

the ACTivist

Newspaper of the ACT for Disarmament Coalition • Volume 8 Issue 1 • January 1992 • Pay what you can

Subscribe

Only \$10 donation for
12 issues a year
— See back page —

1992

BOYCOTT



COLUMBUS

Schoolchildren have spent generations learning banal nursery rhymes about Christopher Columbus' so-called 'discovery' of North America — Turtle Island — in 1492. Indigenous peoples of Turtle Island have spent generations trying to combat the Columbus myth. Now, five hundred years later, 1992 will be a year both for official celebrations of the Portuguese captain's ill-fated attempt to find a new route to India, and for concerted efforts on the part of native peoples to remind their colonizers that they were in no need of being 'discovered.'

One especially picturesque incident has already taken place. This fall, three ships — called, of course, the *Niña*, the *Pinta*, and the *Santa Maria* — set sail under the command of one of Columbus' descendants, trying to retrace his voyage from Europe. But when the *Santa Maria* docked in Puerto Del Rey, Puerto Rico, in December, it was immediately, non-violently occupied by a large group of Gitksan-Wet'suwet'en people from British Columbia, including their hereditary chiefs, who had sailed there in order to meet the Columbus crew.

"We simply jumped on, told them we were seizing the boat, and we started singing our songs and we sat down. They were very stunned," said Gitksan activist Art Loring. The protestors made a number of demands, including apolo-

gies for the celebration and for 500 years of repression, and asked the ship to fly the Gitksan-Wet'suwet'en flag. The Spanish Consul met with them and agreed to pass their demands on to the Spanish government, and the protestors left the ship voluntarily. "We have registered opposition to the Columbus celebrations. We've raised the public conscience," said hereditary Gitksan chief Wil Seeks.

Events around the 500 year anniversary are being planned by hundreds of native groups and solidarity groups throughout the continent, including walks across the United States and actions at the Nevada nuclear test site, which is built on Shoshone land.

In Toronto, **The Moment Project** is already holding a series of workshops intended to educate and broaden understanding of issues facing indigenous peoples in the past, and today. The monthly workshop series is called '500 Years of Resistance: Redefining Canada in 1992.' Four workshops have already been held, and four are still to come — for more information, contact **The Moment Project**, 416-469-1123.

The Artists' Environment Forum will be hosting **Project Indigenous Restoration** again this April. It promises to be even more powerful than last year's event, with four days of talks, traditional ceremonies, and visits to schools by native

teachers, elders and chiefs from around the world. **Project Indigenous Restoration** will take place April 19-22; for more information call Danny Beaton at 921-0014.

The **United Coalition Against Racism** at the University of Toronto will be holding a panel discussion on the 500 years on January 24th. The **Martinsday** committee (which commemorates Martin Luther King day annually) plans to make the 500 years a major focus of their week of activities in late January. For more information contact Charles Roach at 651-4611.

The **Torontoh Support Group** is also planning activities — call 964-7337.

- 500 years since the European colonization of Turtle Island
- 100th anniversary of the International Peace Bureau
- 10th anniversary of ACT for Disarmament
- One year since the Gulf War (see page 2)
- Life During Wartime 1992 (see pages 4-5)
- Activists' New Years Resolutions and Peace Action 92 (see page 8)

Happy birthday ACT!



In 1992, ACT for Disarmament is celebrating its tenth year of activism. Since its founding as the **Against Cruise Testing Coalition**, ACT has been at the forefront of peace, human rights

and environmental work. Join us for another ten years of protest and celebration!

And don't miss this year's Annual Spring Protest — it's going to be a party!

Ten years of ACTivism — which way forward now?

General Meetings to discuss the future direction of ACT for Disarmament and build **Peace Action 92**
Please attend! We need your input!

Sunday, January 26, 2 pm, 736 Bathurst St.

What is the role of a peace group like ACT in the post-Cold War world — and how can we best go about filling that role? What do you want ACT to do? What can you do for ACT?

Sunday, February 2, 2 pm, 736 Bathurst St.

The ACTivist: what should ACT's publication be? How often should we publish? What should we publish? How should the editorial collective function?

If you can't attend one or both of the meetings, please contact the ACT Peace Centre and tell us what you think!

THE ACTIVIST

Volume 8, #1
January 1992

Published monthly by ACT for Disarmament, 736 Bathurst Street, Toronto, Canada M5S 2R4

Second class mailing registration #6769

Subscriptions are available with a donation of \$10 or more (\$25 for institutions and funded agencies) to ACT for Disarmament
Contributors this issue: John Bacher, Janet Creery, Stephen Dankowich, Maggie Helwig, Vannina Sztainbok, David Webster
Opinions expressed in this paper are not necessarily those of ACT

Missiles and Memory

When I wrote the editorial for last January's *ACTivist*, I was sitting in the ACT office at three in the morning listening to radio reports of SCUD missile attacks on Israel and the carpet-bombing of Iraq.

Now the Gulf Insta-War is receding with frightening speed into the back rooms of memory, leaving behind not even very many sensationalist paperbacks, and no political analysis at all from anyone except the tireless Noam Chomsky. There are all kinds of lessons the peace movement might have learned from January and February of 1991. In fact, I think we have taken in almost none of them.

If anything, the U.S.-contrived McWar has led us to be even more dependent on the Big Events in order to take action. We have not understood that the underpinning of the political world is the hundreds of 'small' regional conflicts, civil wars, violations of human rights, the 'little' invasions and attacks. We have not taken on the responsibility, as a peace movement, of understanding these tensions and the forces behind them, and developing an analysis based on self-determination, human rights, and non-violence, that would allow us to comprehend and respond to local wars. We are still letting superpowers define for us which wars 'matter' and which do not. And, should any of these local wars flare up into a large-scale war, as one did last year, we will be equally confounded and slow to respond.

OPINION

Many of us have not overcome a knee-jerk anti-Americanism which — for example — allowed some peace activists to take seriously Saddam Hussein's claim that he invaded Kuwait in order to help the poor Palestinians.

We have sunk back into an almost utter neglect of the Middle East, punctuated only by occasional reports of the devastation in Iraq today. Iraq, having taken part in a war involving a superpower, has at least earned a right to exist on our political maps. But when is the last time you heard about any other Middle Eastern country? We are not even paying much attention to Israel and Palestine right now. And we are certainly not paying much attention to Asia or Africa.

