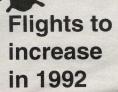
ACTIVIST

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Newspaper of the ACT for Disarmament Coalis on • Volume 8, Issue 12 • February 1992 • Pay what you can

NATO jets on Innu land



By Vannina Sztainbok The ACTIVIST

The Innu are under attack from air land and water. The Trans-Labrador Highway is near completion, paving the way for more logging, mining and other industry. There is a proposal to expand the Churchill Fall hydro-electric project. And there will be an increase in the number of low level military flights at CFB Goose Bay this year. The flights, training missions for three NATO countries, have been notoriously destructive to the traditional Innu way of life and to the environment of their land, Nitussiana (Labrador and southeastern Québec).

As always, the Innu are resisting the invasion of their homeland. In Ontario, ACT for Disarmament, in conjunction with the Canadian Environmental Defence Fund and other groups, is planning a campaign of action that will lead up to, and protest, the resumption of low level flying at Goose Bay on April 1. A representative of the Innu Nation will visit southern Ontario for a series of public talks, in Toronto. Peterborough, St. Catharines, Guelph, and Kitchener-Waterloo, and appearances in schools. On Saturday, March 28, there will be a huge petition drive, with as many as 500 Innu supporters on the streets gathering names for the 100,000 Signatures campaign. And on Saturday, April 4, there

will be a rally in downtown Toronto.

It is essential to continue protests on behalf of the Innu, particularly since the Department of National Defence (DND) has announced that there will be an increase in the allowable number of lowlevel flights this season - from a maxi mum of 7,700 last year to 8,400 in 1992. There will also be an increase in the number of aircraft from under 50 to more than 60. CFB Goose Bay is currently a training site for Britain, Germany and the Netherlands, but the Canadian government is actively lobbying the Italian Air Force to encourage them to train at Goose Bay as well. Low level flight training is essential to intervention in the Third World -

skills the pilots learn at CFB Goose Bay were employed against Iraq and Panama.

were employed against Iraq and Panama. The increase in the number of flights is in direct violation of a promise made by the Minister of Defence that flights would not increase while an environmental assessment is in progress. Ionically, both the Innu and the base commanders would like to speed up completion of the much-disputed Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) being prepared by DND. The initial draft of the EIS was rejected by a panel of experts, some of whom branded it a "whitewash." After the decision was made not to build a NATO base at Goose Bay, DND re-submitted the same report to the panel for reconsideration.

Turn to Crucial, page 3

Canadian arms exports and human rights

On February 6, ACT for Disarmament will appear before the House of Commons Sub-Committee on Arms Exports, Parliament is presently conducting hearings on weapons export policies, with a view to possibly revising Canada's current policies on the sales of military goods, ACT will be presential the following brief, prepared by Maggie Hebwig in consultation with other members of ACT.

A Minimal Proposal

In 1986 Joe Clark, then Secretary of State for External Affairs, announced an Export Controls Policy for Canadian arms sales. The policy stated that Canada would "closely control the export of military goods" to countries which posed a threat to Canada and its allies; countries under United Nations Security Council Sanctions; countries "involved in or under imminent threat of" hostilities; and countries "whose governments

have a persistent record of serious violations of the human rights of their citizens." We would like to suggest that these are reasonable conditions. But we would also submit that, for a variety of reasons, these conditions have been systematically violated every year since 1986. We would like, in our brief to the committee, to look at the possibility of the Canadian government actually abiding by its own guide-

It is the third and fourth conditions — and especially the fourth,

the human rights guideline — which have been seriously violated in a regular way. Some examples:

• Canada made arms sales in throughout the 80's and 1991 to Indonesia. Indonesia is presently occupying the island of East Timor, and human rights violations in that area are persistent and flagrant. The current Secretary for External Affairs, Barbara McDougall, has expressed her concern over the human rights situation in East Timor, but has also continued to authorize Canadian arms sales to Indonesia. Military equipment of all sorts, from machine guns and tanks to helicopter gunships to napalm, have been employed against the civilian population of East Timor. Indonesia's human rights record in other areas of its territory is very poor.

 Canada made a military sale in 1990 to the government of China, which is one of the most persistent violators of the human rights of its people. The Tianammen Square massacre should hardly need to be mentioned and the continuing suppression of dissent is well-known. It is also important to note that attacks on peaceful demonstrators and the arrest, torture and murder of civilians are virtually everyday events in the occupied territory of Tibet.

• Military sales have regularly been authorized to Kenya — a sale of helicopter components was made in 1990. The government of Kenya is carrying out a systematic terror campaign against the people of the country.

Other countries to which Canada has made military sales, but which are known — on the evidence of reliable groups like Annesty International — to violate the human rights of their people on a regular basis, include: Malaysia, Peru, the Philippines, Israel, Turkey, and Saudi Arabia.

Turn to No More, page 8



THE ACTIVIST

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Building a dream

Right now this is a dream — only a dream. But imagine:

Imagine the whooshing sound of the silvery wings, the orgasmic glistening as the cockpit glares back at the rising sun, as the Phantom II bomber soars madly into the skies.

For the very last time.

Newspaper reporters are there, cameras aggressively capturing that final throe into the heavens. Tears are rolling down the cheeks of a four-year-old girl, almost an orphan to her parents' steady campaign to preserve their way of life.

A journalist at the scene writes:

"A court injunction obtained by the Innu last week has brought an end to low-level military flying out of Canadian Forces Base Goose Bay.

"The Dutch and the Germans ended their flights immediately following the court's decision. The British conclude today, just hours before the moment Federal Supreme Court justices set as the final deadline.

"Although the injunction wouldn't affect Canadian flights, Prime Minister Brian Mulroney has said there won't be any. He made the announcement as he headed into yet another round of self-government negotiations with the Assembly of First Nations."

Of course, the journalist hasn't told the whole story; there's scarce acknowledgement, really, of the people who did the work to get the flights stopped.

There's no mention of the Innu blocking the runways at CFB Goose Bay, to literally stop the jets from taking off.

There's nothing about the thousands of people, of all races, who took to the streets in protest, demanding an end to the tests. Occupations of politicians' offices, letter writing campaigns and grassroots organizing are pretty well ignored.

But these efforts worked!

Without all this grassroots activity — and without your help the flights won't stop and this will have been merely a dream.

On Saturday, April 4, ACT for Disarmament will be holding a protest rally to demand an end to the flights. Come out and join us.

