

the ACTivist

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Women for peace, around the world



Photo: Maggie Helwig

Victory for GE Boycott!

By BRIAN BURCH
AND ALOZ
THE ACTIVIST

A small but celebratory band of people gathered in front of the Lansdowne Avenue General Electric Plant in Toronto on November 27, to mark the end of General Electric's involvement in the nuclear weapons industry.

Citing "economic reasons", General Electric announced on November 23 that it would be selling its aerospace division, which was its nuclear weapons manufacturing arm, to Martin Marietta Co.

The sale of GE's nuclear weapons facilities met the key demand of the six-year-old boycott campaign initiated by INFACT (US) — that GE cease to produce nuclear weapons. While the boycott of GE is still on pending stock-holder and government regulatory approval of the sale, this is a sign of the power of grassroots consumer action.

It is hard to dispute GE President Jack Welch's claim that the

decision to sell GE's nuclear weapons facilities was an economic decision. Over 4 million individuals and 500 organizations have actively supported the boycott. From hospitals refusing to buy GE medical equipment to individuals refusing to buy GE light-bulbs, consumer pressure created the economic reasons for GE to cease being the world's largest nuclear weapons developer. Together we've pushed GE out of the nuclear arms race.

This doesn't mean that General Electric has become a model corporation. The 1988 American Federation of Labour boycott of GE for unfair employment practices is still on. In Canada, GE continues to make fuel rods for the Darlington and Pickering nuclear reactors and to get a fair chunk of what should be social spending in order to build engine components for military helicopters.

At the November 27 rally ALoz, of ACT Guelph and the Southwestern Ontario GE Boycott Network, pointed out that the Lansdowne Avenue plant had leaked radioactiv-

ity, unreported, for 24 years, contaminating the soil in that neighbourhood. GE is still implicated in unsafe labour practices and the destruction of the environment. "They are allowing over 100 tonnes of CFC's to escape into the atmosphere while draining the freon coolant from defective refrigerators, even though the technology does exist to capture the chemical and recycle it." ALoz mentioned as one example.

However, the INFACT(US) boycott of GE has been successful. ACT for Disarmament and dozens of other Canadian organizations and hundreds of individuals deserve to celebrate in the streets over this rare sign of consumer power.

INFACT (US) is still debating the future of nuclear weapons producer boycotts — Martin Marietta, for example, does not make consumer goods. It is likely that a future target will be identified soon.

The peace and disarmament movements have shown again what happens when we decide not to cooperate with powers-that-be.

•Above: Participants in the War Resisters International Women's Conference, 'Women Overcoming Violence'. For more coverage of the conference, and for a feature on rape as a war crime, see pages 4 and 5.

• Life During Wartime — world conflict map, pages 6 and 7

• ACT on military intervention in Somalia, and on 'peacekeeping' with machine guns, pages 2 and 3.

• Plus First Nations, international peace and human rights news, environment and Free Trade issues, Jo Peacenik and more!

THE ACTIVIST

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Opinions expressed in this paper are not necessarily those of ACT

Somalia: just more news about big guns

According to Western media, peace has now come to Somalia, and the military intervention led by the United States has put things to rights. The U.S. army, with help from their Canadian and European friends, has, at last, captured the public relations victory that Desert Storm was meant to be.

The real situation is more complex. Most immediately, we can point out that the "peace accord" between the two biggest war-lords applies only to the capital city of Mogadishu, where neither the fighting nor the famine was ever as severe as in other parts of the country. We can point out that the most devastated areas have, even now, seen little change. In Bardera, after "taking" the town with much fanfare on Christmas eve, Marines dumped sacks of wheat and left, setting off a riot. This was not an isolated example — the relief delivery style of the Marines seems sometimes designed to encourage theft. Looting and warfare continue, now somewhat increased by the efforts of the U.S. troops, as they occupy themselves by shooting Somali men driving trucks to the market.

Editorial

We must remember that, even before the U.S.-led intervention, food aid was in fact getting through, relief workers were still doing their jobs; the country was, without question, ravaged by years of war and by the drought which is affecting the whole region, but much of the crisis was a media creation. The people of, say, the Sudan, are starving no less than the Somalis. And the degree to which looting was really (or is really) preventing food from reaching those who need it is a debatable question.

Further, not only did the United States choose a probably unnecessary violent option — by deciding to go into Somalia as a U.S. mission specifically, rather than under U.N. auspices in any way, they made the most confrontational of all possible choices.

But, even if we allow that the military presence may have facilitated the delivery of relief supplies, we have to ask what the long-term effects will be, and what this will mean for Somalia in coming months and years.

It is extremely significant that the U.S. forces have not made any efforts to disarm the guerrillas and bandits — much less to clear land mines. In the face of U.N. criticism, they have made it clear that they do not see the demilitarization of Somalia as any part of their mission (barring a few mostly symbolic efforts for a visit from our George Bush).

This is quite appropriate. The intervention in Somalia was about anything but demilitarization. It was simply about reminding the world that the guy with the biggest gun wins, and that the United States has the world's biggest gun.

In line with this policy, the U.S. forces have negotiated with the war-lords alone, treating them as legitimate representatives of the Somali people — a legitimacy they should never have been allowed to claim. They have bypassed and ignored the Somali clan elders, the Somali civic leaders, all the people who could rebuild a humane and peaceful society. Rakiya Omaar, former director of Africa Watch, wrote in *The Guardian* that "when U.S. forces withdraw, there will be a vacuum similar to when Siad Barre was driven out in 1991. It will be worse than square one."

Nor has there been any serious effort to negotiate between the various factions based on any understanding of the situation; for instance, the links between Gen. Morgan, who controls Bardera, and the government of Kenya, which trained and armed him, have never been pursued, and Arap Moi, the Kenyan president, has not been approached by negotiators. Diplomatic efforts had been attempted before the intervention, and met with some success. There should have

Turn to Operation TV, page nine

KRIEGER 1992: The Province



Jo Peacenic

Faith, nukes, armed charity — a new year begins

Some unanswered questions

Does anyone else find it strange that U.S. and Canadian troops landed in Somalia — a desert country suffering from drought — in jungle camouflage?

What does it mean that General Lewis Mackenzie referred to his five months in the chaos and bloodshed of Bosnia as "the best time of his life"? Does he come from a very difficult domestic situation? Or does he just enjoy the sound of gunfire in the morning?

As radioactivity continues to leak from the remains of the Chernobyl reactor, the ever-enterprising Boris Yeltsin has fought back discouragement, and will soon sign a decree authorizing the building, resumption or planning of up to 20 nuclear reactors on Russian soil.

The 28 existing reactors in Russia are becoming an international embarrassment as they gradually decay. But Nuclear Energy Minister Viktor Mikhailov is putting on a brave face. Admitting that Chernobyl "had a very bad impact on the development of nuclear energy in this country", he still stoutly maintains that Russian reactors are not, in fact, the worst in the whole world.

"They are somewhere between the worst and the best in the world," he announced definitively.

In further nuclear follies, Saskatchewan's NDP government has discovered "realism" (though not as fast as Bob "I Didn't Hire These People" Rae, who was using the R-word before the final polls of the 1990 provincial election were in).

Just nine months after tearing up a contract with Atomic Energy of Canada Limited, the Romanow government called a hasty pre-Christmas meeting to sign an almost-identical agreement, committing the province, among other things, to feasibility, engineering and design work on the CANDU 3 reactor.

Plus ça change, once again ...

Meanwhile, Our Boy Brian, and Barbara "I'm Just Like Margaret Thatcher But Not As Smart" McDougall, persist in their attempt to prove that they can be more macho than the Serbian irregulars with their sabre-rattling rhetoric over Bosnia. Brian struck out on his own in a speech to U.S. college students, laying out a grand plan for military intervention more or less all over the known world, and featuring his quite original idea that North American forces should invade Haiti. "That's the only thing these guys understand," he proclaimed in a burst of eloquence.

There are no reports yet as to whether the Prime Minister will also be mounting an invasion of the war-torn borough of North

York, where Mayor Mel Lastman was kicked and punched by rabid Greek nationalists after inadvertently allowing a Macedonian flag to appear in public.

Letters



Dear Sir

Re: a letter from the National Gathering of Men (July-Aug 92). I quote: "In keeping with our pro-feminist stance we accepted her accusations and validated her." It is truly a progressive and wonderful world when truth is so easy to establish. It reminds me of Dostoyevsky's black humour. He felt that most people were foolish and that they were very often, most foolish, about that which they were most serious.

Your paper's articles on East Timor, owe a lot to Noam Chomsky — a man with a real commitment to truth and an abhorrence of censorship of any kind. Consequently I'm sure that you will print this letter.

Terence MacDonald
Vancouver, B.C.