We have not even seriously followed up on the drastic revelation of the need for radical reform of the United Nations — or the idea that, if such radical reform is not forthcoming and the grip of the Security Council permanent members is not somehow broken, the U.N. may be incapable of doing much seriously useful work for peace.

The big focus, insofar as the scattered forces of the peace movement may be said to have a focus right now, is the breakup of the Soviet empire — the other superpower, the other country that 'matters.'

But in fact, we are not focussing that much on anything. There is a certain amount of action, but a genuine crisis of direction, throughout the peace movement. One of the great successes of the Gulf War, from the viewpoint of its perpetrators, was that it left us so confused, so disoriented and discouraged.

We have not looked at our own structures and tactics and evaluated properly what worked and what didn't, what makes sense and what doesn't, what we mean and what we do. And we certainly haven't looked at the underlying attitudes that plunged so many activists into a state of massive depression because we didn't somehow "stop the war."

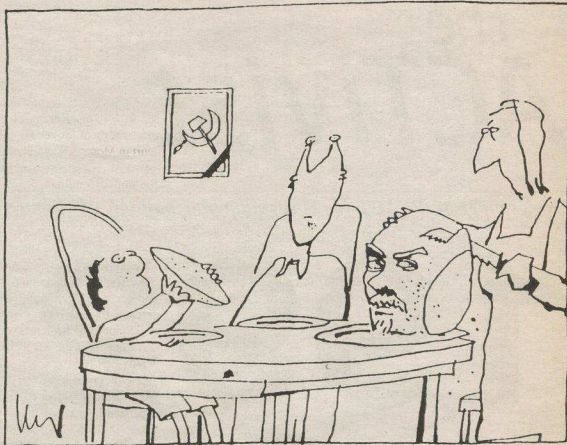
In a world of fast food, fast fun and fast wars, we are assuming that the way to make change is to move ever faster, trying as hard as we can to be like the military-industrial complex we can never catch up to. We wait for 'the jets per minute' to reach a satisfactory level, then we rush to respond. We have not learned a thing about patience and persistence and the slow work of peace.

Instead, we have been content to re-learn lessons we all knew already, like the startling fact that the mainstream media is going to follow the government line to a large extent.

George Bush made a great point of explaining the he was not going to fight the Vietnam War again. He, at least, in his own diabolical way is learning from history. I would hate to think that the peace movement is not at least as smart as George Bush.

—Maggie Helwig

OPINION



We wish all your members good health and good fortune for 1992. Let's continue to work together for a nuclear-free, just world!

Young Koreans United of Canada
Toronto

Dear Friends at ACT for Disarmament — Peace and Joy!
Fr. Edwin Galea
Toronto

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year for all ACTIVISTS
On behalf of the "BOKOR"
Catholic Base Community
Budapest, Hungary

The Whole Family of ACTIVIST
— It is a pleasure knowing you and working with you. See you soon.
Korea Times Limited
Toronto

Many thanks for the hard work you folks are doing. Have a good holiday season.
Wilson Head
Toronto

Have a beautiful holiday season
From the Board of Directors and Staff of the Bathurst St. Centre for Peace and Justice
Toronto

Merry Christmas
From the Direct Democracy Party!
Toronto

Dear ACT Crew;
Greetings from Lotusland ... We too have a NDP government. Keep in mind this experience can be added to the evidence for the government always getting in. First thing the NDP did was announce they have had a change of heart and are not going to freeze tuition. What a shock, eh? ...

Take care and keep in touch
Susan Moore
Vancouver

Jo Peacenic Awards 1991

There it was, writ large in the sky for all to see: an American bald eagle repeatedly dive-bombing a Canada goose in the skies above Maine.

"It was two days of terror in the skies ... that eagle really wanted that goose," gaped one worried onlooker.

In the battle of national birds, the Canada goose — soon nicknamed Guts — came off with numerous scratches and minor wounds — but it lived. Veterinarians guessed it would fly again in four to six weeks.

Wonder if Canada will make it?

Funny old year, wasn't it? Maybe it would be better to just forget the whole thing, but everybody else is looking back right now. So here we give you: Jo Peacenic's 1991 (Dis)Honour Roll.

Doublepeak award: The Gulf warmongers, for whom bombing runs became "surgical strikes" or "servicing the target," buildings became "hard targets" (to distinguish them from "soft targets," that is to say, people), and civilian deaths became "collateral damage."

Necrophilia award: Various communist parties, sects, tendencies and grouplets who continued to insist the Soviet Union was The Most Progressive Country in the World until it started to fall apart. With an honourable mention to Babs McDougall, who said she could "work with" the military plotters who overthrew Gorbachev in August.

Devious hero: A tie. Boris Yeltsin, hero of the August coup, who within weeks of his rise to the pinnacle of power in the Most Progressive Country in the World had declared a state of war against one of his own provinces and threatened to nuke those pesky Ukrainians; and our own Lynn Brian, Gulf war hero (he must be, there's a Desert Storm trading card with his mug on it, complete with the word "LEADER" on a khaki background).

Missing the point award: Southern News, for a story titled "Serbia may be winning the war, but Croatia has the best songs."

Einstein award: Vice-president Dan Quayle, who didn't let the similarities fool him. The Gulf war, he spluttered, "is nothing like Vietnam. Vietnam was a jungle. Saudi Arabia is a desert."

Jo Peacenic

Alexander Pronozin:

Test case in new Russia

The prosecution of Russian conscientious objector Alexander Pronozin has begun in Moscow, even though it is no longer entirely clear what army he is refusing to serve in.

Pronozin, a 21 year old peace activist (see previous *ACTIVISTS* for more details on his case) has been charged with evading call-up for military service, after he publicly refused to do his compulsory term of duty in the then-Soviet army. He was active in the non-violent resis-

tance to the attempted coup in August and is now serving on a commission to draw up laws providing for alternate civilian service (though, again, the rapid dissolution of the Soviet Union leaves it a little unclear who the commission is developing laws for).

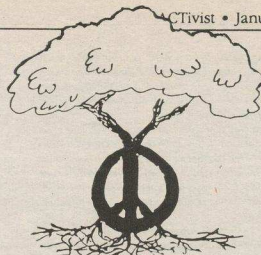
In what could prove to be a major test case for the new union of states, Pronozin continues to maintain that he will go to jail rather than serve in the military of any country.

