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Newspaper of the ACT for Disarmament Coalition • Volume 7, Issue 11 • November 1991 • Pay what you can

Disarmament games

Superpower empires rise and fall, the Gulf War casualties are still being counted while the former Soviet Union dissolves, and the political world continues to tilt wildly on its axis, as the United States and Russia enter into a veritable "disarms race" with each other.

The fate of the Soviet nuclear arsenal was already being called into question as the republics declared their independence. The majority of Soviet nuclear weapons are in Russia itself, but large numbers are also located in Ukraine and Kazakhstan. Ukraine took the first initiative, boldly declaring its intention to become a nuclear free zone and informing Russia it could take its weapons back; it is still unclear whether Kazakhstan intends to become yet another nuclear nation, or what the response of the once-Soviet authorities will be to that.

But all of these questions were overshadowed by the unprecedented announcement by United States President George Bush, on September 28, that he would be making unilateral cuts in the American nuclear arsenal. Cuts announced included all short-range nuclear missiles in Europe and South Korea; all tactical nuclear weapons on U.S. surface ships and attack submarines; and 180 B-1 bombers, 100 B-2 bombers and 450 Minuteman ICBMs, all based in the United States.

Bush also removed U.S. long-range bomber jets from the 24-hour alert which had been permanently in place for the last 40 years, recognizing at last that a sudden Soviet invasion of western Europe is now quite unlikely.

After a brief — probably stunned — silence, Gorbachev's officials announced that they would match the U.S. arms cuts and raise them a test ban. Gorbachev has now declared a one-year moratorium on all nuclear testing in the Soviet Union, and has permanently closed the Semipalatinsk test site, the object of protests for years.

The American Peace Test, which has protested at the equally notorious Nevada test site in the U.S. and worked cooperatively with the Nevada Semipalatinsk Anti-Nuclear Movement in the Soviet Union, immediately called for actions around the country to demand that the United States join the moratorium.

This proved, however, to be one of several sticking points. The
Turn to Dances, page 2



Peace Action 92 ACT sets a new direction

ACT for Disarmament has launched an ambitious new campaign programme for 1992, our tenth anniversary year. Peace Action '92 is aimed at addressing the new world climate following the demise of the Cold war that dominated the eighties.

Despite the "New World Order," the world is not at peace. The need for a strong and active peace movement has never been greater.

Wars still rage around the world, from East Timor to El Salvador. The response of rich states like Canada is not to work for peace, but instead to make a killing on weapons sales to warring countries and massive human rights violators.

The threat of war in Europe is greater than ever, the need for citizen peace initiatives across the former Cold War divide greater than ever.

Companies like General Electric, deeply involved in the military industry, continue to produce nuclear and conventional weapons at tremendous cost to the environment and human life.

People in all countries, from the Soviet Union to the United States, from Israel to Iraq, are persecuted, even jailed, simply for working for peace.

In Canada, the lands of the native peoples, like the Innu of Nitassinan, are increasingly militarized and exploited by the testing of weapons systems and a host of

other threats, 500 years after the "discovery" of the Americas.

Domestic violence, against women, children, lesbians and gay men, does as much damage and claims as many lives as many wars, right here at home.

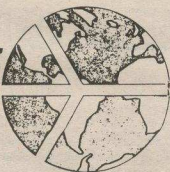
Peace means more than just nuclear disarmament. We have to

ends its role in the nuclear weapons and nuclear power industry

• **Domestic Violence**, focusing on raising violence against women as a peace issue

• **East-West**, focusing on healing the divisions left by the Cold war and the threat of war in Yugoslavia and other parts of the East

PEACE ACTION

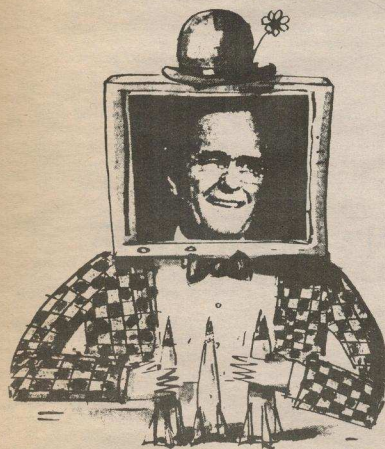


start, right now, to help build a peaceful world.

- Six new campaign working groups have been launched by ACT:
- **Native Rights**, focusing on ending the low-level military flight testing that continues over the lands of the Innu people of Nitassinan
- **Local Wars**, focusing on helping to end the war in East Timor and Canada's support for the Indonesian invaders and weapons sales to Indonesia
- **Prisoners for Peace**, focusing on freeing American and Russian conscientious objectors who refuse to fight for their country's armed forces
- **Conversion/Ecology**, focusing on boycotting General Electric until it

But for all this to be successful, we need your help. ACT is inviting all people who want to work on any of these campaigns to get involved now to make them happen. People are needed for preparing action, regular street outreach, fundraising, outreach to schools, and much more.

Contact ACT for Disarmament if you can help out — or if you just want to know more. Phone 531-6154, or drop by our office in the evening. We're located at the Bathurst Street Centre for Peace and Justice, 736 Bathurst Street (south entrance, through the glass porch). We'll look forward to hearing from you!



In These Times

THE ACTIVIST

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Sztainbok, David Webster

Opinions expressed in this paper are not necessarily those of ACT

Dances with nukes

From page one

United States has refused to consider a moratorium on nuclear testing; they also rejected Gorbachev's proposal that the East and the West jointly declare a "no first use" nuclear policy.

And the cuts, on both sides, still leave the two superpowers with thousands of fully armed nuclear warheads, especially the land-based multiple-warhead missiles which neither side has agreed to cut. The U.S. will retain, among other things, submarines armed with Trident missiles and Cruise-missile-equipped bombers; and plans to develop the Stealth B-2 bomber and the Star Wars system are untouched. It has been suggested that the weapons that are being cut were outmoded and due for scrapping in any case. And certainly the Gulf War proved to anyone's satisfaction that the United States can clobber their enemy of the moment quite satisfactorily with conventional weapons.

Further, Bush has gone out of his way to make sure no one expects a "peace dividend" from all this. Lest anyone suppose that arms reductions might mean more money for social services, national security advisor Brent Scowcroft pointed out that it would actually cost money to deactivate the weapons. And since multi-billion dollar systems like Star Wars are still in the picture, the military budget is not expected to drop.

Nevertheless, very partial and qualified as these initiatives may be, there is still something here to celebrate. It is clear, at least, that the world leaders do not see much political gain in war-mongering rhetoric any more; they may finally be realizing that the world is simply tired of war. This is at least a small step towards a peaceful world (NATO, too, has announced nuclear cuts), and if we continue to make it clear that it is in their own interest to do so, the politicians may yet take bigger steps. For instance, Prime Minister Mulroney could take some initiatives of his own and announce that Canada will no longer allow weapons — from the cruise missile to NATO fighter planes — to be tested in our airspace.

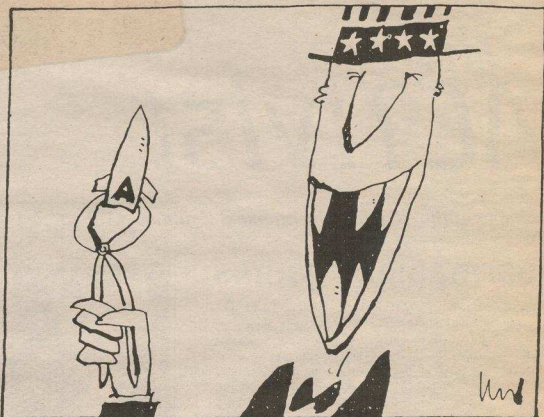
And people — who have nothing to gain or lose but our own lives and our own well-being — can push ever harder, and use the leverage these cuts have provided to move ever closer to a world without war.