If you can't, drop by or call or write us and get a petition sheet to help ourcampaign. We're planning street outreach to call for an end to the flights and to promote the April 4 rally. Get involved.

Write about the Innu for your local journal, newspaper or newsletter, Invite a speaker (contact ACT for information) to address your club, your neighbourhood, your friends.

Read more about the issue. Excellent magazine articles and books are now available. Subscribe to the ACTivist for regular news about campaigns to help stop the flights (and about other peace, human rights and environmental issues).

But please, don't just sit there. Don't accept the brutality the flights represent. Don't accept the devastation of yet another human culture. Don't accept the continuing militarization of our society. Help us!

-Allen Skye

ACT for Disarmament

chapters and contacts
Toronto ACT Oakville

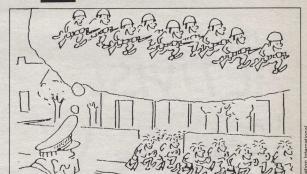
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Thank you for your September issue article on our tenth

To highlight the eviction of the villagers of Imber and to mourn the children, women and men who have been murdered in the North of Ireland by the British Army, Greenham Common Yellow Gate women took non-violent actions over this Christmas period.

The British Army is constantly training men how to kill in built up areas — in the ruined village of Imber, and in the newly constructed, purpose-built mock village of 'FIBUA' ('Fighting in Built Up Areas'), both on Salisbury Plain in the south of England.

In December, seven women from Yellow Gate Greenham Common Women's Peace Camp occupied the 'mock Belfast' streets of the deserted village of Imber. They lit a fire in the road, and disrupted a live firing exercise. All were arrested and charged with Trespassing on Military Land.

On Christmas Day, three Yellow Gate women entered the mock FIBUA village and wrote the names of all the children, women and men killed by plastic bullets on the mock process of the mock process of the mock process of the mock process of the mock and NATO troops. The three women were arrested and charged with causing Criminal Damage to 45 headstones belonging to the Ministry of Defence.

STOP PRESS STOP PRESS STOP PRESS — WE HAVE JUST HEARD CONFIRMA-TION THAT THE AIR BASE AT GREENHAM COMMON WILL DEFINITELY BE USED IN THE TRANSPORTATION AND STORAGE OF TRIDENT WARHEADS.

> Beth, Katrina, Aniko, Lisa on behalf of Yellow Gate Greenham Common Women's Peace Camp

Thank you for sending me the ACTivist. You're doing a great job. I'm especially happy to see you included domestic violence and violence against women in your focus. I also appreciated the "Life During Wartime" feature in the January 1992 issue. It made it apparent to me how much of an industry war and weapons manufacturing is. And how much Canada contributes to world violence. I'm renewing my subscription. Keep up the good work.

Rachel Sheinin Toronto

Jo Peacenik

French questions and other revisions

Some people just can't let go. No sooner was the Communist party outlawed in Russia than it was replaced with the still more odious "Communist Workers Party." This latest incarnation has allied itself with neo-fascist and Russian nationalist groups, and seems hot to trot for pogroms against minorities.

"The market won't bring happiness to people," sputters party mouthpiece Viktor Anpilov. "Look at how many people live badly in France," he told the Toronto Star. Why, you ask, France in particular? The Star does not say. Perhaps Anpilov just doesn't like the French.

Anpilov wants to restore the old Soviet empire, but explains that doesn't mean coercion will be used against the new states that have risen from the crumbled empire. "You don't understand how deep-

seated and warm the Soviet family of nations is," he soothes. "Brotherhood is in our blood." The reference to blood, of course, is not intended as a threat. Of course not.

Despite the United Nations Universal Declaration of Human Rights, seems those rights aren't so universal after all. Take Algeria, which elected an Islamic fundamentalist government last month—only to see it overthrown by a military coup before it could take office. Western countries, led by former colonial ruler France, supported the "freezing of democracy" rather than accept the people's choice of an anti-western government. Plus ga change....

Shed a tear for the nucleocrats at Ontario Hydro, who have been telling us for years that the sky would fall if we didn't build dozens more nuclear power plants. Without a nuclear reactor for every pot, they wept to anyone who would listen, we'd all be back in the Stone Age by tomorrow. (Or as the Association of Major Power Consumers lamented, "without nuclear power, we'd all have to eat affunny times.")

Suddenly, met with a "no more or prince and of the act of the act

Anyone familiar with Hydro's costing of the Darlington glow-inthe-dark white elephant will take the utility's latest numbers with a grain of irradiated salt.

Crucial time for the Innu



Innu protest march at CFB Goose Bay, 1989

From page one

Not surprisingly, the panel has decard that the EIS is still drastically inadequate, despite the government's 56 million and 5 1/2 years of work. The panel found 29 years of work. The panel found 29 serious deficiencies, and one has to question the sincerity of a government which tries to pull the same bullshit twice.

Meanwhile, the commanders of the three air forces training at Goose Bay are complaining about restrictions to the flying area. They express concern about the safety of their pilots flying in a smaller area (presumably this is why they want to increase the number of aircraft). The restrictions, which supposedly prevent flying over nesting grounds of birds or caribou herds, were just enforced last year, and show total the disregard for interconnectedness of living things. The Innu and their supporters say

the restrictions, such as they are, are grossly inadequate. "The Innu see the planes flying right over their camps disturbing the animals that DND claims to avoid," says Daniel Ashini, Director of Environment and Innu Rights.

The commanders are hoping that a new assessment will lead to a relaxation of the already loose restrictions. They feel they have done their part for the environment and now "it is really up to DND to go further to the wildlife people," according to British commander Erskine Crum. To this end, they have made veiled threats to pull out of Goose Bay. Crum voiced concern that eventually the restrictions may outweigh the advantages of training at Goose Bay. The German and Dutch commanders have made similar statements. We can only hope.

At the same time, the Lower

Churchill hydro project is scheduled to proceed according to the government timetable, which would mean further development on Innu Iand, including the construction of 650 km. of transmission lines. The extent to which the ecological balance of Nitassinan will be disrupted by the flooding of nearby areas has never been evaluated.

Appropriately, the Innu have joined with the Cree in their opposition to both the Lower Churchill project and James Bay II, with the Cree taking responsibility for political lobbying, and the Innu providing expertise and people-power for non-violent direct action.

