet republics may accommodate themselves.

We agree with the former Foreign Minister Shevardnadze that the future belongs to democracy. How many more deaths are you prepared to accept just to retain the centre of power in the USSR?

In peace,  
ACT for Disarmament

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## 1000 march for ceasefire

ACT Toronto rallied for Peace in the Middle East at Toronto City Hall on Saturday, February 2, demanding the withdrawal of Iraqi forces from Kuwait, and of the US-led coalition forces from the Middle East. A thousand exuberant and mostly young protesters came out to raise their voices for a ceasefire and negotiations.

For the first time in Canada, an Iraqi dissident spoke at a peace rally. The speaker, who has been part of the democratic opposition to the Iraqi government for many years, explained that the work of the groups attempting to depose Saddam Hussein had been made impossible by the war. Now they are seeing their country, already suffering under Saddam's dictatorship, being destroyed by the heavy bombing of civilian areas.

Other speakers — from groups as diverse as Greenpeace and the Canadian Auto Workers — talked of the environmental effects of the war, and the roles of student and labour activists in the anti-war movement. All were united in their opposition to aggression by either side in the conflict, and by their desire to support the troops by bringing them home now, alive, and an end to the deaths of innocent people in the Gulf region.

After an energetic march (which some later spoke of as a "peace jog") past the US Consulate and PC Party Headquarters, the crowd arrived at Queen's Park, where the inauguration of the Queens Park Peace Camp took place. A white flag marked with a peace sign was raised, and tents

set up, with the campers announcing their intention to stay until there was significant progress towards peace in the Middle East.

The Peace Camp continues to be a 24-hour presence at Queens Park, standing as a sign and reminder of the ongoing war, and a non-violent presence. Though the Camp has no authorization from Queens Park, there have been no attempts made to remove it as of yet. There are at least 12 small tents and two larger meeting tents now at the Camp, literature is being distributed, and teach-ins planned.

The Camp holds regular anti-sexism workshops and trainings in non-violent civil disobedience.

The Peace Camp needs you! Come and stay for a night, a few days, a week, the rest of the war... If you can't spend much time at the camp, donations of food, camping equipment, money, literature, and friendly conversation are always appreciated. We never close, and dinner is always free. ☺

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## High school strike brings war home

BY DAPHNE TAYLOR  
THE ACTIVIST

On January 29, students from 23 cities across Canada walked out of their classrooms in protest against the war in the Gulf. The purpose of this walkout was to demonstrate to the government that young people are not going to stand by and allow the slaughter of hundreds of thousands of people, and the destruction of our earth. All the young people who walked out of their schools know that this war is a total farce. The sanctions were not given a chance to work, and this war is unnecessary.

The teach-in that was held at the 519 Church St. Community Centre in Toronto had a dissident from Kuwait talking about the history of Iraq and Kuwait, and the relationship of the two to the US. We then had workshops on different forms of protests, including civil disobedience.

The spirit of the whole group was energetic and very much into getting rid of this war. Concentrat-

ing on peace and helping to heal our earth was at the forefront of everyone's minds.

### Youth Ink

After the workshops we took to the streets, took over two lanes on Yonge St., Queen St. and University Ave (illegally), to end with a rally in front of the American Consulate.

From this action, and talking with all the youths, it's clear there are definitely going to be more demonstrations. The young people will not let this stupidity go on! Peace! ☺

Another school strike is planned for Toronto on Feb. 21. Students are invited to walk out of class and learn some of the issues behind the war at an all-day teach-in at the Queens Park Peace Camp. If you want a speaker to come into your school, call the ACT youth group at 531-6154.

## Peaceniiks protest from coast to coast to coast

ACT chapters and contacts throughout the province are continuing their anti-war work, led especially by students and young people (among others).

In St. Catharines, there have been daily protest rallies at Brock University Tower, and demonstrations and sit-ins at the office of Ken Atkinson, the local Tory MP.

In Peterborough, a round-the-clock Peace Camp has been set up on the Trent campus around a peace flame which has been burning continuously. Trent students left class for a series of talks and workshops on Jan. 29, and then marched from the Bata Library to the Peace Camp. The McMaster Peace Camp in Hamilton is also still thriving, and the Peace Studies department is now trying to put out a regular newsletter of Gulf news. Demonstrations have also been held in Burlington.

Grade 7 and 8 students are protesting regularly in Orillia, and in Midland 800 of the 1,500 students at Midland Secondary School walked out of school and demonstrated at local MP Doug

Lewis' office. Midland was also home to Canada's first peace igloo for two weeks during January.