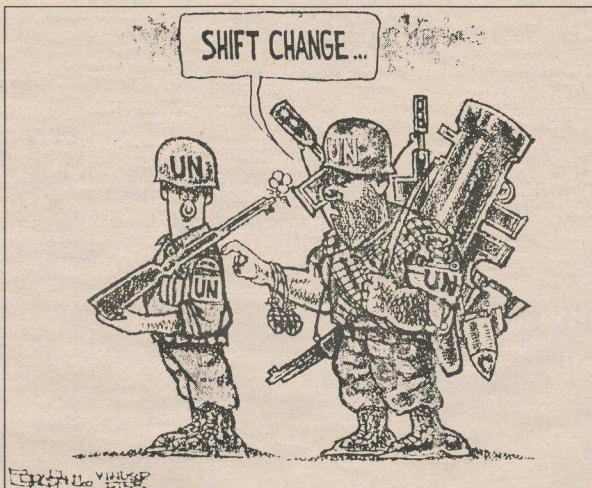
ARMX 93: new names for killing

As more details become available about 1993's version of the ARMX arms sales fair—now billing itself as 'Peacekeeping 93'—it is increasingly clear that the line between peacekeeping and outright war is, at least in the minds of the Canadian military industry, very thinly drawn.

This is evident first of all from the material sent by ARMX organizers Baxter Publishing to potential exhibitors, stating that future 'peacekeeping' missions can be "expected to reflect the more interventionist temper of the international community, accepting the risk of having to use force to achieve the objectives of the mission's mandate. Peacekeeping forces involved in these will have to be more heavily equipped, to fight if necessary, and may include air and naval combat missions as well."

This, in fact, sounds very much like conventional warfare; a suspicion greatly reinforced by a look at Baxter's list of companies interested in exhibiting at 'Peacekeeping 93'. The line-up is remarkably similar to that of ARMX 89, including ten of Canada's top military contractors—such notorious merchants of death as Spar Aerospace and Pratt & Whitney Canada. In fact, Brig.-Gen. Al Geddy, the organizer of the show, admitted that all previous Canadian exhibitors had been invited to return.

Ken Epps of Project Ploughshares notes that some companies on the list manufacture only one product, which would be difficult to include under any definition of 'peacekeeping'—Oerlikon Aerospace, for instance, which specializes in air defence anti-tank



weapons.

We can wonder whether companies like CAE Electronics, General Motors and McDonnell Douglas will refrain from exhibiting merchandise which has most aggressive uses, or whether Pratt & Whitney (notorious for selling helicopter engines to every single military dictatorship outside the Warsaw Pact) will take steps to ensure that their hardware is used only in peacekeeping missions.

Indeed, it is valid to question the sort of 'peacekeeping' that requires the purchase of large quantities of killing equipment—rifles, tanks, helicopter gunships, and so on—and which apparently requires the involvement of no civilian products or skills whatsoever.

The list of foreign exhibitors at 'Peacekeeping 93' is also inter-

esting. It is true that a few countries have been refused participation—ex-Yugoslavia (apparently still considered by ARMX organizers to be one country), Libya, South Africa, Israel, Iraq, Haiti, Spain, Iran and Jordan—the acceptable enemies of the moment, though the barring of Israel is a surprise, and the barring of Spain is pretty much inexplicable. This has been compensated for, however, by inviting exhibitors from the formerly excluded Warsaw Pact countries. The list of former Warsaw Pact exhibitors includes Romtehnica State Establishment of Romania—a not a country noted for its respect for human rights. Five companies may exhibit from Russia (currently at war in border areas). Pakistan, India and Singapore may exhibit also.

No information is available to who has been invited to view 'Peacekeeping 93'—previously, ARMX visitors have included government delegations from Indonesia, Chile and El Salvador, among others. It seems that all of them will be welcome to come back for a look at 'Peacekeeping 93', since they are not on the list of the nine banned countries.

It is more and more clear that 'peacekeeping'—once a sincerely-meant idea, even if one questions the concept of keeping peace with guns—is becoming nothing more than a cover for military intervention around the world. And 'Peacekeeping 93' is a component in this cover-up. It must not be allowed to go unchanged.

Several groups are planning protests against 'Peacekeeping 93'. The Coalition to Oppose the Arms Trade hopes to stage a rally and/or other events, while the Alliance for Non-Violent Action is planning to organize a civil disobedience campaign. Contact:

• COAT, 489 Metcalfe St., Ottawa, Ont K1S 3N7, (613) 231-3076

• ANVA, (416) 651-5930

justifies expansion of war efforts in the name of peace.

We are shown some of the small tragedies of war, such as the separation of families, and the larger tragedy, the death of individuals for the most trivial of reasons. Occasionally we are reminded that our military has caused such harm—but only indirectly, such as in the statement that Kuwaiti farms "had been bombed and shelled by the Allied forces when the Iraqi army was occupying the area. It was infested with unexploded ordnance." If one didn't know that Canada was an active participant in the Gulf War, it would seem that Canadian forces were simply cleaning up after someone else's destruction.

Perhaps the saddest aspect of this entire book is the overall belief, held by the writers and the soldiers interviewed, that preparing and practicing for war and military intervention have something important to do towards ensuring a peaceful world. This belief that a willingness to kill is a part of the peace movement is something that the media have been making much of lately in their support of military intervention around the world.

The heroic and tragic images of *Shadows of War, Faces of Peace*, such as the woman guerrilla with an automatic rifle in one arm and a baby in her other (a not-yet-exhausted icon for several different ideologies), are the most powerful parts of the book. Some could serve as illustrations for a magazine devoted to peace. All too often, however, these illustrations reinforce militarism and the use of violence as a tool for solving problems.

Woven throughout much of the book are images of the winning of the 1988 Nobel Peace Prize by UN military forces. As the prize was stripped of moral validity long ago when it was awarded to Henry Kissinger, it was not a surprise to me when the military won the Nobel Peace Prize. This reward is used by the authors and the photographer to help them put forward the view that violence in the name of peace is somehow of a different nature than violence in the name of some other cause.

This book does not deal directly with the growing use of Canadian military forces as "peace-makers"—traditional military tactics given a new name. However, by making Canadian soldiers appear somehow different from a military force, Granatstein, Lavender and Spremo help to make war that much more thinkable.

Soldiers are not a part of the peace movement any more than rapists are feminists. Bosnia and Somalia show us the outcome of unchecked militarism. *Shadows of War, Faces of Peace* is a part of the work towards making militarism legitimate.

More on peace and bullets

Shadows of War, Faces of Peace

By J.L. Granatstein
and Douglas Lavender
Key Porter Books

REVIEWED BY BRIAN BURCH

In Somalia and in former Yugoslavia, the logic of militarism is being played out with atrocities we are horrified to hear of. But at the same time that the evils of war are so plainly being presented to us, our mass media is spending a great deal of effort to provide a pleasant face to Canadians' contributions to making war thinkable. One of the most blatant sanctifications of Canada's military is the recently published *Shadows of War, Faces of Peace*.

Authors Granatstein and Lavender have worked together with photographer Boris Spremo to examine one aspect of the Canadian military—its involvement with "peace-keeping" initiatives around the world. It is a well-written and well-assembled book, with pictures that can help to transform the image of a soldier from a killer to a healer. It is right up there with some of the apologies for the Sendero Luminoso I have read in glowing descriptions of the cause being advocated.

From the Congo to Palestine, the actions of Canadian military forces overseas are described in glowing detail. Whether it's Peter Worthington's description of Canadian troops as "friendly, capable, but distinctly scruffy", or details about bomb disposal activities, we are presented with the sanitized face of Canadian military efforts, in a way that

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Rape and war: enforcing power

In recent months, reports of the systematic rape of Bosnian women in detention camps have seized the attention of peace and women's groups around the world. Nothing can lessen the horror of this situation; but they are far from an isolated case. Rape has always been an institutionalized part of war; rape in wartime is always to a large extent systematic and deliberate. The raping of women is, symbolically, one of the essential means of gaining control of a given territory and its population.

Women working on violence hot-lines in former-Yugoslavia stress that rape is used in several ways to wage war — both as an act of war in itself, and as a standard feature of nationalist propaganda. They stress that rapes have been committed against women of all nationalities, and by men from all military and paramilitary groups, as well as the civilian population. Though we can be fairly certain that Muslim women are disproportionately among the victims, and Serbian paramilitaries and militias disproportionately among the rapists, the women of the SOS Telephone in Belgrade remind us that rape is "first and foremost a crime against women. Rape is a form of controlling women which men knew before they started fighting each other."

Women from the SOS Telephone have isolated certain characteristics they see as particular to rape in wartime. First, it is a public event. Frequently, the women are raped

in front of their families and neighbours. "This becomes an act against her husband/father/nation, not against her body," writes Stasa Zajovic. "Through humiliation and destruction of the enemy's property, the power of the warrior is enforced."

Second, war rapes are usually mass rapes — "they do it together and in mutual solidarity."

Third, the rape frequently ends with the murder of the woman. Sometimes it is hard to know if the rape or the murder was the first motive; the two are so tangled together. Yayori Matsui of the Asian Women's Network notes that when the Iranian army took captives during the war with Iraq, the women were routinely raped before they were killed because "if they died as virgins they might go to heaven."

Finally, women who become pregnant after war-rapes often have even less access to abortion than other unwillingly pregnant women, and may be forced to bear the child of the rape. This is connected, of course, to the clear tendency for women to be deprived of reproductive rights during wartime, when access to birth control and abortion are commonly restricted.

