

the ACTivist

Ontario's Peace Newspaper

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Photo: David Malby

Saturday May 16

On May 16, at Queen's Park, at 1 p.m., ACT for Disarmament will hold the 10th Annual Spring Protest for Peace.

Since its founding as the Against Cruise Testing Coalition, ACT has played a vital role in defining the mandate of the peace movement. Throughout the Cold War, ACT maintained its stance of non-alignment, condemning human rights violations and preparations for war in both military blocs.

ACT was among the first peace groups to insist that ecology be made part of the peace movement's concerns, and to protest nuclear power and the nuclear fuel cycle.

We have incorporated, in our work since 1982, an understanding of the central importance of self-determination for all peoples, and especially the rights of indigenous peoples. More recently, we have been among the first to incorporate women's issues, and to name violence against

women as a peace issue.

ACT has always focussed on grass-roots, independent peace activism — street demonstrations, street outreach, and empowerment of each individual in the ongoing work for a peaceful and just world. And we have defended the right to nonviolent protest whenever and wherever it has been threatened.

Our new working groups structure reflects our concern for decentralized and non-hierarchical organizing.

The Spring Protest for Peace has always been an important event for ACT. Previous Spring Protests have drawn some of the largest crowds at any demonstrations held in Toronto. At our 10th Annual, we will be celebrating our years of activism with music, speakers, children's activities and, of course, a march for peace down Yonge Street. Join us there!

For more on ACT's history and current activities, see the Spring Protest pull-out supplement inside this issue. ☸

French nuclear tests suspended

In a welcome if surprising move, the new Prime Minister of France has announced a moratorium on French nuclear testing in the South Pacific until the end of the year.

Prime Minister Pierre Bérégovoy made the announcement in his first speech to Parliament on April 8.

Since 1975, France has carried out a total of 131 underground nuclear tests on Mururoa and Fatagaua atolls. The tests have long been the subject of protest by peace, environmental and human rights groups.

President Mitterand, the Prime Minister said, had sent a letter to the heads of states of all nuclear powers asking them to take up a similar moratorium. Russia had announced a moratorium on nuclear tests last October, though this is now in some doubt.

Bérégovoy suggested that France might extend the moratorium in 1993 if other nuclear powers had responded by then. ☸

War resisters freed

April brought good news to ACT's Prisoners for Peace working group, as several of the peace activists whose freedom we have campaigned for were released from prison.

Dr. Yolanda Huet-Vaughn, in a surprise move, was given an early release on April 6, after serving eight months of her original 30-month sentence. Her release was due to the very unusual intervention of Army Secretary Stone.

Dr. Huet-Vaughn attributes her early release to the international campaign on her behalf spearheaded by Citizen Soldier and Amnesty International, and supported by ACT.

In January of 1991, Dr. Huet-Vaughn left her unit and refused to serve in the Gulf War, saying that it went against her medical oath to preserve life. She was the only Gulf War resister to base her trial defence on international law, citing her duty not to participate in war crimes.

Huet-Vaughn still faces the possible loss of her medical license after a hearing by the Kansas State Board of Healing Arts. She also intends to bring a complaint before the United Nations, saying she was deprived of her right to refuse service in a war she believed to be illegal.

In Israel, peace activist Abie Nathan



Yolanda Huet-Vaughn before her refusal to serve in the Gulf

was released after six months in prison for meeting with PLO members (a crime under Israeli law). His sentence was commuted by President Chaim Herzog.

Nathan, who maintains that a meaningful peace can only come about if the two sides in the conflict are able to meet and talk, believes that the law prohibiting contact with PLO members will be changed after the June 23 general election. He promised to abide by the law until that time.

And in Russia, the trial of conscientious objector Alexander Pronozin ended with the 21-year-old activist receiving a suspended sentence. Pronozin had spent some weeks in a mental hospital while his refusal to perform military service was being 'investigated.' The suspended sentence was regarded as a victory by his supporters, and as a sign that the Russian authorities are reluctant to imprison conscientious objectors at this time.

A bill to provide for the possibility of conscientious objector status is still before the Russian parliament, although the original, more progressive version has been replaced by one considerably more restrictive, and not favoured by most Russian peace activists.

Though many war resisters around the world remain in prison, these releases are important signs of the weight that public pressure can have. All those who joined our campaigns for Yolanda Huet-Vaughn, Alexander Pronozin or Abie Nathan can count themselves as sharing in their victories.

ACT continue to campaign on behalf of prisoners for peace, especially the remaining Gulf War resisters, and Mordcheai Vanunu of Israel, still serving a 16-year sentence for revealing Israel's nuclear stockpiles to the world. ☸

Mark your calendar now...
so you don't forget the
Ontario Peace Conference
Oakville, Ont.
Sept. 11-13, 1992
"Building Peace Culture in Ontario"
For more information
contact ACT Oakville,
416-844-4453

THE ACTIVIST

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Opinions expressed in this paper are not necessarily those of ACT

Jo Peacenic

Day of the Lightbulb

Overheard at the police 911 Emergency facility:

"For really serious situations we'll have people from different branches of the service here. I mean situations like a visit from the Pope, or a visit from the Queen, or a demonstration by ACT for Disarmament."

###

Is Ontario Hydro giving us cancer ... again?

The friendly folks at Hydro have long maintained that nuclear power plants, like the ones at Darlington and Pickering just east of Toronto, are safe. 100 per cent safe. Ain't no way they'd cause cancer, no sir. Our reactors aren't a health risk, not like those Russian ones. You see, Canadian radiation is different from other kinds. It's clean, cold, and honest radiation that would never lead to cancer. Except when it does.

The geniuses in Hydro's glass tower have finally cottoned on to environmentalism, however, and are now gleeful over their new energy-efficient halogen lights. Use them in the home, the workplace, the school. Trouble is, the ultraviolet lights cause cancer in mice, according to British researchers, and probably give humans cancer too.

Cancer-efficient lights. Now that would be truth in advertising.

###

The energy-efficient lights, by the way, are to be made by top nuclear weaponmaker General Electric in its Oakville plant. GE, a longtime supplier of the uranium fuel rods that power Ontario nuclear reactors, is also the target of a worldwide boycott over its military production, and ranks among the top polluters in North America. None of this poses a moral problem for Premier Bob Rae-dioactive, who was positively panting over GE's plans to spend money in Ontario.

Bob, you see, is desperate for his old enemies in the business world to love him. He's even going to allow legalized gambling to try to make a few bucks for the socialist Utopia.

But Bob's casino craze shouldn't come as a surprise. After all, he's been gambling with nuclear ever since he came to power.

###

What are we to make of the latest issue of Ascent, the glossy quarterly that extolls the triumphs of Atomic Energy of Canada Limited (AECL)? The mag's spring number featured a self-congratulatory paean to "Saskatchewan's changing energy climate," almost weeping with joy over that province's decision to follow Ontario down the yellowcake road to dependence on nuclear power by buying a Candu reactor from AECL.

The cover shows an electrical cord with the prongs replaced by heads of wheat (must have taken some real graphic expertise huh? P.R. flack: "Hinnn, Saskatchewan ... wheat!" Good thinking guys!).

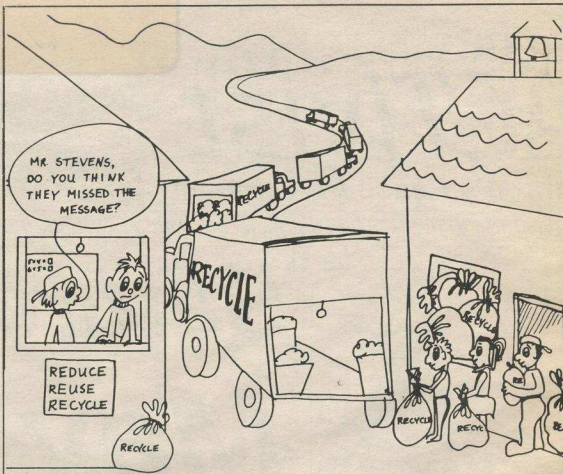
Oops. Seems Saskatchewan Premier Roy Romanow yanked the plug on the planned \$220 million nuclear power deal three weeks before the magazine was due to hit the newsstands. But it was too late for AECL to find new hype to fill Ascent's yawning pages.