The first hearing in his case

was held on December 27, in Moscow. Activist and former political prisoner Nikolai Khramov reports, "The room of Sovetskii district court in Moscow was full of many journalists, conscientious objectors, anti-militarist militants. However, camera people from the Soviet TV program "Chelovek i zakon" (Man And Law) were removed from the room in a decision by Judge Elena Mitina.

"In spite of objection from the state accuser, the judge allowed the defence to call their witnesses: Aleksandr Kalinin (member of Federal Council of the Radical Party, deputy of Moscow City Council) and Nikolai Khramov (Radical Party member, former editor of independent peace bulletin *Day By Day*). The counsellor for the defence is well-known lawyer and human rights activist from Moscow, Henry Reznik - director of Bar Institute, member of presidency of Moscow Board of Advocates, member of Moscow Helsinki Group. As a public defender at the trial, Lieutenant Colonel of Justice Anatoli Pchelincev is taking part. He works together with Pronozin to draft a law about alternative civilian service in the framework of special working group in Russian parliament."

The hearing lasted an hour and a half. Pronozin's trial will continue on February 7. It's clear that the Russian government is proceeding slowly, probably unsure how to handle the case. But the eventual outcome could be critical for future peace work in Russia.✠



Anti-dam activist arrested

International attention turned to Burma when Nobel Prize winner Aung San Suu Kyi was not able to receive her award, because she has been under house arrest since 1989. Perhaps in an attempt to emulate the Burmese dictatorship, the government of India moved immediately to arrest one of the winners of the Right Livelihood Award, a prize often referred to as "the alternative Nobel."

The Right Livelihood Award was instituted in 1980 by a philanthropist who felt the Nobel Prize had become too narrow and specialized. The 1991 Right Livelihood Award was divided between five groups representing three movements.

Two Brazilian land reform organizations, *Trabalhadores Rurais Sem Terra* and *Comissao Pastoral da Terra*, were honoured for their efforts to obtain land for landless families and to help them farm sustainably. Bengt and Marie-Therese Danielsson, and the people

of Ronglap, received a share of the \$165,000 award for their "opposition to French and U.S. nuclear colonialism in the Pacific," their efforts to end nuclear testing and to aid the victims. And a group which opposes India's Narmada Dam mega-project, *Narmada Bachao Andolan* (Free Narmada Movement), was also given a share of the award.

Almost as soon as the awards were announced, Medha Patkar, one of the principal figures in the Free Narmada Movement, was arrested. International observers agreed that this was an effort to prevent her from attending the awards ceremonies in London and Stockholm. The effort failed, however, as the court order her to be released immediately.

The huge Narmada Dam project, a \$6.5 billion effort backed by the World Bank, have devastating environmental and social effects in central India.✠



Huet-Vaughn to lose license?

Conscientious objector and prisoner of conscience Dr. Yolanda Huet-Vaughn now faces the threat of losing her license to practise medicine, because of her refusal to serve in the Gulf War.

The Kansas Board of Healing Arts has voted to file a petition to revoke Dr. Huet-Vaughn's license. Once the petition is filed, a hearing officer will be chosen to judge to case. Feeling against Dr. Huet-Vaughn among Board members is strong — the vote to file the petition was 11-1 in favour, with one abstention.

Yolanda Huet-Vaughn is presently serving a 2 1/2 year sentence in Fort Leavenworth because of her refusal to serve in the Gulf and her outspoken statements at peace rallies before and during the war. She has been declared a prisoner of conscience by Amnesty International.

Donald Strole, a lawyer for Dr. Huet-Vaughn, says that there is no legal basis on which to revoke her license. A doctor may have her or his license revoked if charged with a felony — which Huet-

Vaughn is not, as she was charged by a military court — but only if a clear connection can be shown between the crime and the doctor's fitness to practise. But representatives of the Kansas Board say that they can revoke her license on the basis of "dishonourable conduct."

Huet-Vaughn, of course, maintained that it was precisely her responsibility as a doctor — her oath to protect life and do no harm to another person — to resist the Gulf War.

An ad hoc group called the Emergency Committee for Healing Arts Licensee Rights has been formed by Dr. Everett Murphy, a colleague of Dr. Huet-Vaughn's in the peace group Physicians for Social Responsibility. The group is trying to rally doctors to support Huet-Vaughn and preserve her license.

Huet-Vaughn's lawyers are also asking the military court to commute her sentence to time served. They argue that, as a doctor practising in a low-income area, she serves patients who might otherwise not receive medical care.

For more information on how you can help Yolanda Huet-Vaughn, contact Citizen Soldier, Suite 808, 175 Fifth Avenue, New York, NY, 10160-0265, USA, or read the September and October *ACTIVISTS*. Letters of support can be sent to Yolanda Huet-Vaughn, 515-56-488, Drawer A, Fort Leavenworth, Kansas, 66602-7140, USA. Remember that her mail is read and may be censored.✠

This aint
THE ROSEDALE LIBRARY
929-9912 481 Church Street, Toronto M4Y 2C6

Diploma Programme in Community Work

George Brown College offers a Diploma Programme in Community Work to persons with a strong commitment to human rights, social justice and community development in a multicultural society.

This is a two-year, full-time programme of classroom study and supervised work in the field.

We start in September and end in May.

For more information or to arrange an interview, call (416) 867-2185.

Do your photocopying at

PRINTCOM GRAPHICS

**394 Bloor Street West, Lower Level
(at Brunswick Avenue) 924-1422**

Instant Printing • Offset Printing • Bindery • Fax • Stationery • Typewriters •
Light Table • Creative Design • 386 Computers • Postscript™ Laser Printing •
Architectural Prints • Professional Consultation, Value and Good Service

Complete Printing Service

This has been in some ways a hopeful year for world peace. Ceasefires have been brokered in several of the most apparently insoluble wars and civil wars. A number of small nations have attained near-bloodless sovereignty, and superpower forces are withdrawing from some countries.

Nevertheless, the Gulf War demonstrates clearly that the great military powers are not ready to lay down their arms just yet. Many of the countries who were themselves at peace sent troops to the Gulf. And the large industrialized countries continue to allow and often support genocidal local wars and government terrorism.

This year's world conflict map outlines some of the situation.

