

# the ACTivist

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Newspaper of the ACT for Disarmament Coalition • Volume 7, Issue 5 • May 1991 • Pay what you can

## Saturday, May 11

May 11 is the date for ACT for Disarmament's Ninth Annual Spring Protest for Peace, with the theme this year being "For a World Without Arms." The protest will start at Queen's Park at 1 pm, with a march down Yonge Street to City Hall leaving at 2 pm. Live music — including bands One Blood and Rebecca Barclay — and speakers will be featured at both ends of the day.

Spring Protests in the past have included some of Toronto's largest peace demonstrations.

See you there!



## "Chaos" reigns as Canadian armed forces cut

THE ACTIVIST

The "debate" over the future direction of Canada's military policy has erupted into open warfare with the resignation of the

### Clark lacks "courage of convictions"

By CELINA TUTTLE  
SPECIAL TO THE ACTIVIST

Less than three months after its proposal for an international arms control summit, the Canadian government has made a complete about face.

Following the immediate dismissal of any discussion of arms control by American president George Bush, External Affairs now says Canada will not take a lead in controlling the arms trade.

"Canada believes in what is realistic, effective and possible," former Minister of External Affairs Joe Clark told delegates at the North Pacific Cooperative Security Council last month.

deputy chief of defence staff, Vice-Admiral Chuck Thomas quit after a bitter exchange of letters with defence staff chief General John de Chastelain, amid rumours that the size of the Canadian Armed Forces would be cut by 25% from its present level of 87,000.

Defence Department sources have said rumoured cuts include:

- A reduction of the armed forces from 87,000 people to 65,000
- The long-awaited with-

drawal of 7,000 Canadian soldiers stationed in Germany as part of Canada's NATO contribution

- Deep cuts to the \$12.7 billion military budget

- The closure of some Canadian Forces bases within the country

- Reducing the number of soldiers in order to buy new equipment

Newly-appointed Defence Minister Marcel Masse told reporters that "there are budget re-

strictions and a new international environment which will lead to downscaling of the military forces." He also announced that a review of Canada's role within NATO would begin soon.

Although Masse and Prime Minister Brian Mulroney tried to downplay the divisions, it is increasingly obvious that Canadian military policy is falling deeper into the state of chaos it entered soon after the release of the White Paper on Defence in 1987. Gov-

ernment officials now acknowledge that the White Paper, which called for Canada to build nuclear submarines against the "Soviet threat," is badly outdated.

Ottawa, it seems, is casting about for enemies, trying to find a role for its military establishment with the demise of the Cold War and Gulf Crisis. Many peace activists, meanwhile, are beginning to call for the abolition of the military entirely. Ⓒ

## Ninth Annual Spring Protest for Peace

For a world without armies

**Saturday, May 11**  
**Queen's Park, 1 pm**  
**Call ACT for Disarmament, 531-6154**



Turn to ARMX, page 5

# Abolish the army

The Canadian armed forces and their political masters in parliament are now racked by chaotic debates about their future role. This provides a unique opportunity for ordinary Canadians to gain the democratic public control over the military that is sadly lacking today.

## editorial

In the aftermath of the Cold War, Oka, and the Gulf crisis, more and more Canadians are challenging the value of massive arms spending and a standing army of 87,000 troops. As our economy spins out of control, as destruction of the environment continues unabated, Canadians must demand the end of militarism.

Why do we need an army? Isn't there a better use for the \$12.7 billion Canada spends annually on the military — and the \$1 trillion spent worldwide?

Activists in 23 countries, from Argentina to Japan, from the Soviet Union to Spain, have a better idea: a world without armies. And it's not an impossible dream. Small countries, like Slovenia and Estonia, emerging from the collapse of the eastern European empires, are realizing they cannot afford the expensive luxury of a standing army and are considering military-free futures.

In a referendum in 1989, a third of the electorate of Switzerland thought the time had come to do away with their centuries-old army.

And Costa Rica has survived without an army for 43 years, in the midst of strife-torn Central America. While neighbours Panama, El Salvador, Nicaragua, and Guatemala have seldom seen peace, Costa Rica has had, not just peace, but relative prosperity. And it's also had the time to come up with peace plans to try to resolve the problems of its neighbours.

The lesson applies just as surely to Canada, which may soon become a collection of small states itself. In Québec, the call for "a country without an army" is growing. Without Québec, the rest of Canada will be even harder pressed to maintain and build up its military forces.

Even if Canada does hold together, the military is an anachronism we can't afford and don't need. With \$12.7 billion we could do a lot about the environment, poverty, AIDS, and other problems, while sharing our wealth with people in developing countries.

Canada cannot defend itself the way the United States does — nor would it want to. Given the realities of geography, Canadians could best repel a hypothetical invader using civilian-based defence and non-violent resistance to make the country ungovernable — as the people of Denmark made their country ungovernable under the Nazis, as the people of the Philippines made their country ungovernable by the dictatorship of Ferdinand Marcos, as the peoples of eastern Europe recently made their countries ungovernable by the Soviet empire.

And without an army, we would be forced to "give peace a chance" rather than sending in the army to deal with every crisis. Canada could become a real peacemaker — and help point the way towards a "new world order" based on peace and not on who has the biggest gun. ☸



Five hypocritical double standards:

- 1) "Plurality" was demanded by the US of Nicaragua but no similar demand is made of Kuwait or Saudi Arabia.
- 2) A seventeen-month imprisonment *without trial* of

General Noriega (a foreigner) by the US is ignored, whereas the detention by the USSR of sundry citizens of that country ... was repeatedly condemned in the West.

- 3) The outrage expressed by Western politicians and Jewish groups over Jewish families being kept separated because of restrictive Soviet exit visa policies contrasts oddly with the abysmal silence over Palestinian families being kept separated for decades due to Israeli policies.
- 4) Iraq was forced to conform to UN resolutions whereas Israel is permitted to treat similar resolutions with contempt and disdain.
- 5) While the Berlin Wall

received sustained extravagant negative publicity, the "Korean Wall" is totally ignored. In fact, the US forces in South Vietnam still masquerade as UN peacekeepers under the UN flag.

Ed Simpson  
Apsley, Ontario

We have seen your address in the peace media and would like to have contact with you.

We are pleased to give you some brief information about our Museum of Peace and Solidarity, which was inaugurated during the International Year of Peace (1986) on the initiative of members of the International Friendship Club "Esperanto" here in Samarkand.

We aim to collect materials and promote citizen diplomacy worldwide for the solution of the most vital global problems: peace, disarmament, development, protection of the environment, human rights, a nuclear-free and non-violent world.

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**THE ACTIVIST**  
Volume 7, # 5 (May 1991)  
2nd class mail registration #6769  
The ACTIVIST is published monthly by ACT for Disarmament, 736 Bathurst St., Toronto, Canada, M5S 2R4. Opinions expressed are not necessarily those of ACT for Disarmament. Articles may be reprinted freely, but please send us a copy.

*Subscriptions to The ACTIVIST are available with a donation of \$10 or more to ACT for Disarmament.*  
We welcome your letters, but please keep them short, deadline for June issue: May 24.  
The ACTIVIST collective this issue: Mary Bunch, Stephen Dankowich, Maggie Helwig, David Webster

## Inside Peace

# Atomic sludge monster devours Edmonton!!

By Jo Pacesnik  
THE ACTIVIST

It's tough times for the nuclear biz. So tough, in fact, that industry stalwart Atomic Energy of Canada Ltd. (AECL) has changed its name to the more innocuous Nordion International Inc. Atomic? Who, us?

It's no secret that AECL's main product, the Candu nuclear reactor, is so far into a sales slump that the government of Canada has to pay foreign governments to take a Candu off the crown corp's hands. Even with the freebies, AECL has unloaded just one Candu in the last ten years, to the unsavory south Korean regime. Before that, its best customer was Nicolae Ceausescu's slave state of Romania.

No wonder AECL wants to diversify. But new schemes to keep the nuke

industry afloat make you wonder what AECL (sorry, Nordion) is feeding to its marketing geniuses.

After a recent push by the company to bombard food with gamma rays as a preservative method ("good, fresh food, only a smidgeon radioactive") flopped bigtime, AECL/Nordion came up with Another winner: sludge irradiation.

The plan is to build a demonstration plant in Edmonton to irradiate sludge scooped out of the city's sewers, dry it, bag it, and sell it around the world as fertilizer.

Why Edmonton? "We wanted a very good quality sludge, and from a quality point of view, the Edmonton sludge rated very high ... top of the line," enthused project manager John Swinwood. And, she added, it would even be a tourist attraction.

Let's be honest: the cabinet reshuffle in Ottawa doesn't change a thing. But some are apoplectic at the choice of renowned champagne-lover Marcel Masse as Minister of War (a.k.a. Defence). The appointment is "stupid," sputtered war buffins.

As Masse was sworn in, the vice-chief of defence staff, Vice-Admiral Chuck Thomas resigned after an army-navy fight with boss General John de Chastelain. Word came down that the number of Canadian troops would be cut by 25% and troops (finally!) pulled out of Europe.