The institutionalization of rape as part of war is not by any means separate from the invariable increase of prostitution in wartime, or indeed around military bases at any time. War requires prostitution for the constant reinforcement of the 'masculinity' of the soldiers. Women

may be drafted into military prostitution by sheer force, like the Korean "comfort women" or the Karen women porters in Burma. Or women who have lost their families, husbands, lands or livelihoods in war may be forced into prostitution as their only means of survival; like the large number of women who have fled Burma and become prostitutes in Thailand.

We can also remember the Somali woman, recently shown on the front pages of our newspapers as she was attacked by knife-wielding men for "fraternizing" with French troops who had come on a supposed mercy mission to Somalia. The woman now faces a possible death sentence from a religious court, another victim of a military complex that forces women into clear roles, then punishes them for it. Like the many raped women who will forever be considered 'soiled' by the sexual violence of the enemy.

It is significant that this increase in prostitution has been found to accompany not only 'conventional' armies, but United Nations peacekeeping troops — something mentioned, at the War Resisters' International Women's Conference in November, by women from as far apart as Cambodia and ex-Yugoslavia.

Men with guns, it seems, are pretty much like other men with guns. And, as Stasa Zajovic writes, "in any moment, the warrior must never forget which gender he belongs to, which is the gender of the gun."

Cambodia: U.N. harassment

Last October, more than 150 representatives of women's groups and NGOs in Cambodia released an open letter to Yasushi Akashi, chief of the United Nations peacekeeping team in Cambodia (UNTAC). The letter outlined "a dramatic increase in prostitution since UNTAC's arrival and a noticeable absence of condoms and education about their use ... HIV has reached an 'emergency level' of at least 75 per cent among blood donors," and noted that "sexual harassment [by UNTAC members] occurs regularly in public restaurants, hotels and bars, banks, markets and shops ... women feel restricted in their movements in social and professional settings because of the inappropriate behaviours they receive from male UNTAC personnel." They cited cases of harassment which included inappropriate advances towards a six-year old Khmer-American girl.

"Cambodian and other Asian women," they wrote, "are the victims of stereotyping and often

are forced into subservient roles. These women deserve the same respect as the sisters, mothers, daughters, and wives of UNTAC personnel."

The immediate cause of the letter was a September meeting with NGOs at which Mr. Akashi had said that his peacekeeping troops, as "18-year-old, hot-blooded soldiers" deserved to enjoy "young, beautiful beings of the opposite sex."

After the letter was published in the *Phnom Penh Post*, Akashi promised to set up an education campaign about HIV and other sexually transmitted disease, and to hire a 'Community Relations Office' — an office, however, which was to deal with all complaints from the community, not specifically sexual harassment, and which was staffed entirely by one young woman. One United Nations volunteer, in a letter to the *Phnom Penh Post* on November 20, dismissed these measures as "a farce" and called for Akashi's resignation.

Serbia and Croatia

In the face of massive violence, voracious propaganda machines, and the sudden blaze of publicity, women in Serbia and Croatia have been working — and attempting to work together, despite a mostly obstructed communications system — to draw the outlines of constructive projects for helping women raped in war. As women who have worked in the feminist, anti-violence movement for years, they are aware of the care that is needed, the ways in which the needs of the women must take priority over any other perceived needs, whether those of the state or those of their would-be benefactors.

The women of the Autonomous Women's House, Zagreb, and the Anti-War Campaign Croatia, have begun a process of systematic visits to refugee camps in order to build trust, and to determine from the women themselves what their needs are and what kinds of support they

Burma: porters and prostitutes

Village women and children are taken to sweep roads for mines whenever SLORC military convoys are due to pass ... Women are often forced to march into battle in a line in front of SLORC troops ...

Men and women are constantly taken as munitions porters to carry all the SLORC army's equipment, supplies and ammunition through the mountains ... During rests the women are routinely gang-raped by the troops, even those who are already in an advanced state of pregnancy or carrying infants along with their loads ...

Upon entering villages in ethnic areas, SLORC troops routinely rape the women ...

— Democratic Alliance of Burma, for Amnesty International Burma Group Meeting

On 9th June 1992, approximately 45 Burmese women were seized at their brothels in Ranong province (south of Thailand) and then they were taken to Bangkok.

About 10 Burmese young women, aged between 14 to 21, were sent to the Centre for the Protection of Children's Rights (CPCR). And the others

Burmese women were sent to the Women Detention Centre (WDC) in Bangkok.

According to our sources, they were persuaded to leave their homes in order to find jobs somewhere else. Some were very young when they left their homes. These young Burmese women, eventually, became prostitutes against their will.

After they became prostitutes in Ranong, they faced many forms of human rights violations such as beating, raping and not being given any food for one or two weeks. Throughout this time, they were completely imprisoned by procurers and owners.

Right now, the women in CPCR are willing to return to Burma but only in safety. Three Burmese women were discovered to have AIDS. They fear cyanide injection by the Burmese authorities. Because recently one reproductive episode occurred in Burma; Burmese prostitute women who were deported to Burma were injected with cyanide by Burmese military in order to kill them.

— Burma Information Group



Poster display at the War Resisters' International Women's Conference, Bangkok. Photo: Maggie Helwig

most require. As this trust-building cannot be an instant procedure, they also note some important first requirements for support of women raped in the ex-Yugoslav war.

First, the support must be women-to-women only; the work must be done only by non-governmental organizations to avoid its possible use in nationalist propaganda; support centres must be established in all states of the territory; and these centres must be decentralized and run by women only.

Similarly, the women of the SOS Telephone in Belgrade,

Serbia, are developing plans for a women's centre in Belgrade, to work with survivors of war rape, provide counselling, and collect documentation; as well as making contact with women in refugee homes and camps.

Both Serbian and Croatian feminist peace activists are also lobbying to have war-related rapes declared a war crime by the United Nations.

• Autonomous Women's House, c/o ARK, Kraljeva 38, 41000 Zagreb, Croatia

• SOS Telephone, c/o Stasa Zajovic, Dragoslava Popovica 9/10, 11000 Beograd, Serbia

TV and the fatherland

By MAGGIE HELWIG
THE ACTIVIST

It is not only in P.O.W. camps and on the front lines that violence against women becomes an integral part of war.

In Serbia, women at the SOS Telephone, a crisis line founded in 1990, have seen not only an increase in domestic violence since the start of the ex-Yugoslav war, but clear and significant changes in the character of the violence. It is common for men to assault their wives and partners with weapons, or in the presence of weapons which can include machine guns and bombs; giving domestic violence, even more explicitly than usual, the same character as rape in a war zone.

The women of SOS Telephone have also isolated a pattern they call "Post TV Syndrome" — that is, a large number of women report that they are assaulted by their husbands immediately after the family watches the war news on television. Many of these post-TV assaults are first-time assaults, in couples where the man has not previously been violent. The women of the crisis line see the attacks as clearly generated by the violent nationalist propaganda which makes up a good part of Serbian TV "news" these days.

But this is not only a Serbian phenomenon. Stella LeJohm of Winnipeg, speaking at the Women's Peace Agenda Project in Toronto last October, reported a frighteningly similar pattern in Canada during the Gulf War. Crisis workers in Winnipeg, too, saw not only more violence in the home, but new forms of that violence — they too were told how men would watch the news of the war on television and then assault their wives and partners; how these men, especially refugee men who had themselves been brutalized in war, would sometimes dress up in their old military uniforms in order to attack their women.

It would be simplistic to see in this an argument against

"television violence" alone. Rather, these two clearly related cases — and probably many that have not yet come to light — reveal vividly the way in which war and domestic violence become near-equivalents in the construction of "masculinity", psychologically almost interchangeable; and how, as well, this complex of "male" violences becomes tied up with patriotism and nationalism, so that men vicariously participate in the efforts of the *fatherland* by inflicting specifically militaristic forms of violence on the women around them. It must be remembered that we are looking not only at TV coverage of a war, but coverage which involves the home country of the abuser and the abused, and coverage with a particular patriotic-propagandistic slant.

Both cases show, too, how the trauma inflicted on war refugees and on civilian populations is repeated, re-enacted, in new cycles of violence — particularly by men, as they receive the simultaneous message that masculinity equals violence. In a sense, it is only by re-enacting whatever physical or psychological violence they have suffered, but casting themselves in the role of aggressor, that they are able to reclaim their "manhood"; threatened by their own suffering in war, or their own exile, or simply the fact that they are at home while their countrymen are fighting.

The immediate roots of "Post TV Syndrome" and related patterns are televised war propaganda, untreated war trauma, and the whole variety of social stresses which wartime produces; all of which we can and must take steps to change. More deeply, "Post TV Syndrome" is one way of acting out our centuries-old constructions of masculinity and patriotism, and the sort of enchanted relationship these constructions have with brutal violence; part of our task is to take apart these attitudes and begin to build new ones. ☸

The current world situation cannot continue. It is moving to destruction. But there are alternatives, coming up from the poor, the marginalized — like the noise of the sea before a storm, the noise of the earth before an earthquake. This is very urgent, and we must feel this urgency ...