— Maggie Helwig

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In the event of another postal strike, The Activist will not be mailed out until the strike ends. Paying subscribers will receive missed issues in a bundle at the end of the strike; all others are invited to pick up The Activist at one of our more than 50 distribution outlets in Toronto or from your local ACT contact.



Len Mumrik/Peace Media Service

Letters



I enjoyed the article "The impossible dream" with the cartoon of President George Bush, in your October issue.

World leaders say they will get rid of some of their nuclear arsenals but keep building and testing new nuclear weapons. Britain is building more nuclear submarines, which are such a threat everywhere they go, and I often wonder if the United States (and other countries) will ever stop testing nuclear bombs and missiles.

Every year the nuclear nations have spent trillions of their taxpayers' money on these weapons — something which *must never be used*, because with all the deadly pollution from just a few nuclear exchanges our whole planet and its atmosphere would be poisoned, eventually killing most of life on Earth. (And the nuclear threat has been no deterrent to war.)

The criminal insanity of the nuclear arms race has been such a nightmare.

The hundreds of trillions spent on these weapons should have gone to farmers, hospitals, and environmental groups.

I wish you all the best in your work and an enclosing a cheque (I hope to give more).

Will it try thinking positively about Earth being free of nuclear weapons.

Joan W. Burke

Toronto, Ontario

You organised a great IPPB conference for which I am very grateful. I found it personally very refreshing and empowering. The wonderful mix of people from such an assortment of backgrounds and interests was something I particularly liked as I come from a country which lacks almost totally any mixture of anything! My only regret was not being able to talk to everyone!

[Afterwards] I received a depressing call from my husband saying that one of the newest U.S. warships was arriving at Cork. This was a major blow to us as we had felt confident in saying that they had stopped because of our ongoing protests during the 80's and we hadn't had any since May of 1989.

The ship was in violation of Irish policy which states very clearly no military vessels are allowed into our ports/waters if: 1) they are carrying nuclear weapons, 2) they are part of a military exercise. On both counts our Government policy was violated and it has serious implications for our neutrality.

Our local group here mobilised within hours and managed to greet the ship with both land and sea actions. On the U.S. side I contacted

as many politicians as possible and got them to send messages of support to our Lord Mayor and City Councilors. People were great... some expressed shame and anger when they heard our story and many made a commitment to do something about the violation of our airspace, waters and ports by the U.S.

The most positive thing that came out of it was our Lord Mayor of Cork and the City Councilors, for the first time in the history of warship visits, actually passed a unanimous motion calling on our Department of Foreign Affairs to stop the visits. The other visiting point was that the visit of both ships has helped to refocus people's attention on the arms race as the ship in Cork became a national issue for the week it was here.

[Since returning to Ireland] I have been to about eight schools and they are all full of energy and enthusiasm for peace work. We got a phone call during the week from a school I worked with last year and they told us that the students had spent four months working on the project to have their school declared a Nuclear Free Zone and they had succeeded and would be passing the declaration in November... so there is some 'good news' after all!!!! We have another three city schools working on the same project for Christmas so hopefully their declarations will be passed and the 'inch by inch' process will continue!!!!

Adi Roche
Irish CND
Cork, Ireland

Inside Peace/ by Jo Peacenik

A Lite to the nations, and the UN's close shave

So, world — oops, U.S. — president George Bush is cutting back on his addiction to things nuclear. (Couldn't he go cold turkey? Just say no, George!) A few of his least favourite weapons systems will go. All weapons are equal, but some are more equal than others.

What we have here is arms race lite. Same great taste — but less filling.

What are we to make of the great Mulroney-to-the-United-Nations bondage? Our unloved PM, it seems, was in

demand of the towering intellectuals on the UN security council, which has the job of reviewing candidates for the secretary general's post seat.

Sane folk heaved a sigh of relief when Mulroney finished in the middle of the pack in a straw vote, trailing such luminaries as an ex-military dictator of Nigeria and a diplomat from top human rights abuser Gabon. Also in the running was Indonesian foreign minister and genocide apologist Ali Alatas.

The decent and capable Prime Minister Gro Harlem Brundtland of Norway finished

last, tied with her decent and capable foreign minister. So what else is new?

Meanwhile, friends of the UN ideal gritted their teeth for more embarrassments.

The new darling of the West, Russian president Boris Yeltsin, is spoiling for a fight. With somebody. Anybody.

Reports in a Moscow daily say Yeltsin recently considered a "preventive nuclear strike" against Ukraine to get control of former Soviet nuclear weapons stationed on Ukrainian soil. Nczavismaya Gazeta noted

trily that he ruled it out on "technical grounds." A little thing called fallout, perhaps you heard about it after Chernobyl. Alarmed Ukrainians, meanwhile, have voted to set up their own armed forces.

Oh, for parties like this in Canada.

The Polish Beer Lovers' Party is gaining in the polls and expected to win several seats in parliament this month. "The world thinks of Poles as people who are drunk all the time," says the party president. Their solution? More lite beer, less vodka.

No trespassing

Innu resist bulldozers and bombers

By MAGGIE HELWIG
The ACTivist

It was not so long ago the Innu believed they were powerless, a small nation of "underdeveloped" indigenous people living in the unheard-of territory of Nitassinan (Labrador and eastern Québec); felt that "non-natives always beat the Innu."

That is not so any more.

Since their campaign against the low-level flight testing on their territory, which resulted in the cancellation of a NATO base planned for Goose Bay, the Innu have, through the simple force of their will and the strength of their community and tradition, established themselves as a force to be reckoned with.

Innu Nation president Peter Penashue and his mother Elizabeth, an elder, were in Toronto recently to attend a benefit concert (see below). At a press conference, the two spoke of the current situation of the Innu in their struggle for recognition of their sovereignty. Recently, they have won some significant victories over attempts to "develop" their land for clear-cut forestry.

On September 5, the Innu of Sheshatshit set up a nonviolent blockade to prevent the extension of a logging road on their territory. They erected signs reading "NO TRESPASSING — This land has been Innu land since time immemorial. The current generation of Innu people are the living title to this land with the sacred duty to protect it and its bounty for our children for all time," and put themselves in the way of the bulldozers.

"Our position was very clear from the beginning," says Elizabeth, through a translator, "and that is that no development should take place until the land claims negotiations are complete, or an interim protection is put in place. And when we realized that indeed projects were going to be taking place, we blocked the bulldozers and the forestry development from taking place... We asked that an environmental assessment take place on the Forestry Land Unit 19, that's the area that's being proposed for the forestry development. The government promoted and gave licenses to Unit 19 for forestry development, without any consultation with the Innu, the rightful owners of the territory, and also without any management plan in place for the area. At minimum, within their own laws, there should be a management plan in place for that kind of development.

"We wanted to make it very clear to [Newfoundland] Premier [Clyde Wells] that the trees and the land have a different value to us than they have to the Premier and the government. Whereas they see it as wastage if it's not developed, and the value doesn't take place until the actual cutting takes place, we were trying to explain to him that the value is already there because the culture and the continuation of the Innu was sustained by the trees."