Central America

Guatemala: Low-intensity warfare continues between the guerrilla coalition National Revolutionary Unity, and the right-wing terrorist government. Military and death squad attacks on dissidents, suspected dissidents, and indigenous peoples, continue to claim hundreds of lives every year. In one striking development, a community of Mayan people in Santiago Atitlán rose up non-violently against the government after a massacre of unarmed civilians in December, 1990. As a result of their protests, the army was forced to vacate their base at Atitlán, leaving it a uniquely free and demilitarized village.

El Salvador: El Salvador saw another year of bloody civil conflict between the FMLN and the far-right government. But 1992 began with the country officially at peace, after fierce negotiations at the United Nations. The United States, though supporting the peace talks, has continued to bankroll the war through their military aid to the Salvadoran government.

Honduras: The five major opposition groups in Honduras renounced armed struggle in the fall of 1991, declaring their intention to pursue justice and democracy by non-violent means.

South America

Colombia: Though peace talks are underway, the violence in Colombia is escalating. Clashes between the government, leftist groups and drug cartels continues, and in 1991 there was a significant rise in death squad attacks on civilians. Canadian components for military aircraft have been sold indirectly to Colombia repeatedly over the last four years.

Peru: The civilian population of Peru continues to be terrorized both by the right-wing government, and the left-wing Sendero Luminoso. In 1991, the Sendero Luminoso achieved the dubious distinction of being the first non-governmental group to be condemned by Amnesty International. In 1989-90, Canada sold \$5393,000 worth of military equipment to Peru.

Europe

Northern Ireland: An attempt at peace talks between Britain and the Irish Republican Army collapsed without making any significant progress.

Serbia/Croatia/Slovenia: What was once Yugoslavia seems now to be irrevocably divided, though the final result of the tangled political and ethnic conflict is not clear. Though Slovenia appears to have attained a relatively peaceful independence, brutal fighting between the Serbian central government and Croatian military and paramilitary forces continues.

Georgia: Fighting between the elected government and armed opposition groups broke out late in 1991 and continues to date.

Russia: In August, an attempted military coup was toppled in three days by non-violent resistance, leading by December to the peaceful dissolution of the Soviet Union. Though fears for the stability of the new commonwealth, and the future of the Soviet nuclear arsenal, remain, this still provides one of the most striking examples of social change achieved peacefully.

Africa

Western Sahara: A ceasefire between Morocco, which invaded the country in 1975, and the pro-independence Polisario front, was finally achieved in September. A referendum on the future of the Western Sahara will be conducted under U.N. auspices, with only indigenous Sahrawi people allowed a vote. Direct Canadian arms sales to Morocco in 1990 totalled \$163,000, and indirect sales were made beyond this, via Spain and the United States. Morocco was a regular customer for Canadian arms during the occupation of the Western Sahara (\$578,000 worth in 1989, for instance).

Liberia: Despite the overthrow of tyrannical ruler Samuel Doe, the picture is still bleak for Liberia. Interim leader Dr. Amos Sawyer seems even more repressive than Doe, and the various rebel groups involved have been unable to reach any agreement among themselves. Further, the major rebel factions have all clearly been guilty of genocidal atrocities against civilians. Hostilities continue to impoverish the country, tens of thousands have been killed, and many more displaced and left homeless and destitute.

Angola: A ceasefire between the government and South African-backed UNITA rebels was reached in May, after sixteen years of war, with an agreement to hold elections in 1992. It is estimated that the most basic repairs and reconstruction (including the removal of more than one million land mines from the fields) will cost \$2 billion; the total cost of the war is thought to be over \$20 billion. Indirect Canadian arms sales have been made both to the Angolan government and to UNITA.

South Africa: Negotiations between the ANC and the South

African government continue to slowly dismantle the apartheid system. But clashes between the ANC and Buthelezi's Inkatha—a paramilitary force supported by the South African government—have continued to claim lives. Pratt & Whitney Canada has made indirect sales of military helicopter engines to South Africa over the last several years.

Mozambique: 1991 has seen a partial ceasefire in Mozambique. It is estimated that the country has suffered some 600,000 deaths, and that one million people have been made into refugees, because of the war with South-African backed RENAMO guerrillas. As a result of the war, Mozambique is now the poorest country in the world, with 60% of the population living in absolute poverty. Although the peace talks have lowered the daily death toll somewhat, RENAMO attacks have continued through the year. Canadian weapons components have been sold to Mozambique via Indonesia.

Kenya: The government of Daniel Arap Moi continues to wage low-intensity warfare against the Kenyan, with

periodic terrorist attacks on civilians. Canada sold \$791,000 worth of helicopter components directly to Kenya in 1990, and \$1,132,500 worth of military equipment in 1989.

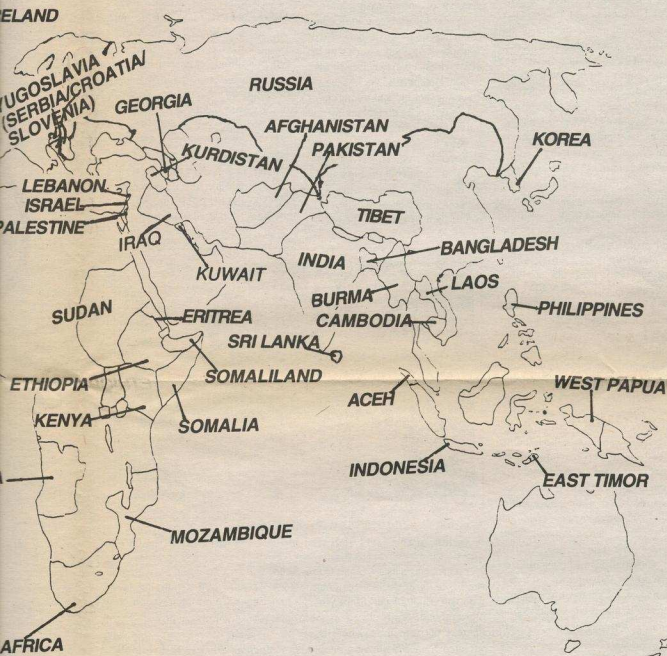
Somalia: Though dictator Mohammed Siad Barre was overthrown in January, this has not brought peace to the area. The north achieved relatively peaceful independence as Somaliland in May, but fighting between the new government of Ali Mahdi Mohammed and the Somali Patriotic Movement has intensified in the south.