We must come up with another concept of human needs, emphasize self-development, happiness, pleasure in creation and work ... a concept of democracy which includes all living things ... an economic model emphasizing basic needs, self-

sufficiency, which does not exploit, use too many machines, exhaust resources ...

Justice is the historical verification of love, we cannot love without justice. We must be at the forefront of the struggle criticizing militarism which uses the resources of the poor world.

We must begin to dream. When we dream, we take actions to make our dreams a reality. A people without dreams is dead.

We women, we have the ability to dream dreams that bring life.

— Nelsa Curbelo,
SERPAJ-Latin America

Women overcoming violence

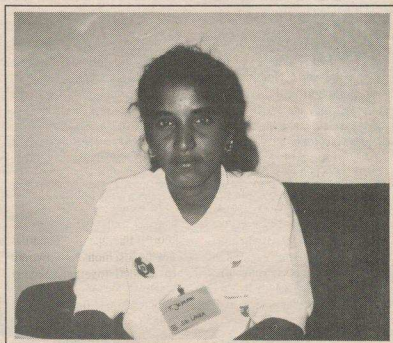
The fourth War Resisters' International Women's Conference, "Women Overcoming Violence" took place in Thailand from November 25 to December 1. Over 150 women from some 63 countries attended, including Maggie Helwig of ACT for Disarmament.

Much of the material on this and the preceding page was generated by the conference, which included four days of workshops and plenary sessions on violence against women, militarism, and development, as well as several days devoted to developing a series of resolutions, and a tour of some women's initiatives in Thailand.

The conference produced some 200 pages of papers and talks on a wide variety of topics; copies are available either from War Resisters International or from ACT for Disarmament. For more information or a list of papers, contact Maggie at ACT Toronto. Maggie is also available to speak to interested groups, schools, etc.

For more coverage of the Women Overcoming Violence conference, we suggest you read forthcoming issues of *Peace News* (the WRI newspaper) and *WRI Women* (the newsletter of the WRI Women's Working Group). Write to WRI, 55 Dangle St., London SE17 1EL, ENGLAND for copies of either publication.

To the right and below, words from some conference participants. Photos: Maggie Helwig



Thalasingham Jeyanthi, 27 years old, was from 1989 to 1992 the director of the Suriya Women's Development Centre near Jaffna, part of the Tamil area of Sri Lanka. The Centre is an shelter and training institute for poor rural women, wives who have been thrown out by their husbands, and women whose relatives have been killed in the war. The Centre also runs a nursery for the nearest village, in which they look after 85 children.

"Whatever we need, we do it all ourselves, no men. We need a house painted, we do it ourselves. We need a roof fixed, we do it ourselves. We need to build a bunker, when the government drops bombs from helicopters, we do it ourselves, no men ... We don't have big people educating little people. At the Centre we are all equal. Women learn whatever they want to learn, and if there's something they don't like, no problem."



Sumit Bunprakorp, 49 years old, is a farmer and village health care volunteer in northeastern Thailand. She was active in a successful campaign against the government's resettlement project for her area, where they intended to cut down the forests and make way for a eucalyptus plantation.

"When we have a march, the men are always afraid of trouble from some local official, so they make the women march in front in case they encounter any trouble. And once they decided to write a letter to the local government in blood, and then they made us, the women give all the blood ...

"The men think that they are stronger, but from their actions, it seems to me they don't have strength or perseverance."

The survival and well-being of every person concerns us. Women are first environment, the innovators, drawing on their talents and ingenuity to find ways and means to do more than survive.

So why are women left out of development planning? Are we invisible? There are so many cases where government and funding agencies have failed in their projects because women were not consulted.

It is women who suffer from Structural Adjustment Policies, yet the negotiations with the World Bank and the IMF in no way reflect this suffering or its alleviation.

In organizations like SEWA in India, Gabriela in the Philippines ... women came to the forefront and drastic changes occurred. Women and development go hand in hand.

It takes strength to live and survive a battering. Government and NGO programmes designed for women can reinforce and utilize that strength, helping women to redirect this strength from trying just to survive and to cope with a life of violence to redesigning their lives and the lives of their families and society.

— Elaine Hewitt, Women and Development Unit, UWI, Barbados

North America

United States: After the acquittal of four police officers who had been videotaped while savagely beating a black man named Rodney King, Los Angeles erupted in violence on April 30, 1992. The riots, an outburst of anger created by years of systematic discrimination and racism in the United States, were finally put down by the U.S. military.

Central America

Guatemala: Armed conflict continues between the right-wing terrorist government and the guerrilla coalition National Revolutionary Unity. A terror campaign of low-intensity warfare continues to be waged by the military and death squads against dissidents, suspected dissidents and indigenous people.

El Salvador: The war in El Salvador, between the government and the FMLN guerrillas, officially came to an end on December 15, 1992, after a year of a United Nations-supervised ceasefire. While the country faces a massive task of rebuilding after some fifteen years of war, and there are fears that the government army and the economic elite retain much power, there are grounds for hope in El Salvador for the first time in many years.

Canadians are among the 1,100 United Nations observers monitoring the implementation of the peace accords.

Haiti: The junta which expelled elected leader Jean-Bertrand Aristide continues in power, with numerous human rights violations reported. In a fit of originality in late December, Prime Minister Brian Mulroney suggested a military intervention in Haiti to restore Aristide to power.

South America

Colombia: The 17-year war between the government, guerrilla groups, and drug cartels worsened again in 1992, with civilians bearing much of the burden of violence. A state of emergency was declared by the government in November. Canada made several indirect sales of arms to Colombia in 1991 — Pratt & Whitney helicopter engines, and components for military transport aircraft, both sold via the United States.

Peru: The right-wing government, and the terrorist Sendero Luminoso guerrillas, both continue their attacks on civilians — the current government principally through an IMF-backed financial policy which has driven an estimated half the population into absolute poverty. Between 1980 and 1992, clashes between various armed factions and forces killed more than 25,000 people, most of them civilians. The arrest of Sendero leader Abimael Guzman has not ended the activities of the group — 1992 ended with Sendero bombings in Lima.

In 1991, Canada sold \$88,852 of arms to Peru, in the form of helicopter components and "armoured equipment". Sales of Pratt & Whitney helicopter engines were also made via Brazil and China.

Europe

Northern Ireland: Fighting continues between the government of the United Kingdom and the paramilitary Irish Republican army. 1992 saw an increase in violence and the deployment of more U.K. troops to the area. Canada made almost \$9,000,000 in arms sales to the United Kingdom in 1991.

Ex-Yugoslavia: Thousands of United Nations troops — over 11,000 of them Canadian — are stationed in the region that was once Yugoslavia. For almost six months the United Nations force in Bosnia-Herzegovina was under the command of Canadian Gen. Lewis Mackenzie.

Despite an arms embargo on all regions of ex-Yugoslavia, weapons continue to enter the area through the black market. Canada is one of many countries in which parts of the emigré community are providing money for arms, to many of the sides in the conflict.

Prime Minister Brian Mulroney and External Affairs Minister Barbara McDougall have been among the most outspoken of Western leaders calling for military intervention in the region.

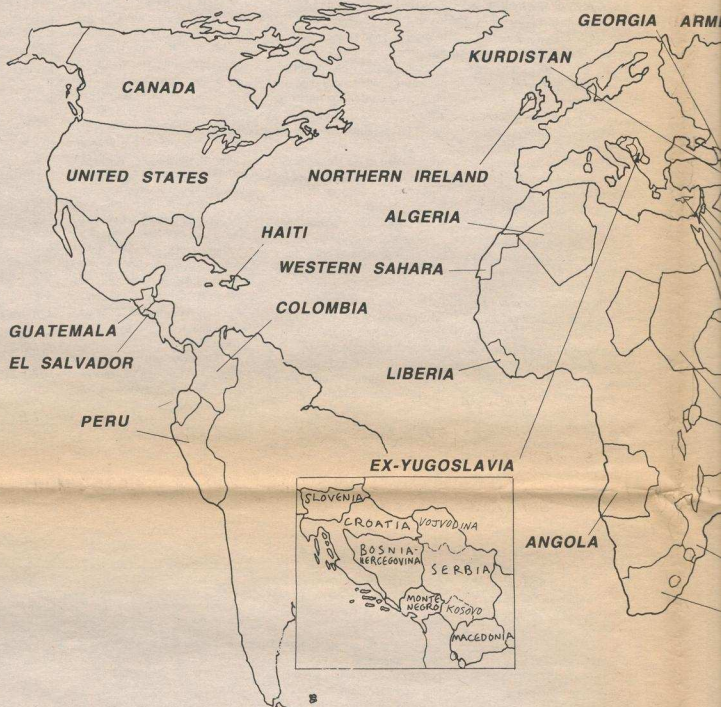
Bosnia-Herzegovina: War began in late April, after a referendum — boycotted by most ethnic Serbs — returned a large majority in favour of independence. Serbian militias have been fighting for possession of the territory, against both the elected government and Croatian militias. An estimated 1.5 million, of all ethnic groups, have died. The Serbian government in Belgrade has used the war as part of an attempt to create a Greater Serbian state; there have been discussions between the Serbian and Croatian governments for the complete partition of Bosnia-Herzegovina. The (mainly Muslim but still multi-ethnic) government of president Alija Izetbegovic now controls just two pockets of the country, the Sarajevo region in the centre, and the one in the north.