After all, good news doesn't come often for the nuke-heads.

###

Offered without comment: The Canadian International Trade Tribunal has just authorized the import of the American-made Nova XR-5000 "stun gun," which delivers a jolt of 40,000 volts to the target, rendering them "dazed and disoriented for up to 15 minutes," according to hype put out by distributor Alpha Marketing Group Inc. of Toronto. The gun will handle up to "200 takedowns" before its batteries need replacing.

The device, which will sell for \$139.95, is not covered by Canadian gun control laws.



I have been receiving The ACTIVIST for the past year. It is one of the few periodicals I trust not to misinform me. It is too easy to lose ourselves in the government/business propaganda that we are fed by mass media. You expose the sickening reality of oppression by all governments. Few have the desire the know the truth. Fewer still possess the conviction to expose it.

It is my sincere hope that publications such as The

ACTivist will continue to inspire peoples of the Western World to pull their heads out of the sand. The time has come for us to accept the truth that although we are manipulated by big business, it is our greedy demands as consumers which fuel global oppression.

Fortunately, the nature of the Beast is change. Perhaps the human race was born of savagery, but we may yet achieve humanity. More of us are refusing to accept the state of the world as "just the way things are." Thank you all for working towards social evolution, and for preventing another to wallow in apathy.

Skot McCairns
Oakville, Ont.

The article 'Solidarity with Whose Cuba?' in the April 1992

issue is distressing to me because I doubt that the levels of health and education the Cuban people enjoy would have happened without the policies of the present regime. Look what happened in Chile to Allende.

I'm not well-read about Cuba. I've only visited once. The Cuban people did not seem as alienated from each other as Canadians seem to me. Germaine Greer described a feminist Castro, taking part in a conference on women's rights, and passing legislation to give women equal rights.

I am not for a benevolent dictatorship, but without Castro the Cuban people would still be getting the crumbs from capitalists' plates, in my opinion.

Mary Maron
Toronto

Corrections

• In the March ACTIVIST, we stated that the band KO:leKTIV would be playing a benefit for AFTERMATH. Aftermath informs us that this is not the case. We regret any confusion this statement may have caused.

Aftermath is a self-help organization for non-offending family members of sexually abused children, and survivors of child sexual abuse. They offer telephone networking, social action, public forums, and support groups. Aftermath can be contacted at 461-2545

• In the April ACTIVIST, when quoting from the report of the Citizens' Inquiry, we stated that the Canadian Peace Alliance supported the use of force in some circumstances. This was in fact the position of the report, and while the CPA is promoting and publicizing the report, it does not constitute official CPA policy.

ACT Statement on the L.A. Crisis

• The videotape evidence clearly demonstrates that Rodney King was beaten severely and unnecessarily by the police officers. These officers are clearly guilty of a grave assault. Even if it could be shown that King was "resisting arrest" (this is not apparent in the video footage) such brutality would be uncalled for.

• ACT cannot advocate or condone violence. However, we realize that the riots in Los Angeles are the result of years of frustration and suffering on the

part of the black population of the United States. Such riots can only be prevented by radical social change and an end to the racism and injustice that presently exists in the U.S. social system.

• We believe that the situation should, and could, be resolved non-violently. We urge the authorities, and all persons involved, to try to implement non-violent methods in this crisis. We particularly urge measures that will bring about lasting social change. ☺

Star Wars on Toronto campus?

BY DARRIN NOWAKOWSKI
SPECIAL TO THE ACTIVIST

Amid the initial, early-80s, euphoria over American government spending on the Strategic Defence Initiative — Star Wars — Canadian corporations and universities were quick to lobby for contracts.

Now, despite the collapse of the Cold War and the agreement of most scientists that SDI is a destabilizing behemoth money-waster that cannot conceivably be guaranteed as a 'defence' measure, research on these space-based weapons is more quietly forging ahead. And it seems as though a key research facility may be coming to York University in Toronto.

It is called the ISU — the International Space University — and the provincial NDP government has offered millions of dollars to encourage it to set up at York.

According to a publicity booklet called 'ISU: The Master Plan', the goal of the Space University is to establish a central permanent campus and several affiliate campuses throughout the world. On the first page of Master Plan, it states, "Our goal is to create an institution dedicated to the peaceful exploration and development of space," and in the wake of the controversy that has broken out at York and elsewhere in Toronto this peaceful rhetoric is being repeated frequently by ISU's backers. But a more frightening reality lurks behind that statement.

Most of the members of the Board of Governors and Staff of the 'International' Space University are, of course, American. They include: Dean Burch, a right-wing Republican who has served as an adviser to Reagan, Bush and Barry Goldwater and is an active SDI lobbyist; John L. McLucas, former Secretary of the U.S. Air Force and former CEO of Mitre Corp, a multi-million dollar defence contractor, currently an adviser to the Air Force and Executive VP of two SDI contractors; Andrew Stofan, with Martin Marietta Corp, the seventh largest military contractor in the United States; Mark K. Miller, president of Boeing Corp, the eleventh largest military contractor in the States and one of the top four SDI contractors; John F. Yardley, president of McDonnell Douglas, the largest military contractor in the world; Robert Anderson, chairman of Rockwell International, another of the top four SDI contractors; Brenda Forman, with Lockheed Corp, another of the SDI top four and the sixth largest defence contractor in the U.S.; the president of General Electric; and, representing Canada, the president of Spar Aerospace, Canada's primary Star Wars contractor. The Board also includes three members of the Russian military establishment and a representative of the Chinese Air Force.

Considering the composition of the directorship, it is natural to be suspicious of the peaceful intent of the ISU. Unfortunately, ISU officials have been unable to deny these suspicions. Todd Hawley, co-founder and chair of the ISU, would not state openly that the University had military links, but did comment that "you cannot go into this naively and say it will all be peace and love."

The provincial NDP, meanwhile, relying on vague assurances of peaceful purpose, has already spent \$500,000 lobbying for the ISU — hiring agents to draft an application, flyers, full-colour glossy posters, etc. They are offering the ISU a full \$11 million, which

will be matched by the federal government, towards establishing and building a central campus at York, plus \$3.5 million annually, with no set time limit, for operating expenses. The sum total of provincial gift money, at a time when university funding has been cut throughout Ontario, is more than \$40 million.

According to ISU publicity material the initial enrolment will be less than 100 students, though they hope to raise this as far as 200 within a few years. At over 400,000 per student, this is nearly ten times what is spent on any other university program or faculty. And according to the Ministry of Colleges and Universities, there will be no Canadian content regulations on either the student body or the administration.

The provincial government has been quick to leap to the defence of the ISU. When Dr. Wallemsey, director of the Department for Technical Funding at the Ministry of Industry, Trade and Technology, was questioned by an ACTivist reporter about ISU's possible military links, his first response was, "You are absolutely irresponsible for making these accusations and you will answer before God for them!"

On a somewhat calmer note, he said that as far as he knew "only three Board members out of twenty have any military connections." Despite his claim to have researched the issue fully, he seems to have missed about thirteen others with military-industry links.

Richard Clark, at the Ministry of Colleges and Universities, said that "The government would not support the ISU if it was connected to military research." After it was pointed out to him that military connections do exist, he refused to comment further, saying that he did not want to discuss hypothetical questions.