Heard the word boys? The Cold War is over!

News sure travels fast in Ottawa.

Pity the inconvenienced officials of profiting Liton Systems Canada Ltd. The Gulf war delayed their scheduled servicing

of Canadian frigates sent to the Gulf. But now, Liton has found the silver lining.

In April, Liton filed a lawsuit for breach of contract against the federal government, apparently asking for compensation for the ships being away in the Gulf, when they were supposed to be in Canada getting their navigation systems overhauled. Liton is said to be demanding a sum not adjacent to \$700 million.

"When certain milestones weren't met as scheduled, there were certain holdbacks of money by the government," said an indignant Liton official. "We say they're not correct. The delays weren't our fault. The money should have been paid."

Maybe it's a good thing for the ships that their navigation wasn't "fixed" by Liton. According to the captain of one recently-returned ship, the Liton-upgraded gun failed for days at a time in January. ☸

# Defence without armies

THE ACTIVIST, WITH  
THE SOCIAL DEFENCE PROJECT

There are real and practical alternatives to armed defence. Social defence is a non-violent strategy which has been studied widely, and practised in many instances.

Social defence is based on widespread political, economic and social non-cooperation in order to oppose military aggression or political repression. It uses methods such as boycotts, refusal to obey, strikes, demonstrations, and setting up alternative governments.

Social defence is based on the principle that no regime—whether democracy or military dictatorship—can survive without the passive support or nonresistance of a large fraction of the population. Social defence, relying on resistance by large sections of the population, is the non-violent equivalent of guerrilla warfare.

Choosing to create the structures and skills for social defence would cost far less than we now spend on weapons, leaving the money free for more socially useful projects. It would actually reduce the threat of invasion, since an unarmed country could never be seen or presented as an "aggressor", and in the case of invasion the invaders would have little or no international support. Further, the skills and structures for social defence can also be applied to deal with many other emergencies; a country relying on social defence would also be a country in which all the citizens were prepared to cope with flood, fires, economic collapse and civil disorder, as well as external threats.

Techniques of non-violent resistance are many, and always flexible and varied. Besides strikes and demonstrations, besides underground printing presses and radio transmitters, responses can be developed for nearly every group in society. Factory workers can learn how to disable or halt production with minimum damage, if that is appropriate in their situation. Or they can refuse to produce certain products that would be useful to the aggressor, while continuing to produce, say, clothing. Government employees can "lose" files; people can "misunderstand" any orders given to them by the aggressors. Even members of the invading armed force can take part in the resistance (and, when the resistance is non-violent, defection of members of the military is common), again by "misunderstanding" or refusing to carry out orders, and by passing on information to resistance members.

Canada is in many ways an appropriate country for an experiment in social defence. Our defence establishment now exists not

to protect the Canadian population, but to be a testing ground, early warning system and forward defence for the United States. We would surely be healthier and more secure if we gave up that role, and prepared ourselves to act non-violently in the event of invasion or civil disruption.

Why, then, has social defence never been tried as a planned, prepared strategy? Because it is at odd with our present political and economic system. It advocates shared control as a replacement for the military defence hierarchy; it depends on local self-reliance and decentralized structures of society rather than a centralized government and economy and top-down control. It means training citizens in self-reliance, and fostering creativity and the willingness to disobey immoral orders; and that is not what most existing governments want from their citizens.

But, just as social defence would be put into practice, not by a centralized government but by many individuals, so individuals can begin to create the possibility. Information on social defence can be printed and distributed, workshops can be held. Time could be set aside in schools to discuss ways that students can help in locally based resistance, for instance.

We could also try to create a domestic Peace Brigades, who could intervene non-violently in situations like the Oka crisis of last summer, and perhaps prevent violence from breaking out or from escalating. We can also use the techniques of non-violent social defence against destructive or immoral policies of our own government.

A world without armies is not only a dream, it is a very practical possibility; if we begin working to make it happen. ☸



## Quebec activists call for "a country without an army"

Peace activists in Québec have formed a committee for "un pays sans armée" (a country without an army). Translated excerpts from their *Manifesto for the Abolition of the Army* follow.

In the atomic age, the equation "greater force of arms = greater security" no longer holds true. In fact, the equation is reversed, because the greater the armed force a country has, the less secure it is.

Investments in defence are among the most costly generators of employment; it is certain that conversion to civilian production would create many jobs.

In maintaining an army, Canada is part of the international



## Civilian defence in action

### The Kapp Putsch

In 1920, in Berlin, the right-wing Dr. Wolfgang Kapp and a number of army officers staged a coup d'état against the Weimar Republic. Thousands of workers spontaneously went on strike throughout Berlin, including all the printers. A parallel civilian government was formed, anti-coup leaflets were scattered through the city, and within days the military withdrew its support for the coup. Shortly, the civilian government was restored.

### Denmark under the Nazis

When Nazi forces invaded Denmark and announced that all Jews would be forced to wear a yellow star, the King of Denmark publicly declared that he, too, and all the people of Denmark, would wear the yellow star as a badge of honour. When the Nazis attempted to round up the Jewish population, other Danes hid them in their homes, and organized underground railroads to smuggle them out of the country. Only a tiny fraction of Danish Jews were ever arrested by the Nazis, and a number of those were freed after pressure from the Danish government.

### French generals' coup

In 1961, French generals opposed

to plans to give Algeria independence staged a coup in Algiers, with rumours that they planned to invade France. The French people responded immediately with a general strike and a shut-down of the airports, and many military personnel in Algeria resisted by adopting deliberate incompetence. When the strike spread to French workers in the colonial bureaucracy in Algiers, the coup collapsed.

### Czechoslovakia, 1968 ...

In 1968, a Soviet military invasion of Czechoslovakia was met with massive and widespread non-violent resistance. Though the revolt was ultimately weakened and finally crushed when the Czechoslovak leadership accepted concessions from the Soviets in return for cooperation, Soviet expectations of a quick and decisive invasion were met by months of determined non-cooperation and obstruction from the civilian population.

### ... and 1989

In 1989, Czechoslovakia witnessed the Velvet Revolution, an almost unprecedented display of the power of non-violence, as almost the entire Czechoslovak population took to the streets in a series of demonstrations which

finally forced the Communist government from power and installed Vaclav Havel, a dissident playwright jailed for his non-violent opposition, as president. As one of its first actions, the new government announced that Czechoslovakia would end its role in the international arms trade.

### Philippines People Power

After dictator Ferdinand Marcos declared he had won a rigged election over popular opponent Corason Aquino, the streets filled with crowds of non-violent people, who faced down government tanks and, within days, had driven Marcos to flee the country and installed Aquino as president.

### Bolivian hunger strike

In December 1977, four Bolivian women began a hunger strike demanding amnesty for political exiles, the reinstatement of tin miners fired from their jobs for union activities, and the restoration of labour unions. The archbishop gave them his premises to conduct the hunger strike, right beside the presidential palace. Soon 1,380 people were on hunger strike, including a former president of Bolivia. Churches and universities became the sites of non-violent demonstrations. Finally the Bolivian government moved to arrest the hunger strikers, taking many into custody; and the archbishop announced to the government that if they did not release the strikers and settle the strike, he would place the diocese under interdict and excommunicate any soldiers who carried out arrests. Within 48 hours, the government agreed to the substance of all the hunger-striker's demands.

### Worldwide tactic

Despite the media focus on military resistance, non-violent civil resistance remains the central tactic in movements against repression around the world—the campaigns waged by Buddhist monks in Tibet and Burma; the Mothers of the Disappeared movement in Latin America; the student uprising in East Timor; the non-cooperation campaign in the Baltic States, among others. ☸

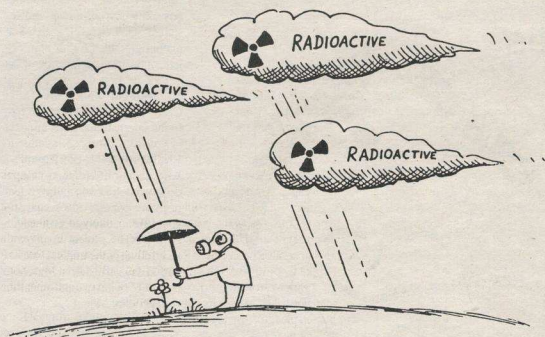
arms race which leads many countries to spend huge sums on their defense, as if armaments constituted the ultimate means of resolving international conflict; and when a country has an army, that army will constantly seek means to justify its existence and will not fail to intervene at the first possible opportunity. There is no army which can exist solely for defense, and often offense is presented as the best defense; thus armed conflicts frequently erupt.