Forestry is another threat faced by the Innu. An independent expert has evaluated the Newfoundland government's forestry management plan and found it badly misguided, something the Innu hope to use to gain more control over the management of their territory.

1992 could be a crucial year for the Innu. There is the possibility that further environmental restrictions could be placed on flight training, making it an increasingly undesirable site for the flyers. Conversely, if the NATO countries get their way, the currently inadequate restrictions may be lifted altoguiter, creating an attractive atmosphere for prospective pillagers of Innu land and causing a further entrenchment of the base.

It is vital that all concerned Canadians make their voices heard against the low level training, and in favour of the right of the Innu people to decide their own fate and the fate of their land. To get involved in ACT's campaign, call 416-531-6154 or your local ACT contact, or write to 736 Bathurst St., Toronto, MSS 2R4.8



1992 across Turtle Island

THE ACTIVIST

Preparations are now underway for a series of walks and runs that will cross the continent to commemorate the 500 years of colonization of Turtle Island.

The Peace and Dignity Journeys 1992 are two relay runs, which will begin in Alaska and Argentina, and meet in Mexico on October 12 (Columbus Day). "We want to celebrate." the organizers say, "not 500 years of glory, but 500 years of survival during which we had to struggle for our autodetermination, our lifestyle, our relationship with Mother Earth and our relationship with the universe." Participants are invited to take part in any section of the relay, and run for any distance from 1/4 mile to the full 15,000 miles. Trees will be planted at various locations along the way. There is no entrance fee to run, but donations are wel-

The Alaska-to-Mexico run will also detour to the east and pass herough Alberta, and will also detour to the east and pass near the Canadian border with Minnesota. The organizers can be contacted at 1301 W. 16th Street, Chicago, IL, 60608, 312-733-6363, or at Jornadas de Paz y Dignidad c/o Francisco Jiminez Tlakaelei, Allende No.

y Dignidad c/o Francisco Jiminez Tlakaelei, Allende No 27, Coacalco, Edo do Mexico, 55700.

The Walk Across America for Mother Earth is organized mostly by activists of European descent, but is strongly endorsed and supported by the Western Shoshone Nation and other indigenous groups, and will ask permission from all indigenous nations whose lands they will cross. This Walk will begin on February 1, 1992, in New York City, and will cover over 3,000 miles, arriving at the Nevada Test Site shortly before October 12.

The Nevada Test Site is one of the world's most-abused nuclear test sites, and is occupying the land of the Western Shoshone. In 1990, there were 17 nuclear explosions set off in the area by the United States and Great Britian.

As the organizers point out, "all states which have atomic capabilities test their weapons on the lands of native people ... The people most affected and damaged by nuclear development are the natives and ethnic minorities." The Walk will protest continued nuclear testing and uranium nining, as well as demanding respect for native land claims and rights to self-determination.

The Walk is based on principles of non-violence and respect for Mother Earth, and walkers are required to accept a series of guidelines and principles to ensure a peaceful, open atmosphere. There will be no eivit disobedience actions during the walk, but at the conclusion the walkers will enter the Nevada Test Site at the invitation of the Western Shoone.

The Walk Across America for Mother Earth can be contacted at the National Office U.S.A., 1066 N. High Street, Columbus, Ohio, 43201.

Another walk, the European Peace Pilgrimage, is being organized by Europeans still living in Europe. They will also begin marching on February 1, leaving from King's Bay, Georgia, homeopt for U.S. Trident Submarines, and will reach the Nevada Test Site around October 12.

The American Peace Test and the Western Shoshone Nation, in coalition with many other groups, are planning a series of events to take place at the Nevada Test Site in October to coincide with the arrival of the marchers. From October 1 on, there will be non-violence trainings, forms and healing ceremonies, concluding with two days of non-violent civil disobedience at the Test Site.

There will be participants from around the world at the Test Site in October — survivors of nuclear bombs and nuclear tests from Japan, the USSR, Polynesia: people from many European countries; and both indigenous peoples and settler peoples from across Turtle Island.

For more information, contact the American Peace Test, (702) 386-9834, or the Western Shoshone National Council, (702) 863-0332.

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The Nuba of Sudan

The Nuba of western Suda are being made victims of St lanese government policies designed to destroy them as a people.

They are being victimized simultaneously by three forces; the regular Sudanese military, the rebel Sudanese People's Liberation Army (SPLA), and government-armed paramilitary groups. The people live in fear, and talk of 'genocide.'

The Nuba, who number about a million, are a diverse group of tribes living in the hills of southern Kordofan Province. There has long been competition for land, wells and markets between the Nuba and the cattle-herding tribes known as Baggara. This led to occasional conflict, but they have also traded and even married with one another.

The present terror is due to outside forces. Since 1983 the Sudanese central government has been fighting a horrific civil war against the Sudanese People's Liberation Army (SPLA). In this conflict, the government has made great use of armed militias from loval Arab tribes to supplement the regular army

In the Nuba hills this means the arming of the Baggara, who use the advantage to raid Nuba villages, looting cattle and killing villagers. At the end of October 1989 for instance, 20 villages were burned and looted, 98 people killed and 3,000 left homeless, By 1990 some 60,000 Nuba had been displaced.

In 1987 the SPLA started a unit in the southern Nuba hills, which won some support. However, they have assassinated and kidnapped Nuba leaders who refused to cooperate with them. In response, the army and military intelligence began to arrest and torture large numbers of people on suspicion of being SPLA sympathizers. Most of them are not seen again.

Write letters to the Sudanese President, His Excellency Lt. Gen. Omar Hassan al-Bashir, Head of State, People's Palace, PO Box 281, Khartoum, Sudan, Call for an end to violence by the military and militias against the Nuba, and demand that food and medical aid must be released to the Nuba. Also write to the leader of the SPLA calling for an end to the victimization of those Nuba who do not cooperate with the SPLA: Col. John Garang, c/o SPLA, 295a Finchley Rd., London, NW3 6TD, England.

Protest for Vanunu



The Dimona nuclear reactor. Photo: The Sunday Times

THE ACTIVIST

Supporters of jailed activist Mordechai Vanunu held the firstever anti-nuclear demonstration in Israel on November 30. The demonstration took place directly outside the Dimona Nuclear Facility. It is at Dimona that the Israeli government has secretly constructed and stockpiled nuclear weapons; Vanunu, formerly a technician at Dimona, revealed this information and was sentenced to sixteen years

in solitary confinement.