The controversy over the ISU recently made itself felt in the choice of a new presi-



dent for York's Board of Governors. Steven Feinberg, once the top contender for the job, was forced to drop out after his record at Carnegie Mellon University was made public by student and faculty activists. Feinberg turned that university into one of the top academic military contractors in America, while eliminating entire Arts faculties, through a program called SEI — the Software Engineering Institute. This program, which Feinberg called a model for York University, involved six SDI research contracts, software for missile guidance systems, the F-16 Fighting Falcon, the B-1B bomber, and many more.

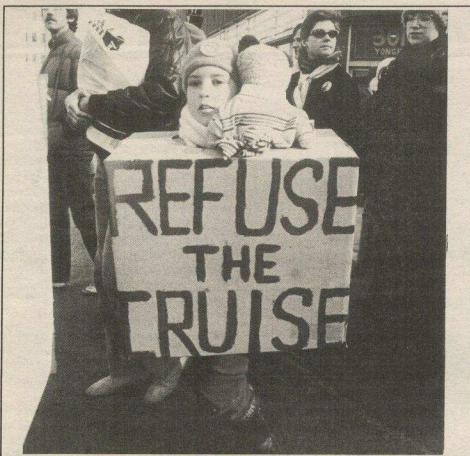
Feinberg's withdrawal from the presidency race, however, hardly means that York is out of the running for the ISU, but simply that the administration can get on with the bid in a less controversial atmosphere.

Ultimately, the decision about where the ISU campus will be located is in the hands of the ISU Board of Governors. But it is important for campus activists to make their presence known and make it clear that ISU would not be welcome at York; and it is essential for all of us to put pressure on Bob Rae and the provincial government to withdraw their funding from the ISU and stop Star Wars from further infiltrating Canada.

Military Funding of Canadian Universities, 1989-1990

University	DND Contracts	Military Studies	Pentagon
•Acadia		75,000	
•Alberta	931,775		123,470
•B.C.	1,292,030	111,570	
•Calgary	172,685	136,070	
•Carleton	214,590	75,000	
•Concordia	402,722		
•Dalhousie	37,240	144,010	
•Guelph	66,460		
•Laval	929,097	137,500	
•Manitoba	83,957	75,000	
•McGill	12,900	75,000	87,750
•McMaster	883,379		37,440
•Montreal		75,000	
•New Brunswick			100,000
•Ottawa	231,585		
•Polytech	58,070		
•Queen's	1,530,554	111,341	
•St. Mary's	30,010		
•Saskatchewan	113,067		
•Sherbrooke	467,639		
•Simon Fraser	183,045		
•Tech U. of Nova Scotia	1,772,708		
•Toronto	1,418,799		
•Victoria	562,252	75,000	
•Waterloo	16,188	75,000	
•Western	61,270		
•Windsor	20,000		
•Winnipeg	124,000		
•York	487,432	142,720	711,610
•Others		504,006	
•TOTALS	12,102,554	1,912,217	960,270

Source: Poughshares Monitor, March 1992



Young demonstrator at one of ACT's previous Spring Protests.

Support U.S. resister GE Boycott wins an Oscar

By Brian Burch
The ACTivist

Marine Reservist, Tahan Jones from Oakland, California faces charges of desertion and missing troop movement on June 15 at Camp Lejeune, North Carolina. Jones has been awaiting trial for one year. Charges were actually dropped in February due to violation of speedy trial rights but the Marine Corps quickly reinstated the charges which carry a maximum penalty of 7 years.

Support groups are urging immediate telephone calls (504-948-1210) and letters to Commanding General, C.L. Vermilye, 4th MAW, FMF, USMCR, 4400 Dauphine Street, New Orleans, LA 70146.

A suggested text: "I call upon you to drop all charges against Marine Reservist Tahan Jones and grant him a discharge as a conscientious objector. I am outraged that he has been recharged with desertion and missing troop movement after the military has violated its own ruling for a speedy trial. I urge you to release Tahan Jones. I am writing to Congress to demand an investigation why the Marine Corps has kept Tahan for a year awaiting a trial."

Letters to Congress asking for investigations are imperative at this time to make them aware of our concern and outrage for the way all objectors to the Persian Gulf war have been treated.

At a press conference on April 29, in Washington, DC, George Withers, Legislative Aide to Rep. Ron Dellums was presented with petitions with more than 40,000 signatures from War Resisters League and Hands Off! calling for unconditional amnesty.

NOTICE: It is absolutely essential especially in light of the King verdict and attention drawn to the justice system that as many people as possible consider traveling to Camp Lejeune, NC to attend the trial of Tahan Jones on June 15. The military justice system has been able to insulate itself from most outside interference. "BEARING WITNESS" in their courtrooms has proven to be very effective in the last year. Letting them know we are watching can make a difference.

For more information, contact the War Resisters' League, 339 Lafayette St., New York, NY 10012, USA.

General Electric's subsidiary NBC helped to provide a strong boost to the BE Boycott campaign with its broadcast of this year's Academy Awards. *Deadly Deception*, an exposé of GE's involvement in environmental destruction and the arms race, won the best short documentary Oscar, and the cry, "Boycott GE" was heard by tens of millions of people at the end of Debra Chasnoff's acceptance speech.

From Big Mountain, Arizona, to radioactive soil at GE's Lansdowne Avenue plant in Toronto, General Electric has an ongoing commitment to profiting from the building of weapons and nuclear power plants, and the destruction of our environment. It is a member of the Business Council on National Issues, a big-business lobby group that successfully campaigned for the Free Trade Agreement and supports the proposed Mexico/U.S./Canada free trade zone.

General Electric is the world's fifth largest weapons manufacturer, and makes parts for most of the U.S. nuclear weapons systems, including the Trident and Cruise missiles.

In both Toronto and Peterborough, GE plants manufacture fuel rods for the Darlington nuclear reactor.

Recently, GE's Coburg, Ontario, plant was declared one of the six worst polluters in the province. It is not a nice company.

General Electric is not the only company involved in the nuclear arms race or the production of nuclear power. However, with 11% of its income coming from military production and 30% from direct consumer goods such as lightbulbs and answering machines, it is a good focus for an ongoing conversion campaign. With some ceilings now being placed on military spending, weapons manufacturers are much more responsive to consumer pressure than they have traditionally been. A boycott is not only a pressure tactic, it is one that is likely to be successful in its aims.

GE has already decided to stop making

ACT mini-conference May 17, 2 p.m.

Please attend ACT's mini-conference, Sunday May 17, at 736 Bathurst St. The main item on the agenda will be the proposed changes to our constitution outlined below.

Proposed: That ACT add to its basis of unity the following statement (the War Resisters International Pledge):

"We believe that war is a crime against humanity. We are therefore determined not to support any kind of war and to strive for the removal of all causes of war."

Proposed: That the 'membership' section of the structure document be altered to read:

"Members are those individuals who have participated in/contributed to the functioning of, or the activities of, ACT for Disarmament, and who agree with the principles of ACT for Disarmament. To become a full member, individuals will be asked to sign a declaration that they agree with the War Resisters International Pledge and that they will commit themselves to work for peace and human rights worldwide.

The usual minimum contribution to be a full member of ACT is 2 hours of volunteer work per month, or \$10 per year. Members are strongly encouraged to be active in at least one of the six working groups.

Those who do not wish to sign the pledge, or whose contribution is below the minimum suggested, but who support the work of ACT or any of the working groups, will be considered to be associate members."

Other items may include smaller constitutional amendments and approval of a new ACT logo. For more information, or to obtain the full text of ACT's constitution, contact us at 736 Bathurst St., M5S 2R4, 416-631-6154.

the triggers for hydrogen bombs in response to the BE Boycott campaign, and our ongoing pressure can only result in further concessions from GE on our way to the major goal of having GE convert its military production facilities to peaceful production in consultation with the employees of GE and the communities the factories are in.