In our modern world, it is not possible for any country to attain total security through armaments. The most powerful army cannot defend against all possible forms of aggression; periodic acts of

terrorism show us that it is always possible to pierce even the most strict security measures. And more murderous armaments are always being invented; a biological war, for example, could mean the extinction of entire populations. Real security is found in measures which diminish inequality and improve the security of others at the same time, and this is the direction we should be looking in, it is in these measures we should invest the money which would really be used for defense. The moment is particularly opportune, as the East Bloc dissolves bit by bit, making the threat on our borders virtually non-existent.

In a time when economic cri-

sis looms constantly, both on a national and an international level; when the indigenous peoples are demanding their legitimate rights to their ancestral lands; when the degradation of the environment threatens our supply of air, water and food; when the degradation of living conditions causes massive displacements of populations and an inevitable multicultural evolution of continents, it becomes unacceptable to continue to waste a tenth of the national budget. We must realize that, rather than making us weaker, stopping investment in armed defense can only reinforce and strengthen our security, thanks to measures we could undertake with this money.



Paul Valery, West Germany

## Chernobyl disaster goes on

THE ACTIVIST

Five years ago, on April 26, the Chernobyl nuclear reactor caught fire, releasing devastating radioactivity — 300 times more than the Hiroshima bomb — into the Ukraine and Byelorussia. Even today, the disaster continues to unfold, and the deaths continue to mount.

Even the evacuation of the affected areas has not been completed. 100,000 people were evacuated in the first year after the accident, and some 90,000 since then. But in many "hot spots", especially in Byelorussia, the inhabitants are still waiting until the government provides the resources to resettle them. Current Soviet plans call for 273,000 to be evacuated in the next year or so. These people by then will have been living in a highly radioactive zone for up to seven years.

Special medical files are being kept on those who lived or still live in contaminated areas — 600,000 people.

The long-term effects of the radiation are now showing up in the population of the Ukraine and Russia. The most immediately and severely affected, of course, were

the workers who put out the fire and cleaned up the site. Last April, 100 radiation victims who had been involved in the clean-up went on hunger strike when they were denied proper hospital care, and since then the Soviet government has increased benefits to those exposed to radiation. But the costs can only continue to mount as the hidden, deadly radioactivity goes to work. Vladimir Chernoussenko, the most senior scientist at the station, is dying from radiation exposure — he has been given two to four years to live — and he claims that deaths from the accident so far total about 10,000. Other estimates are even higher. Nuclear physicist Richard Webb says that the total number of deaths, worldwide, that will eventually result from the Chernobyl accident will be around 280,000. This is a relatively conservative estimate.

In 1989, women living 90 km from Chernobyl were being warned not to become pregnant due to the risk of mutations; the incidence of cancer in the area has doubled; and childhood leukemia and thyroid disorders are becoming more common all the time.

Even as far away as the United

Kingdom, 757 farms are still subject to restrictions on the sale of sheep, and a Norwegian official estimates that fresh water fisheries in his district will be affected at least until the first decade of the next century. Nearer to the accident, there are many reports of mutations in plants and animals, though in some cases contaminated and mutated fish and animals continue to be sold and eaten. And of course the Zone, the thirty-mile area immediately surrounding the plant, is a wasteland, and will remain so indefinitely.

Meanwhile, the World Health Organization has announced that it will endorse an international plan to build a centre for radiation-induced health problems. Unfortunately, the plan calls for the centre to be built near Moscow, far from where most of the radiation victims are living. Ukrainians also express concern because, they say, "we know that funds collected around the world to aid Chernobyl victims and sent through Moscow typically get mired in Moscow." They are asking that people write to the World Health Organization and urge them to build the centre in the Ukraine or Byelorussia. ☺

## Slovenia ponders army

BY MARKO HREN

*This June, the small nation of Slovenia is to become independent from Yugoslavia. The country is now considering whether to arm itself or become a new country without an army. Marko Hren works with the Centre for the Culture of Peace and Nonviolence in Ljubljana, Slovenia, and is an advisor to the president.*

Abolition of the army and radical disarmament are not only realistic options but a necessity. The internationalization of peace order on the planet should be a priority of international community, for the simple reason that this would release enough resources to redistribute them to the areas of education, health (including food) and pollution, three crucial cancers of the planet. A big dream of many souls in world history was to create a world peace order. I'm sure the time is coming for such a concept to manifest. It needed a long period of national and international movements and institutions to constitute themselves. World peace order should be based on existing networks. There is not much new to create; it is only necessary to link existing potentials, international networks in the fields of education, research, movements, politics, diplomacy.

The experience for international peace order could come from the cases of small states, which are willing to become peace zones. These areas should serve as an experiment for conversion (industry, jobs, re-education) of an area too. We have to strongly support those countries in which there is political will for radical disarmament and for peace politics.

Abolition of the army in a particular state must be a local and global project at the same time. Peace zones cannot be created by international decision only, nor by

local civil society request only.

Examples of such states are Switzerland and Austria, and Slovenia and the Baltic states.

We started the campaign for the abolition of the army in Slovenia in autumn 1989. That was the main issue of my election campaign as an independent candidate for New Social Movements (pacifist, feminist, gay/lesbian, rock subculture, alternative approaches to psychiatry, medicine and healing, etc.). The Liberal Party, which is now in the opposition, fully adopted our program in November 1989. The Greens joined in supporting it in October 1990, then the Communist Party, and, partially, the Socialist Party.

We will try to make the new Slovenian constitution not to constitute an army. We have proposed a "peace paragraph", stating that "Slovenian security policy is based on global peace politics." During the transition period, when the Yugoslavian army should withdraw, Slovenia could keep territorial defence troops, and would finally abolish them with a referendum.

The government, however, wants to form a new Slovenian army. This I believe to be extremely dangerous. The nation, of 2.2 million people, cannot avoid high grade militarization and big economic problems if it wants to create and support its own military. Furthermore, it can never make itself secure with an army and will create conflicts by the simple fact that it builds relations on mistrust and fear, constitutes enemy images and does not have time and focus for peace activities and negotiations.

The inertia of the military thought pattern is strong. We still have a little time and we will do our best to prevent Slovenia from becoming one more weapons dealer on the black list, one more military force in Europe. ☺

### More Letters

Continued from page 2

ensuring the survival of man kind...

We receive thousands of visitors from different parts of the world, who join us in sending you and all the peoples of your country our very best wishes for health, happiness, optimism, and every success in your valuable work for Peace in this world — our only common Home!

Yours for a better world of peace and justice.

Anatoly Ionesov, Director  
Museum of Peace and Solidarity  
Samarkand, Uzbekistan

The following letter was sent in response to a February sit-in at the office of (then) Finance Minister Michael Wilson.

Dear Members:

Thank you for your representation of February 6, 1991 and petition regarding Canada's involvement in the Persian Gulf. Please excuse the delay in my reply.

I have noted your comments and appreciate your concerns. I wish to explain that, although the government has allocated additional funds to cover costs related to our involvement in the Persian Gulf war, the funds have not been provided at the cost of other programs...

I believe it is important to point out that the funding has

been provided to cover expenditures in 1991-92 that could not be absorbed within the normal budget of the Department of National Defence. Many of the costs involved are being offset by reducing activities and expenditures in other areas within National Defence. To the extent that they cannot be offset (from elsewhere in the \$12.7 billion defence budget), they will be funded from the \$600 million special allocation....

I am pleased to have had this opportunity to correspond with the members of your organization.

Michael H. Wilson  
Minister of Finance  
Ottawa, Ont.

Queen St. West  
United Church St. W.  
761 Queen St. W.  
Toronto, Ont.  
362-2004  
969-8468



### Four views of women in ministry

Mondays at 7:30 pm, beginning May 27th

May 27th

Diaconal Ministry (TBA)

June 3

Bonnie Greene

Division of Mission and Service in Canada

June 10

Shirley Endicot

Education, Wife Assault

June 17

Reverend Nan Hudson

Shalom House

Coffee and bible study, Sundays at 2:00 pm.  
All welcome

# The Cold War: alive and well in Korea

By HYUK-KYO SHU  
KOREA REPORT

Much has been said about the demise of the "Cold War" and the dawning of a new era in global peace and cooperation. Yet bastions of Cold Warriors can still be found around the world as military tensions and interventions abound.

The Korean peninsula is a prime example. Among the nations arbitrarily divided in the post-World War II Cold War order, Korea is the only nation which remains un-reunited. Thus, the Cold War cannot be said to be truly over until the anachronistic division of Korea is ended.

Korea's version of the Berlin Wall stretches 144 miles, bisecting the country. The division of Korea has kept a homogenous people with a 5000-year-old heritage separated completely for nearly a half century. Ten million Koreans have no ways to learn the whereabouts of their separated family members across the border. Furthermore, there are no mail, telephone or transportation linkages.

The human tragedy and senseless suffering continue as elderly Koreans pass away without reuniting with their loved ones. New generations of Koreans on both sides are growing up with no experience of living in an undivided Korea.

Today, the United States maintains 46,000 heavily-armed combat-ready troops, hundreds of battle-ready nuclear weapons, and well-stocked military bases in

south Korea. Furthermore, the US controls the south Korean military through the Combined Forces Command structure, and conducts one of the world's largest military exercises in Korea annually.