Ethiopia: Most fighting ceased in Ethiopia with the fall of Mengistu Haile Mariam's terrorist government in May, and prospects for peace are quite real. A provisional government has been formed, with some ethnic groups putting aside, at least temporarily, their demands for independence. Until May, Canada supported the Ethiopian government through aid and indirect arms sales.

Eritrea: Eritrea achieved de facto independence with the fall of Mengistu Haile Mariam. The area is currently under the control of the Eritrean People's Liberation Front. Ethiopia has approved a



ING WARTIME



000 worth
132,500
was over-
The north
in May,
planned
south.
the fall of
and pros-
has been
separately,
orted the
es.
th the fall
control
proved a

plan for a U.N. supervised referendum on independence for 1993.
Sudan: The war between the government and the Sudan People's Liberation Army continues as it has since 1983; several peace initiatives failed during 1991. The SPLA has largely gained control in the south. The war continues to claim hundreds of thousands of lives every year, many due to interference with food relief efforts by both the opposing forces. Pratt & Whitney Canada sells helicopter engines to the government via Italy.

Middle East

Lebanon: The Syrian-backed peace agreement which installed Elias Hrawi as president in 1990 has brought some stability to this tormented area.

Israel/Palestine: In October of 1991, high-profile peace talks began, backed primarily by the United States, but negotiations are currently at a standstill. Meanwhile, Israel continues to wage low-intensity war on the Palestinians. Canadian arms sales to Israel

totalled \$64,000 in 1990.

Kurdistan: In the immediate wake of the Gulf War, Kurdish rebel groups rose up against Saddam Hussein. The uprising is crushed swiftly and with extreme brutality, and many thousands of Kurdish refugees fled into the mountains to escape Iraqi bombs. After an international outcry, the United Nations marked out an enclave in Iraqi Kurdistan for the refugees. There are also reports of crackdowns on Kurds in Turkey. Turkey receives large quantities of Canadian arms directly, some \$1,880,000 in 1990 alone in helicopter components, electronic equipment and training simulators. Iraq and Iran have both made indirect purchases of Pratt & Whitney engines, and Amnesty International says that planes with Pratt & Whitney engines have been used in attacks on the Kurds.

Iraq/Kuwait: For six weeks in January and February, Iraq and parts of Kuwait were pounded with all the collective firepower the U.S.-brokered alliance could summon, leaving the area devastated and most of the population in subject poverty. The death toll from the

war itself is probably well over 150,000, most of them civilians. Malnutrition and lack of medical facilities will continue to claim the lives of Iraqi civilians, especially children, for many years. Iraqi oil releases during the war created the new concept of "eco-terrorism." At the conclusion of the war, Shi'ite and other rebels rose up against Saddam Hussein in southern Iraq. They were subjected to severe aerial bombing by the remaining Iraqi forces, causing an undetermined number of deaths. Canadian forces were involved in the Gulf War, with Canadian bomber planes flying offensive missions. The war also caused a boom in Canadian arms sales to the Middle East, and to the United States for use in the Gulf. Directly or indirectly, Canada has sold weapons to almost every country involved in the war, including Iraq.

South Asia

Afghanistan: The Communist Afghan government and the Mujahideen rebels have been at war since 1978, and there is no respite in sight, despite the withdrawal of Soviet troops.

India/Pakistan: Skirmishes between India and Pakistan continue on the border of Kashmir, which is controlled by India but has also been claimed by Pakistan. Ethnic conflicts within India also continue, especially in the Sikh homeland of Khalistan. Canadian arms sales to both India and Pakistan have helped to fuel the war (sales to India totalled \$561,500 in 1990, and to Pakistan \$4,418,000).

Tibet: The Chinese occupation of Tibet continues as it has since 1950, with the Chinese government still attempting to crush the non-violent Tibetan resistance guided by the Dalai Lama. Canada has made direct and indirect arms sales to China in 1990.

Bangladesh: The government has been attempting to put down uprisings among the indigenous peoples of the Chittagong Hill Tracts since 1974.

Sri Lanka: The government has been fighting both Sinhalese leftist groups and Tamil nationalist rebels since 1983. Conflict in the Tamil regions has escalated steadily over the year, claiming the lives of many civilians and turning hundreds of others into refugees. Canadian arms sales to Sri Lanka totalled \$152,500 in 1990. Indirect sales of military aircraft parts have been made via China.

Southeast Asia

Burma: The government of Burma (also known as Myanmar) has been fighting a war against indigenous Karen, Shan, Mon and other peoples since 1948. Some of these peoples have de facto control of border regions. In 1988, the repressive socialist government of Ne Win was replaced by the outright military dictatorship of Saw Maung. The democracy movement has continued to be active. The award of the 1991 Nobel Peace Prize to Aung San Suu Kyi, Burma's president-elect who now lives under house arrest, drew international attention to Burma. But it has also sparked an internal crackdown, with reports of hundreds of dissidents arrested, tortured and killed in recent months. Petro-Can signed a \$22 million dollar oil exploration contract with the SLORC in 1989.

Laos: Fighting continues between the government and opposition groups as it has since 1975. Pratt & Whitney has made indirect military sales to Laos via China.

Korea: The year began on a foreboding note, as north Korean troops suddenly and inexplicably went onto combat alert. Yet by the end of the year, the United States had removed its nuclear missiles from south Korea, and the north and south ended their formal state of war and signed an agreement to make, and keep, all of Korea a nuclear-free zone.

Cambodia (Kampuchea): At the end of 1991, a peace agreement between four principal factions was finally signed in Cambodia, and the U.N. agreed to take a major part in a transitional government until free elections can be held. There is concern over the large role held in the transitional government by the Khmer Rouge, and fears that the damage created by years of war may be close to irreparable, but there seems to be real hope that Cambodia will finally be free of armed conflict — after a loss of some four million lives since 1979.

Indonesia: The Indonesia government continues to combat separatist movements throughout the archipelago, notably in Aceh and West Papua.

East Timor: Resistance continues to the Indonesian occupation. One massacre of Timorese civilians, at the Santa Cruz cemetery in Dili, was witnessed by western journalists, and finally succeeded in focussing some international attention on East Timor. The Indonesian government has resisted all external pressures, however, and massacres of civilians continue, with hundreds dead in just the last two months. Canada suspended a portion of its aid to Indonesia in the wake of the Santa Cruz massacre, but until that time Indonesia had been the second largest recipient of Canadian aid. Canadian arms sales to Indonesia continue almost every year, including a sale of some undisclosed type of military equipment, valued at \$15,000 in 1991. Previous sales have totalled tens of millions of dollars.