Across Canada the support for the GE Boycott campaign is growing. The Student Christian Movement at Mount Allison University conducted a week-long petition drive at the end of January. The University of Toronto Student Christian Movement has shown *Deadly Deception* to overflow crowds. Local GE Boycott Committees in Toronto and Guelph have produced leaflets, circulated petitions, spoken to groups and arranged showings of *Deadly Deception*. In Edmonton, members of Project Ploughshares have been actively promoting the campaign. Voice of Women, Physicians for Social Responsibility, Durham Nuclear Awareness are among the groups that are actively promoting a boycott of GE. And ACT for Disarmament, of course, has a working group focusing on this boycott.

The GE Boycott campaign is growing individually and collectively. INFACT (US) estimates that 1.5% of GE's market is already actively boycotting the company. At 3%, based on the model of earlier boycotts, they will start to seriously negotiate, and at 5% surrender. If each of us can get three or four individuals to support the boycott, the 5% level would be reached in a year. NBC has done its part in spreading the call for a

boycott of General Electric. Now it's our turn.

Copies of a petition and a leaflet on GE Canada can be obtained from the ACT office at 736 Bathurst St. and members of the working group will be in the office every Friday afternoon. A Toronto GE Committee meeting will be held on the third Tuesday of each month during the summer, at the ACT office, at 7 p.m.

If you are part of a Toronto-area community and would like to have *Deadly Deception* shown at your school, workplace, church or elsewhere, call Brian Burch at 416-531-6154. In Guelph, contact Aloz at 519-767-1781

Remember, boycott all GE, Hotpoint and RCA products!

Does your bank finance the arms race? We don't! We support peace groups in their struggles and we invest our members' funds in locally controlled community economic development. Why not support 'banking for social change' by joining us today.



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& Roses
Credit Union**

348 Danforth Avenue Ste 211 TO M4K 1N8

461-7882

Celebrate 10 years of Activism • Stop Military Flights over Innu lands • Peace

for East Timor • End Violence Against Women • Boycott

G.E. • Free Prisoners for Peace • Protect the Environment • No Cruise Testing

Peace **NOW**



Saturday
May
16

Queen's Park • 12 Noon
(College St. & University Ave.)
March to City Hall • 2 PM

TENTH ANNUAL SPRING PROTEST FOR PEACE

Contact ACT for Disarmament , 736 Bathurst St.,
Toronto , M5S 2R4 (416) 531-6154

• MUSIC • CHILDREN'S ACTIVITIES • PEACE FESTIVAL •



PLEASE POST IN YOUR SCHOOL, OFFICE, ETC!

Ten Years of ACTivism...

In preparation for this year's annual spring protest for peace, here are some of the many highlights of ACT's ten years of peace activism.

1983

Feb. 12: ACT networks demonstrations across Canada and mobilizes 4,000 Torontonians 45 hours after the umbrella weapons testing agreement is signed, allowing cruise missile tests over Canada. **April 23:** ACT organizes the historic anti-cruise march of 25,000 in Toronto and networks Canada's largest day of protest to date; about 125,000 in over 20 cities. **Oct. 22:** ACT co-organizes march which again brings out 25,000 in Toronto. **Dec. 16:** ACT holds a small but significant protest as part of the successful campaign to free independent Soviet peace activist Olga Medvedkova.

1984

March 10: National demonstrations in response to the first cruise test. ACT wins the right for all social movement activists to march on Yonge St. **April 28:** ACT's second annual Spring Peace Protest attracts over 10,000 participants. **Aug. 6:** Hiroshima Day march of 1,000 people

1985

Jan: Symbolic action marks the first cruise test. "Saturday after" march — over 500 brave the cold. **Feb. 19:** Second cruise test — nearly 200 people present pictures of their children at a



Free Olga Medvedkova protest, City Hall Peace Garden, Dec. 1983. Photo: Wally Keeler

weekday, noon-hour protest at PC Party Headquarters. **April 27:** 3rd Annual Peace Protest draws over 4,000. **Aug. 6-9:** ACT's Hiroshima Day candlelight march of over 2,500 is followed by a three-day vigil.

1986

Jan-Feb: ACT Niagara and ACT Kitchener-Waterloo join ACT Toronto to protest the cruise tests. **April 26:** 4,000, many first-time demonstrators, join ACT Toronto's 4th Spring Peace Protest. **May 11:** ACT K-W's Mother's Day March is the largest peace demonstration ever in Kitchener-Waterloo. **Oct. 13-19:** ACT's historic East-West peace festival brings together independent peace, ecology, labour and feminist activists from both sides in the Cold War, for the first time in North America. Nov. 26: ACT chapters in Toronto, Kitchener-Waterloo and Peterborough join the BOOM project, playing the sound of Nato jets in front of government offices in support of the Innu people. The BOOM project is one of the first actions to be held in support of the Innu

1987

Feb: ACT chapters in Hamilton, Ancaster, K-W, Peterborough, St. Catharines and Toronto protest continued cruise testing. **April 25:** A youthful crowd of 3,000 is out for ACT Toronto's 5th Annual Peace Protest. The march demands that we make peace with the environment, and focuses on weapons testing and the nuclear fuel cycle. **July-Aug:** ACT Vancouver holds protests against US warship visits.



Soviet peace activist Olga Medvedkova at ACT's East-West Peace Festival, Oct. 1986



Hiroshima Day Die-In at City Hall, Aug. 1986



ACT protests at Soviet Embassy in Ottawa. Photo: Bruce Allen

...and we've only just begun!



ACT Oakville members march against the Gulf War as part of ACT's School Strike for Peace, February 21 1991.



Civil disobedience action at weapons-maker Pratt & Whitney, March 25, 1991. Photo: David Webster

1988

Jan-Feb: 8 ACT chapters hold anti-cruise protests in the wake of the INF agreement. Protests are also held in Europe and the US. **April 25:** ACT Toronto's 6th Spring Protest; 1,500 protest in the rain to end the arms race on the land, in the water and in the sky. **Sept. 30:** ACT pickets the Israeli Consulate in Toronto as part of the international day of action to demand the release of Mordechai Vanunu, charged with treason for revealing Israel's nuclear arsenal. **Oct-Nov:** Election-time rallies and vigils held in support of Innu demands to meet Canadian government ministers.

1989

Feb. 11: ACT Vancouver holds Canada's largest rally against the testing of the new stealth cruise missile. **May 13:** 1,500 demonstrate to save a dying planet in ACT Toronto's 7th Annual Spring Protest for Peace. **July 1-4:** 72-hour travelling vigil at the Toronto consulates of Nato countries



Peace in the Middle East, 1991

involved in military testing over the Innu homeland, Nitassinan. **Sept. 29-Oct. 3:** Actions at the Department of Indian Affairs protest the trials of Innu activists. **Oct. 11-14:** ACT holds demonstration and sit-in and joins sea actions against the presence of the nuclear-capable USS Constellation in Vancouver. **Oct. 23:** ACT co-sponsors the first ever forum on East Timor in Toronto.