One of the biggest anomalies of the Korean division is that the Korean War has not technically ended. Only a fragile military

organization for the US, justifying its military presence in Korea, the UN, through its unwillingness to resolve the Cold War entanglement in Korea, allows itself to be used as an instrument of US foreign policy. Once the US and nominal UN forces disengage from Korea, the two sides of Korea can engage in genuine negotiations for

perceived north Korean threat as the prime pretext for its deep entrenchment in Korea and the surrounding region. Lacking new "evidence" of a "north Korean threat", concerns have been raised about the possible development of nuclear weapons by north Korea. This question should be raised with the same seriousness as the issue of the presence of US nuclear weapons in south Korea. The US should take steps to withdraw its nuclear weapons from south Korea, and north and south Korea should both pledge not to produce any nuclear weapons.

The impacts of Cold War policies and militarization on the Korean people have been devastating and tragic. Primacy of national security has hindered political diversity and freedom on expression. The exorbitant cost of militarization has sapped funds for social programs. The Cold War-based education and mass media have indoctrinated hatred and rivalry against the other side.

Still, there is a growing grassroots movement to overcome the Cold War mentality and government policies. A flux of civilian-initiated attempts to bridge the gap between the two sides of Korea has helped promote reconciliation and cooperation. Citizen-to-citizen contacts have shown that reunification is not an impossible feat.

With the renewed appreciation of Korean self-determination and national sovereignty, the people in south Korea are openly protesting the US military presence. An opposition is forming against a new site for US military headquarters, and a national anti-base coalition has been formed.

Neither the Cold War, nor the "hot" Korean war, is yet over in Korea. The US must end the anachronistic Cold War condition of Korea, instead of resting on its laurels as a victor in the Cold War. The end of the Cold War in Korea is long overdue, and the continued delay only prolongs the torment of the Korean people. ☸

their future.

Due to budgetary constraints, the Pentagon has been forced to implement some reductions of forces in the Asia-Pacific region. But these adjustments have only been marginal. The US still maintains a massive military presence in the Northeast Asia region, fortifying its military alliances with Japan and south Korea. The US Navy continues to hold huge multinational naval exercises in the Pacific. While arms reductions are occurring in Europe, the US refuses to negotiate an arms control agreement in the Asia-Pacific region.

The misuse of the United Nations' name in Korea is another example of the Cold War legacy. The UN is not acting as an independent peacekeeper in Korea. Instead, it serves as an umbrella

armistice exists; an armed clash can occur any time. Since the US signed the armistice (for the US-led United Nations Command) with north Korea, the US is in a position to negotiate a settlement.

Yet, US policy maintains the status quo of the armistice, which in effect provides a convenient rationale for the US's prolonged military presence in south Korea.

The misuse of the United Nations' name in Korea is another example of the Cold War legacy. The UN is not acting as an independent peacekeeper in Korea. Instead, it serves as an umbrella

together arms manufacturers with international buyers, including some that represent countries with poor human rights records.

At the North Pacific conference the minister spoke of the "challenge to economic growth posed by protectionism and the abuse of human rights." Government support of ARMX and other weapons shows seriously undermines efforts to control arms trades and military exports and to redirect the billions of dollars invested in the military-industrial complex towards poverty, maldevelopment and social and environmental needs — towards real security.

To voice opposition to Canada's participation in arms trading through the ARMX weapons show, supporters are being urged to write to Transport Minister Jean Corbeil and External Affairs Minister Barbara MacDougall (House of Commons, Ottawa Ont., K1A 0A6), the Township of West Carleton (PO Box 410, Carp Ont., K0A 1L0) and ARMX organizer Wolfgang Schmidt (Baxter Publishing, 310 Dupont St.,

Toronto, M5R 1V9). ☸



**Survival**  
for tribal peoples



**Urgent Action**

Despite Survival's successful campaign against the multinational paper producer Scott Paper, the eucalyptus wood-chip and pulping plant in Merauke, south east Irian Jaya, is likely to go ahead.

The project involves the felling of the tropical forests in Digul valley, Irian Jaya, home to 15,000 Auyu and other tribal peoples.

A complex tropical forest eco-system will be replaced by vast eucalyptus plantations. Many of the tribal peoples who inhabit the area are hunter-gatherers and rubber tappers, completely dependent on the forests. It will therefore be impossible for them to continue their way of life. The Auyu consider land ownership to be an "inalienable" (fixed) right, therefore land cannot be bought and sold. Sale of land would be like selling one's own identity. The tribespeople were not even consulted about the project on their lands.

Although Scott has withdrawn its funding, the project is likely to go ahead with two Indonesian companies. The state-owned company, PTT Inhutani II, replaces Scott. PT Astra, the second largest Indonesian company, has been involved with the project from the start. One of its shareholders is the International Finance Corporation, a subsidiary of the World Bank.

In response to Survival's lobbying, the President of Inhutani II clearly states in a letter that the project is in line with the government policy towards tribal peoples in Indonesia, which is to "civilize" and assimilate them into the mainstream culture, by force if necessary.

The pulp and paper project would seriously damage the environment. Eucalyptus plantations use a great deal of water and exhaust the soil, whilst the pulping project would pollute the rivers. Indonesia's booming but corrupt timber industry destroys 30 hectares of forest every hour. Already some 60% of Irian Jaya's forests have been applied for as logging concessions.

Please write courteous letters to the President Suharto of Indonesia (President RI, Istana Negara, Jalan Veteran, Jakarta, Indonesia) expressing your dismay at the views on tribal people expressed in Inhutani II's letter, and demanding that the project should not go ahead if the tribal peoples affected by it remain opposed to it.

## ARMX show replaces arms control summit

Continued from page 1

In February, Ottawa's proposed summit was intended to lay the groundwork for international cooperation in controlling the growth of weapons production and the arms trade. "One must have the courage of one's convictions," Clark said in announcing the summit.

However, he failed to mention the federal government's intention to allow the use of public lands for ARMX, an international weapons show. ARMX is scheduled to take place at the Carp Airport in West Carleton Township this September. The site is located about 37 km west of Parliament Hill, and is administered by the Ministry of Transport.

Initially, Clark said parties to the summit would adopt cooperative strategies and restrict weapons production and sales by 1995.

As long as arms producers continue to research, develop and export weapons and component parts, they promote and sustain regional conflict. ARMX brings

The US continues to use the

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(Directed by Peter Monet, 1989)

## Scenes of suffering from Iraqi capital

By Rick McCutcheon  
Special to The Activist

Mahmoud Hassan is in his late twenties and had been married two and a half years. I spoke with him in Baghdad on March 26, in front of his house, just across the street from the Al-Amiriya bomb shelter destroyed by US warplanes. The night of the bombing Mahmood had a long discussion with his twenty-two year old wife Iman. On her lap sat their one and a half year old daughter Ghofran. They had been trying to leave Baghdad that day because of the continuous bombardment. Lack of fuel, however, made it impossible. After much discussion, he said, they decided that Iman and Ghofran would go to the shelter one more night and they would try again in the morning to leave Baghdad. Mahmood stayed at home.

Iman and Ghofran perished that night, and Mahmood will live with the decision to send them to the ill-fated "shelter." A black banner hangs outside their home with the names of Iman and Ghofran etched there for all to see. Black banners carrying the names of perished loved ones hung outside virtually every house on the streets around the shelter. One home had lost all its inhabitants; the neighbours hung a black banner for them. As I walked amongst these people — Fatima Mutlag who lost a teenage son, Anuba Abdul Hadid who lost seven family members, Ghossam who lost his mother and three sisters — the black banners began to hang in my mind.

The human cost of this war will never be known. What was not covered up by the war propaganda machines in the West has been obliterated by the intense civil war of the East. The perfect cover-up, the perfect murder: no identifiable bodies, no traces of the crime's perpetrator. The murder of six Jesuit priests in El Salvador repeated on a new world order scale. An entire country without a face, without a name — except for Saddam Hussein.

Our Red Crescent translator described Alathamya district as a typical middle class neighbourhood in Baghdad. The houses on both sides of the street were close together. Children peered over the high concrete fence across the road as I exited the van's door. Piles of bricks and rubble indicated where houses had once stood. Neighbours said seven houses had stood there in which about forty people had lived. The houses are gone and the people are dead. An older man kept saying that a rocket had hit the houses and he showed me the place where it "landed." By rocket they meant a cruise missile. I was told. At least four or five people indicated the same thing. I do not know how they knew it was a

cruise missile, but I do know that there was no military target anywhere near these houses. And I have no reason to doubt that forty people were killed there in Alathamya. How many people have to be killed by smart bombs before they become dumb bombs? Forty? Or forty thousand?