Croatia: The war in Croatia settled into an uncertain ceasefire in 1992. UN peacekeeping forces were deployed in March to protect and demilitarise "UN protected areas" along the Serbian and northern Bosnian borders. These areas remain, however, under the political and military control of Serbian irregulars.

Serbia: With the re-election of president Slobodan Milosevic, the strengthening of ultra-nationalist forces, and the neutralisation of the prime minister Milan Panic in the December elections, internal restraints on Serbian expansionism have been removed.

Kosovo: There are renewed fears that the nonviolent opposition in this formerly-autonomous province, with a 90% Albanian population, will be violently crushed.

Macedonia: Despite meeting European Community conditions for recognition in January, Greek objections to the republic's name ensured that full recognition was not forthcoming, and ten-



sions have remained high despite the full withdrawal of federal Yugoslav troops in April. Fears that Serb-initiated violence in Kosovo could spread across the border, combined with tensions among Slav, Albanian, and Turkish Macedonians and an unofficial blockade of the republic by Greece, led president Kim Gligorov to request a UN observer force, which was deployed in December.

Russia: Violent clashes between minority groups in the Caucasus, notably the Ingushitians and North Ossetians. In November, the region just north of Georgia was placed under emergency rule and 10,000 Russian troops were sent in; this led to threats of war from Gen. Dudayev, rebel leader in the adjoining Chechen republic, who said that the troops were on Chechen territory. Canada's long-standing ban on military sales to Russia appears to be weakening, with invitations for numerous Russian government branches and companies to attend ARMX 93 in Ottawa.

Georgia: The government is fighting against forces loyal to the deposed president and against minority groups in Abkhazia and in South Ossetia.

Africa

Algeria: After the Islamic Salvation Front won parliamentary elections, the incumbent government, led by Mohammed Boudiaf, launched a violent crackdown and restored itself to absolute power. Western governments have accepted the pre-emptive coup. In 1991, Canada sold \$3,749,376 of arms to Algeria, mostly helicopter components, making them our third-largest recipient of arms exports in the Third World.

Western Sahara: Canadian peacekeeping troops are present in Western Sahara to enforce a ceasefire between the Polisario independence movement and the government. A referendum on independence is planned but the date is not yet certain.

Liberia: Ceasefires have failed to bring an end to the civil war

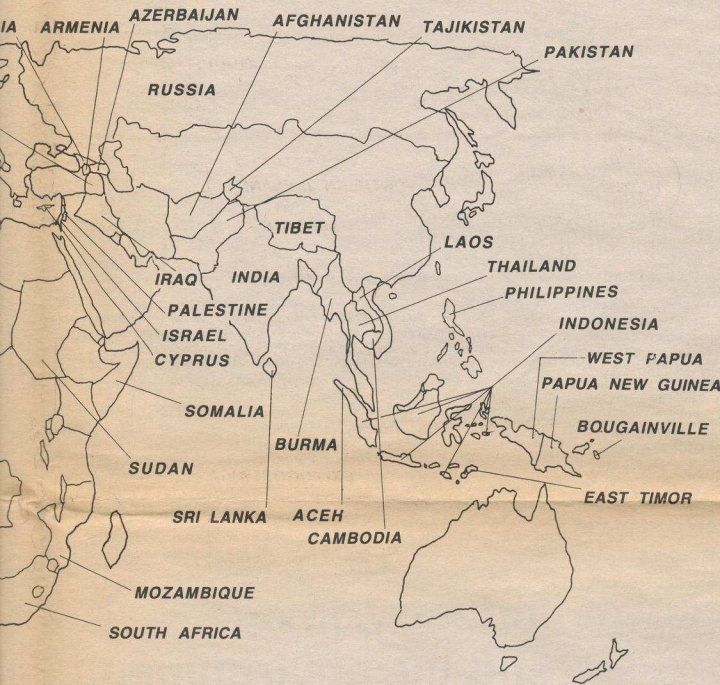
between the government, which controls the capital, Monrovia, and rebels headed by Charles Taylor, who control most of the rest of the country. Serious human rights violations against the population have been committed by both sides. A coalition of seven West African countries, headed by Nigeria, the regional super-power, began shelling rebel positions from the sea in November.

Angola: The country is poised between war and peace as we go to press. Jonas Savimbi's UNITA, backed by the United States and South Africa, has been waging a guerrilla war against the Marxist MPLA government since independence in 1975. The beginning of 1992 saw a ceasefire to the war, which is thought to have cost over \$20 billion. But the country's first elections in October returned the MPLA to power — which prompted UNITA to declare war again. Rebels now control over half the country, with civilians caught in the crossfire. Canadian peacekeeping troops are present in Angola, and Canada has made indirect sales of arms to Angola between 1988 and 1991.

South Africa: Hundreds have died in clashes between the African National Congress and the Inkatha Freedom Party (a paramilitary force supported by the white-minority government) as negotiations between the ANC and the government continue, aimed at dismantling the apartheid system. Canada continues to make indirect arms sales to South Africa; most recently, Pratt & Whitney aircraft engines, transferred via Switzerland in 1991.

Mozambique: Africa's longest-running brush war, in which one million died and nearly half the country's people were made into refugees, ended with a ceasefire agreement signed on October 4. The government and the South-African backed RENAMO rebels will face off in an election in 1993.

As a result of the war, one quarter of the population of Mozambique survives on food aid, and child mortality is the highest in the world. A third of Mozambican children do not reach the age



of five. Canada has made indirect arms sales to Mozambique.

Somalia: After the fall of dictator Mohammed Siad Barre, the country has fallen into chaotic and widespread fighting between rival militia leaders, due largely to Siad Barre's manipulations of the traditional clan system, as well as the glut of arms in the country, which had been used as a Cold War pawn by the U.S. and the U.S.S.R. The combination of warfare and drought has brought famine to the region, claiming hundreds of thousands of lives.

In December 1992, the United States led a military intervention in Somalia, in which Canada is also taking part.

Sudan: A disastrous famine has been used as a weapon by both sides in a conflict between the Arab-led government and the Sudan Peoples Liberation Army, based in the predominantly Christian and animist south. Interference with relief efforts, by both parties, has claimed hundreds of thousands of lives. The government has been carrying out a huge programme of forced displacement in south Sudan. Nomadic cultures across Sudan have been caught in the crossfire, several cultures face imminent genocide.

Military transport aircraft with Canadian components — manufactured by Litton Systems — reached Sudan in 1991, via China.

Middle East

Israel/Palestine: High-profile peace talks continue without result, while Israel wages low-intensity war on the Palestinians in the occupied territories. In December, the Arab paramilitary organization Hamas murdered an Israeli border guard, leading to the expulsion of over 400 Palestinians, suspected as supporters of Hamas. These men are, as we go to press, camped between Lebanon and Israel, not permitted to enter either country.

Direct Canadian arms sales to Israel in 1991 totalled \$23,457. Canadian peacekeeping troops are present in the region.

Cyprus: U.N. peacekeeping troops, including 575 Canadians,

have been monitoring the shaky ceasefire between Greek and Turkish Cypriots since 1964. In late 1992, however, after almost thirty years of inconclusive monitoring, Canada withdrew its troops.

Kurdistan: Attacks on the Kurdish people continue from Turkey, Iraq and Iran. The PKK (Kurdish Workers Party) guerrillas have also been accused of attacks on Kurdish civilians.

Turkey receives significant amounts of Canadian arms, in 1991, almost \$3,000,000 in direct sales, and more in indirect sales.

Armenia/Azerbaijan: Since 1988, conflict in the disputed enclave of Nagorno-Karabakh has claimed thousands of lives on both sides. Nagorno-Karabakh, administered by the Azerbaijani government, is populated mostly by Armenians, and has declared itself an autonomous territory. Some 400,000 Armenians have fled to Armenia, and 100,000 Azeris to Azerbaijan; the capital city, Stepanakert, was almost completely destroyed this year by Azeri shelling, and most of the surviving inhabitants are thought to have fled. Ceasefires have been proclaimed but failed to have any effect.

Iraq: Iraq continues to be under United Nations sanctions imposed at the time of the invasion of Kuwait in 1990; 'no-fly' zones in the north and south are also still enforced. The Iraqi government is making periodic attacks on Kurds and Shi'ite Muslims; meanwhile the civilian population struggles to survive with most of the country's infrastructure destroyed, and no prospect of rebuilding.

South Asia

Afghanistan: Fighting continues in Afghanistan, which has been at war since 1978 — now, in the wake of the Soviet pull-out and the fall of the Communist government, the fighting is between various Mujahideen factions.

Tajikistan: An old-line Communist government was installed by election last year, but conflict with the Islamic Renaissance Party has become increasingly severe over the course of 1992. Indeed, this

December saw troops loyal to the provisional government storming their own capital in an attempt to regain control.