The Vanunu Solidarity Committee, which organized the demonstration, presented a list of seven demands, asking that the Israeli government release Mordechai Vanunu; make the Middle East a nuclear, chemical and biological weapons-free zone; stop all production of nuclear arms; adhere to the Non-Proliferation Treaty; open Dimona to inspection by the International Atomic Energy Agency; and release information about safety measures at Dimona and about the disposal of nuclear wastes

Only sixteen activists attended the demonstration, travelling to the site from Jerusalem and Tel Aviv. "That number was, however, writes Adam Keller in The Other Israel, "was enough to throw the forces of law and order out of balance "The demonstrators were met. at Dimona, by hundreds of police brought in from all over the region, and Nuclear Centre Security Guards. Though small, the demonstration was an important precedent, and received extensive press coverage in all the Israeli papers.

Canada's helping hand

The following is a list of the top five recipients of Canadian aid Recall that Brian Mulroney claims our aid is tied to respect for human rights. The record speaks for itself. (Figures from CIDA, which disburses foreign

1. Bangladesh, \$119.9 million. Although genuinely needy, Bangladesh is also guilty of torture of prisoners, extra-judicial executions, displacement of indigenous peoples, and detention without trial. It holds hundreds of political prisoners.

2. China, \$73.5 million, Illegal occupation of Tibet: democracy protests outlawed since the Tiananmen Square massacre; torture; detention without trial; increasing numbers of executions: displacement of peasant farmers by Canadian-funded Three Gorges dam. Represented at February United Nations Summit by Li Peng, who ordered Tiananmen massacre.

3. Indonesia, \$48.2 million. Wars and government-sponsored terrorism in illegally-occupied East Timor and in West Papua and Aceh. Massacre of 200 protesters in East Timor Nov. 12; one in three Timorese killed since Indonesian invasion. Mass killings; torture: detention without trial: relocation and displacement of indigenous peoples; detention without trial. After North Korea's Kim Il Sung, President Suharto is the world's senior dietator (Canada has announced plans to cut off \$30 million in aid, subject to re- assessment.)

4. Egypt, \$42.8 million, Several thousand Islamic political prisoners; Arab women's organization banned last year.

5. Morocco, \$42.7 million. Illegal occupation of Western Sahara for 15 years; at least 50 longterm political prisoners, hundreds of shorter-term; torture and deaths in custody; "disappearance" of dissidents.



Civilians attacked in Burma

By MAGGIE HELWIG THE ACTIVIST

Since the award of the Nobel Peace Prize this year, Aung San Suu Kyi of Burma has become quite widely known; and this sudden high profile is a welcome development. Yet increased awareness of the situation of this, admittedly important, woman has not created very much interest in the situation of the rest of the people of Burma, a situation which is worsening daily

The ruling military junta, the SLORC, has launched a new wave of crackdowns on Burma's ethnic and religious minorities. particularly the Muslims and the Karen, after making a large purchase of new weapons from China. And in the cities, arrests and torture of dissidents and democracy activists on insignificant or nonexistent charges

The most brutal repression is aimed at the Karen, Karen guerrillas have had de facto control of a sizable region of Burma, near the Thai border, for some years now. The main centre for the Karen, called Manerplaw, has also served as a refuge and a base for many other Burmese dissident groups, such as the Democratic Alliance of Burma (DAB), the National Democratic Front (NDF), the All Burma Young Monks Union (ABYMU), and the All Burma Students Democratic Front (ABSDF). It is also the seat of the National Coalition government-in-exile

In December, the SLORC launched an all-out assault on Manerplaw. Two full army divisions have been sent to the area, and fighting between the gorvernment forces and the guerrillas has been severe. And, as usual, civilians and noncombatants are paying a heavy price. PC-9 fighter jets have attacked Karen villages. Many villagers are being rounded up and moved into concentration camps, so that they cannot

provide the guerrillas with any form of help (food, shelter, etc.), and there are reports of a number of villagers, including children, being executed.

Government troops have also

pressed an estimated 10,000 civilians into service as army porters, according to information from the Karen National Union. Some 3,000 of these are women, who are often raped; a group of 150 porters who escaped into Karen territory reported that women were killed if they refused to have sex with th soldiers (it should also be noted that, according again to escaped civilians, most Burmese soldiers are teenagers, some just 15 years old, and that they have usually

It is estimated that, since December, 8,000 Burmese civilians have fled their villages, joining the tens of thousands who are already refugees in Thailand or in the Karen-controlled areas.

been forced into military service)

Meanwhile, fighting against Muslim rebels in the north, near the border with Bangladesh, has been severe enough to raise fears of a Burma-Bangladesh war. The Canadian government,

through the involvement of Petro-Canada with the SLORC, continues to prop up the military regime. As a recent newsletter of the Mennonite Central Committee notes, more and more people in Burma are losing faith in nonviolent methods of social change and coming to see the guerrilla war as their only hope. If we do not actively and strongly support them through our own nonviolent action, the MCC editors point out, we can hardly expect them to be convinced if we preach about the effectiveness of non-violence. "The people of Burma are calling on us for this kind of support. In order to have more options for nonviolent struggle within Burma, they need us to pressure our governments to withdraw all support for the military regime."

Citizens of the new Europe

By Stephen Dankowich THE ACTIVIST

Non-alignment has always been a guiding principle of ACT for Disarmament's work for peace.

To be non-aligned means that you are opposed to all militarism, support the right to protest for peace anywhere, reject Canadian involvement in NATO and NORAD, and recognize the right to self-determination of all nations.

Today, ACT's 'East-West' working group is putting its energies into the promotion of the Helsinki Citizens Assembly (HCA). ACT is now serving as the National Secretariat for the Canadian Citizens Assembly for the Helsinki Process (CCAHP).

Throughout the Cold War of 1980s, ACT worked with independent social movement activists in both military blocs. We learned from our counterparts in the east that peace was not just a question of disarmament but that it must incorporate demands for human rights as well. The 1980 European Nuclear Disarmament (END) Appeal taught us to be loyal not to any particular country but to each other.

The idea for the HCA emerged out of the dialogue between independent citizens' movements on both sides of the Cold War divide. In 1985, the Czechoslovak human rights initiative "Charter 77" issued the Prague Appeal, which called for a democractic, peaceful and bloc-free Europe, and drew attention to the importance of the Conference on Cooperation and Security in Europe (CSCE), better known as the Helsinki Process.