Shortly after that, a Newfoundland company that was considering a forestry project in the area spontaneously phoned the Innu Nation Office to ask for a permit to cut birch on Innu land. The Innu, however, decided not to grant the permit, because they felt that there was not enough information on the area, and the potential for environmental damage was too great. The company, consequently, did not proceed with the project.

The success that the Innu are having does not sit well with the provincial government. But the Innu have insisted that no development take place on their land without

proper study, and none at all while their land claim — which they prefer to call Innu Rights talks, and the aim for them is simple recognition of their sovereignty — is in negotiation. They entered the claims process reluctantly, and will make no compromises because of it.

"We said to them, if we're not going to be talking about interim protection, if you're not going to talk about interim protection while we're talking to you, we'll take care of interim protection," says Peter Penashue. "Since then, that's what we've done. They've tried to have a forestry project take place, we blocked it, we stopped it, and it's been cancelled.

"And I get a call from the Premier, he says, you can't hold the province hostage. And I said, you can't disregard the negotiations that are taking place. They have to mean something. You can't just authorize projects left and right, and at the end of the negotiations there'll be nothing left for us. That's not right.

"The bottom line is, in terms of interim protection, there's no one in the federal government, the provincial government, they won't do it. The bottom line is that we have to do it."

As well as forestry, the Innu are concerned about hydro developments in Nitassinan. Though they welcomed, of course, the shelving of the Great Whale/James Bay II project, they fear that this will now mean a



Terence Durrant

stronger push to complete the Lower Churchill dam, which would mean flooding and power lines on Innu territory. Now that Great Whale is on hold, the Québec government may have dropped their previous opposition to Lower Churchill.

And, of course, low-level military test flights go on, still being conducted at the rate of about 8,000 flights year by Great Britain, Germany and the Netherlands. "Last week I had a radio-telephone call from the families in a hunting camp," says Peter, "and they were continuously overflown. And they also told me that a lady who was pregnant had to be flown to the hospital... It's this kind of continued harassment by low-level flying that's a problem for our people, who practise traditional lifestyle in the country for about six months of the year. That's why it's important to us that low-level flying still be kept in focus, even though the NATO proposal [for a major base expansion at Goose Bay] is scrapped."

The focus for opposition to low-level flights, is now centred on the key date of 1996, when the agreement between Canada and the countries involved in the testing runs out. The Innu stress the importance of keeping the pressure on the federal government, and on the governments of Britain, Holland and Germany, to ensure that when 1996 comes, the agreement is not renewed.

Within the community of Sheshatshit, the Innu are still planning to take over full control of the local school by September 1992, though the provincial government will provide no funding for this. The Innu Nation Health Commission has also opened a Community Clinic in Sheshatshit, which will operate independently of the regional Health Services office. "The opening of the clinic represents another important step in the process of putting self-government into place," says Peter Penashue.

As Sheshatshit Chief Daniel Ashini says, "We would rather not have to spend our days blockading roads and facing jail, but we've had no choice." And, having no choice, they have simply gone ahead and created choices where none were before — choices for themselves, for the provincial and federal governments, and for all of us.

The Innu have chosen independence and their own traditional ways on the land. We can only hope that everyone else will choose so wisely. ☺

Fire of peace

By SAUL CHERNOG
The ACTivist

Humanity moved a step closer to the Eighth Fire with an exciting concert by 7th Fire and Syren in Toronto October 10.

Syren led off with songs, including Mother Earth, as hundreds of people partook in the festivities, a benefit for the Innu, the Lubicon Cree and the Toronto native newspaper Beedaudjimowin.

Following a dramatic performance, along came the headline band with Allen Deleary, his brother David, Peter Digangi, John Maracle and John Macias.

Flopping about on stage like a fish fresh out of water, lead singer Allen Deleary mixed uplifting antics with powerful lyrics.

The prophecy of the Seventh Fire speaks of a time when a new, light-skinned people emerge and retrace their steps to find sacred ways left behind. If these people are strong enough, the waderium will sound its voice and there will be a rebirth of the Anishnawbe people. The new people will be given an opportunity to choose the right roads leading to the lighting of the Eighth Fire of brotherhood and peace.

The audience responded with enthusiasm to the music and the speakers. With 1992 fast approaching, will those same individuals heed the wisdom they applauded and ensure that the appropriate path is taken? ☺

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At the beginning of 1991, we turned our ACTivist, into the monthly publication you know. We increased free distribution and expanded our coverage of peace and human rights around the world. Meanwhile, the cost of printing paper skyrocketed because of new postal rates.

Now, we need to increase our number of subscribers. At least 1,000 new subscribers would improve the quality of The ACTivist. Your \$10 donation for a subscription is welcome; larger donations help for peace that much more.

This month, ACT for Disarmament has launched an ambitious new strategy for our tenth anniversary. We are recognizing the changes in the world since we were founded (as the Against Cruise Testing Coalition) in 1982. It would be tragic if the peace work of our and old activists was slowed by a lack of funds for the work that now, more than ever, must be done. With your support, we can start to build a better world community.

David W.
David W.

P.S. Your contribution really will make a difference. Please donate generously to ACT for Disarmament.

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October 30, 1991

Dear supporter,

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With your support, we can start to build a peaceful world community.

David Webster
David Webster

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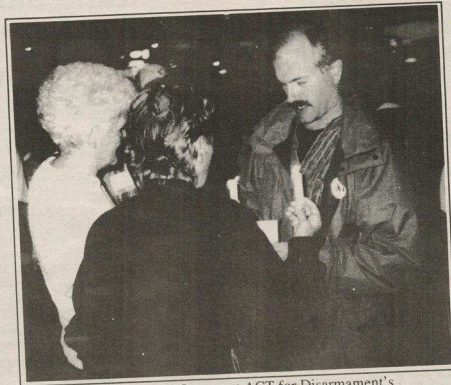
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David Webster

Mayorality candidate Jack Layton at ACT for Disarmament's
Hiroshima-Nagasaki commemoration, August 9, 1991.

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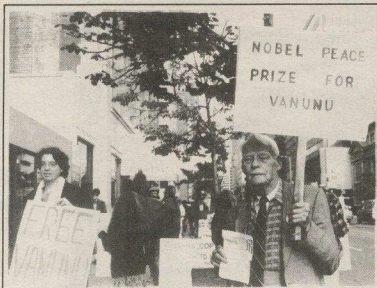
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ACT for Disarmament demonstrated outside the Israeli Consulate on September 30, calling for freedom for Mordechai Vanunu. Vanunu, who blew the whistle on the Israeli nuclear arsenal, was kidnapped five years earlier, and jailed. He is still in prison. (Photo: Vannina Sztainbok)

Voice of Peace jailed

Abie Nathan, a long-time Israeli peace activist, has just returned to jail.

Nathan's crime, repeatedly committed, has been to meet and talk with members of the Palestine Liberation Organization. He maintains that unless citizens can meet face to face, discuss, and negotiate, a fair and lasting peace cannot be achieved. But Israeli law prohibits Israeli citizens from having any contact with the PLO.

Nathan has already served four

months in jail for the same offence, and recently went on a forty-day hunger strike, demanding that the law be repealed. At his trial this October, he was sentenced to eighteen months.

Abie Nathan has not simply met with Yasser Arafat. On his last visit, he talks with the PLO leader led to an official statement that Arafat was prepared to negotiate with Israel and to renounce all acts of violence. Arafat also suggested publicly that the PLO was prepared to recognize the State of Israel. It is such work for peace that has made Abie Nathan so loved and so hated — on his return from the meeting with Arafat, he was met by a crowd of Israeli citizens, some carrying flowers, some carrying nooses (both flowers and nooses were confiscated by the police).