Meanwhile, as usual, civilians pay the price. The Red Cross estimates that some 500,000 Tajiks have been displaced by the war — in desperation, many are crossing into Afghanistan.

India/Pakistan: Border tensions between India and Pakistan continue. The government of India is also combating a Muslim separatist movement in Kashmir, which is supported by Pakistan; the conflict in this area has been escalating over the year. Other separatist movements exist in Assam, Punjab and Manipur. Religious conflict also broke out in the Uttar Pradesh province of India this December, when the Ayodhya Mosque was razed by Hindu extremists. Riots in major cities followed. Direct Canadian arms sales to India totalled \$500,000 in 1991; to Pakistan, \$25,000.

Tibet: The Chinese occupation of Tibet continues as it has since 1950. The nonviolent resistance led by the Dalai Lama also continues, as large numbers of monks and nuns are regularly arrested, jailed and tortured for peaceful protests. China received Canada's second-largest foreign aid package in 1990-91.

Sri Lanka: The war between the Sinhalese government and Tamil guerrillas continues as fiercely as it has since 1983. More than 50,000 people, many of them civilians, have died; there are now an estimated 570,000 internal refugees, and 400,000 refugees abroad. According to the UN, at least 12,000 people have been "disappeared" — the highest number in the world.

Canada has reported no direct arms sales to Sri Lanka in 1991, though 1990 sales totalled about \$150,000. Pratt & Whitney engines did reach Sri Lanka in 1991, via China.

Southeast Asia

Burma (Myanmar): Despite a few cosmetic reforms, Burma's ruling junta, the SLORC, continues to be among the most murderous in the world. As well as brutally repressing dissidents in the cities, the SLORC is waging war on Burma's indigenous people — Karen, Shan, Mon and others, who have de facto control of much of the border area — and on the Muslim minority. As we go to press, there is fighting in the area bordering Thailand, and clashes between the Burmese and Bangladeshi armies, largely as a result of Burmese troops crossing the border in pursuit of fleeing Muslims.

Petro-Can withdrew from Burma in December 1992, citing unsatisfactory results in their preliminary drilling. However, Canadian arms components have recently been found to have entered Burma through third-party sales — Pratt & Whitney helicopter engines, sold via Switzerland and China.

Laos: Occasional clashes between the government and the United Lao National Liberation Front.

Cambodia (Kampuchea): A 1991 peace agreement is seriously threatened by the refusal of the Khmer Rouge to cooperate with the accords. Though violence in 1992 was less than in previous years, the situation is rapidly deteriorating as we go to press, with Khmer Rouge shells being aimed at United Nations peacekeeping troops. Trade sanctions have been imposed in an attempt to force KR cooperation. The massive United Nations force, UNTAC, includes some 200 Canadians.

Thailand: When the ruling military junta, the NPCK, installed Gen. Suchinda Kraprayoon as prime minister in March, the Thai people began a campaign of non-violent resistance, culminating in massive street demonstrations in May which led to Suchinda's resignation. Elections were held in September, and a democratically-elected coalition government installed. Canada sold over \$3,000,000 of arms directly to Thailand in 1991, including helicopter engines, missiles and missile launchers; and machine guns.

Philippines: Conflict between the government and the New People's Army continues; there is also fighting between the government and Muslim groups. Direct Canadian arms sales to the Philippine government totalled \$3,000 in 1991.

Indonesia: The Suharto government continues to repress separatist movements throughout the archipelago, notably in Aceh and West Papua, and maintains its occupation of East Timor.

East Timor: In reaction to the Santa Cruz massacre of November 1991, Canada suspended some projected aid to Indonesia, and — in October 1992 — the United States cut all military aid. However, the situation in East Timor took a serious turn for the worse after the capture of guerrilla leader Kay Rala Xanana Gusmão in November 92. Since then, there are reports of thousands of arrests, large numbers of Timorese forced to stage 'surrenders' and 'loyalty oaths', and torture of civilians on a scale matched only by the first years of the occupation. It appears that Indonesia is particularly aiming to crush the unarmed urban resistance.

Despite the 1991 suspension, Indonesia continues to receive large amounts of Canadian aid. Direct arms sales in 1991 totalled \$28,000 — all "electronic equipment" — and further undisclosed sales have been made in 1992.

Bougainville: The separatist Bougainville Revolutionary Army has been in conflict with the government of Papua New Guinea since 1988; the PNG government has maintained a blockade of the island since 1990, which has deprived the inhabitants of medical and other basic services. It is estimated that the blockade has killed up to 5,000 people, mostly women and children. Canada has made indirect arms sales to Papua New Guinea, via Spain (military aircraft components manufactured by Spar Aerospace).

Note also made of the continuing low-intensity wars against indigenous people and against women, worldwide, which continue to claim many casualties. In Canada alone, an average of two women are killed every week by their male partners.

In the maquiladoras: a preview of Free Trade

As 1992 drew to a close, the notorious North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA) was signed by the leaders of the United States, Canada, and Mexico.

But a 'preview' of NAFTA had already existed in the maquiladoras, the free trade zones on the U.S.-Mexico border, where the corporate agenda had already been implemented without restrictions. Indeed, the leading U.S. organization to oppose NAFTA was the Coalition for Justice in the Maquiladoras, a binational coalition of religious, environmental, labour, Latino and women's groups pressing for safe working practices, a fair standard of living and environmental responsibility in the free trade zone. The CJM became a trilateral coalition in November, when ACT for Disarmament joined as the first Canadian member group.

On December 4, Susan Mika of the CJM spoke at the Oakville Community Centre for Peace and Human Rights, at a forum sponsored by ACT and supported by the Canadian Auto Workers Social Justice Fund. Excerpts from her talk follow.

We already see what 'free trade' is like by talking about the maquiladoras. And the concern that under NAFTA all of Mexico will become a maquiladora and open up to free trade is part of what these consequences are. And there's so many areas of NAFTA that we can also try to touch on.

We're talking about a very young workforce, a very inexperienced

"You're talking about getting an agenda in place, a corporate agenda in place."

workforce; you're talking about turnover in some of these areas that ranges from 150% to 180% a year. I know it sounds incredible, but you get a lot of turnover, because of the low wages, because of the harsh working conditions, and if you're fired or whatever, sometimes people try to go and work in another maquila... Sexual harassment is a common complaint that the workers talk to us about; since the workforce is largely female, and many of the plant engineers and supervisors are male. Most of the workers in the maquiladoras are women, and most of them are 16 to 25 years old.

There's a lot of concern around land issues, and the *ejido* system, it's just a word that means a farm, and there's protection right now for these *ejidos*, these small farms that people have, and so in other words you're protected from trying to compete with large mechanized farms. You get a subsidy so you can still produce whatever it is you're producing on your small farm. Well, NAFTA will eliminate those subsidies, and there's a real concern in Mexico, that you may have up to a million people landless, that will be forced off of their land, because large farmers will come in to buy up the *ejidos*... land is so important, to have a small plot and it's yours, and you're working it and you're so connected to it.

There's concern about the environmental contamination and the funding for this, where we go, where we get the money to rebuild, or to build, because there's so little infrastructure in those areas now.

Just as one example, at this Rimir plant, which is a bumper painting plant, very high levels of xylene and methylene chloride were found. Some of the workers mentioned to us that this is just dumped right into a drain on the floor, and it goes out through a pipe, and there are some pictures of some of the drainage ditches where you can see that these ditches run right out into canals. And what do you see in those canals? You see goats grazing, cows grazing, sometimes dogs are laying there... further down, there's a Trico

drainage ditch, and when that was tested, mainly raw sewage was coming out of that. And that's mixed with some of these other solvents and chemicals and this continues on down to an area where people fish, where children are playing... I mean, you're talking about major problems here. These cities along the borders do not have the infrastructure that's needed to work with all the people there, there are no water treatment plants, no sewage treatment plants in any of these major cities along the border. And then we're talking about even freer movement of companies, and more people coming to these areas, where the infrastructure is already overstressed.

Or the question of wages, the harmonization of wages, Canada, since the pact went into effect, has already lost \$15,000 to 400,000 jobs to the United States, because Canada's wages are higher than the United States wages. Okay, in Mexico, we are talking about wages that are 1/7 to 1/10 what we are talking about in the United States. Corporations save anywhere between \$16-\$25,000 per worker per year by relocating in Mexico.

These are all the consequences that we're talking about, so when people say, "Well, what's going to happen?", we just need to step back and say, "What has happened?" We have a picture of what free trade is, we don't have to wait for the future to know, we've got it now.

You're talking about getting an agenda in place, a corporate agenda in place. You can see how this is the agenda,

and where it's taking us, and where we will end up. South Texas is a Third World country already, we are a Third World country. If the borders were redrawn today, all of that would be a Third World country. People in Texas would be very upset with me saying some of this, but it's true.

Around the border, in the valley, documented unemployment is 16.7%, really it's 30% or 40%. You've got colonias on both sides of the border. You've got these large areas without electricity and sewers on the U.S. side. We're not just talking about Mexico. It's like that on the U.S. side too.