ACT Oakville organized a delegation to the ACT Toronto rally on February 2. The next Saturday, February 9, ACT Oakville held a rally of its own at the Centennial Public Library, with 75 in attendance. The rally marched to the Armoury, and from there to MP Otto Jelinek's office.

The Alliance for Non-Violent Action shut down the Department of External Affairs in Ottawa for a day, with several hundred people blocking all the doorways. On February 4, ANVA coordinated a blockpounding at the management building of Litton Industries. Troops Out Now! blockaded the office of Finance Minister Michael Wilson on February 7. Events have been organized by faith-based groups in both the Christian and Muslim communities, and there have been several student and youth demos, in towns from Port Moody, BC to Port Hawkesbury, NS and as far north as Yellowknife, NWT. ☺

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# Troops OUT! THURSDAYS

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**Thursday February 21**

**MOURNING SICKNESS**

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**Thursday February 28**

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**Thursday March 7 and following**

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## Calendar

For updated information, call ACT Toronto • 531-6154

Ongoing: Peace Camps at Queen's Park in Toronto, McMaster Campus in Hamilton, Trent Campus in Peterborough, and in Victoria, BC.

• Monday February 18 (and every Monday after) — Alliance for Non-Violent Action (ANVA) Women's Group meets to plan anti-war actions. Call 690-6216 to confirm

• Wednesday February 20 — ACT meeting on anti-war strategy, 7 p.m., 736 Bathurst, 531-6154

• Thursday February 21 — School Strike. Walk out of school and come to the Queens Park Peace Camp for teach-ins. 531-6154.

• Thursday February 21 (and every Thursday) — Prayer vigil, Moss Park Armouries, 5-6 p.m. 693-5698

• Thursday February 21 — Troops Out Thursday at the Apocalypse Club, 750 College St. Mourning Sickness and friends play a benefit for ACT. 531-6154

• Saturday February 23 — ANVA Women's Group picket at Baxter Publishing, 310 Dupont, 2-4 p.m. 690-6216

• Wednesday February 27 — ACT general meeting, 7 p.m., 736 Bathurst, 531-6154

• Thursday February 28 — Troops Out Thursday at the Apocalypse, with Random Order and friends, 531-6154

• Saturday March 2 — No Cruise, No War, No Tests No More — ACT rallies in Toronto, Edmonton, Vancouver. 531-6154. Anti-war rally in Peterborough. 705-741-4848

• Saturday March 2 — Women's non-violence training, Christian Resource Centre, 40 Oak St., 1-5 p.m. 690-6216

• Sunday March 3 — All-day teach-in, Bickford Park Collegiate. 535-8005

• Wednesday March 6 — Benefit for Native Women Rivoli. 690-6216

• Thursday March 7 — Troops Out Thursday at the Apocalypse. 531-6154

• Friday March 8 — ANVA Women's Group rally and blockade at Litton Industries. 690-6216

• Thursday March 21 — ANVA blockade at Litton Industries. 461-2274

• Thursday March 21 — Troops Out Thursday at the Apocalypse. 531-6154

• Thursday March 28 — Troops Out Thursday at the Apocalypse, with Four Words, Gloria Blizzard and others. 531-6154

• April 3 — ACT protests at Iraqi and US Embassies in Ottawa. 531-6154

• April 4 — ANVA blockade at External Affairs Building, Ottawa. 461-2274

## CRITICAL RESPONSE!

*We are working to end this war, but we need your help!*

We are organizing demonstrations and direct actions against the war. We are trying to overcome the barriers set up against the free flow of information by upgrading the coverage and frequency of The ACTivist. At the same time, we are increasing networking nationally and internationally.

But we can't do it without funds. The peace movement needs your help.

Everyone at ACT is a volunteer, none of us rich. We accept no corporate or government grants. You are all we have to rely on.

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

I am sending \$ \_\_\_ for my subscription to The ACTivist and  
\_\_\_ \$10 \_\_\_ \$20 \_\_\_ \$50 \_\_\_ \$100 to support ACT's work against the Gulf War

## Donate to ACT—Get a Tax Break!

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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.

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### Campaign materials

ACT for Disarmament has the following resources available for anti-war activists. Use them in schools, churches, workplaces, on the streets, or wherever you are!

- ✓ "Peace in the Middle East" information/action kit—includes background, troops in the Gulf, information on Canadian weapons sales, ideas for action, more \$[5]
- ✓ Petitions calling on both sides to make peace [free]
- ✓ Peace buttons: "Hell No, we won't go" (Bart Simpson), "Iraq out of Kuwait—US Out of the Middle East", "Question Authority" [52] and old standbys including the peace sign and yin-yang doves [1]
- ✓ "ACT for Disarmament" T shirts with yin-yang design [12]