We are now encouraging Canadian social movement activists to attend the 2nd General Assembly of the HCA in Bratislava, from March 26 to 29. Its theme is "New



Walls in Europe: Nationalism and Racism." It is argued that nationalism and racism are defining the political scene both East and West and have resulted in violence, and death tolls unprecedented in Furope for decades.

The 2nd General Assembly will provide the opportunity to network directly with hundreds of activists from the 38 CSCE countries The great majority of time has been allotted to the six different HCA commissions. If you have interest in women's rights, civil society and the democratic integration of Europe, demilitarization and peace politics, economy and ecology, human rights, or the issue of nationalism and confederal structures, you will want to be in Bratislava.

An exciting contribution of the CCAHP to the 2nd General As sembly can now be announced. We agreed to take financial responsibility to ensure that an indigenous person from Canada could make a keynote address to the Full Plenary of the HCA, Rosemarie Kuptana of the Inuit Tapirisat has agreed to speak. As 1992 marks 500 years of European colonization of Turtle Island (North America), it is particularly appropriate that the HCA General Assembly will hear from an indigenous person from Canada.

In this period of rapid worldwide restructuring, it is critical that social movement activists connect with each other in common cause for a nuclear-free world, a re-greening of the planet, and strict adherence to international standards of human rights by all governments. The peace movement has its work cut out for itself.

The Helsinki Citizens Assembly continues to play a pivotal role in pursuit of these goals.

Soldiers for peace

By VESNA BOZIC INSIGHT FEATURES

One night just before Christmas. I found myself in the center of Belgrade joining a small but significant peace protest in front of the Serbian parliament.

The action was a candlelight vigil. It takes place every night at 8:30, and candles are lit for all victims of the war, of whatever nationality or ethnic background.

But this night something new happened. As our small group of peace activists, mostly intellectual types, stood huddled in the cold, e saw a group of Serbian soldiers moving toward our gathering. No one knew what to expect, and there were some voices of concern.

We were pleasantly surprised. The soldiers were with the Yugoslav Federal Army Reservists stationed in the city. They had come to light candles for friends they had lost in the fighting. They had been forbidden by their officers to join our protest, and had to sneak away from their barracks to he with us

They told me they had been to the front. One had been in Vukovar; another had been outside Knin, a city near Dubrovik. All agreed they are not prepared to go back to the front, and if forced, would resist.

Voices of peace

leaflet from the Anti-War Centre in Belgrade, the heart of the Serbian peace movement. The Centre continues to stay open every day, providing counselling and information. and organizes daily candlelight vigils, weekly Women in Black vigils, weekly public meetings and out-

This leaflet is a vivid example of the work of a committed peace movement in the midst of a tragic civil war, preserving the small voice of reason and compassion. The text is reprinted from Peace News, February 1992.

How to stay sane during an insane war

As you obviously need to be informed, listen only to the absolute minimum of news. When doing so, try to choose sources which can be trusted at least a bit. As we live in conditions of absolute control over the media, try to draw your own conclusions; the best thing would be if you could hear "the other side" to compare. Try to avoid the main news, especially TV Belgrade, TV Novi Sad or the 3pm news on Radio Belgrade 1

Whenever you hear a terrifying piece of information, or see a horrible picture on TV, take a deep breath and slowly breathe out, Repeat it several times until you feel better. Try to avoid TV news, espe-cially when they are showing horrifying scenes of massacres

Try to listen to all the arguments that someone brings up; do not confront them directly because you will only reinforce their own beliefs by doing so. Try to make them doubt their own arguments. Your answer could be that the war can only make things worse and not better. Show them that there is a possibility to choose. War is not a choice - only peace can be a choice. No conflicts can be resolved by force. Force activates resistance and everything just becomes worse.

Whenever you hear a general remark like "Croats are genocidal people!", try to remember somebody who belongs to that nation and their good qualities. Keep in touch with people of different nationalities. You can find out something about the problems of the other side by talking with them

Show your solidarity to other people everywhere: in the house where you live, among the people who are with you on the same bus. That way you not only will feel better but you will also be encouraging people around you.

Keep in mind that there is a huge media war going on, a war which is difficult to resist and which keeps destroying your personality. The ultimate goals of this war are to make people accept their ideas, to make them frightened in order to stop all forms of organised resistance. It is better for you to go for a walk or to talk with your friends than to sit in front of the TV.

Choose cheerful, bright colours for your clothes. Try to spend at least one hour every day thinking about the positive solution to the situation you are in. This will encourage your optimism and it will be good for people around

There is always "the other side" of the problem. If you know nothing about the point of view of others, you cannot expect them to understand you. There is no such thing as the one and only truth. Your positive action represents

a possible way out. Talk as much as you can about the possibilities for peace. Many people are against the war but they do not think that peace stands a chance. If you manage to encourage them and to explain why is it important that they personally do something against the war, our chances for peace will get gradually bigger. It is now that these chances are greatest. Have a peace slogan on you, on a badge, for example

We refuse to be miserable because that is not what we are!

If you are a man, do not let others demoralise you by calling you a coward if you use your own head, want to survive, and do not want to become a killer and if you do not agree with the reason or the need to make war. You have the right to defend your ideas; including the one saving that war is unnecessary, that nothing is accomplished by it and that it will bring nobody any good.

If you have your own ideas about peace actions, try to gather people who share your opinion and start the work together.



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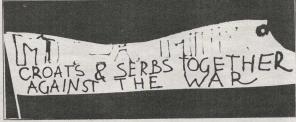
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Banner at a peace demonstration held by Serbs and Croats living in Holland. Photo: Mira

Living in faith

The Non-Violent Coming of God James W. Douglass Orbis Books \$13.95 (U.S.)

REVIEWED BY BRIAN BURCH

I really wished that I had enjoyed The Non-violent Coming of God. As our commitment to the peace movement, for both myself and James Douglass - a member of the Ground Zero community of nonviolent activists which formed around resistance to the Trident nuclear missile - comes from a deeply held Christian faith, I should have found in his book inspiration and echoes of shared understandings and experiences. Unfortunately, the overall impression I have of The Non-violent Coming of God is that it is a peace movement equivalent of Hal Lindsey's The Late Great Planet Farth

Perhaps my understanding of the contents of Douglass' work was distorted by my reaction to the cover illustration. What I took to be a picture of a disembowelled woman out of whom a mass of people was



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or preaching it

falling I later find is a copy of the painting Mother Intifuda who is "delivering people from fear and oppression." This interpretation, some 200 pages into the book, came too late for my reaction not to be tainted by the front illustration. While I must admit that it is wrong to judge a book by its cover. I must also admit that it is hard to be neutral about the content of a book after being repulsed by its cover.