1990

Jan.-March: ACT and Innu Rights Now! organize a campaign of non-violent civil disobedience actions against low-level flight testing in Nitassinan. **Feb. 17:** ACT's "End the Invasion" march in Toronto joined by independent peace activists from the East bloc for the first time in Canadian history. **April 3-5:** Vigil outside Federal Court supports Innu injunction against low-level flying. **May 19:** Eighth Annual Spring Protest for Peace, on the theme of "Nato Out of Nitassinan". Largest demonstration in support of the Innu to date. **May 22:** Vigil at Dutch consulate while Nato considers the proposal to build a base at Goose Bay. During the vigil, activists receive word that the Nato base has been cancelled. **Sept. 15:** While the Oka crisis worsens, hundreds attend a forum with traditional chiefs from the Iroquois Confederacy, organized by ACT and local native activists. **Sept. 22:** ACT's rally, For Peace at Kanestake, calls for the peace proposals of the Confederacy to be taken up by both sides in the Oka crisis. **Oct. 27:** ACT joins the first rally for Peace in the Middle East after Iraq's invasion of Kuwait and the U.S. reaction.

1991

Jan. 8: ACT and Troops Out Now! organize the first non-violent civil disobedience action against the impending Gulf War, calling for U.S. withdrawal from the Middle East and Iraqi withdrawal from Kuwait. **Jan. 15:** ACT and Troops Out Now! stage a day of protest throughout downtown Toronto, including an occupation of the Stock Exchange. **Jan. 29:** A member of the Kuwaiti democratic opposition speaks to a group of students during ACT's School Strike for Peace. **Feb. 2:** At ACT's rally for Peace in the Middle East, a member of the Iraqi democratic opposition is among the speakers, for the first time at an anti-war demonstration. Over a thousand people come out and protest. **Feb. 9:** 80 people of all ages stage the first illegal march for peace in Oakville, organized by ACT Oakville. **May 11:** 9th Annual Spring Protest for Peace calls for the abolition of all armies worldwide. **Sept. 13-15:** ACT hosts the International Peace Bureau's annual conference, the first time the conference has been held in North America. More than 250 activists from 25 countries attend. Simultaneously, ACT hosts the Ontario Peace Conference. **Nov. 4:** ACT reveals secret cruise missile testing over Canada. **Nov. 15-18:** José Guterres, East Timorese representative to the United Nations, visits Canada at the invitation of ACT and the East Timor Alert Network, participating in a protest at Barbara McDougall's office and later meeting with McDougall. McDougall announces a review of Canada's aid to Indonesia.

1992

Feb. 24: ACT and the East Timor Alert Network hold a rally and blood-pouring at the Indonesian consulate. Simultaneous actions are held in Vancouver and Ottawa. **March 28:** ACT collects almost 5,000 signatures in support of the Innu in a single day of street outreach in Toronto. **April 4:** ACT's Support the Innu rally draws a crowd of several hundred people, and concludes a ten-day speaking tour for three Innu representatives. **May 16:** TENTH ANNUAL SPRING PROTEST FOR PEACE.

And the work continues ...

For more information about ACT's six new working groups and our exciting Peace Action 92 Campaign, see the next page!



ACT rally for the Innu, April 4, 1992. Photo: David Maltby

ACT at ten years: new directions

This year, ACT has instituted a new structure based on working groups. These groups — of which there are seven to date — are largely autonomous, taking action independently under the guidelines of ACT's basis of unity and structure document.

You can get involved with just one working group which concentrates on your particular area, or you can work with several different groups; as well as volunteering for the groundwork of outreach, education and fundraising that keeps the whole organization going.

The working groups are an exciting opportunity for people to work on their most pressing concerns, and they also reflect ACT's commitment to decentralized organizing, giving all volunteers as much autonomy and responsibility as they want.

New working groups can be added at any general meeting, if someone is willing to take responsibility for coordinating the proposed new group.

Get involved! Our seven working groups are:

• **NATIVE RIGHTS:** This group concentrates on supporting the Innu people of Nitassinan (Labrador-Québec) in their resistance to low-level military flights tests over their land and other threats to their way of life. One of the largest and most active working groups, we have members on the streets every Saturday collecting names on our petition to support the Innu. We expect to reach our goal of 10,000 names by the end of the 1992 flying season in the fall. This group has also organized one large demonstration for the Innu already this year, and is planning a second speaking tour and demonstration for the fall.



Demonstration at the Indonesian Consulate by the Local Wars working group. Photo: Maggie Helwig

• **LOCAL WARS:** This group works particularly to end Canada's support for genocide in Indonesian-occupied East Timor, including a ban on weapons sales to Indonesia. So far in 1992, the group has organized, along with the East Timor Alert Network, several demonstrations, successful public forums, and one non-violent civil disobedience action. More protests, educational events and other activities are being planned.

• **PRISONERS FOR PEACE:** This group aims to free all those imprisoned solely for their work for peace, especially conscientious objectors. Already several of the prisoners we chose to concentrate on for 1992 have been released! We continue letter-writing and demonstrations in support of Israeli peace activist Mordechai Vanunu, and are planning actions in support of those Gulf War COs who are still imprisoned.

• **CONVERSION/ECOLOGY:** The focus of this working group is the boycott of General Electric; aiming to pressure the corporation into ending its leading role in the nuclear weapons and nuclear power industries. The group has organized numerous showings of the film *Deadly Deception*, which recently won a best short documentary Oscar, and has

collected a number of GE Boycott pledges.

• **VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN:** ACT members have been instrumental in placing violence against women and children on the agenda of the peace movement in Canada. This group (which is also open to men) concentrates mostly on public education, trying to raise public awareness of the issue and to make links between violence in the home, and wars around the world. We are planning a major conference to be held in Peterborough, Ont, at the end of October.

• **EAST/WEST:** In this working group, we strive to help heal the divisions left by the Cold War, and work to end war in eastern Europe. In particular, we work with the Helsinki Citizens Assembly to create a democratic, peaceful and bloc-free Europe. ACT is the Canadian secretariat for the Canadian Citizens Assembly for the Helsinki Process.

• **MEDIA AND PEACE:** This group tries to provide a peace movement critique of the mainstream media, to foster alternative media, and to find ways to make the mainstream media more aware of and receptive to peace concerns.



Street outreach/petition blitz with the Native Rights working groups. Photo: David Webster

Land and law in the Peace Accords process

By MARGARET SUMADHI
THE ACTIVIST

Three months after the official ceasefire, certain issues have emerged as central in the quest for real peace in El Salvador.

First, the land question, Land is fundamental to the struggle of

Towards Peace



In El Salvador

the Salvadoran poor. Many thousands are landless or land-poor. Three-quarters of all families have less than one hectare of land. A landless family can earn enough to feed itself for 13 days each month, while a land-poor family can feed itself for 17 days per month.

The income differences have been further exacerbated by the way that the Agricultural credit has been allocated — 75% to government reform co-operatives growing export crops, and 17% for basic grain for local consumption grown on individual farms.

For more than a century, land has been amassed in the hands of a small elite who have used it to grow export crops, coffee, sugar, cotton and cattle. Through the 1960s, these became efficient operations with high productivity. Workers were hired on a seasonal and "as required" basis only. This led to a loss of land to campesinos, temporary employment, the decline of the traditional permanent-tenancy system of land tenure. About 80% of the land is owned by 10% of the population. This same group has also had control of the processing of crops through to export, thus controlling the whole life-cycle and becoming a strong political force, some with their own paramilitary forces to maintain control by repression and

intimidation. They oppose the section of the Peace Accords which states that private land should be limited to 245 hectares by May 1st and the excess redistributed — some to ex-combatants.

During the war, thousands of peasants, struggling to survive, used "tomás" (taking over plots of land) in order to try to work land that had been abandoned by the large landowners. This was done either in community co-operatives or in small groups. Now, with the ceasefire, some landowners are using force to try to reclaim these lands and there are still thousands of peasants being moved off the land.

The business sector has said that they will not take part in the proposed Socio-Economic Forum until the peasants stop the "tomás". In April, intervention by the United Nations Secretariat of Peace Operations resulted in the FMLN agreeing not to endorse further "tomás" and the government not to endorse removal of peasants from land already in their possession. But the land problem will continue to be one of the principal obstacles in the process of national reconciliation.