As well as a peace activist, Nathan is a radio personality, broadcasting a pirate station, Voice of Peace, from a ship just outside Israeli waters. The station plays rock music and peace news, and will go off the air while Nathan is in jail.

Aung San Suu Kyi, Burmese Nobel Prize winner, feared missing

By MAGGIE HELWIG
THE ACTIVIST

The winner of the Nobel Peace Prize for 1991 probably still does not know she is even nominated.

Aung San Suu Kyi, leader of Burma's democratic opposition, the elected leader of the Burmese government, and a long-time non-violent activist for democracy and human rights, has been under house arrest for two years, kept from all contact with the outside world. Though the Nobel Committee has sought permission from the Burmese government to inform her that she has won the Peace Prize, the government has refused to allow any access to the cottage where she is held. She has no telephone, radio, or other means of contact with the outside world. The last time she was seen was some nine months ago, when she was spotted at a distance gardening outside her cottage. There is some fear that she may no longer be in her home; some even wonder if she is still alive.

Nor has there been any mention of the award in Burma's state-controlled media, but some diplomats fear that, as the news enters the country by unofficial channels,

the brutal military dictatorship should feel the SLORC (State Law and Order Restoration Committee) may crack down even further to repress dissent.

Meanwhile, the World Bank and most of the powerful countries in the world continue to prop up the SLORC. Twenty-five prisoners in a Burmese jail are now on hunger strike, demanding that the World Bank cut all loans to Burma while the SLORC remains in power. When the World Bank did not respond to their letter, seven of the prisoners slashed themselves in protest, and wrote messages in blood on the walls of their cells. World Bank officers would say only that they really hadn't given the SLORC very much money.

In a particularly grim bit of irony, a U.S. State Department official testified to Congress that one of the countries selling military hardware to Burma is Czechoslovakia. It was Czechoslovak President (and human rights advocate) Vaclav Havel who nominated Aung San Suu Kyi for the Nobel this year.

Canada, too, is involved in supporting the SLORC — Petro-Can is operating in Burma, in cooperation with the junta.



RUSSIA — The Transnational Radical Party in Moscow has issued an appeal on behalf of two Russian draft resisters, currently in hiding.

Aleksandr Yurievich Chernyayev of Moscow, born in 1971, declared his objection to military service in March of 1990. He explained to authorities that he objected to military service because he could not serve in any structure where unconditional obedience to any orders is required. He was held in a mental hospital for three weeks, where the doctors tried to persuade him to agree that he was "mentally disabled" in order to avoid prosecution. He refused, and in May of 1990 a criminal case was opened against him for "evasion of military service." He is now living in Lithuania, where he is avoiding all contact with Soviet authorities. He is being searched for, and must conceal the place of his residence. He is seeking political asylum in some country which does not require military service.

Anatoli Borisovich Byahov, born in 1972, is from Kamyshin in the Volgograd district. He refused military service in October of 1990, explaining that he agreed with many tenets of the Jehovah's Witnesses, including refusal to serve in the military. In December of 1990 he was sentenced to two years in prison. He spent several months in prison, then was transferred to forced labour. Three months later he heard that he was to be sent to a prison camp, and escaped. He too is being searched for and must conceal his whereabouts.

Please write to the following addresses, asking for amnesty for Aleksandr Chernyayev and Anatoli Byahov, and asking the compulsory military service be abolished in Russia (as it has been in many of the Republics): Procurator's Office of the USSR, GSP, Pushkinskaja pl. 15a, Moscow 103793, USSR; Supreme Court of the USSR, ul. Vorovskogo 15, Moscow 121260, USSR.

A provision for alternative service in Russia may not be far off. The Supreme Soviet has established a Working Group to draw up draft legislation for alternative service which includes many peace activists. And a recent seminar on alternative service was attended by several Soviet officials and broadcast on Soviet television.



Classified

Non-violent communication workshops. A model of compassionate communication developed by Marshall Rosenberg, Ph.D., which helps us to make and receive requests, to resolve conflicts, to speak with and listen to one another. We can learn to communicate without violence, value judgements, fear of diminishment or attack. Contact Wendy Simmons at 466-6527.

Introduction to compassionate communication. This workshop will be led by Marshall Rosenberg, Ph.D., founder of the Centre for Nonviolent Communication, who will be in Toronto November 13 and 14, 7:00-10:00 p.m., at the Centre for Christian Studies. \$30.00 for one evening or \$50.00 for both. Contact Wendy Simmons at 466-6527 to register.

Work for peace and earn extra cash. ACT for Disarmament is now

hiring phone and door-to-door canvassers. Fundraisers have all options of retaining up to 50 per cent of all monies raised. Call Stephen, 531-6154.

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Stephen Lewis — World Federalist Award recipient — speaks: TOWARD A STRONGER U.N. 23 November. U of T Faculty Club, 7 pm, \$10 (USD includes banquet). Tom 944-8671; Bruce 481-4593; Melanie 990-5925. International UN lobby needs Canadian representatives. University education required. Call Tom.

Free Erik Larsen

Erik Larsen, one of the Marines imprisoned at Camp Lejeune for his refusal to fight in the Gulf War, is currently standing trial.

As the Gulf War recedes in public memory, and as the attention of the public turns away from those resisters who would not be sent to kill, their sentences are getting longer — witness the recent

cases of Enrique Gonzales and Yolanda Huet-Vaughn, both sentenced to two and a half years in prison. It is important to send letters of support while Erik's trial is still in progress. Letters can be written to: **The Honorable Les Aspin, Chairman, House Armed Services Committee, Washington, DC, 20515, USA.**

Take Bruce Kent home!

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Next issue deadline: Nov. 27.

Going with the bullfighter

By ALICE PALUMBO

Toronto's International Festival of Authors has elevated the idea of the writer as celebrity, or at least as spectacular object. Festival Director Greg Gatenby has said that if confronted with two writers of equal gifts, one of whom was "ordinary," he'd go with the bullfighter every time. So we, the audience at Harbourfront, get to participate in the idea of the writer as extraordinary being, as actor, as presence.

Nevertheless, a lot of the authors did their best to subvert the idea of themselves as Elevated Entertainers. Marge Piercy did entirely what she wanted when she read, choosing to concentrate mostly on her poetry rather than the novel she was here to promote, rifling through sheets of paper, mumbling, talking to the audience, making the auditorium seem more intimate than it actually was. The iconoclasm of her presence and her poems — "Applause for Eve" rejoicing in the Fall from Eden and celebrating Eve's initiative, "Perfect Weather" attacking the plasticine world of network news — made it possible to believe that writing can make a difference in how we live.

Piercy's new novel, *He, She and It*, returns to the science

fiction genre she successfully used in *Woman on the Edge of Time*. The story of an android and his human grandmother, set in a future where corporations run the world (at least, more openly than they do now), and poses questions of individual creation (cut-throat capitalism) versus group creation.

Two later readings, those of Aminata Sow Fall of Senegal and Mohawk writer Beth Brant, illustrated the Festival at its best and worst. Sow Fall is well known in the francophone world, but did not feel comfortable with English. So her reading was given over to a Designated Actor, whose overly theatrical performance was barely adequate. A brilliant, incisive writer was reduced to onstage baggage because she was not up to "performing" at a level the good people of Toronto have come to expect.