At its core, The Non-violent Coming of God is an effort to look at the coming of Christ and some of the radical aspects of the Christian gospel in the light of current struggles for peace and for justice. Douglass provides a selective biblical justification for non-violent resistance to war and injustice that is woven around the Ground Zero Community's resistance to the Tri-dent missile and their support for the Palestinian peoples' struggle.

This core shows a strength of vision and a deep commitment to living out a challenging faith. And when Douglass limits his focus to his own experiences, as in his section "Saved By Our Enemies", all are challenged by the effective example of living out a simple, trusting and unwavering commitment tonon-violence. If we are to change the world, to create a world where fear of war and domestic violence are absent, then the example of all those involved in the Ground Zero campaign deserves emulation.

Where Douglass fails his readers is when he undertakes biblical interpretation, especially in his insistence both that Christ preached a gospel of revolutionary non-violence and that through non-violence today we are establishing the nonviolent coming of God's kingdom. This moves Douglass from being an example of the Christian life to another millenialist, albeit one who writes for my side and not for those who believe that we must have a nuclear war before the second coming of Christ can occur. There is a less than subtle arrogance in this form of hiblical analysis that belies the reality of Douglass' own life.

While I agree with Douglass that Christians are called on to be peacemakers, I am honest enough to admit that I come to this conclusion by the simple means of discarding those biblical passages that say things I disagree with and avoid assuming my conclusions are the only correct ways of responding to Christian scripture. Despite some clever exegesis, I can't help distrusting Douglass' one-sided use of Christian scripture to justify an inflated view of the importance of non-violent resistance.

In summary, the part of The Non-violent Coming of God that is descriptive of an activist life as a response to an individual's faith is important reading for anyone making a lifelong commitment to social transformation. The remainder will primarily interest left-wing fundamentalist interpreters of Christian scripture. Seriptive 1.

Stark Blues

Cold War Blues
T. James Stark
Voyageur Publishing
\$19.95

REVIEWED BY STEPHEN DANKOWICH

Cold War Blues is the autobiographical story of Operation Dismantle by its founder. Jim Stark.

Anyone familiar or at all interested in the peace movement will find this book to be a good read. It is the story of one individual's odyssey into the real world of politics during the height of renewed superpower nuclear confrontation in the, early 1980s.

An individual's idea of a world-wide referendum for general disarmament grows into a national peace group, a lobby and mission at the United Nations, and a Supreme Court challenge to the testing of cruise missiles in Canada.

This book helps to verify the belief that anyone and everyone can help disamt the world. Until April of 1977, Stark was living the rural life. The fledgling peace activist soon discovered that the government in fact opposed real disarmament. Stonewalled time and again, Stark reveals the hypocrisy of Canadian bureaucrats and their inherent fear of "participatory democracy," binding referendums.

and other citizens' initiatives. Cold War Bluez is an insight into the strategies and tactics of social movements. Operation Dismantle was involved in most of the major peace initiatives of the later 1970s and 1980s.

Results of the various peace campaigns led Canadians to the realization that their country really was no peacemaker. The Canadian government remains within the orbit of "nuclear colonialism"—but of disarmament independent of the U.S. superpower. We learn that Canada is a client state of America and that our foreign policy is made in Washington.

Operation Dismantle had its greatest successes when it appealed directly to citizens, as in the municipal referendums for general globad disarmament and the Nuclear Weapons Freeze campaigns of 1983-4. Its failure was guaranteed whenever it went over the heads of people and assumed that the highest echelons of government would lead the world to peace, as in appeals to the United Nations, the "official" Soviet peace representatives, and to the Supreme Court of Canada to stop cruise missile testing (interestingly, ACT was one of only 22 peace groups which endorsed the court challenge).

When the Canadian Peace Alliance was founded in 1985, Stark was as shocked as I was when Dr. Thomas Perry gave an opening keynote address ordering the assembled peace activists not to criticize the Soviet Union.

In 1985, Stark was unceremoniously dumped as leader of Operation Dismantle. He believes that "the neutralization of Operation Dismantle was the purpose behind the attack" and "that the RCMP secret service was involved."

Stark reveals the extent to the secret police has infiltrated the peace movement — they were in attendance at the founding meeting of the CPA, removed a damaging letter from Trudeau from Stark's personal safe, switched lugsage on him and actively tried to recruit Stark. He later claimed that he remained under surveillance in 1989, Stark's revelations beg the bigger question — who's really in charge of this democratic process? Elected officials or the secret police?

Operation Dismantle's waverings, between involving the people and attempting to enlist the support of politicians and bureaucrats, had dire consequences. The saddest reality is that we all expended too much positive energy trying to influence politically-powerful people or protesting against an intransigent Canadian state. We did not sufficiently pursue the development of alternativs, or broaden the definition of peace beyond strictly disarmament issues to include environmental, native rights, human rights, women's rights, and building North-South links.

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Deadline for next issue: Feb. 26.

EAST TIMOR UPDATE

Number 8 — February 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 decadeand-a-half since, 250,000 people over a third of the indigenous Timorese population - have been killed. Genocide and masive 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:

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THE INDONESIA

An excellent new resource from ETAN! The Indonesia Kit, by Elaine Brière and Susan Gage, is designed for secondary students, college and university classes, and community groups. It's available for just \$7 (\$6 for 10 or more) from ETAN's national office in Vancouver

Cruise, crosses highlight Timor actions

International outrage over killings in East Timor is growing fast, despite all the best efforts of Western governments, and Indonesia's lobbyists (led by US firm Hill and Knowlton, credited for fabricating evidence that encouraged the Gulf War), to bury the issue. Among the actions taken in solidarity with the people of East Timor since Indonesian soldiers massacerd 200 pro-independence demonstrators last Nov. 12 in full view of Western iournalists:

A decommissioned car ferry set out from Portugal in mid-January with the aim of laying flowers at Santa Cruz cemetery, site of the massacre, next Feb. 27. The 28-year old Lusitania Expresso was brought out of retirement by a Portuguese student group, which has launched the Greenpeace-like "Peace in Timor" cruise to carry 100 activits, supporters and journalists to the former Portuguese Timor colony.