A second important question is that of the armed forces and the National Civil Police (PNC). The

Accords set out a timeline for specific tasks to be completed by specific dates. These include the reduction of government forces by half and the dismantling of the Elite Battalions, inventory of arms and the securing of FMLN munitions jointly by the FMLN and the UN mission. As well as logistical problems, more serious issues have arisen.

The National Guard and the Treasury Police, which were to have been absorbed into the army itself, have instead been maintained and simply renamed Frontier Guards and Military Police. In response to this, and to the delay in the implementation of other socio-economic reforms, the FMLN is deliberately delaying on the agreement that they reduce their number of troop locations. The government forces, too, are slowing down their demobilization, saying that it is because of an increased crime rate (which might better be dealt with by pushing for activity of the National Civil Police, which is being gradually set up.)

The program to reincorporate ex-combatants into civilian life with the transfer of land is beginning to be implemented.

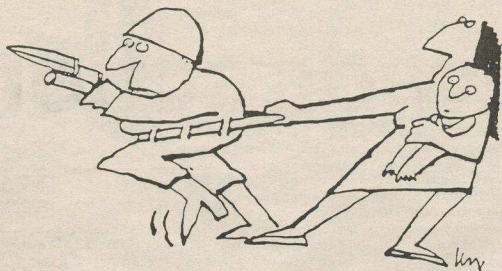
The US Congress recently awarded \$82.6 million for El Salvador. Of this, \$64.7 million goes

to a Demobilization Fund for all ex-combatants and the remainder goes to government forces for "non-lethal" assistance. This is seen as a US attempt to retain some control over the army.

Most political prisoners have now been released. There has been some criticism of the National Reconciliation Law which gave almost total amnesty with pardon — international law says that crimes such as massacres, torture and disappearances cannot be pardoned.

There continues to be a campaign of opposition to the Accords from members of the Right and the Army. There have been threats by phone, fax, and even paid advertisements against members of the National Council of Churches, UN personnel, grassroots opposition leaders, FMLN combatants and their families. Recently a campaign of paid advertisements ran in the newspaper against the role of the UN mission, at the same time the mission was launching a campaign to clarify its role.

There are still selective assassinations of trade union and co-operative workers. The objective of those most opposed to the Peace Accords has been terrorization in order to slow down implementation of the Accords, particularly around the Elite Battalions. ☸



Survival for tribal peoples



Urgent Action

The Lumad of Mindanao

Urgent international protest is essential if the construction of a huge power plant on Mount Apo, a sacred tribal site in the Philippines, is to be halted.

Mount Apo is home to about half a million tribal people on the island of Mindanao. Early this year the go-ahead was given for work to start on a huge geothermal power plant on the mountain. This decision was taken in the face of opposition from the indigenous peoples who will be displaced from their lands and whose environment will be destroyed. Roads constructed to serve the project will encourage greater migration onto tribal lands.

For the tribal peoples, the mountain is their ancestral domain. It is the dwelling place of the Supreme God, Apo Sandawa, and the burial site of their ancestors.

In 1985, the Philippine National Oil Company (PNOC) obtained a permit for 6 months from the Energy Development Department and started exploration in the region without the required environmental clearance. It continued its activities well beyond the 6 month period, drilling two test wells and building a road to the site.

In 1988, Environment Secretary Fulgencio Factoran sent a memorandum to President Aquino declaring the activities of PNOC on Mount Apo to be "patently illegal." This, along with increased local and international pressure, led to the project being shelved.

Yet, this January, in blatant contradiction to his earlier pronouncement, Factoran gave the project clearance.

There is strong and growing opposition to the project backed by the Church, Congressmen and tribal leaders.

The Government has responded to these peaceful protests by deploying an increasing number of military personnel in the area and recruiting a civilian paramilitary force from the local population.

Please write and express your concern to: The Secretary, Department of Environment and Natural Resources, Visayas Avenue, Quezon City, Philippines. Make the following points: the Philippines government must recognize and uphold the Lumads' right to their lands; the project is also illegal as Mount Apo is a National Park; environmental clearance should be revoked and work on the project should stop immediately; the Government should withdraw military forces from the area.

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Soviet workers and the transformation of society

Perestroika and the Soviet People

By David Mandel
Black Rose Books

REVIEWED BY BRUCE ALLEN

In his introduction to *Perestroika and the Soviet People*, David Mandel states that his decision to focus on workers in this book rested upon the hypothesis that "workers are the only social force with both the interest and the political potential for carrying through the consistent democratic transformation of the Soviet state and society." He substantiates this hypothesis by analyzing the strike movements that rocked the USSR in its final years and the relationships between the workers and the key political forces active in the USSR at the time.

In the pre-Gorbachev regime, a trade-off was maintained, in which workers benefited from the leverage and job security provided by chronic labour shortages; in return, the regime obtained worker passivity in the face of low living standards and miserable working conditions.

Gorbachev's reforms ruptured this relationship by introducing elements of a market-driven economic system. The reforms withdrew many of the limited advantages to workers of the old system without giving them anything meaningful in return—the reforms were not meant to give workers the opportunity to socially and politically empower themselves. However, that is precisely what they did.

The July 1989 strike wave by the USSR's cosmonauts was a watershed in the Soviet reform process. Mandel correctly notes that the strike wave was set off by a combination of anger over price increases resulting from Gorbachev's reforms and longstanding complaints about working conditions, official corruption, bureaucratic privilege, etc. It is also noteworthy that the striking miners went on to raise demands that were overtly political and that they completely bypassed the official trade unions in the process.

But the absence of a coherent programme left the new workers' movement vulnerable to political manipulation by charlatans like Boris Yeltsin who were advocating a more rapid transition to a market-driven economy and a Western political system. Mandel devotes much of his book to exposing their opportunism and the fundamental incompatibility of their neo-conservative agenda with the much more radically democratic and egalitarian aspirations of the strik-

ing workers.

Mandel also reflects on the independent socialist groups which emerged in the USSR in this period. Though admitting that they are small and politically isolated, he refrains, almost as a matter of faith, from dismissing them as insignificant. Indeed, the attention he gives to these socialist groups clearly reveals a bias—he fails to note the existence of groups on the Left that are not Marxist-oriented. These include Greens, anarcho-communist groups and libertarian labour organizations like the Confederation of Anarcho-Syndicalists, which has an organized presence in over forty cities and towns.

Nor does he consider the historically significant role of the small but heroic independent labour unions which emerged before Gorbachev rose to power. Working under conditions of extreme repression, the Free Trade Union Association of Working People and the Free Inter-Professional Trade Union Association nevertheless made an impact, and the Free Inter-Professional Trade Union Association survived attempts to wipe it out and remains an active organization to this day.

Mandel correctly observes that the transition away from a command economic system toward a market-driven one, and the disintegration of the USSR, embodies the risk of seriously weakening, if not fracturing, the new labour movement, but does not think to consider what course the labour movement will need to follow in the wake of the collapse of the USSR. The book should appear in a new edition which includes an analysis of the most recent events.

Furthermore, in view of what he has achieved by putting together a mostly admirable book, it is entirely reasonable to expect that Mandel will understand that the labour movement he describes can find renewed purpose in the wake of the USSR's collapse by lining up with workers in other countries in a common struggle against the global corporate agenda.