But I would recommend Sow Fall's novel, *The Beggar's Strike* (the only one of her three novels available in English) to anyone. This story of a public health official's attempt to clear the streets of beggars surmounted translation and a bad reading to amaze the listener.

Beth Brant, on the other hand, speaks and writes in English, and read brilliantly from her collection of stories, *Food*

and *Spirits*. The story she chose to read, "Swimming Upstream" is about a half-Mohawk woman whose son — taken from her because she is a lesbian and hence "an unfit mother" — has recently died, and who struggles with grief and her attempts to overcome alcoholism (Alcoholics Anonymous proves unhelpful, but a vision had while watching salmon fight upstream finally frees her). Brant made the audience feel the things she wanted them to feel. It's literature as power, as tool for change.

It's readings like Brant's and Piercy's, and the presence of Sow Fall, that give me hope for the festival. ☺



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Yugoslavia: "Everything is burning"

By MARKO HREN

Slovenian peace activist Marko Hren sent the following article when he returned from the 1991 International Peace Bureau conference, hosted in Toronto by ACT for Disarmament. The second part of his account will appear in next month's ACTIVIST.

The plane I took from Vienna to Toronto — to participate in the International Peace Bureau (IPB) conference — was full of emigrants from Croatia. We all got visas at the Canadian embassy in Vienna. The embassy in Belgrade is too difficult to reach — some connections with Belgrade almost don't function and a few days ago telecommunications were also cut.

It is estimated that more than 200,000 people in Croatia have left their homes. Most of them have moved to other parts of Croatia or to Slovenia; many Serbs have flooded into Serbia, and many Serbs as well as Croats have joined their relatives or friends from previous waves of emigration to North America.

The Canadian Embassy in Vienna is far from showing sympathy to a Slovenian travelling to Canada. They ask many questions, despite all the documentation showing that I have no intention of staying in Canada. "For four days only?" And my passport is full. I argue that it is difficult to obtain a new passport because of the non-cooperation between ministries at the republic and federal level.

"And who is this Stephen Dankowich signing the invitation?" Stephen is involved with ACT for Disarmament and has a good record with the Canadian and US intelligence services. One of the best activists — his personality, skills and knowledge are a real example. I love him. But it seems that the Canadian Embassy doesn't.

Finally I got the visa with a comment that they had made a real exception. There was one more check when I passed through Canadian customs at Toronto airport — a half-hour investigation which at the end was said to be an anti-drugs routine. They ask about ACT again,

and I'm really proud for them — it seems they have done such a good job that everyone knows them.

The officer asks me if it was bad over there in Yugoslavia. My answer is that it is also bad in Canada — what difference does it make if it is a Canadian or Yugoslav officer investigating you. He answers he was not a militarist but only doing his job. OK, buddy. I get the impression that Canada doesn't want to hear about struggles for independence and one can understand it. Canada has too many of its own: indigenous people and Quebec are all on the list of those seeking more autonomy.

Toronto is hot and humid these days. All the public services seem to be on strike, which makes the city even more hot. I had to ask myself what made me come here. The cost of travel is high, but I thought it might be good to respond to several requests from the organizers for one of our group to join the conference.

It is really difficult to choose priorities in these times. There are so many meetings all over the place; people want to understand or at least hear more about what is all of a sudden going on in Yugoslavia. At the same time, there is much to do at home. Everything is burning and the fire is impossible to stop.

I ask myself so often these days why a peaceful "revolution" was possible in the Soviet Union and what has made it impossible in Yugoslavia. There are only two answers I can find. First, Yugoslavia always had a military culture, with strong patriarchal patterns; there was no education for peace and no pacifist tradition. Second, Serbia and (to a lesser extent) Croatia are extremely unlucky having incredibly bad leaders (read "warriors"). In the Soviet Union, a decisive factor was probably that there was a relatively moderate leadership in all the crucial republics and in the personality of the federal president.

On my first morning in Toronto, the Globe and Mail and Toronto Star had Croatia on the front page. Sipe Mesic, the current president of Yugoslavia, has declared that the military is carrying

out a coup; EC observers have declared their mission failed; the fighting has got heavier; the federal military is openly on the side of Serbian troops.

Whenever I have gone abroad in the past few years, something dramatic has happened in Yugoslavia. When I was in New York three years ago, my friends from Mikro Adas (a computer cooperative) were put in a military prison, and that was the start of rapid changes. Three years? Is it true, that three years passed so quickly? It must be since my son Ram is two and a half now, and he was not alive at that time.


A year ago, when we were in Sweden, for a War Resisters International social defence conference, the military for the first time seriously intervened in Slovenia, occupying the territorial defence headquarters in Ljubljana. In May

this year, when there was a Helsinki Citizens Assembly seminar in Venice, there was the first military confrontation in Maribor, Slovenia, and the first civilian victim.

It is a strange feeling — being far away for a couple of days and knowing that you are returning to a much more uncertain reality at home. When I think about these conferences abroad, I remember all those warnings and appeals we made — and unfortunately it is all becoming true, more than we could ever have imagined.

During the IPB conference we passed a resolution recommending UN member states to find ways of activating UN mechanisms in connection with Yugoslavia and the Soviet Union (in other words, in the multi-state states which are disintegrating). At first the participants voted against discussing the

UN and Yugoslavia as the UN has no mandate to get involved in "internal affairs". But after people heard from the Canadian newspapers that Yugoslav federal institutions no longer work and that the EC had failed in its mission, they dedicated 10 minutes to draft the resolution.

My additional argument was that it would be a lost opportunity if the peace movement was not among the first calling for the internationalization of the conflicts. It sounds crazy but a few days after the IPB conference, the Canadian government was the first to demand that the UN should get involved in the Yugoslav crisis. Who knows, perhaps the IPB even inspired the Canadian government. The whole word seems to be under magical influences, why shouldn't the peace movement try some? 

November Peace Calendar

November 6 — Toronto Region General Electric Boycott Committee meets, 7:30 pm, 761 Queen St. West. Meeting will be followed by a showing of the video "Deadly Deception" at 9:30

November 9 — Women's meeting to plan a conference on violence against women as an issue for the peace movement, 12 noon, 622 Shaw St. Potluck lunch, all women welcome.

November 11 — Remembrance Day

November 13 — ACT for Disarmament General Meeting, 7 pm, ACT Peace Centre, 736 Bathurst St. (basement)

November 20 — Poetry reading with ACT members James Deahl and Maggie Helwig, Partisan Gallery, 1140 Queen St. W.

November 27 — ACT for Disarmament General Meeting, 7 pm, ACT Peace Centre, 736 Bathurst St. (basement)

November 30 — Petition blitz for Dr. Yolanda Huet-Vaughn, prisoner for peace, 12-4 pm. at locations around the city

December 1 (Prisoners for Peace Day) — Petition blitz continues, 12-3 pm, followed by a rally and demonstration at the City Hall Peace Garden at 4 pm, proceeding to the US Consulate. Free Yolanda Huet-Vaughn and all prisoners for peace!

December 6 — Commemoration of Montreal Massacre. International day of protest against violence against women

December 7 — 16th anniversary of the Indonesian invasion of East Timor

ACT for Disarmament Chapters and Contacts

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EAST TIMOR

A CALL FOR PEACE AND JUSTICE

The "New World Order" sounds pretty hollow to the people of East Timor, victims of a genocidal invasion too long ignored by the world. Now, Canadians are raising their voices to call for peace and justice for East Timor. You can help by signing this open letter.