We know who we're up against. It's the maquiladora associations, it's the chambers of commerce, it's the corporations, and in many ways our government,

Industry, image and the environment

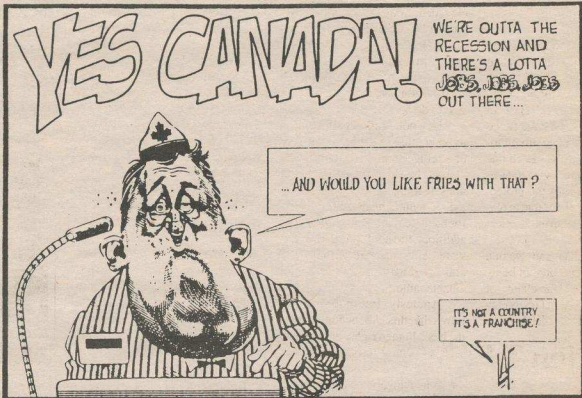
DON GLOVER
THE ACTIVIST

How many of you heard of the ECO-ED conference in Toronto Oct. 16-21? If you were not one of several large corporations trying to improve your company image, or a "politically correct" school teacher — excepting those from B.C. who know better — then you were most likely to tune into the Blue Jays instead.

You didn't miss much. Delegates were paying over \$300 to attend the sessions. If I hadn't scammed a media pass the empty experience wouldn't be mine to write about.

Notwithstanding the highly educated, mostly white, middle-class abstractions about "saving our planet", a fewinders burned. One particular session, on the rhetoric of what corporations and governments tirelessly call "sustainable development", was a rare moment of promise in this trite ordeal.

The Canadian government is talking and talking. Not about enacting the principles of Agenda 21, the declaration that came out of Rio. They want to do more research. And yet the research is there and has been for a long time. Strong international principles on the environment have been in place since 1972, according to Joan Russow, of the University of Victoria.



We've had years of what can be construed as fairness in allowing both government and industry into discussions about the environment. Joan says that to be really fair we should exclude those interests who intrude on any sense of objectivity. Such as Alcan, Amway, the Atomic Energy Control Board, to start with the A's.

Irreversible is not a new word. Just like 'significant risk to nature' is no novel phrase. Our government has a responsibility to live up to these commitments. We, the public, are not demanding enough of our government to enforce these recommendations.

Don Glover of ACT Oakville and Aloz of ACT Guelph attended the ECO-ED conference as ACTivist correspondents. As well as attending sessions of the conference — one of which included a confrontation between Aloz and Sonya Bata of Bata Shoes — they distributed literature and collected signatures on several of ACT's petitions.

A more detailed account of the proceedings, including a full transcript of Joan Russow's talk, can be obtained from Aloz at ACT Guelph. Call (519) 767-0313 for copies of these proceedings and information about the price.

HIV+ refugees turned back

AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL

The United States Government is currently holding 240 Haitian asylum seekers plus 35 other family members in quarantine at the Guantanamo Bay Naval Base in Cuba. These refugees have tested positive for the human immunodeficiency virus (HIV). Each one has also been judged twice to have a significant claim for the protection of the United States due to fear of persecution by security forces or their allies in Haiti.

These 240 men and women and their dependents are not being allowed to pursue their claims of asylum because current U.S. policy calls for refugees with HIV to be

excluded from the country. Although Dr. Louis Sullivan, Secretary of Health and Human Services, called in January 1991 for this policy to be changed, the Bush administration has not taken any action to do so.

U.S. policy allows for a waiver to be granted in the U.S. embassy of a refugee's home country. The waiver, however, is not practical nor safe for refugees who have fled their country, many with a well-founded fear of persecution. In addition, most of these Haitians were likely unaware of their HIV status until they reached Guantanamo.

Amnesty International believes that this U.S. action violates the basic human rights of people to seek and enjoy in other countries asylum from persecution (Article 14 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights).

Please write to William Barr, the Attorney General of the United States, and please send a copy of your letter to June Osborn, the chair of President Bush's National Commission on AIDS. Urge Mr. Barr to allow HIV-positive Haitians in Guantanamo to enter the United States and pursue their claims for political asylum. It would be especially appropriate for the Bush administration to grant this before President Bush's term in office expires in January.

Write: The Honorable William Barr Attorney general of the U.S. Department of Justice, 10th and Constitution, NW Room 4400, Washington, DC 20530, fax: 202-514-4371.

CC: June Osborn, Chair, National Commission on AIDS 1720 K Street NW, Room 815 Washington, DC 20006, fax: 202-254-3060.



Sulak Sivaraksa on a visit to Toronto. Photo: M. Helwig

Operation TV in Somalia

from page two

been much more international energy concentrated in this area. But there were no immediate, flashy results to be had. And all efforts at informed negotiation have now been destroyed by the arrival of the troops.

Once again, we see the attempt to impose a simple, military solution on a complicated situation, wiping out all fine distinctions through sheer firepower and taking even the possibility of civil society action with them.

What should be the obvious lesson of Somalia — that guns breed starvation, and we can no longer tolerate the international arms trade — will also be obscured.

There is another component to the U.S. agenda in Somalia, besides displaying once more the awesome glamour of their favourite guns. We must not forget that Somalia occupies a key strategic position in the Horn of Africa — it was this key position that made it a Cold War pawn, and led to the glut of arms and destruction of Somali society that are the roots of the current tragedy. Somalia was put aside for a while, as long as the United States hoped to set up a cooperative government in Ethiopia. When it was clear that this was not to be, the focus moved east again.

Operation Restore Hope might better be called Operation Restore A Central Government. A central government administered, presumably, by whichever warlord most successfully curries U.S. favour. A military central government which will always remember that they have a bigger gun than the Somali people, but the United States — and its military allies, increasingly including a suddenly-combative Canada — has a bigger gun than them.

— ACT for Disarmament
January 3, 1993

Boycott Nestle

In the wake of the INFACIT-U.S. success in driving General Electric out of the nuclear arms business, we must not forget that INFACIT Canada is still maintaining a boycott on Nestle products.

Nestle, a manufacturer of a wide variety of products including infant formula, continues to dump this formula in the Third World, where mothers have neither the money, the access to clean water, nor the necessary information, to feed their children with it. By urging mothers to replace breast-feeding with bottle-feeding, Nestle has caused the deaths of untold numbers of Third World babies.

For those not already involved in the Nestle boycott, here is a list of products to avoid:

•Nestle's Quik, Nestle Crunch, Alpine White Chocolate Raisinets, Nestea;

•Coffee — Nescafe, Taster's Choice, Sunrise instant coffee with chocory, Mills Brothers, Chase and Sandborn;

•all Libby products;

•all Cross & Blackwell products;

•Maggi seasonings;

•all Carnation products including all infant formula;

•Coffee-Mate;

•Dr. Ballard's pet foods;

•Stouffer's frozen foods;

•Rowntree Macintosh candies including Smarties;

•Laura Secord products;

•Crystal Springs bottled water;

•Buitoni Fresco pastas.

For further information or a boycott kit, please contact the Infant Feeding Action Coalition, INFACIT Canada, 10 Trinity Square, Toronto, Canada, M5G 1B1, (416) 595-9819, fax (416) 598-0292.



Classified

Pollution Probe needs volunteers for education outreach program. Job would include accompanying exhibit to schools and community workshops. Some public speaking. Car is optional. Contact Mary John, 926-1907

Researcher needs to interview peace protestors from the 1980s. Please call Heather, 229-1654.

Help feed the peace movement. ACT needs donations of pots, pans, cutlery, plates, etc for use at conferences. Call

Angelo at 531-6154.

More ads about buildings and food.

Donate to peace. ACT welcomes contributions of office equipment — especially computer equipment. If you can help out, call 531-6154.

Reach 10,000 readers who care about peace, human rights and the environment. Classified ads in Ontario's peace monthly are only \$10 for the first 25 words, \$15 for 25-50 words. **Deadline for next issue: January 27**

Sulak returns to Thailand

Peace activist and Buddhist scholar Sulak Sivaraksa has returned to his home country of Thailand after 15 months in exile. He now faces charges of lese-majesté, an extremely serious offense in Thai law, and a charge on which no defendant has ever been acquitted.

Sulak was charged after a speech attacking the NPKC junta, in power at that time (see *The Activist*, June 92). He finally left the country in September 1991, after the 'disappearance' of a prominent leader while in police custody.

After the NPKC junta was overthrown, Sulak decided to test the democratic intentions of the new government by returning to Thailand, to see if they would maintain the charges — which had initially been laid by the hated General Suchinda Kraprayoon. But, though it was in part Sulak's inspiration that sparked the non-violent resistance to the junta and installed the present government, Sulak himself was arrested as soon as he stepped off the plane on December 14, at Bangkok's Don Muang Airport. He was released later the same day, after posting U.S. \$12,000 bail.