For a work with a clear goal of encouraging international links between workers in the USSR and other countries, one should turn to *Changing of the Guard*, published by Transnational Information Exchange. The analysis of this book is more objective and less ideological, and the authors were able to incorporate analysis of the evolution of the reform process in the aftermath of the failed coup of August 1991. Labour activists in the West who appreciate the direct relevance of the changes taking place in the USSR to our struggles here are certain to find this particularly worthwhile text. ☺

Lifting the lid on uranium mining

Past Exposure

By Greg Dropkin and David Clark
Namibia Support Committee/
PARTIZANS
pp.136

REVIEWED BY JOHN CORCORAN

Past Exposure lifts the lid on the largest open-pit uranium mine in the world—Rössing Uranium in Namibia, supplier to the weapons producers of Britain, the United States, and the former Soviet Union. Published by the Namibia Support Committee in London, England, *Past Exposure* reveals the cavalier disregard for the health of the Namibian mineworkers displayed by Rössing's owners and managers.

The book emphasizes the harsh legacy of apartheid at Rössing. Most of the managers and technical staff are white, most of the labour force is black. And blacks are over-represented in the most dangerous jobs. In the Final Product Recovery Area, where workers handle drums filled with refined uranium oxide and uranium dust coats everything, all 21 workers are black.

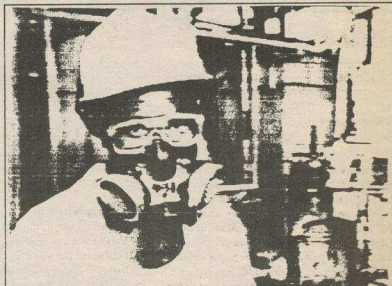
One of the workers in the Final Product Recovery area describes a visit by the Superintendent—he wears an extra-large mask, stays no more than 30 minutes, and touches nothing, not even a handrail.

The Superintendent's caution is understandable once you read the analysis of Rössing's standards for airborne uranium. Rössing says they follow the guidelines laid down by the International Commission for Radiological Protection. But the Rössing limit for airborne uranium is actually six times higher than it should be, according to ICRP guidelines. And other scientific bodies feel that the ICRP limits are themselves six times too generous, making Rössing's limits 36 times what they should be.

Past Exposure also gives us

**Rössing Uranium—
environmental danger or
RTZ model mine?**

Past Exposure, a new book by the UK-based Namibia Support Committee, draws on highly confidential company documents to cut through Rössing's glossy PR and expose the real risks to workers' health and the Namibian environment. Highly readable, yet with a sound analysis of technical information, this book is essential for all those concerned with the fate of workers in nuclear industries, and with the effects of uranium mining on the wider environment. **PAST EXPOSURE: CAN\$14 a copy, plus \$6 postage.** Please make out cheques to: "Namibia Support Committee". Order from **Namibia Support Committee, 37 Great Guildford St., London SE1 OES, UK**



A worker in the Final Product Recovery Area at Rössing

Rössing's Canadian connection. Rio Algom is a uranium mine at Elliott Lake, Ontario. It owns 10% of Rössing. Both Rio Algom and Rössing are controlled by the United Kingdom mining conglomerate, Rio Tinto Zinc (RTZ). Like Rössing, Rio Algom has polluted local water supplies with radioactive elements released from "tailings" dumps. Rio Algom's dumped wastes have killed fish in the Serpent River system, flowing into Lake Huron. In 1980, Rössing's

tailings, stored as liquids, began to seep out into the ground surrounding their dump. Over 800 million gallons were released.

Though *Past Exposure* can be heavy going, and its presentation is choppy and sometimes disorganized (an index would have been a big help), it is densely packed with valuable information. For anyone who wants the dirty details of what it means to work for a major-league uranium producer, this book is on the short list. ☺

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EAST TIMOR UPDATE

Number 11 — May 4, 1992



“Law and order” regime brings new terror to East Timor

Many Canadians heard of East Timor for the first time when CBC's *The Journal* broadcast scenes from last Nov. 12, when Indonesian soldiers gunned down as many as 200 unarmed Timorese in cold blood at the Santa Cruz cemetery. The massacre, however, was just the beginning of a vicious crackdown in East Timor. This issue of *East Timor Update* is devoted to an account of the new “reign of terror”. The article is an edited version of one published in the latest issue of the *Tapal Bulletin* (available in full from ETAN, 104—2120 West 44th, Vancouver BC, V6M 2G2).

While President Suharto in Jakarta and Foreign Minister Ali Alatas around the world have been engaged in “damage limitation” to convince other governments that the Nov. 12 Santa Cruz massacre was a “regrettable incident”, the situation in East Timor has deteriorated. A reign of terror has eclipsed the occupied island. In particular the role of the hawkish Brig. General Theo Syaefi, the new army commander in East Timor, shows how “law and order” is being implemented.

Brig. General Theo Syaefi has made it a matter of prestige and a personal crusade to maintain “law and order” in East Timor. Ever since becoming army commander, he has repeatedly made it clear that he will not pursue the “soft” approach of his predecessor. General Theo, an old Timor hand, has put the clock back to the late seventies and early eighties, when military rule was virtually absolute. The “opening up” of the last three years is now on the way out, every measure taken by General Theo reinforces this.

From the moment he was appointed commander in January, Theo has made it clear that he is in charge. The press has published one warlike statement after another from the new commander, who makes no secret of his belligerent approach. Here are some examples (quotes from Indonesian press reports):

On the Santa Cruz killings:

...Thus, as I have said, if something similar to the 12 November event were to happen under my leadership, the number of victims would probably be higher.

On running East Timor:

Q: You have served in East Timor for nine years. What are the issues in Timorese society? Why do incidents occur so often? TS: The crux of the matter is that in many cases we have not been decisive enough and have lacked consistency. Besides there are still factors which make East Timor unstable. We need to be more consistent.

Q: Why then do demonstrations still occur? TS: It's like this. We thought that by showing love to the people, it would work both ways, but it didn't turn out like that on that day (the day of Santa Cruz bloodbath). Our love was taken as being a sign of indecision and weakness. In the villages our programme functions wells and is accepted. But in the city where things have been “polluted”, it was interpreted as indecision, an attitude of wait-and-see. Moreover, there is fertile soil for agitation and propaganda with an estimated 8,000 people unemployed in Dili.

Q: About people's attitudes, what happens if they adopt an anti-Indonesian stance?

TS: That is impossible. This is the territory of the Republic of Indonesia.

Q: In the post 12 November period, it seems the security approach has been stepped up? TS: I'm only restoring ABRI standards.

Demonstrations don't exist according to Indonesian law.

Tough words backed by tough measures

Syaefi's tough language has been backed by tough measures. East Timor, a little more relaxed in the period of “opening up”, has now moved in the opposite direction, comparable to the early years after the invasion.

Neither the visit of United Nations special envoy Amos Wako nor the high-profile journey of the Peace Mission by the Lusitania Express led to demonstrations in Dili. The reason is clear: Theo left nothing to chance in his determination to forestall any disturbance.

From crack of dawn on the day of Wako's arrival, row upon row of troops were spread across the fields and in between the trees surrounding Comoro airport. The troops were stationed there from five in the morning and remained in place even in during a heavy

commanders. Sintong Panjaitan and Rudy Warouw, the trust of Operas Morris Diak [Operation Good Life] under Theo Syaefi has taken a different direction. Previously, the hearts-and-minds strategy of Morris Diak was implemented partly through persuasion. Theo Syaefi is now openly critical of his predecessor. Asked how his strategy differed from Brig. Gen. Warouw's, he said:

“The position and policy of ABRI [Indonesian armed forces] never change. Our mission is to bring stability in East Timor. In a technical sense our approaches are different. Pak Warouw had his love and caring approach. But as I see it, because of a different culture, his approach came to be seen as indecision. Some regard the soft approach as a weakness. I only want to stress the importance of restoring ABRI's credibility and to make sure that softness is by no means weakness. This is the position I want to put across. And indeed, this

possible to speak about a low intensity conflict in East Timor. All the ingredients are there: separating the guerrillas from the population, focusing on control of the population, combining military duties with civic duties and using all kinds of intelligence operations.