You either believe in freedom or you don't.

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

When Iraq invaded tiny Kuwait, Canada joined the world in outrage, and even sent troops to reverse the invasion. East Timor got no such support.

For reasons we don't completely understand, the Canadian government supported Indonesia at the United Nations and in the marketplace, and has even sold arms to Indonesia's military regime. Sixteen years later, the Indonesian army continues to occupy East Timor. We think the Canadian government should end its support.

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

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

- Support the United Nations position that East Timor must allowed to choose its own future, not continue as an Indonesian colony
- Support the call for peace talks, without any preconditions, between Indonesia and the East Timorese resistance
- Ban the sale of military equipment to Indonesia



Elaine Briere



The East Timor Alert Network invites all groups and individuals to sign this open letter. All endorsements must be received no later than **December 10, 1991** (International Human Rights Day). The open letter will appear as a full-page ad in *Saturday Night* magazine. We ask that groups contribute \$200 and individuals \$50 towards the cost of publishing the ad. However, inability to pay the full amount will not exclude your name from appearing among the signatories. **Tax-deductible donations can be made to the Canadian Council of Churches**, other cheques should be made out directly to the East Timor Alert Network. In either case, send to the ETAN contact nearest you.

For Western Canada: 104—2120 West 44th, Vancouver BC, V6M 2G2. tel (604) 264-9973.

For Ontario and Atlantic provinces: PO Box 562, Station P, Toronto, M5S 2T1. tel (416) 531-6154.

For Québec: 1375 Sherwood Cres., Town of Mount Royal, H3R 3C8, tel (514) 933-6695.

Thank you for joining the call for peace and justice for East Timor.

What you can do to end the genocide in Timor

1. Educate yourself:

- Contact the East Timor Alert Network for more information.
- Books with good background on East Timor include *FUNDU: The Unfinished Saga of East Timor* (José Ramos Horta, Red Sea Press, 1987), *Indonesia's Forgotten War* (John G. Taylor, Zed Books, 1991), *The War Against East Timor* (Carmel Budiardjo and Licm Soei Liong, 1984), and *The Washington Connection and Third World Fascism* (Noam Chomsky, Black Rose Books, 1979). A new novel set in East Timor, *The Redundancy of Courage* (Timothy Mo, Chatto & Windus, 1991) has been shortlisted for the prestigious Booker Prize.

2. Educate and organize others:

- Read and circulate "East Timor Update," a monthly news service edited by ETAN.
- Organize a screening for your friends of the video "East Timor: Betrayed but not Beaten" on the war in East Timor, and Canada's shameful role in it.
- Invite an ETAN speaker to attend as meeting of your group, school, union....

3. Lobby the government:

- Sign the ETAN open letter on East Timor, and encourage others to sign also.
- Write to Prime Minister Brian Mulroney, External Affairs Minister Barbara McDougall, your MP, and the external affairs critics of the other parties. Ask them to work for human rights in East Timor; support a ban on Canadian arms sales to Indonesia; link Canadian aid to respect for human rights; and support East Timor's right to self-determination at the United Nations. All can be contacted at: House of Commons, Ottawa Ont., K1A 0A6. Postage is free.
- Urge your MP to join Parliamentarians for East Timor. (PET contacts: Svend Robinson—NDP, David Kilgour—Liberal, David MacDonald—Conservative.)
- Lobbying postcards, asking the United Nations to back the call of Timorese resistance leader Xanana Gusmão for peace talks without preconditions, are also available from ETAN.

4. Take action:

- Collect signatures on a petition to free East Timor. Contact ETAN for copies.
- Leaflet and/or protest at your local MP's office if they refuse to take action on East Timor.
- Ask visiting External Affairs officials and public figures to support East Timor. One immediate action they can take is to sign the ETAN open letter — if they refuse, protest against their inaction.
- Expand protests to include vigils, street theatre, and civil disobedience.
- Boycott Canadian companies that help prop up the Indonesian dictatorship: Bata Shoes, General Electric Canada, Inco, and MacMillan Bloedel, to name just a few.

5. Help others take action:

- Make a donation to ETAN's work, and encourage others to do the same. Contact us for information on how you can get a tax deduction for your donation.



When evil-doing comes
like falling rain, nobody
calls out 'stop!'

When crimes begin to pile
up they become invisible.
When suffering become
unendurable the cries are
no longer heard. The
cries, too, fall like rain in
summer.

Bertolt Brecht

Elaine Briere

6. Get groups you're involved with to take up the issue of East Timor:

Anti-hunger groups and relief agencies can make East Timor an area of concern and push for free access of relief to the **people of East Timor** (rather than the Indonesian authorities). East Timor has one of the highest infant mortality rates in the world (25.4%, according to the Third World Guide, compared to 9.7% in Indonesia), and the Indonesian army uses food as a weapon in its war against the Timorese.

Church and religious groups, especially Catholic groups, have a responsibility to stand with the predominantly Catholic Timorese in their struggle for peace and justice. Groups can

- support the call of Bishop Belo of East Timor for a referendum on independence
- support the rights of the Church to intervene on behalf of human rights, by sending letters of solidarity to Bishop Belo and asking Indonesian authorities and church leaders to end their intimidations of the Timorese Church.
- call on Canadian Bishops and religious officials, and on the Pope, to stand in solidarity with the Timorese people and Church.
- raise the issue of Indonesia's genocidal forced birth control programme in East Timor, said to include involuntary sterilization of women, forced abortions, and murder of newborn babies in hospitals.
- investigate ways of sending aid to the suffering through church channels

Human rights groups can include East Timor among their concerns. Amnesty International recently announced plans to focus on Asia, where East Timor and Indonesia are among the group's principal concerns. Canadian advocacy for human rights has the most potential to be effective in countries — like Indonesia

— where Canadian aid money plays an important role.

The media in Canada ignores East Timor for the most part. Listeners to CBC Radio's Media File called it one of the two most overlooked stories of 1990. What does get reported often follows the government line without soliciting the other side of the story.

- if you're in the media, cover the situation in East Timor and in Indonesia, and fight for your story with your editor or producer. "Canadian angles" are profuse, and new information is coming out of East Timor every day.
- if not, write letters to the editor or opinion pieces for your local newspaper, call radio and television stations, and ask they give the Timor story the attention it deserves.
- follow developments as they happen by reading "East Timor Update," a monthly ETAN news service. Republish the bulletin in whole or in part, and pass on the information in it to others.

Peace groups should include a focus on ending the war in East Timor, which has claimed the lives of over a third of the Timorese population.

- work for a ban on all weapons sales to Indonesia.
- call for sanctions against Indonesia until they allow self-determination for East Timor. If the "New World Order" holds for Kuwait, how much more should it hold for the genocidal occupation of East Timor?
- demand that the UN charter, which recognizes the right to self-determination for all countries, be applied to East Timor.

Resource centres, libraries and bookstores can carry any of the several fine books and videos about East Timor.

Student groups can stand with the young people of East Timor, who have been subjected to a reign of terror for their nonviolent protests against the occupation of their homeland.

- send letters of support to Timorese students, and protest when they are arrested, interrogated, tortured or "disappeared."
- raise funds for a scholarship for a Timorese student at a Canadian university.
- many Canadian universities (British Columbia, Simon Fraser, Guelph and Dalhousie foremost among them) are involved in joint programmes with Indonesian universities. Demand that your university follow the lead of the University of Toronto and refuse this co-operation.
- write to map-makers and the Canadian government to demand that East Timor be reinstated on maps printed for classroom use (just as the Israeli-occupied West Bank is marked separately from Israel), as the UN has not recognized Indonesia's annexation of East Timor.
- get East Timor and Indonesia added to the curriculum of geography, politics and other courses. Many resources suitable for classroom use, both at high school and university level, are available: contact ETAN for details.