A little girl played with a broken doll sitting in the rubble. Her guardian, perhaps her grandmother, was fetching water from a broken half-inch copper pipe protruding from under the edge of the torn road. This was the only water available to the neighbourhood, and that only for a couple of hours each day. There was no pushing and shoving to get to the water. The little girl watched me intently as I knelt down to her level to take her picture. Even as I brought the camera up to my eye and took the photograph, later to be run in major English newspapers, she kept me fixed in her gaze. Even now she keeps me fixed in her gaze. She will grow up, if she grows up, reading about how Canada participated in killing her friends. What will my little niece read growing up in Canada?

A concerted effort is underway in Canada and other countries to help alleviate suffering in Iraq. We have pledged to raise funds to purchase ambulances for the Karbala Hospital, 88 kilometres southwest of Baghdad. I urge you to contribute. The money will go towards easing the suffering, saving the lives of the civilian victims of this horrific war. Cheques can be made out to Canadian Friends Service Committee (CFSC) — Karbala Ambulance Project, mailing address 60 Lowther Ave, Toronto, Ontario, M5R 1C7. All donations are tax deductible. ☸

Rick McCutcheon is coordinator of the Canadian Friends Service Committee. He returned April 2 from a four-week trip to the Middle East to help assess the human cost of the Gulf War and to aid in supplying medical assistance to victims of the war in Iraq. Rick visited Iraq March 24-29; he was in Baghdad and was among the first foreigners to visit the holy city of Karbala after fighting between non-government and government forces had ceased.



Girl in ruins, Baghdad, Iraq [Photo: Rick McCutcheon]

## Kurds: "Do not forget us"

By DANIEL GATTI  
INTER PRESS SERVICE

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CUKURCA, Turkey — Amid their intense suffering, the Kurds massed along the Turkey-Iraq frontier, part of a pitiful wave of human suffering, are determined not to lose their self-respect.

Time and again, the refugees are at pains to point out to visiting journalists that they do not want to be treated — or described — as wretched souls deserving pity. They are simply claiming their rights, and hope that after the focus of media attention moves elsewhere, the world community will still remember their plight.

Approaching a group of foreign correspondents, Ibrahim raised his arms to heaven and said almost with a sob, "Do not forget us. Now we need aid, but afterwards we want to be free."

About 40 years old, Ibrahim appears older because he is dirty. Soaked to the skin from the rain and sleet, sick and trembling with

cold from the sleepless night, he still holds his head high.

Although aid has been flowing with more consistency, children and adults are continuing to die of hunger, cold and dysentery, living amidst the mud and excrement in this refugee camp.

"We prefer dying under Saddam's bullets to falling victims of hunger and Turkish brutality," one refugee said. However, the situation in this frontier zone indicates that for the moment the majority prefer to place any trust in Saddam Hussein's promises.

In a refugee camp like Cukurca, resentment against Turkish soldiers runs deep. There are reports of Turkish soldiers carrying out brutal actions against refugees. Some Kurds say beatings, insults and even shootings are the order of the day. They say Turkish soldiers rob refugees of food, tents and even blankets, which are then sold in the black market that already flourishes here.

"The Turks want us at all cost to leave here. They are afraid we might settle down here and be a

danger for Turkey's territorial integrity," said Abdul, who until February was a teacher of French in the Iraqi city of Altim-Kupri.

With some 12 million people, the Kurds constitute around 20 percent of the Turkish population. Kurds are also part of the populations in Iraq, Iran, Greece, Syria and the Soviet Union.

Western countries, especially the United States, are also the target of criticism from the Kurds of Cukurca. A 20 year old youth on seeing us cried out, "And now George Bush has betrayed us."

The young man lamented that the Kurds "simply served as puppets and then were abandoned as soon as the United States achieved its war aims."

"In 70 years of uprisings to gain our rights we have always been defeated, and we cannot count on the support of anyone," declared haji, leaning against a tractor bogged down in the mud.

Like Ibrahim and Abdul, Haji clutches on to the memory of those 15 days of the "Kurdish spring" in March, when the "peshmerga" (literally, those who face death) fighters believed for a moment that they had actually liberated Iraqi Kurdistan. Then came the Iraqi counterattack.

While some Kurds think about migration to a western country, others would prefer to return to Iraq, provided there were guarantees that there will be no more massacres.

Haji got off his haunches and rose to his feet, saying, "When all this is over, and you journalists leave the camps, perhaps you will not speak about us anymore, and once more we shall be forgotten." ☸

## Human rights deteriorate in Emir's Kuwait

Human rights groups are expressing increasing concern over the situation in Kuwait. Amnesty International has called on the Emir to end the human rights abuses by government troops and militia, who are arresting, torturing and in some cases executing suspected "collaborators" (many of them Palestinians). Amnesty expressed particular concern over conditions in a prison outside Kuwait City, where over 600 people are being held.

It is not only the Kuwaiti military who have been involved, however. A US source revealed on April 26 that US special forces had been involved in sweeps of Palestinian districts along with Kuwaiti special forces. Hundreds of arrests were made, there is much evidence of torture, and at least 350 Palestinians civilians are still missing and presumed dead.

And there is also evidence that the "death squads" who have carried out executions of Palestinian and other civilians were organized by members of the Kuwaiti royal family, notably by one of the sons of the Emir himself. ☸

# Yes

I want to help the Karbala Ambulance project help civilian victims of war in Iraq

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# Darlington safety questions remain unanswered

By MARIA ARRAIAL  
THE ACTIVIST

Five years after Chernobyl, more cracks started to appear in the Darlington nuclear power station.

The cracks, on the generating shaft of reactor Unit 2 of the giant nuclear plant, were very close to the site of a larger crack found a year earlier, in March 1990. And they once again raised serious questions about the safety of Darlington — questions never answered while the station was being built, questions that remain unanswered today. Meanwhile, the need for the station's electricity has still not been shown.

In 1986, amidst the disapproval and concern of other government officials, Vincent Kerrio, then Ontario's Energy Minister, gave approval for the completion of the Darlington Nuclear Power Plant in Newcastle, 50 kilometres east of Metro Toronto. This was after the Liberals had promised, during the campaign that brought them to power, to kill Darlington. Their betrayal of this pledge would be emulated by the New Democratic Party after its election last fall.

Kerrio's decision was based on the uncertainty of other options and the \$7 billion already committed to the \$11 billion plant. In November 1989 the Atomic Energy Control Board (AECB) granted Ontario Hydro license to test Darlington. But, in December 1989, license to proceed from testing to power production was denied due to the AECB's concerns for additional safety equipment at the nuclear plant and

Newcastle's dissatisfaction with Darlington's fire plans and conformity to building regulations. (Compliance with provincial laws was a precondition for granting Darlington its operating license.)

Faced with the possible revocation of his previous license, Hydro's Senior Vice President Auro Niitenberg affirmed that the additional safety equipment would soon be installed, but restated his position that Darlington's fire safety plan was adequate since it was approved by the fire marshal's office in the Ministry of the Solicitor General. Provincial law requires fire safety to be approved by the local fire chief, in this case Michael Creighton in Newcastle. He withheld consent because he felt that the plans failed to deal with the potential hazards of a fire in a nuclear facility.

Despite all this, the AECB in February 1990 granted Ontario



Hydro license to fully operate Darlington without Newcastle's consent. The possible disasters Newcastle is concerned about are nuclear fire and hydrogen explosion and oil fire which could affect 7,000 to 8,000 Darlington employees and 34,000 residents of the town. Ontario Hydro maintains that built-in safety devices make such an explosion impossible. Not so: malfunctions can and do happen.

In March 1990, fire safety employees at Darlington were concerned over a potential hydrogen explosion in one of the reactors due to a crack in the 200-tonne

generator shaft. This prompted Ontario Hydro to reduce one of the four generators to 1% of its power. This March, two more cracks were discovered very close to the same spot of this larger crack. Last year the plant was closed down for three months while a modified

shaft from unit 4 generator was installed. Unit 2 reactor (whose steam drives the generator) has been shut down since mid-January after inspections revealed damage to the cylinders that hold nuclear fuel. This reactor was scheduled to be back in place by early April; estimates now put it at May, at the earliest. Tom Adams, analyst with Energy Probe, said the delay would be at least five months and would cost Hydro \$170 million or more in replacement power.

Darlington has had problems with its reactors and its generator. It has exceeded its budget of \$11

billion, costing around \$12.5 billion. Repairs and substitutions are very costly. In December 1985, a special legislative committee on Darlington reported that "Ontario Hydro had overestimated by almost three times the peak demand for power at the turn of the century and may not even require the energy from the four Darlington reactors, to be completed by 1992, until well into the 21st century ... Nuclear reactors are generally planned with a life expectancy of about 40 years, after which they are dismantled and their radioactive parts stored." This would make the reactors at Darlington obsolete by the time they are needed.

Besides the problems with Darlington itself, there are two other problems associated with the plant.