Nobody talks about “opening up” East Timor any more; the slender margins of the last three years have disappeared. It is back to the grim reality of absolute military rule in East Timor. Theo Syaefi, the archetype of a hardliner, clearly enjoys his new job. He wants to be known as a tough guy and his reign of terror is rampaging all over East Timor.

Terror confirmed by visitors

People who have visited East Timor since Santa Cruz confirm that brutality is a daily occurrence, with an atmosphere of fear and the military displaying their arrogance. The US journalist Peter Goodman, a freelancer based

“They go from house to house, warning people not to make trouble. The soldiers come and beat people up. Many are taken away for questioning and often disappear. The military has killed many in the last few months (since the Nov. 12 massacre).”
— unnamed Timorese man, Feb. 1992



downpour, to await the arrival of Wako. During Wako's brief visit, General Syaefi personally inspected the town throughout the day. In the afternoon, drenched by the rain, he watched a local football match between two kampungs, to make sure it was only a football match. He spent the night in the room next to Wako's in Hotel Mahkota.

Theo Syaefi's overhaul

In the brief period since becoming commander, Syaefi has conducted a major overhaul of the structure. Although continuing the territorial operation of the two former

positions has been accepted by many.”

Syaefi's approach is fully backed by army headquarters in Jakarta. For Dili alone the Morris Diak territorial operation has been allotted 2.3 billion rupiahs (more than one million US dollars). This amounts to 88 million rupiahs for each of the 26 neighbourhoods in Dili. The objective is to drive the “anti-integrationists” into an impossible position. A special territorial battalion, Battalion “Red Bear” 6641 from West Kalimantan, has been assigned for the job in Dili. It will stay for one year, with units in every one of the 26 neighbourhoods.

On average, 30 soldiers have been stationed in each neighbourhood in addition to the existing structures of military subdistrict, police subdistrict and para-military forces. As Timorese in Dili whisper: “Before, they were everywhere in the streets, now they have entered our bedrooms.”

Under Warouw, there was still a grey area of people not openly expressing anti-integration feelings. But Theo Syaefi will only tolerate people being “with us or against us”. There can be no “floating mass”. People must either accept Indonesian domination or join the guerrillas. In El Salvador and the Philippines, the hearts-and-minds strategy came to be known as low intensity conflict; it is now

in Jakarta, visited East Timor in February and was told to leave because he did not possess a travel permit. He has given a graphic account of the situation in Dili:

“Dili is dominated by fear, the streets devoid of activity throughout much of the day. On one recent morning, virtually everyone had a quick look about to see who else might be in the area before saying so much as good morning to a foreigner. At least 10,000 Indonesian troops remain in East Timor and Dili has the air of a city under siege... While none of the dozen or so soldiers at ease on the sides of the field cared to say where the men were going, several East Timorese said troops have been entering villages frequently of late.

“They go from house to house, warning people not to make trouble.” said an elderly East Timorese as he sat beneath an enormous banyan tree on the edge of the crumbling boardwalk that fronts the harbour. The soldiers come and beat people up. Many are taken away for questioning and often disappear. The military has killed many in the last few months.”

Life in East Timor under Indonesian occupation has always been wretched but under the hawkish Brig. Gen. Theo Syaefi, the situation is ten times worse.

Action of the Month

Bata Shoes, one of the top two Canadian companies investing in Indonesia (along with Inco), will be opening its new Bata Shoe Museum in Toronto this May (date to be announced). East Timor activists will be at the official opening of the museum to protest against Bata's appalling human rights practices in Indonesia and other countries around the world. Contact 416-531-6154.

Demonstrations continue in occupied Tibet

The People's Republic of China invaded Tibet in 1950. As a result of the continuing Chinese occupation 1.2 million Tibetans (one-sixth of the population) have died, over 6,250 monasteries and temples have been destroyed, the study or teaching of religion is forbidden, an estimated 10,000 Tibetans are in prison for anti-state activities, and 7.6 million Chinese have moved into Tibet in a deliberate transfer of population, making the 6 million Tibetans a minority in their own country.

Tibet, once a peaceful buffer state between India and China, has been transformed into a vast military base: between 300,000 and 500,000 Chinese troops, 17 radar stations, 14 military airfields, five missile bases and at least 90 nuclear missiles are part of the Chinese military presence in Tibet.

[Peace Media Service] Chinese police opened fire to disperse a peaceful crowd of pro-independence protesters in the Tibetan capital Lhasa on March 22, according to recent reports from the London-based Tibet Information Network. One eyewitness said that "several hundred" people had taken part in the demonstration, called to mark the anniversary of the Chinese invasion of Tibet in 1950.

Ten demonstrators were arrested: six monks from Ganden Monastery, one monk from Drepung Monastery, and three nuns from Garu Convent.

Police are reported to have announced through loudspeakers

that they would shoot to kill if demonstrators did not disperse. A number of shots were fired by police into the air, according to the eyewitness account provided by a foreign traveller in Lhasa. No injuries were reported.

The protest, which took place at about 11 a.m., was led by four Tibetan monks, who were followed by up to 500 lay people in a march around the Jokhang Temple, the holiest shrine in Tibet, situated in the heart of the Tibetan quarter of Lhasa.

The crowd shouted slogans calling for "independence for Tibet," "Long Life for the Dalai Lama," and "Chinese Out." The monks leading the procession carried the Tibetan national flag, a gesture which has in the past been treated by the Chinese authorities as a capital offence. Two monks carrying Tibetan flags were shot dead on the spot during a similar protest, also outside the Jokhang Temple, in December 1988.

The demonstration was broken up when uniformed and plainclothes police arrested the four monks, beating them severely in front of the crowd. "They further antagonized the crowd by kicking one of the monks as he lay on the ground," said the traveller, who asked not to be named.

"In a classic act of civil disobedience he lay passively on the ground and told the police to go on beating him," the traveller said. The monk was named as Jamyang, age 28, from Ganden Monastery, 40 kilometers east of Lhasa. He became a monk in 1984 after serving as a soldier.



One of the other arrested monks was named as Sonam Paljor, 26, also from Ganden Monastery. Both monks were said to come originally from poor farming families in the Medro Gungkar area east of Lhasa.

Reportedly the crowd shouted insults at the police in an attempt to stop them beating the monks and to have challenged police to attack lay people instead of monks. "The situation was extremely tense and was close to turning into a full scale riot," said the witness.

No further arrests were made at the time, and the protest appears to have ended without further incident. But Chinese authorities have typically followed pro-independence demonstrations with a wave of arrests of suspected dissidents. The situation in Lhasa remains tense, according to the traveller, who said that Tibetans were being "subjected to constant Chinese propaganda," with a large number of undercover police on the streets.

This appears to be the largest incident since October 1989 and the first time that security forces

have threatened to shoot protesters since China lifted martial law in 1990. The protest is the first reported in Lhasa since February 3, when six nuns and one monk were arrested. There were up to 30 small protests in Lhasa between May and October last year.

Tibetans in Lhasa are said to be "depressed and alienated" by news of the failure of the United Nations to pass a resolution criticizing Chinese human rights violations in Tibet, according to the report. The European-backed resolution was blocked at the UN Commission on Human Rights this March when a majority of Third World countries voted to support

China under heavy U.S. pressure. Ironically, most western governments have moved to soften criticism of Chinese policies in Tibet in order to stop further protests. Explicit criticism "could have raised false hopes in Tibet, possibly leading to fresh unrest there," one British Foreign Office official explained.

Canada has also toned down its statements in support of human rights in China and Tibet, despite the expulsion of MPs Svend Robinson, Beryl Gaffney and Geoff Scott from China earlier this year. In 1991, China ranked second among all recipients of Canadian economic aid.

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