Philippines: The civil war between the Aquino government and the New People's Army continues unabated, and in fact is escalating. On the other hand, the two huge American military bases in the Philippines, Clark and Subic, have both closed.

As well as the conflicts listed here, it should be kept in mind that, around the world, low-intensity wars are waged on indigenous peoples, and on women. Though these wars do not fit the common pattern of armed conflict, they continue to claim many casualties.

Protecting the Innu homeland

Nitassinan: The Innu Struggle to Reclaim Their Homeland

By Marie Wadden
Douglas & McIntyre
pp. 256
\$27.95

every year. An ill-fated venture to construct a linerboat mill near Goose Bay failed only after hundreds of square kilometres of trees were sacrificed and the logs actually left to rot on the ground.

Despite its careful cataloguing of desecration, Wadden's book is not a pessimistic cry of despair. The

most insane of the mega-projects, the proposed NATO base defeated through Innu protest, involved offering for NATO's use some 120,000 square kilometres, approximately one third of the entire Québec-Labrador peninsula. While acknowledging the continuing

threats posed by Newfoundland's provincial game laws, roads, new hydro dams and continuing low-level flying, Wadden is most inspiring in her description of how the Innu's peaceful, spiritually-based defence of their land won major victories for their way of life.

Wadden gives proper attention to one of the most unsung of Canadian heroes, the modest former Catholic priest, Jim Roche, for helping to set in motion the Innu campaign of civil disobedience. This began with his realization of how the Innu's despair and alcoholism was caused by the separation from the land encouraged by authorities who wished to use it for mines, dams and military playgrounds. Backed by his bishop, and eventu-

ally even the Pope, although shunned by local rednecks, Roche sparked Innu protest by being arrested for hunting caribou where American pilots had poached with impunity for antler trophies. He and seven Innu hunters in prison prayed together, and their jail became the focus of candlelight vigils and demonstrations which helped restore the Innu's wounded sense of dignity and self-respect. Eventually such protests mounted into massive civil disobedience actions, which at their height involved two hundred Innu, one-quarter of the village of Sheshashit. For months much of the community moved to a peace camp, just beyond the fence perimeter of the Goose Bay runway. Although large, the protest was devoid of expression of hatred, as the Innu prayed on the runway and displayed an amazing sense of humour, complete with "No Trespassing" orders posted in the name of the "Innu Minister of National Defence" and periodic camping expeditions on the lawns of the homes of Goose Bay commanders.

Despite originally unsympathetic press, the might of the Canadian army and NATO, and the scorn of Newfoundland politicians and bureaucrats, the Innu won increasing public sympathy by the nobility of their cause and tactics. Eventually, after the hammering by the peace movement and the Innu, paragon of respectability like the *Globe and Mail* came to dismiss the plans of the military as silly versions of amusement theme parks, despite the open lobbying of the Department of National Defence. Newfoundland officials began to despair of finding sufficiently anti-Innu judges, since even the most fierce "hanging judges" began to "go soft on the Innu." All of this should illustrate how patience, networking and determination can change many of the often seemingly insurmountable odds confronting activists. ☪

Journey to action

Nuclear Family

By Joanne Young
Sykes Press
pp. 118
\$10.00

REVIEWED BY VANNA SZTANBOK

Nuclear Family is a sincere account of one woman's journey from a comfortable, middle-class existence, unaware of the world of "politics," through a series of ordeals which led to her commitment to non-violent resistance.

Joanne Young's autobiographical work is refreshing, lacking any hint of preachiness or self-righteousness. Her style is clear, concise, yet moving. This is not a methodical story of her life but a weaving of anecdotes, letters and events documenting her own, very personal, path to civil disobedience.

nium refinery in Port Hope, in the early 50s. Her suspicions about its safety were tragically confirmed when he fell mysteriously ill after an "accident." Joanne's efforts to uncover the facts and receive compensation from Eldorado after her husband's death revealed to her the ugly truth about the complicity of the Canadian government and nuclear industry in the arms race and the military-industrial complex. These are the beneficiaries of an industry whose product is death and destruction around the world, and which risks the health and lives of its workers. As *Nuclear Family* clearly demonstrates, this is not due to individual error or negligence, but is intrinsic to an industry which willingly exposes people to hazardous substances and deceives the public with the full assistance of the government.

Written with painstaking honesty, *Nuclear Family* evokes not pity, but rage and admiration. Joanne Young does not dwell on her personal misfortune, but realizes she and her family are among the many victims of militarism. But



REVIEWED BY JOHN BACHER

If there was ever a timely and needed book for Canadians concerned with peace, ecology and the rights of native peoples, Marie Wadden's work *Nitassinan* is it. With public concern widespread about the combined assault on the wilderness of the tropical rainforest and its aboriginal defenders, *Wadden* will open many eyes with her poignant description of the beauties of our boreal forest and the threatened hunter-gatherer culture that protects it. For peace activists, the book is illuminating both in its description of the follies of militarism, and of the Innu's largely successful defence of their way of life from war games by imaginative and spiritually based means of non-violent resistance.

Wadden tells a tale too seldom told of how the Innu tenaciously clung to their life off the land for some 400 years of European contact, until a combined assault by mines, hydro dams, and the clerical and educational architects of assimilation, in only the last 30 years. The folly of the mega-projects that have assaulted the Innu's wilderness has to be read here to be fully understood. The Smallwood Reservoir, the basis of the giant Churchill Falls project, has flooded 1,300 square kilometres of black spruce forest, destroying Innu burial grounds, ancient archaeological sites, canoes and other belongings. It is tamed once magnificent waterfalls into a barren desert. Numerous Hydro-Québec projects have devastated the Innu's land, leading to the destruction of formerly valuable salmon fisheries. Some 26 square kilometres of the Innu's land are cut to supply eight pulp and paper mills in Québec



Joanne Young (centre) with other members of Voice of Women, at the 1991 IPB Conference (Photo: Janet Creery)

Her experiences as a woman from the 40s to the 80s—as a daughter, a student, a mother and wife, teacher and activist—are placed in the context of something which has affected Joanne's life very deeply—the nuclear industry.