Ethnic communities: materials on East Timor are available in Portuguese, Chinese and French as well as English. Contact ETAN for details.



1965-74

In 1965, General Suarto comes to power in a bloodbath that claims the lives of one million Indonesians and declares his country open to Western investment and business. Canada is among the countries to embrace the new dictator. With the early 1970s opening of a nickel mine by Inco on the island of Sulawesi, Canada becomes a major investor in Indonesia.

1974

April: Military coup in Portugal topples the fascist Caeano-Salazar regime, beginning the process of decolonization in Portugal's overseas colonies. Political parties are formed in East Timor. **October:** Indonesia launches Operation Komodo to destabilize East Timor.

1975

August: a short civil war leaves East Timor under the control of the pro-independence Fretilin party, which invites Portugal to return and complete the decolonization process. Portugal refuses. **December 7:** Indonesia invades East Timor.

December 9: Kingston area member of parliament Doug Alkenbrack (Conservative) asks why the Canadian government is investing taxpayers' money in a pulp and paper plant in Indonesia "in view of the recent invasion of Portuguese Timor and the apparent corrupt and brutal regime of (Indonesian) President Suharto?" This was the only question put forward in the House of Commons on East Timor in ten years.

December 12: The United Nations General Assembly (72 to 9 with 44 abstentions) calls for an immediate withdrawal of Indonesian forces from East Timor. **Canada abstains.**

1976

June: President Suharto visits Canada and receives a \$200 million mixed aid package from the government of Pierre Trudeau. It is well known that widespread killings are happening in East Timor.

September: Sources in the Timorese Catholic Church estimate that 100,000 have been killed in the war between Indonesian forces and the Fretilin resistance. Some of the army's ammunition is made by Valcartier Industries of Montreal.

1978

Indonesia completes encirclement operations around Mount Ramelau; Fretilin leader Nicolau Lobato is killed. Aid workers describe massive famine in East Timor as "worse than Biafra." Canadian Ambassador to Indonesia Glen Shortliffe is a member of the first delegation allowed into the country after incendiary bombing of the interior farmlands. Shortliffe recommends the Canadian government follow the U.S. position and oppose resolutions at the UN supporting East Timor's right to self-determination.

1979

Relief services allowed into East Timor, with foreign staff limited to four people. Canada donates \$200,000 to the Red Cross for work in East Timor.

Canada & East Timor: a chronology

1980

Canada votes against a UN resolution calling for the withdrawal of Indonesian troops from East Timor. At the same time Canada "strongly" endorses a UN resolution calling for the immediate withdrawal of foreign troops and reaffirming the right of the Afghan people to self-determination, and gives \$13 million to help Afghan refugees.

1981

Fretilin reorganizes under the leadership of Kay Rala Xanana Gusmao. Indonesia launches Operation Security, forcing villagers to act as a "human fence" for Indonesian soldiers. Red Cross expelled from East Timor.

1982

The UN passes its tenth resolution recognizing East Timor's right to self-determination and calling for humanitarian aid to the Timorese people. **Canada votes against the resolution**, which passes by just four votes.

1983

A temporary cease-fire ends when General Benny Murdani is appointed Commander-in-Chief of the Indonesian armed forces. Operation Clean Sweep is launched and Murdani says the resistance will be crushed "without mercy." The Center for Defense Information in Washington identifies the death toll in East Timor — now said by the Church to be at least 200,000 killed since the invasion — the second-highest of the decade, trailing only Pol Pot's Cambodia. Indonesia East Timor Programme launched in Peterborough, Ont. to expose Canada's complicity in genocide.

1984

External Affairs hosts an arms bazaar for ten Canadian companies at the Mandarin Hotel in Jakarta. External Affairs Minister Jean Chrétien visits Indonesia and asks officials about killings and arrests in East Timor. "I don't intend to criticize you," he says. "I just want to know the facts."

1985

Amnesty International launches worldwide campaign on East Timor, coordinated in Canada by AI Nova Scotia.

1986

Indonesia starts Operation Eradicate. Thousands more deaths and imprisonments, including the massacre of the entire village of Fo-mono. U.S. National Conference of Catholic Bishops denounces Indonesia's forced birth-control and sterilization programme for East Timor as tantamount to genocide.

February: External Affairs announces the sale of Pratt and Whitney engines for Indonesia's Bell-100 helicopters. Eight Canadian weapons merchants have pro-

duction facilities in Indonesia. **Canadian weapons "play an important part in the war in East Timor,"** according to Fretilin representative to the UN José Ramos Horta.

June: Canada participates in Indonesian military air show in Jakarta.

October: The Indonesia East Timor Programme, with help from ACT for Disarmament, the Alliance for Non-Violent Action, and other groups, hosts an Ontario speaking tour for Fretilin's José Ramos Horta.

1987

Indonesian Foreign Minister Mochtar Kusumaatmadja visits the Canadian parliament. Liberal MP Roland de Corneille accuses Indonesia of "genocide" in East Timor. External Affairs Minister Joe Clark says he is satisfied that there are no longer human rights abuses in East Timor — a position directly contrary to that of Amnesty International and other human rights watchdogs.

April: Canadian Ambassador Jack Whitleton lends legitimacy to Indonesian "elections" by accompanying Foreign Minister Mochtar on a campaign swing through East Timor, one of just three ambassadors (East Germany is another) to do so. Mochtar "wins" the election in East Timor, receiving more votes in some areas than there are registered voters.

September: European Parliament votes 164 to 12, with 15 abstentions, to call for Indonesia to leave East Timor.

October: The East Timor Alert Network is formed, sponsored by the Canadian Council of Churches. An ETAN representative attends the UN Special Committee on Decolonization, held every August. ETAN has been represented there every year since.

1988

Six Canadian MPs, representing all three parties, visit East Timor as part of a tour promoting trade and investment ties with Indonesia. The MPs note in their report that "human rights did not seem to be a subject of much concern" and that East Timor had good "potential in agrribusiness and tourism." Meanwhile, parliamentarians genuinely interested in investigating the human rights situation are barred from the territory.

The Canadian International Development Agency starts "The Canada Fund to the East Timorese." All funds are directed to the Indonesian government which is rapidly replacing the Timorese with Indonesian settlers.

Former Conservative External Affairs Minister Flora MacDonald (1979-80) tells a reporter that her department "never considered East Timor important enough" to brief her on it.

1989

International Parliamentarians for East Timor gains supporters in the Canadian parliament. Conservative MP David Kilgour attends the UN Decolonization hearings to speak for the rights of East

Timor.

October: Pope John Paul II visits East Timor and calls for Indonesia to "respect the rights which make us human." Indonesian police attack youths protesting for independence, arresting and torturing 40, according to the Bishop of East Timor. Meanwhile, over 100 people attend an international conference on East Timor in Ottawa and call on the Canadian government to take action to promote human rights in East Timor. External Affairs representatives attend unofficially, but the government ignores the call. Days later, Canada takes part in the U.S.-led PACEX naval war games off the Soviet coast, along with other U.S. allies — including Indonesia.