The first is that nuclear power plants require a supply of uranium: mined at enormous human and environmental costs (see The ACTivist #72). The second problem is the inescapable fact that uranium used for electricity can and does often end up in military weapons. In 1974, India detonated a nuclear bomb using plutonium produced in a research reactor given to her by Canada. Realizing this connection and the dangers of breakdowns and explosions such as that at Chernobyl in the USSR, Windscale in England and Three Mile Island in the United States, many nations have either non-nuclear policies (Australia and New Zealand) or are currently cancelling plans or phasing out nuclear power stations (Sweden, Austria, Italy, the Philippines, Britain and the USSR).

## Canadian nuclear reactor sale brings suffering to Romania ...

By RICHARD KRECHOWICZ  
NUCLEAR AWARENESS NEWS

The federal government is still considering the loan of a further \$250 million to Romania in order to complete construction of five nuclear CANDU reactors at Cernavoda. The Canadian government is ignoring mounting evidence of problems with the quality of the construction work as well as related human rights abuses. Peace supporters are being asked to write to Minister of External Affairs Barbara MacDougall to ask that the loan not be made.

Energy Minister Jake Epp is responsible for Atomic Energy of Canada Ltd., and his recommendation for the Romanian loan will go to the Export Development Corporation, which is overseen by Minister of International Trade Michael Wilson. Epp has already decided against an investigation of abuses at Cernavoda.

Romanian human rights violations have been documented and reported by Amnesty International

and the International Confederation of Free Trade Unions. It was David Funderburk, US Ambassador to Romania from 1981 to 1985, who first referred to "forced slave labour" at the Cernavoda site. Toronto human rights activist and Romania-watcher Wally Keeler has alleged that External Affairs and Atomic Energy of Canada Ltd. have ignored abuses. "AECB saw nothing. It was deaf, dumb and blind at a time when so many other human rights groups and Western governments were fully cognizant of conditions at Cernavoda and Romania in general. How is it," Keeler asked, "that the only people who saw nothing were those on the nuclear industry payroll?"

Problems at the reactor have included substandard welding, and massive falsification of welding records, as well as reports of air pockets in concrete which could lead to corrosion of the reinforcing steel. There are also questions about seismic studies made in the area. Following the change in regimes, the National Salvation

Front asked AECL to take over project management and engineering.

The evidence coming out of Romania increasingly indicates

## ... and weapons fear to south Korea

THE ACTIVIST, WITH  
NUCLEAR AWARENESS NEWS

Both Koreas are considered "threshold" nuclear states, on the verge of obtaining independent nuclear weapons capability. North Korea is thought to have received aid from the Soviet Union in the past and Libya; south Korea seems to be getting more help from Canada than from any other country.

In 1975, the same year that the then-dictator of south Korea, General Park Chung-Hee, declared his intent to acquire nuclear weapons, Canada sold his regime a Candu reactor — the same type of reactor India had used a year earlier to make its own nuclear bomb.

that the so-called "revolution" in December 1989 was actually a smoke screen to disguise a coup. NDP External Affairs critic Bill Blaikie said, "We have no reason

In the mid-1980s Canadian and south Korean nuclear officials discussed plutonium extraction technologies, something south Korea would need to perfect if in order to build nuclear weapons.

In December 1990, Atomic Energy of Canada Ltd. (AECL) made its first Candu sale since 1980 — when contracts were signed with the government of Nicaragua Ceausescu to build the notorious Cernavoda reactor station, since revealed to have used slave labour — to south Korea. Construction on the Wolsong 2 reactor is expected to begin in 1992 alongside the first Candu, on the southeastern sea-coast about 60 km north of Pusan. The project is forecast to cost \$1.2 billion, but only \$50 million of that will go to AECL

to be confident that they would be any more careful about construction standards, labour conditions or the quality of work than the previous regime."

and \$350 million to Canada companies in Ontario, Québec and British Columbia.

"The federal government is giving AECL \$224 million per year in subsidies, and historically, the company has received over \$14 billion, so the Korean deal doesn't even come remotely close to making the deal profitable," said Irene Kock of the Nuclear Awareness Project.



# General Electric feeling effects of boycott

By DAVID WEBSTER  
THE ACTIVIST

Just months after American activists forced General Electric to pull out of one of its major nuclear weapons facilities, the GE boycott in Canada went national.

Peace and environment groups have been boycotting General Electric, one of the foremost nuclear weaponmakers in the United States, since 1986, in a bid to get GE out of the nuclear business. In November, the company, already stung by as much as \$100 million in lost sales resulting from the boycott, suddenly announced it was withdrawing from its 34-year old contract with the Department of Energy to make the neutron generator — one of the nuclear bomb "triggers" — for every US nuclear weapon. GE said it was ending production at the Pinnellas Plant near Tampa, Florida, because of the "exorbitant" cost of complying with tougher environmental regulations imposed by the United States government.

INFACT, the group which has been co-ordinating the boycott, praised this "giant first step towards complete withdrawal from nuclear weapons production," but added that GE is still one of the top contractors for nuclear weapons systems components, continuing to contribute to every weapons system — including missiles and warheads, engines for the B-2 "Stealth" bomber, nuclear reactors and guidance systems for the Trident submarine, and orbital nuclear reactor systems as part of the star wars design.

"This is a good first step, but we are putting GE on notice that we will continue to campaign very hard to get them to withdraw from the nuclear weapons business completely," INFACT said.

Activists in Ontario and Nova Scotia agreed, and in March raised the Canadian boycott campaign another notch:

- In Halifax, the Voice of

Women and Canadian Physicians for the Prevention of Nuclear War launched a national medical boycott of GE systems, pointing to the hypocrisy of a buying technologies meant to preserve life from a company whose major production consists of technologies of death. CAT Scan machines and other big-ticket items cost upwards of \$1 million apiece, physicians say, so the move could hurt GE badly. A boycott by some US health-care facilities has already cost GE \$18.3 million (US).

- In Toronto, ACT for Disarmament targeted Valdi's discount stores, which carry only GE light bulbs. "We are asking that Valdi's stock competitors' light bulbs so that the public, which is opposed to the nuclear arms race, have an option to adding to the profits of GE when shopping at Valdi's," ACT wrote in a letter to the chain's purchasing agent.

- In Ottawa, Calgary, Oakville, Peterborough (home of GE Canada's main plant) and across the country, awareness-raising and the collection of GE boycott pledges went on.

GE Canada is engaged in a small amount of weapons component production at its plant in Bromont, Québec, but its main contribution to the nuclear business is the manufacture of uranium dioxide fuel rods in Toronto and Peterborough for use in Ontario Hydro's Pickering and Darlington nuclear reactor stations. This production, like so much of the industry, is shrouded in secrecy: no access to the nuclear production facility is allowed to non-employees at GE's rare open houses in Peterborough, while the Toronto plant is registered with the city as a "ceramics factory."

"GE knows the handwriting is on the wall," says INFACT director Nancy Cole. "Pressure from INFACT's campaign, combined with a declining nuclear weapons market, the public calling for shifts in national priorities, and an in-



creasing potential for nuclear liability all add up to one conclusion: GE's financial interests no longer lie in nuclear weapons work. GE's first step — to stop producing the neutron 'triggers' for nuclear bombs — is a good example of the leadership role GE can play in turning our country's economy away from nuclear weapons and towards peaceful production."

Although they deny the boycott is hurting them, GE admits consumer pressure could affect it. Nuclear weapons production "is not a high-profit business for General Electric," says company spokesperson Shirley Cheatum. INFACT estimates that 3.5 million Americans are now boycotting GE — more than one in a every hundred people. The number of Canadian boycotters, meanwhile, is growing fast. ☺



## The television war

By DONNA SMYTH  
ATLANTIC PEACELEITER

In 1986, General Electric bought the RCA Corporation, the NBC radio and television networks. In this one move, GE fused information and entertainment, high tech and a built-in audience, with a right-wing political and military agenda. All that was missing was a war — the proper kind of war.

For GE, the crisis in the Gulf

couldn't have come at a better time. And, as it turned out, it couldn't have come in a better package. A high tech war fought in prime time somewhere in the Middle East, not threatening the American homeland. An enemy easily demonized. Little visible blood and gore. Much glitz and glitter and "gee-whizzing" at the weapons systems display.

NBC even boasted that it would have the cutting edge of coverage: mini-cameras attached to the heads of warheads of their missiles designed by GE. ☺

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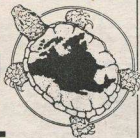
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## Turtle Island Notes



### James Bay leak

**AKWESASNE** (Québec-New York) — Details of a secret Hydro-Québec deal to sell power from James Bay II dams at a loss have been published in Québec for the first time — illegally — in a Mohawk newspaper.

Doug George, editor of *Indian Times*, said he would go to jail if necessary to defend the paper's right to publish the information. Details of the provincially-owned utility's deal with a Norwegian company to sell hydro-electric power for less than the cost of production have previously been published in Australia and Norway, but a court order made releasing the information in Québec illegal.

Hydro-Québec is embroiled in a battle with Cree and Inuit natives of the James Bay region over its plans to dam four rivers, flooding an area larger than PEI.

Meanwhile, several small towns in Vermont have rejected their share of contracts by James Bay electricity after a tour of the state by Cree leaders.