Joanne's life was radically altered when her husband took a job as an engineer at the Eldorado ura-

she is also a survivor. A woman who, faced with the truth, decides to act upon it, turning desperation into non-violent resistance. ☪

Nuclear Family is available from ACT for Disarmament. Call, write or drop by our resource centre at 736 Bathurst St., 416-531-6154.

Shows supported by
CKLN, CIUT & CJRT

Mariposa presents
JOHN GORKA with Norm Hacking
Ultrasound Showbar, 269 Queen West Sat. Jan. 18, \$12.50

'An evening of state of the art Bluegrass' Tony Quarrington
DEL MCCOURY BAND Rick Finkling & Blue Mule
Wednesday, Jan 22, 8pm, \$13.50 at the
Phoenix Concert Theatre, 410 Sherbourne

'An evening of guitar artistry'
LARRY CORYELL, STEFAN GROSSMAN, J. RENBOURN

In concert, Friday, February 7, 8pm door,
Faculty of Education Auditorium, 371 Bloor St West \$19.50

from Australia with Gloria Blizard,
JUDY SMALL Thursday, March 12
Tranzac Club, 292 Brunswick, \$12.50

Ticket prices incl GST, available at Mariposa
with Visa/MC, 778-9063 or visit the Country
Music Store, Kop's, Back Beat or Vortex.
Ticket prices slightly higher at door.

Classified

NEED A PHILOSOPHY OF LIFE? Humanism is an approach based on compassion, reason, intelligence, and dignity of individuals in open democratic society. For a FREE sample copy of "Humanist in Canada" magazine write Box 3769-C, Ottawa, K1Y 4J8.

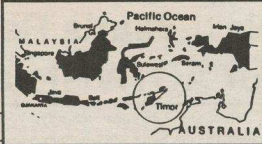
GREENPEACE looking for environmentally active people to work in our phone canvass, contacting Canadians across the country to raise support and awareness of present environmental problems. Hours: 3:30 p.m. to 11 p.m., call David or Julie at 340-9919 (Toronto).

IT'S NOT TOO LATE to buy your 1991 War Resisters League Peace Calendar from ACT for Disarmament. Now only \$15! Call 531-6154 or write to ACT at 736 Bathurst St., M5S 2R4. Other books (*Nuclear Family*, *Cold War Blues*, etc.) available.

Reach 10,000 readers who care about peace, ecology and human rights. Classified ads in southern Ontario's peace monthly are available for \$10 for 25 words or less, \$15 for 25-50 words. **Deadline for next issue: January 29.**

EAST TIMOR UPDATE

Number 7 — January 1992



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.

East Timor Update is a monthly news service edited in Toronto by the East Timor Alert Network. Reprinting is encouraged, but please credit East Timor Update. Contact the Network for more information:

National/West: 104—2120 West 44th, Vancouver BC, V6M 2G2.

Toronto: PO Box 562, Station P, Toronto, M5S 2T1.

Ottawa: 2760 Caroset Cres. #511, Ottawa Ont., K1T 2N2

Eastern Ontario: 217 Glengarry Rd., Kinston Ont., K7M 3J6.

Western Ontario: Dr Peter Eglin, Wilfred Laurier University, Waterloo Ont., N2L 3C5.

Québec: 1375 Sherwood Cres., Town of Mount Royal, Que., H3R 3C8

Action of the Month

The East Timor Alert Network is trying to collect as many individual and group endorsements as possible on an open letter calling on the Canada to

- support the United Nations position that East Timor must be allowed to choose its own future
- support the call for peace talks, without preconditions, between Indonesia and the Timorese resistance
- ban the sale of military equipment to Indonesia

We hope to publish the open letter as a full-page ad in Saturday Night magazine this spring. To help cover the costs, we are requesting a suggested donation of \$50 from individuals and \$200 from groups. Tax-deductible donations can be made to "BC Conference — United Church of Canada" with a memo "for East Timor relief."

Contact ETAN for more details.

Canada slashes aid to Indonesia

Canada has suspended two thirds of its \$46 million programme of aid to Indonesia following a parliamentary hearing into recent violations of human rights in East Timor. With the announcement, External Affairs Minister Barbara McDougall reversed sixteen years of Canadian policy towards Indonesia, the second-largest recipient of Canadian bilateral aid in the world.

McDougall made her announcement after meeting with José Ramos Horta, external representative for the Timorese resistance movement, and members of the East Timor Alert Network. Canadian aid will be shaved by \$30 million, she said. Among major Western donors (who collectively give Indonesia \$1 billion a year) only the Netherlands has gone further, suspending all aid. Japan is now considering a similar move.

The aid cuts are the only concrete action in the international chorus of condemnation of the Nov. 12 massacre of over 100 unarmed Timorese civilians at Santa Cruz cemetery by Indonesian soldiers.

McDougall would not specify what aid programmes would be cut, and did not answer a question from New Democrat MP Svend Robinson about Canada's weapons sales to Indonesia. (Since 1975, Canada has sold tens of millions of dollars worth of military equipment to the Indonesian armed forces. In 1991, a military export permit for \$15,000 was issued, but External Affairs would not disclose what the sale was.)

In Canada, December editorial comment from the Montreal Gazette, Le Devoir, the Calgary Herald, Edmonton Journal and Vancouver Sun has called for stronger government action, including several calls for economic sanctions.



November 12 demonstration, before the shooting (courtesy Tapol Bulletin)



Massacre inquiry blames victims

Indonesia's official commission of inquiry into the Nov. 12 Santa Cruz massacre, where Indonesian soldiers gunned down between 100 and 200 Timorese demonstrators in plain view of Western journalists, has released its report. The military-dominated commission did not accept the army claim that only 19 people were killed, and placed part of the blame for the massacre on the military men who ordered it — leading to the dismissal of Brig. Rudy Warouw, commander of Indonesian armed forces in East Timor. At the same time, however, the report accuses demonstrators of being "savagely, emotional and destructive" and blames the East Timorese resistance for "provocation and incitement of the youth."

International human rights groups including Amnesty International rejected the report, renewing their call for an independent investigation under United Nations auspices.

"There is not much time left," said Washington-based Asia Watch. "Bodies will decay, making identification all the more difficult; memory of specific details will fade; the 'official' version will be increasingly accepted as fact. The international community must continue to press the Indonesian government for a full and accurate accounting of what happened. The preliminary (government) report deserves no accolades."