Australia's Timorese refugee community, with support from most of the country's unions and human rights organizations, has maintained an unofficial East Timor Embassy outside the Indonesian Embassy in Canberra since November. Until the end of January, the front of the Indonesian embassy was adorned with 124 crosses, each bearing the name of a known victim of the Nov. 12 massacre. The crosses were removed by order of Australian Foreign Minister Gareth Evans, who said the "dignity of the embassy was impaired" by the graphic reminder of killings in East Timor.

 The Free East Timort coalition in Japan confronted U.S. President George Bush during his Asian trip over his inaction on East Timor, compared to his swift response over Kuwait, and forced the Japanese government to review its huge programme of economic aid to Indonesia.

 Videotaped scenes of the massacre were shown on a giant screen outside the European Community heads of government meeting in Maastricht, Netherlands, making the issue impossible to ignore.
 Portugal takes over the EC presidency this year, and has promised to put East at the top of the agenda.

 A dozen people from five states met in New York in January to found the East Timor Action Network/US, which planns to raise awareness, hold activist-oriented events and pressure the American government to help East Timor. They can be contacted at PO Box 1182, White Plains NY 10602, USA.

Guelph U. rethinks aid

The University of Guelph has agreed to an external review of its CIDA-funded aid programme on the Indonesian island of Sulawesi. The Guelph programme, the largest of any Canadian university in



Indonesia, has long been under attack for supporting the Indonesian military regime. The review will be conducted by Meyer Brownstone of OXFAM Canada, Clovis Demers of the Canadian Centre for Human Rights and Democratic Development, and a third man yet to be named.

A group at Vancouver's Simon Fraser University, another school with major Indonesian contracts, has been formed to campaign for similar consideration of human rights questions.

Massacre survivor jailed

The show trials of some of the 37 Timorese survivors of the Nov. 12 massacre have begun. On 20 January, the first of those accused of "subversion," Filismine dos Santos Conceição, was found guilty of stealing military documents and smuggling them to the outside world. She was sentenced to seven years in prison after a one-day trial.

In a sinister twist, prosecutors are now trying to link East Timor Bishop Carlos Ximenes Belo to the information-smuggling. Belo has received repeated death threats and harassment since he asked the United Nations to conduct a referendum on independence in East Timor with the words "we are dying as a people and as a nation." Supporters fear Indonesia is trying to force the Valican to remove him.

Indonesia is also considering laying subversion charges against Father Ricardo, Vicar-General of the East Timor Diocese. More than 100 arrests were reported in the last week of January as the atmosphere in East Timor remained tense.

Journalists fired for reporting

Three journalists with the popular Indonesian weekly Jakarta, Jakarta have been fired after the magazine devoted much of its Jan. 4-10 issue to Timorese eyewitness accounts of the Nov. 12 massacre. The three are Seno Gumira

Ajidarma, Executive Editor, Usep Hermawan, Domestic Editor; and JJ Waskito Trisnoadi, Artistic Editor, The dismissals, which make a mockery of Indonesian claims to freedom of the press, were immediately condemned by the Brussels-based International Federation of Journalists.

Among the testimonies published in Jakarta, Jakarta, a member of the regional assembly described the actions of a local army commander at the massacre: "He shot once into the air and the troops got down from the trucks. The soldiers ... immediately began to shoot at the demonstrators. They fired from a distance of about 10 metres. The shooting went on for about 5 minutes... [Then] the soldiers, who were fully dressed and carrying bayonets, got down.... Anyone

who was still alive was stabbed with a knife."

Media watch

Canada should impose economic sanctions against Indonesia if its reduction of aid to Indonesia by two thirds has no effect, say three Canadian newspapers. "If Indonesia persists in its brutal treatment of the East Timorese," editorialized the Calgary Herald, "then Canada must be prepared to apply total economic sanctions to Indonesia ... Canada talks a good game when it comes to espousing human rights. In the case of Indonesia, it's time to put its money where its mouth is,"

The Montreal Gazette called Canada's review of aid to Indonesia "long overdue" and added "it should also extend to Canada's commercial and trade relations with Indonesia." Montreal's Le Devoir agreed that the time had come to end "business as usual" with dictators such as Indonesia's General Suharto.

Dave Todd of Southam News (writing in the Ottawa Citizen and other papers) and Toronto Star columnist Bruce McLeod have recently published hard-hitting pieces about Canada's role in the East Timor genocide.

A package of Canadian media coverage of East Timor during 1991 will be available during February from ETAN Toronto. Please send \$10 to cover copying and postage.

Action of the Month

Write to PM Brian Mulroney and External Affairs Minister Barbara McDougall. congratulating them on cutting ,aid to Indonesia by two thirds (\$30million) and urge them to maintain the aid out until East Timor's right to self-detmination is respected. House of Commons, Ottawa Ont., K1A OA6 (postage free).

No more weapons sales

From page one

As regards countries under imment threat of hostilities: Canada has made military sales, sometimes large and frequent sales, to almost every country in the Middle East. It should be obvious to any objective person that any country in the Middle East must be considered to be under imminent threat of hostilities more or less all the time.

It is unclear how these sales were authorized. It is possible that the government was unaware (whether innocently or willfully) of the dreafull human rights records in some of the countries to which military sales were made. However, the existence of the conditions should mean that the people responsible for implementing them take the time to become fully informed, and that they consult respected NGOs such as Amnesty and Human Rights Watch, not just governmental agencies.

It is more probable that the sales were made because of the great flexibility of the phrase "closely controlled." There seems to be a sense, among Canadian lawmakers and arms-makers alike, that if we do not sell "things that go boom" we are free of responsibility - thus the rather specious division of military equipment into "offensive" and "non-offensive." A nightvision device that is used to target a village in order that it might be bombed contributes to the deaths of the people in that village as surely as do the bombs themselves. A vehicle that carries soldiers to the site where they massacre a crowd of civilians contributes to the deaths of those people as surely as do the bullets. And certainly (as in the case of Kenya), helicopter components that can be used to make helicopter gunships, which may be used to strafe civilian targets, are hardly "non-offensive" in any real sense of the word.