1990

Timorese youths in the capital, Dili, and other cities, begin a nonviolent uprising against Indonesian civil and military authorities. A new reign of terror begins, including patrols by death squads composed of off-duty soldiers. Some student leaders appeal to External Affairs Minister Clark for help, but receive no response. Timorese Bishop Carlos Felipe Ximenes Belo writes in a letter smuggled out of the country that he fears he will meet the fate of murdered Archbishop of El Salvador Oscar Romero, but repeats his call for the UN to sponsor a referendum on independence for East Timor.

1991

A new Indonesian military offensive aims at capturing resistance leader Xanana Gusmao. General Benny Murdani, now Defence Minister, promises again to "crush" all opposition. Resistance forces survive the onslaught and are still engaged in fighting.

February: The new Committee Against War in the Gulf is the first Indonesian group to publicly call for a referendum on independence for East Timor. At their first demonstration, members of the group are attacked by police.

March: UN secretary general Javier Perez de Cuellar tells a Parliamentarians for East Timor delegation that East Timor has the same right to self-determination as Namibia and other countries.

September: Reports from East Timor say the military terror campaign against the indigenous population is at its highest peak yet, in preparation for an expected visit of Portuguese parliamentarians to investigate the human rights situation, under UN auspices. External Affairs Minister Barbara MacDonough rejects a call in parliament for Canada to accord the same respect to the Timor situation that it has to Kuwait.

The International Peace Bureau, meeting in Toronto for its 1991 assembly, supports an international campaign to back Xanana's call for peace talks without preconditions under UN auspices, and demands a ban on all weapons sales to Indonesia.

October: Prime Minister Brian Mulroney says Canadian aid will be tied to respect for human rights in the future. Meanwhile, CIDA figures show Canada gave \$266.5 million in aid to Indonesia in the five-year period 1984-89, making Indonesia the top non-Commonwealth recipient of Canadian aid dollars. More than 300 Canadian companies invest millions of dollars more in the corrupt Indonesian economy.

EAST TIMOR UPDATE

Number 5 — November 1991

In December 1975, just ten days after declaring its independence from Portugal, the tiny southeast Asian country of East Timor was invaded by its neighbour Indonesia. In the decade-and-a-half since, 250,000 people — over a third of the indigenous Timorese population — have been killed. Genocide and massive human rights violations — everything from rape to indiscriminate killings to forced abortions — go on to this day. But so does the struggle for freedom of the East Timorese people. It is largely the support of countries like Canada that allows Indonesia to maintain its occupation.

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Fear of reprisals after MP mission

"Our situation has worsened in the past few weeks," writes East Timor's Bishop, Carlos Felipe Ximenes Belo in a letter recently received by a Portuguese bishop. "As the visit of the Portuguese parliamentary delegation nears, the [Indonesians] have once again started a campaign of terror, of threats. Anyone who approaches the Portuguese will be killed. There is no climate of freedom...."

Belo's voice is just one of those raised in appeal to the world to watch East Timor during — and especially after — the planned visit of 13 Portuguese members of parliament to their former Timor colony. The visit has been planned under United Nations auspices for early November, but may be delayed further.

The East Timor Alert Network joined other solidarity organizations from Japan, Australia, France, Portugal, the Netherlands and England in an appeal issued on October 14 for non-government organizations to remain watchful through the MPs' visit and afterwards. The ten solidarity groups, "while anxiously hoping for the visit to take place, are apprehensive about a wave of repression that will occur afterwards," the appeal said.

Since August:

- additional contingents of troops from Indonesia have been stationed in all parts of East Timor, often in civilian dress;
- meetings have been held by the military to intimidate the population and force them to demonstrate for integration with Indonesia and display Indonesian flags during the visit;
- Timorese para-military units have been formed for intimidation and to punish dissidents, in order to spread fear among the population;
- other groups have been preparing to provoke confrontation and confusion during the visit
- there have been more detentions and "disappearances";
- students and Timorese government officials thought to sympathize with the resistance have been sent away from East Timor, in order to defuse opposition.

Both Bishop Belo and resistance leader Kay Rala Xanana Gusmão have called for a UN peacekeeping force to be stationed in East Timor during the visit and for several months after. Xanana has repeatedly called for a cease-fire and peace talks without preconditions, under the auspices of the UN.

The call for peacekeeping forces has been echoed by exiled leaders of three Timorese splinter parties who in 1975 called on Indonesia to annex East Timor. The leaders of Apodeti, KOTA and Trabalhista said that NATO should provide the troops if the UN

refused, since Portugal is a NATO member.

The East Timor solidarity groups fear that guarantees in the agreement that allows the MPs' visit are insufficient, "in particular with regard to security, total liberty of movement and contacts, and safeguards that no reprisals will be taken against the population in the wake of the visit... these principles are already being violated."

Nineteen Catholic bishops from around the world also called for measures to safeguard the Timorese people from reprisals in connection with the MPs' visit. The bishops wrote to UN secretary general Javier Perez de Cuellar "to express our grave concern for the safety of the people of East Timor" and suggest steps that could be taken to enforce Indonesia's promise not to punish any Timorese for speaking to the MPs.

The mission is to be led by Angelo Correia of Portugal's governing Social Democratic Party, who served in the Portuguese army in East Timor from 1969 to 1971 and speaks Tétun, the most widespread indigenous Timorese language. Representatives of the Socialist, Communist, Christian Democratic and Green parties are also among the delegation.

Doubts about the mission resurfaced when the Indonesian-appointed Governor of East Timor, Mario Viegas Carrascalão, said the MPs would be allowed to speak only to Indonesian government officials — a direct violation of the visit agreement. "The Portuguese should be objective," Carrascalão said. "When they have arrived here, they should not talk to any East Timorese anywhere at their own will.... None of the delegation will be allowed to leave the group and talk to people."

Another hitch, one that may derail the long-awaited MPs' visit altogether, is Indonesian insistence on a veto over all journalists invited along. Indonesian Foreign



Minister Ali Alatas, in New York campaigning for the job of UN secretary general, first tried to have two Portuguese journalists removed, then withdrew his objections to all but one, Australian freelancer Jill Jolliffe. Jolliffe, author of two books on East Timor whose articles have appeared in papers around the world, including the *Globe and Mail*, is "not a journalist anymore but a crusader for Frettilin [the major party in the Timorese resistance]," Alatas said. Part of the animosity Indonesian officials feel for Jolliffe stems from her

role in spreading the truth about five Australian journalists who were killed by invading Indonesian troops at Balibé, East Timor, in 1975.

According to the terms of reference agreed to at the UN, each side would "communicate" a list of journalists to the other. There is no provision for Indonesia to block any names.

Preparations for the visit have been suspended pending settlement of the dispute over Jolliffe, with Portugal vowing not to back down.

Senate supports Timor

The U.S. Senate in September joined the House of Representatives in passing a Sense of the Congress resolution that called on President George Bush to reverse his support for Indonesia's occupation of East Timor. "The President should urge the government of Indonesia to take action to end all forms of human rights violations in East Timor and to permit full freedom of expression in East Timor" and allow free access to international human rights and relief organizations, the motion said. It marks the first time the U.S. Congress has taken a stand on the Timor question.

Ramos Horta back

Former Frettilin representative to the United Nations, José Ramos Horta, has been appointed external representative for CNRM (the armed resistance in East Timor). Resistance leader Xanana Gusmão says he "is mandated to represent the CNRM in all matters in the field of diplomacy." Ramos Horta is author of *FUNU: The Unfinished Saga of East Timor* (available from ETAN).