The Portuguese foreign ministry called the report "a desperate attempt" to fend off international sanctions.

And Tapol, the London-based Indonesian Human Rights Campaign, pointed out: "The Santa Cruz Massacre is not an isolated event; it is only the latest in a long history of mass slaughter inflicted on the East Timorese people ... East Timor will never be free from repression and fear until the forces of occupation withdraw and the people can express their wishes in a referendum held under UN supervision."

In the wake of the massacre, 50

Timorese students studying at Indonesian universities are up on sedition charges. Supporters fear they will be made into scapegoats.

Bishop renews peace call

East Timor Bishop Carlos Ximenes Belo has reiterated his call for peace talks without preconditions between Indonesia, Portugal, the Timorese resistance, and the Catholic Church in East Timor.

"We are living in fear, not in peace. We suffer, hate, cry and lose hope." Belo said in his Christmas message.

Belo said he was especially concerned about the daily "interrogation" of Father Ricardo, Vicar-General of the East Timor diocese. After a let-up for Christmas, security forces resumed their torture of the priest on Jan. 2.

Without little support from the Vatican, the Timorese Church remains the sole protecting force for the Timorese people living under Indonesian rule. On Christmas eve, thousands gathered for an informal ceremony on the beach in front of Motael parish church, where 18-year-old Sebastião (Gomes) Rangel was shot by Indonesian soldiers on Oct. 28 and where the Nov. 12 procession to Santa Cruz cemetery set out from.

In recognition of the role of the Church, several groups are planning to nominate Bishop Belo for the 1992 Nobel Peace Prize, won in previous years by Burmese opposition leader Aung San Suu Kyi and Tibet's spiritual leader, the Dalai

Available from ETAN

"Free East Timor" T shirts ... four-colour Timorese flag design on white 100% cotton, all sizes ... \$15, \$12 each for 10 or more.
 "Free East Timor" buttons ... with photo of Timorese girl ... \$1, 50c each for 10 or more.
 (Order from Toronto address)

New Year's Resolutions for ACTivists and friends

Below are some ideas for ways you can make 1992 a peaceful and productive year. Remember, nothing will change unless we all work to create change.

- **Volunteer** in peace, human rights or environmental activism! ACT for Disarmament needs your help to make Peace Action 92 a reality. To join one of our working groups, call 531-6154, or call your local ACT contact.

- **Boycott Pizza Pizza.** Logging company Daishowa is clear-cutting on Lubicon land. Friends of the Lubicon wrote to five companies who used Daishowa paper products, asking them to boycott Daishowa until they respect Lubicon sovereignty. Four of the companies — Cultures, Ho Lee Chow, Knechtel's Grocers and the Body Shop — took up the boycott, but Pizza Pizza refused. Buy your pizza elsewhere. Let Pizza Pizza and Daishowa know why.

- **Protest Petro-Can's involvement in Burma.** Organize demonstrations demanding that Petro-Can pull out of Burma, and that Burmese democracy activist Aung San Suu Kyi be freed from house arrest.

- **Donate to peace.** ACT for Disarmament needs your financial help as well. Donations can be sent to 736 Bathurst St, Toronto, M5S 2R4. A minimum \$10 donation gets you a year's subscription to *The ACTivist*, and a donation of \$50 or more gets you a free copy of *Our Generation Against Nuclear War*.

- **Occupy the consulates** of Britain, Germany and Holland (non-violently, of course) demanding that they immediately stop low-level flight testing over the Innu homeland of Nitassinan.

- **Get informed.** Read periodicals like *The ACTivist*, *Peace Magazine*, the *Ploughshares Monitor*, *Z*, or *Cultural Survival Quarterly*, and books like *Nuclear Family* by Joanne Young or *Nitassinan* by Marie Wadden. Drop by our resource centre for more ideas.

- **Write to the Department of External Affairs** and demand an immediate end to all arms sales to Indonesia. Ask them to support East Timor at the United Nations and to call for peace talks, without preconditions, between Indonesia and the Timorese resistance.

- **Boycott General Electric.** To find out more about the boycott of G.E., one of the world's biggest nuclear contractors, call Martin at 864-0185

- **Resist violence against women.** If you are a man, try to become aware of and work against your own internalized sexism. Support women's groups, women's shelters and crisis centres. Talk to women you know and listen to their perspectives on domestic violence.

- **Don't pay taxes for war.** The Peace Tax Fund provides an alternative for those who want to withhold part or all of their tax money from the government. For more information call 466-0566.

- **Jumpstart the economy. Buy socks.**

Peace Action 92

ACT's six new campaign working groups are just waiting for you to get involved. Call us today, and sign up for one, or all, of our campaigns.

- ◊ Native Rights
- ◊ Local Wars
- ◊ Prisoners for Peace
- ◊ Conversion/Ecology
- ◊ East-West
- ◊ Domestic Violence

Call us today!

ACT for Disarmament Chapters and Contacts

ACT Toronto
736 Bathurst St.
Toronto, M5S 2R4
416-531-6154 (phone)
416-531-5850 (fax)

ACT Oakville
PO Box 7378
Oakville, Ont.
L6J 6L6
416-338-0813

Vancouver Contact
Susan Moore
604-988-3740

Lindsay Contact
Cathy Lummiss
705-324-2854

St. Catharines Contact
Bruce Allen
416-934-6233

Hamilton Contact
Peter Hutton
416-628-3168

Peterborough Contact
Ruth Gayle
705-741-4848

Guelph Contact
Aloz MacDonald
519-767-1781

Sub-
scribe
today!

The ACTivist is Toronto's only peace newspaper. And now, it's published monthly to bring you the latest news of peace and human rights from around the world, First Nations here at home, peace campaigns, and so much more!

A subscription to The ACTivist is available for a minimum donation of \$10 to ACT for Disarmament. Drop us a line today — don't miss a single issue!

Send to: The ACTivist, c/o ACT for Disarmament,
736 Bathurst Street, Toronto, M5S 2R4.
Phone (416) 531-6154, fax (416) 531-5850

I enclose a donation towards my subscription to The ACTivist of \$10 or \$
I realize peace work is expensive: here's my additional donation to ACT of
\$10 \$20 \$50 \$100

Name _____

Address _____

Postal Code _____

Phone _____