A government that is known to persistently violate human rights may promise to use components only for "non-offensive" purposes, but what they promise is hardly to the point. We have to ask what they may reasonably be expected to do.

Minimally, then, in order for the Canadian government to conform to its own standards, we ask for a complete ban on weapons asles to governments known to violate human rights, and we would insist that this ban include at least: Indonesia, Kenya, China, Peru, the Phillippines, Sri Lanka, and Turkey — all of them countries Canada has made arms sales to in the last three years.

We would also ask for a complete ban on arms sales to any country in the Middle East, on the grounds that the whole area is under constant threat of imminent hostilities.

An Optimal Proposal

The above, then, is our minimal proposal.

It must be pointed out, however, that such a proposal is far from solving all the problems.

The Canadian government has always considered itself free of responsibility for "end use" of components, and has not made any attempt to track third party sales of weapons components. This is perhaps an extremely serious abdication of responsibility. The completed weapons systems could not exist, obviously enough, without their component parts. If the completed systems are exported to countries which violate government guidelines for arms sales, then those guidelines are violated, even though the second sale was not made by the Canadian government itself. And we cannot plead ignorance - it is not so very difficult to track third party sales. Project Ploughshares has done just this, and very admirably, for some years now, and all their information has been entirely accessible to the Canadian government. It is not possible to claim that we do not know where our weapons components are going, because we often do know. And it is not possible to claim that we have no responsibility.

In some cases, it would take only a few seconds of thought to realize where the components are going. Brazil, for instance, does not have a huge standing army. It is, however, the biggest arms exporter in the Third World, and regularly exports weapons systems to countries engaged in civil wars or

blatantly and horrendously violating human rights. In 1990, Canada sold four million dollars worth of helicopter components to Brazil. It seems a fairly good assumption that not all of those were intended for domestic use.

Israel, Italy, China, Spain and Sutzerland have also been the middlemen in sales of Canadian components to countries with abominable human rights records. By far the largest re-exporter of Canadian military hardware, though, is the United States. The United States has, effectively, no controls on arms sales.

To note one particularly grim example, which has been documented by Amnesty International, Canadian-made engines for military trainer planes were sold to Brazil and Switzerland. The planes, once assembled, were sold to Iran-The Iraqi military converted them into attack planes and used them to bombard Kurdish villages with poison gas.

This story illustrates a number of points - the possibility that sales even to such a "good" country as Switzerland can ultimately contribute to severe human rights violations, for instance. It also makes clear one of the difficulties in dividing military hardware into "offensive" and "non-offensive." We can never guarantee that a military system will be used as we intended it to be used. Military hardware is all too flexible, and there is very little of it that cannot be used to attack and kill perfectly innocent civilian populations.

Further, it is impossible to predict where regional wars may flare up. No one expected Yugoslavia to explode into sudden, bloody civil war. But when it did, Canadian weapons were there to be used in that war, in which hundreds if not thousands of innocents have been killed, and in which hall sides are blatantly violating any code of human rights. And should be increasingly

And should be increasingly clear that the build-up of weapons in any given area does not lead to greater stability, but to greater and greater threats of war. The Middle East, which is both the most heavily armed and the most unstable area in the world, is proof enough of this

Finally, there is only one way to ensure that our weapons and weapons components are not used in a manner that violates human rights or contributes to the likelihood of war. That one way is to stop making them.

Therefore, our optimal proposal is this: we call for a complete ban on *all* Canadian arms

To the Third World, to NATO and other European countries, to the United States. All Canadian arms sales.

Canada has already won some international respect for first broaching the idea of an arms sales registry. If we were to take this further step, we could be a world leader in the search for a peaceful and demilitarized world. It is countries like Canada, countries not seriously economically dependent on military industries, which are best able to set an example by taking the strongest initiatives. It is time for Canada to be a model that the rest of the world can follow.

CANDU Technology

Additionally to this proposal, we submit that the CANDU reactor must be considered as a military sale. The CANDU produces a large quantity of weapons-grade uranium, and possession of a CANDU is a positive encouragement to the construction of nuclear weapons, for any country that has any nuclear ambitions at all. Indeed, the military application of the CANDU has already been demonstrated — it was the CANDU reactor that made India a nuclear-weapons state.

We would ask, then, that the CANDU be subject to the same export controls as are sales of weapons. Minimally, this would mean that the CANDU should not be sold to any country which violates the guidelines set out in 1986, or any country which may aspire to the possession of nuclear weapons. We would ask that the CANDU sale to south Korea be cancelled, and that Canada should withdraw its support from the partially-constructed reactor in Romania. Optimally, this would mean that the CANDU should not be exported at all.

United Nations Arms Registry

A few comments on the plan for a United Nations Arms Sales Registry are in order. Though this shows a welcome awareness of the problem of arms exports, it does not seem to us that simple knowledge of where weapons are going is particularly to the point. The important thing is actually to stop weapons sales to repressive countries and civil wars, and this is best accomplished by weapon-selling countries taking the initiative to stop selling weapons. As we said earlier, Canada is in a position to do this, and to set an example to other countries, because our economy is not greatly dependent on the arms industry.

We do want to suggest that if the UN Arms Sales Registry is to be effective in any way, it must make a point of tracking third party sales.

Defense Industry Productivity Program To the extent that sectors of

the economy do depend, at the moment, on the manufacture of weapons for export, the government must take responsibility for helping these industries to convert to civilian production. We would suggest that the Defense Industry Productivity Program be changed to a Conversion Incentive Program, and that the funds which currently go to subsidize the arms industry should be used, instead, to assist industries in converting from military to civilian production, and to provide the rewards and incentives that will encourage them to make this shift. This will almost surely be more profitable in the long run, especially given that the world market for weapons is now declining. And it will ultimately create much-needed jobs (the arms industry is notoriously capital-intensive, and one of the least labourintensive industries existing).

A ban on all Canadian weapons sales is, certainly, a daring proposal. But it is chiefly the daring and 'unworkable' ideas - like the idea of suddenly tearing down the Berlin Wall, like the idea of the Soviet Union peacefully taking itself apart - which have actually worked, and have brought the world closer to peace than we have been for some decades. It is time for Canada to take some of the daring, unworkable steps. We are in a position to establish Canada as a country that takes the lead in creating peace. We should not let this opportunity pass us by.



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