Contracts with New England utilities are worth \$22 billion to Hydro-Québec. Hydro chairman Richard Drouin recently admitted he was worried that cancellation of the American contracts would delay James Bay II, scheduled for completion by 1998, by six years.

### No applause for commission

**VICTORIA** — The federal government's announcement that a long-awaited Royal Commission on native issues would finally be set up is being greeted as "too little, too late" by native activists. The 300 people attending the First Nations Congress of B.C. meeting where Prime Minister Brian Mulroney made the announcement sat silently with folded arms as Mulroney paused for applause.

"We don't need a Royal Commission to tell us we're poor, we know we're poor," said Georges Erasmus, national chief of the Assembly of First Nations.

### Vote ordered for Oka

**KANEHSATAKE** (Québec) — Indian Affairs Minister Tom Siddon has ordered a plebiscite on whether to hold band council elections at this troubled Mohawk territory, site of last summer's Oka crisis. Current Grand Chief George Martin, like past chiefs chosen by women elders, condemned the plebiscite. He was joined in this by Warrior supporters who last summer called for his ouster. But Jerry Peltier, chairperson of the Kanehsatake Mohawk Coalition which is negotiating the Oka land claim with Ottawa, called elections "long overdue."

### UN given ultimatum

**UNITED NATIONS** — After being turned away from the United Nations three times, the Hopi will return just once more, says Thomas Banyacya, carrier of the Hopi prophecies.

The Hopi have made previous trips to try to raise their land rights and nuclear issues, and made another visit along with Iroquois Confederacy chief Oren Lyons to try to stop the Gulf War last December. The two camped out for several days in the halls, but no UN official would meet them.

"Fourth time we're not gonna go there no more," Banyacya said. "We'll turn our faces to the western direction. Then something's gonna happen real fast. That's what I fear to see happen."

# When peace came to the nations

*For centuries, the people of the Haudenosaunee (Iroquois) Confederacy has lived without armies under the Great Law of Peace. A shortened version follows of the story of the Peacemaker, founder of the Confederacy, as told by traditional Mohawk chief Tom Porter at the Native Canadian Centre last fall. The excerpt begins as the Peacemaker, having proved himself to be a messenger of the Creator, confronts the leading war chief of the Mohawk people.*

And so the Peacemaker said to that war leader, "Now, I want you to repent now, to be sorrowful, for all the people that you have killed in your life. And I'm going to change your mind, seven times how much power you had to kill, for the good." And so the old war leader repented. And he said, "My Creator, I'm sorry that I have killed people, and brought pain to people." And so it was that the Peacemaker put that man up as the first leader of the Iroquois Confederacy. And then they organized the Mohawk Nation under National Council, and he said, "That is the beginning of the Great Law of Peace."

The Great Law of Peace is three things. Number one — the good mind. The good mind is what the Great Law of Peace is. With a good mind, the second principle is the power, the strength. It don't mean hatchet. It don't mean killing spear. It means, the strength to have health, to have the power to teach your children, to make your house warm in the frozen months. To live. And when you have those two, following it, the third principle will be peace. Peace will come. Those are the three principles of the Great Law of Peace.

After the Peacemaker went around, he made all of the leaders of the Confederacy that used to be killers to repent their wrongs,



and to take up the good mind, the way of peace. And so it was, that when he finished the whole Five Nations, he said, "Now, there is that Tree of Peace growing, and it's great symbolism, there are four white roots, north, south, west and east. The roots of peace. The tree is so fantastic that it pierces the sky. And its branches goes to every direction a long ways. And under the branches there is a shade. And in that shade the humans will sit in peace. No more war forevermore."

And so the Peacemaker said, "Now, I'm gonna uproot this tree up." And he pulled it out. And when he pulled it out of the Mother Earth, there was a big hole in there. And at the bottom of that cavity or hole, there was a river, a stream, that went to the underworld. Swift. And then the Peace-

maker said, Now, all Mohawk warriors, all men, all Oneida men, all Onondaga men, all Cayuga men, all Seneca men, I want you to come forth now to this hole. And I want you now to bring all your hatchets, all your spears, and all the weapons you have that cause injury, or the killing or the harming of another human being. All of the nations. And I ask you now to cast those weapons of war in there. And they did. Mohawks came by the hundreds, and they threw them in there. Oneidas, Onondagas, Cayugas, one after another. And so after that, he said, "Now, that river under there is taking those weapons of war to the unknown regions forevermore. And now I replant the Tree of Peace on top, to sanction this deed of the Haudenosaunee people."

And now, one Seneca man said, "But Peacemaker, what happens if somebody, maybe Ojibway, maybe Passamaquodie, comes here and makes war with me, and I have no more weapon?"

And so the Peacemaker said, "Here." And he gave him sacred tobacco in a pouch. He said, "You will make a sacred fire, and you will burn that sacred tobacco. And that sacred smoke will go to the Creator's land in the universe, and all the universal powers will listen, if you use 100% a good mind, as you do it. With no malice. Then you will not need no weapon of war."

And so that's what the Peacemaker did when he made the Confederacy. He took away all of the war-chiefs, and he put peace chiefs up, so there will be peace in the world. It is the world's first disarmament.

That is the saddest thing in my eyes, when I see our people using the guns against anybody. The sacred tobacco is more power, and it will take our people to the right place in the future. And so that's all I want to say. ☪



"My people were given the instructions to take care of Mother Earth," Mohawk elder Ann Jock of Akwesasne told the hundreds who attended Project Indigenous Restoration in Toronto during Earth Week. "We have to go back to the original instruction and heal ourselves, heal all living things."

More than 50 elders, chiefs and traditional teachers attended the three-day event, organized by the Artists/Environment Forum. They spoke at Queens Park, at OISE, and, most importantly, to thousands of students in Toronto schools.

[Photo: Terrence Durrant]

# Peace activists gather to share and come together

BY COLLEEN COONEY  
AND SAIL CHERNOS  
THE ACTIVIST

Peace activists must unite, share ideas and join in common campaigns if radical change is to occur.

This was the common feeling expressed at a gathering of peace activists April 14 at Dragonfly Farm, just west of Orillia.

30 people arrived from Oakville, Toronto, Lindsay, Cobocok, Gravenhurst, Washago, Craighurst and Orillia. The Sunday afternoon, marked by both sunshine and rain, was spent discussing the problems and successes of the peace movement.

Quite a few people said they had experienced physical discomfort and illness as a result of the Gulf War. Admiration was expressed for those who demonstrated opposition to the war by taking to the streets.

Participants felt overwhelmed and disempowered by the war yet strengthened by the organizing against it. 11 year old Sarah from Cobocok told of classmates amazed there was a war and anxious for it to end quickly.

Connections were made between all sorts of issues and the war. Environmentalists noted the connection between the need to clean up the Great Lakes and the dangerous visits of nuclear-capable warships. Links were also



drawn between peace issues and domestic and interpersonal violence.

Many high school students attended and the seeds of networking were sown. Students from Lindsay, Orillia and Oakville exchanged experiences, ideas and contact addresses.

The idea for the conference came from the sense that peace and social movement activists need to work in harmony with one another if we are to achieve any

gains. The conference was just one of many events leading up to the Ontario Peace Conference (OPC) in Toronto the weekend of September 13 to 15.

The OPC will be an event far beyond provincial proportions. Coinciding with the annual meeting of Ontario activists will be the annual conference of the International Peace Bureau. For Ontarians, this means an opportunity to meet people who are doing the very same thing in a now-united Germany, in Poland, in Japan, in developing countries, in the United States and around the world.

Other events include this

year's 9th annual Spring Peace Protest on Saturday, May 11 at Queen's Park and a series of walks to protest the ARMX weapons trade show slated for late September in the Ottawa suburb of Carp. Walks from Windsor, North Bay and other locations will pass through Toronto and end with a massive rally in Ottawa on September 21. ACT Orillia is helping coordinate the North Bay wing of the walk.

Many thanks to Joyce and Bob of Dragonfly Farm for providing a most accommodating meeting place. The hills of Medonte Township were most inspiring. ☺

## May calendar for peace

### Monday, May 6

No to Army Recruitment! gather outside the London Canadian Forces Base on Oxford Street 3:30-5 pm. (If you are unable to attend, phone the Army Base at 660-5275 to register your disapproval.) Contact: David (519) 434-5441.

### May 8, 22, June 5

ACT Toronto general meetings at 736 Bathurst St., south entrance (1 block S. of Bloor). Contact: (416) 531-6154.

### Saturday, May 11

For a World Without Armies. Join ACT for Disarmament's Ninth Annual Spring Protest for Peace at Queen's Park, 1 pm. Contact: (416) 531-6154.

### Sunday, May 12

Mother's Day Action for Peace: paint a chalk shadow on the sidewalk in the early hours of the morning. Contact: (416) 537-9343

### Saturday, May 25

DisARMX 91 Walkathon, 10 km through Toronto. Half proceeds go to DisARMX; half to group of your choice. Contact: (416) 461-2274.

## Classified

**East Timor and Kuwait:** a new background from the East Timor Alert Network, available NOW for \$1 from PO Box 562, Station P, Toronto, M5S 2T1.

**The Kurdish Relief Fund** desperately requires non-perishable food donations, clothing & financial contributions to aid millions of starving and homeless Kurdish children, teen & adult refugees facing genocide under the Iraqi military regime led by Saddam Hussein. Donations will be accepted at THE KURDISH RELIEF FUND, 30 Charles St. W., Suite 425, Toronto.

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**The real Cuba!** An educational 2 week trip to Cuba, Aug. 4-18, 91. Visit a Cuban factory and meet with workers and trade union leaders - meet representatives of the Federation of Cuban Women - participate in volunteer labour in

the construction of housing or the harvest - visit a hospital, school and the Old City of Havana and the Museum of the revolution - meet with Cuban youth - attend an event of the 91 Pan Am Games - and more! Est. price \$895 includes airfare, meals, accommodation, \$500 deposit due June 15. Phone for info and applications. Toronto 533-1225 or 535-0916, Montreal 270-0197, Vancouver 873-8898. Organized by the Canada Cuba Cultural Interchange (COCI) and the Cuban Institute for Friendship with the Peoples (ICAP).

**There's no life like it!** Volunteer for ACT for Disarmament. Office staffing, street outreach, poster-ing, fundraising and much more needs doing. Call ACT, 531-6154.

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**Oakville Peace Festival**  
Sunday, June 2  
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An Innu woman and child hold a protest sign at Canadian Forces Base Goose Bay, where the low-level flight tests are conducted. Flight tests continue, and are increasing yearly, despite the protests of the Innu and their supporters across Canada.

## Hunters and Bombers: seeing the land

**Hunters and Bombers**  
directed by Hugh Brody  
and Nigel Markham  
National Film Board of  
Canada  
53 minutes

REVIEWED BY MARIA ERSKINE

Close-up: a piece of bone held in a fire until it scorches. Innu elder Pien Penashue says it augurs good hunting; the scorch looks like a skidoo! "Reading a shoulderblade is of great importance to us," he tells the person who is filming him. "It allows us to see, just as making a film allows you to see."

So — in equal parts good humour, art and spiritual wisdom — begins *Hunters and Bombers*, an impressive new National Film Board production that allows us to see — and hear of — the Innu's resolute stand against the low-level flights of warplanes from Goose Bay, Labrador, over their native land, which threaten to destroy it, and them.

Final voice-over: the subtitle reads, *we can no longer remain silent*, but the last word of Innu-cinéma — the Innu language — hanging in the arctic air is *Nitassinan* —

"our land." And the film presents this struggle as a clash between Innu and War Department views of the land.

The hunters go out on the land to live in peaceful coexistence with one another and the rest of nature, even baking their bread right in the sand: "Everything falls into place for us here. This is happiness." The bombers' trainer, on the other hand, warns his pilots, "The ground is cold and hard ... your body is soft and pink and fragile ... keep them apart." A few shaking, sound-barrier-breaking seconds of jet flying, cutting a canoe paddle's slash in still water, underscore the difference in perceptions. (The movie won a well-deserved award for sound at the 1990 Atlantic Film Festival.)

The film is striking, full of emblems, that, like the Innu, are allowed to speak for themselves; not only the vistas one would expect, but very focussed images like that of an infant and a beaver cub sleeping beside one another in the forest. One knot of barbed wire becomes the resonating cry of heartless, logic-skewing laws that now make it virtually illegal to be Innu; one padlock and lineoleum-directed camera angle provide immediate emotional access to the degrees of imprisonment that many of the Innu have endured for walking on their own land — the bombers' runways — in non-violent protest of the invasion of Nitassinan.

For these flights have been the last straw for the Innu, already subjected to 40 years of "development" — read genocide — ranging from the Churchill Falls flooding and relocation to an inflexible education system and harassing

wildlife legislation, in a pattern of destruction all too familiar to native peoples everywhere.

Directors Hugh Brody and Nigel Markham have an acute appreciation of the situation's ironies, and allow the military to condemn themselves out of their own mouths: Goose Bay base commander Col. Engstad, for example, from what looks like a Lazze-Boy recliner, recalls a childhood of chicken coops and horse-back riding, and concludes, "I think I understand the outdoors very well from their perspective." No icon is needed when praise for Nitassinan as ideal for low-level flight training includes the phrase "not only is it unpopulated," or when equivocating bureaucrats play word games with the terms "permanent resident" and "land user."

"They spread hate on our land," says Elizabeth Psatisi, but the spread of bullshit like the preceding seems to have been fertilizer for the growth of strong non-violent resistance among the Innu — a people the film-makers obviously admire and respect, without romanticizing them.

*Hunters and Bombers* has had Air screenings from Yellowknife to Halifax; but in Toronto, for one, it deserved more promotion and deserves larger audiences. At one point in the movie, elder Elizabeth Penashue, radiating courage and quiet strength, vows "We'll show them." Yes. In the meantime, let's show 'em this: the film is essential viewing for anyone concerned with peace, environmental, or native issues, and the connections between them: in training for war we are destroying a land, and a people. ☺

## Chernobyl: decay and holocaust

**Raspad**

directed by Mikhail Belikov  
Dovzhenko Studios (Kiev)/Pacific  
Film Fund (USA)  
95 minutes

REVIEWED BY MAGGIE HELWIG

*Raspad* (Decay) is an unusual film — a dramatization of the Chernobyl nuclear disaster, it is a Soviet/US co-production, shot by a Ukrainian director who was allowed almost complete freedom in filming, including access to the Chernobyl plant and to Pripyat, the abandoned city where the plant employees lived.

It is a harrowing, brilliant and frightening film, and a bitter attack on the official dishonesty and incompetence that cost an unknown number of lives. (It is said, now, that up to 10,000 people may have died in the initial explosion, or from the effects afterwards. Soviet authorities have admitted to 31 deaths.)

The vignettes will not leave your mind: the bureaucrat standing in the middle of the holocaust, as men drop

the ground with radiation burns, shouting that the fire has only affected the outer structure of the plant and that no radiation could possibly be released. The evacuation of a church during the Easter service, the priest rushing through the liturgy as men in radiation suits tear the icons from the wall, run geiger counters over the Bible. The endless bicycle race that goes on in the background, around and around Kiev, echoing the long chain of buses hustling people — too late — out of Pripyat. Journalists and professionals prying desperately in Kiev, knowing the city will soon be sealed off, knowing the contamination has reached them, knowing that no one will ever admit this. The little boy, alone in Pripyat, scrawling a chalk message on the concrete as he dies of radiation sickness.

*Raspad* is many things, not only the portrait of a disaster; it is a merciless look at a corrupt and unhappy "socialist bourgeois" society; it is a fine example of *film noirish* cinematography; sometimes a terribly black comedy of manners. And it is an exceptional piece of film-making, one that leaves the audience shaken and changed. ☺



## Music for Mother Earth

**Gaia's Balance**  
Rebecca Barclay  
Raven's Wing  
\$10

REVIEWED BY MAC SCOTT

A flute and a waterfall, birds and quacking. Something rattles in the woods. "Very earthy," says Dave.

Dave likes the flute. "Pan flute," says Corinne.

On her first cassette, *Gaia's Balance*, singer-

songwriter Rebecca Barclay experiments widely with different instruments. This makes for extremely good music at some points and for not so good music at other points. Her voice is both melodic and well-developed, but sometimes her experiments carry her off track.

Then again our world is boring! We could use more experiments in music. And it is refreshing to hear someone willing to try something new in the

studio, drawing a new design in the world of folk.

The lyrical references to Mother Earth strike chords. Earth is a primary theme in Rebecca Barclay's music, a personified, female, nurturing Earth. She also deals with issues like violence against women and how easy it is to become trapped in the victim role, as well as more personal topics. Both ecological and feminist awareness are strong.

The Earth is not only in the lyrics, but in her voice, in the accompanying bird songs, and even in the piano that is featured in many songs, well-played by Frank Van Bussel. And with Mother Earth accompanying you, it's hard to go wrong.

*Gaia's Balance* is a good evening and a thought-provoking tape. And two thumbs up for the cover made of recycled paper! ☺

See Rebecca Barclay at the Spring protest for Peace on Saturday, May 11.

ACT for Disarmament would like to thank everyone who performed at our Anti-War Thursdays series at the Apocalypse Club — Mike Moretti, Steal This Book, Mourning Sickness, Chicken Milk, Twisted Logic, Polyester Explosion, Noise Floor, Speakeasy, Glona Blizzard, 4 Words, Maggie Helwig, The Matrophiles, Shadows and Tall Trees, Nothing in Particular, Circle of Ill Health, Rebecca Barclay, Utterly Sputter, and especially Random Order (our heroes). A special thanks too to Jeff Cohen and the staff at the Apocalypse.

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