The case against Sulak could be dropped either by the government — the solution he prefers — or by the king himself. This would be a less positive outcome, as it would reinforce the absolute and unaccountable power of the monarchy. According to Pracha, the acting head of the Thai-based

International Network of Engaged Buddhists, Prime Minister Chuan Leekpai seems sympathetic to Sulak's case, but it is known to be indecisive and hesitant, unwilling to take strong steps in any direction. "But," says Pracha, "international pressure could change that." He encourages all supporters to write letters to the Prime Minister, telling him that dropping the charges against Sulak would greatly increase international confidence in the good intentions of the new government. He also suggests that delegations of activists and prominent individuals should visit Thailand embassies in their home countries, asking for the charges to be dropped.

Despite the overthrow of the NPKC, Thailand is still in a transitional stage. The government is also maintaining similar charges against environmentalist and Buddhist monk Phra Prachak, who faces a year in prison and the loss of his monastic status if he is convicted.

Sulak's initial hearing was held on December 24, but a final hearing date is not yet known.

Write to Honorable Chuan Leekpai, Prime Minister of Thailand, Government House, Nakhorn Pathom Rd., Bangkok 10300, Thailand, fax 011-66-2-280-1443. Send copies of letters to the International Network of Engaged Buddhists, 127 Soi Santiphap, Nares Road, Bangrak, Bangkok 10500, Thailand, fax 011-66-2-236-4858.

Diploma Programme in Community Work

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

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

We start in September and end in May.

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

Blockade continues

By MARY HUTCHINSON
THE ACTIVIST

It has been almost eight months since the Protectors of Mother Earth, a group organized by the Saskaw-Aski Aboriginal Elders Council (the traditional form of native government) set up a blockade on a logging road between Meadow Lake and Canoe Lake in Saskatchewan.

This is now Canada's longest-running peaceful blockade, despite the fact that on Canada Day last year over eighty RCMP officers with machine guns and military equipment surrounded the blockade for three days. Although they failed to find any weapons, they still arrested 29 elders and two pregnant women, who were detained in jail overnight.

While the blockade prevents the Mistik Management logging company from picking up cut logs and from logging the forest behind it, clear-cutting continues to the east and west of the Protectors. Mistik Management, and NorSask Forest Products, for which Mistik "manages" local forests, are both largely owned and run by the Meadow Lake Tribal Council (a non-traditional governing body set up by the Canadian government).

Supporters of the blockade say they have discovered corporate links between NorSask and Noranda Mines. This greatly reinforces their suspicions that the clearcutting is being done partly in preparation for uranium mining. Large areas of native land in Saskatchewan are already devastated by uranium mines.

There is no safe method for uranium extraction; all methods involve radioactive waste entering the ecosystem.

In the meantime, elders report that deforestation is causing lakes to dry up and threatening the wild rice harvest, and that the woodland caribou are disappearing because of the lack of forest-floor lichens.

Fifty years ago the residents of



Canoe Lake supported themselves through hunting and gathering; now they are being encouraged by the Tribal Council to depend on logging for temporary employment. But the Protectors of Mother Earth want to see an end to clear-cutting and the use of mechanical harvesters. Careful forest management without using these destructive methods would provide more forestry jobs in the long term, and would allow preservation of the land and water for future generations.

Little current information on the blockade is available, because the blockaders have no access to a telephone. Staying at the blockade has involved considerable hardships — including financial — for the protestors, many of them elders, who are braving the long winter in small cabins they have built at the site. Donations may be sent to **Protectors of Mother Earth, Account #6095442, Royal Bank, 130 Centre St., Meadow Lake, Sask, S0M 1V0, or c/o the Saskatchewan Indigenous Coalition, 824 Broadway Ave., Saskatoon, Sask, S7N 1B6.**



The Raging Grannies, long-time Innu supporters, sang at ACT's March 1992 petition blitz as well as the recent demo at the German Consulate. Photo: Maggie Helwig

Innu campaign 93 gets underway

By CAROLYN LANGDON
THE ACTIVIST

On December 22, members of the Planning Committee for the International Day of Action for the Innu, from ACT for Disarmament and Voice of Women, accompanied by NDP Member of Parliament Dan Heap, met with Mr. Roland Fournes, German Consul General, and his aide, to discuss military flight training in Nitassinan (Labrador and northeastern Quebec). At the same time about 35 Innu supporters, including the Raging Grannies, were protesting in front of the German Consulate.

As part of its contribution to NATO, Canada permits the armed forces of Germany, Britain and the Netherlands to train in large areas of Canada which our government considers suitable for military use. The Innu homeland of Nitassinan is one of these areas, though the Innu themselves have never been consulted, and for more than ten years have engaged in non-violent civil disobedience to stop the low-level flight training over their territory.

At the outset of the meeting with Fournes we stated that we opposed all military flight training in Nitassinan and that all training should cease immediately.

We spoke of the traditional way of life of the Innu and their connection to the land and wildlife; and of the ear-piercing noise of the low level jet flights that suddenly and violently explode upon the quiet of the bush. We spoke of the failure of jet pilots to avoid Innu camps. We spoke of the unwarranted and deplorable NATO policy of training for first use of nuclear weapons, even now in the post-Cold War world, and of the twisted minds of military strategists who conjure up hypothetical threats rather than addressing real dangers to humanity — such as destruction of the environment and of indigenous cultures.

We made it clear that we were speaking from a position of strength — that the Innu, the Canadian public, and activists worldwide, were opposed to the military flight training on Innu land. The International Day of Action for the Innu, April 3, has already received support from

peace groups as far away as India. Fournes, as Consul General for Toronto, has no direct connection to the Defence Department, but we hoped that he would have to report to his superiors the demonstration and our visit. He seemed sympathetic to our concerns for the environment, and admitted that he had experienced the horrendous noise of low level flying in Germany and that "your heart nearly stops!" However, he explained that Canada is much bigger than Germany.

Fournes agreed to relay our information to the Ambassador in Ottawa, and to Mr. Volker Ruehe, German Minister of Defence. We also asked him to arrange a meeting for us with the Ambassador and the military attaché the next time they are in town.

Then we were escorted out of his office, through the padded double doors, and down the stairs to the street.

To get involved in helping to plan the International Day of Action, or to organize an event in your community, call ACT for Disarmament, (416) 531-6154, or your local ACT contact. ☺

"Resisting War"

A Public Forum with Yolanda Huet-Vaughn
Friday, February 12, 7 p.m.
Bloor St. United Church
300 Bloor St. W. (at Huron)

Come hear this courageous U.S. doctor who refused to participate in the Gulf War, and was jailed 8 months for her act of conscientious objection. This event will feature Yolanda's first post-War visit to Canada.

Sponsored by: ACT for Disarmament, Bloor St. United Church World Outreach Committee, Canadian Friends Service Committee, Canadian Peace Alliance, Canadian Physicians for the Prevention of Nuclear War (Toronto), Veterans Against Nuclear Arms (Toronto), Voice of Women (Toronto)

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— Chris O'Connor, *The Toronto Star*

"KASHTIN shatters pop music mould."
— Tom Harrison, *The Province, Vancouver*

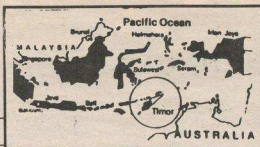
".....(and I'd give it a fifth star if I could).... The titles are in Innu, but the music, some of the greatest Canadian pop, needs no translation." — Peter Goddard, *Chatelaine*

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EAST TIMOR UPDATE

Number 18 — December 10, 1992



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

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

Toronto: David Webster, PO Box 362, Station P, Toronto, M5S 2T1.
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Guelph: Sheila Wilmot, East Timor Working Group, OPIRG, University of Guelph, Guelph Ont., N1G 2W1.
Hamilton: Rob Thompson, Earth Action, Box 212, Gilmour Hall, McMaster University, Hamilton Ont., L8S 1C0.
Kingston: Bill Ripley, 217 Glengarry Rd., Kingston Ont., K7M 3J6.
Kitchener-Waterloo: Dr Peter Eglin, Wilfred Laurier University, Waterloo Ont., N2L 3C5.
Montréal: Genny Marilley, Global Co-operative Network, OPIRG, 2130 Mackay St., Montréal, H3G 1J2.
Ottawa: Peter Monet, PO Box 2002, Station D, Ottawa Ont., K1P 5W3.
Vancouver: Elaine Briere, 104—2120 West 44th, Vancouver BC, V6M 2G2.
Windsor/Essex: Jason Anyot, Third World Resource Centre, 125 Tecumseh Rd. W., Windsor Ont.



Free Xanana Gusmão

On Nov. 20, Indonesian soldiers arrested Kay Rala Xanana Gusmão, leader of the East Timorese resistance movement CNRM (National Council of Maubere Resistance). Xanana has almost certainly been tortured and drugged by his captors. Additionally, at least 20 family members and close associates have been arrested by Indonesian soldiers.

On Dec. 2, Indonesian television broadcast what purported to be film of Xanana calling on resistance forces to surrender and apologizing for the Santa Cruz massacre on Nov. 12, 1991 (in which Indonesian soldiers gunned down over 200 unarmed women, men and children at a funeral procession). The broadcast amounted to the opening shot in a campaign of psychological warfare against the East Timorese people, which has expanded to include new arrests in Dili and fabricated reports of "surrenders."

Xanana's voice was unclear and slurred. His speech was translated into Bahasa Indonesian by a voice-over by East Timor puppet governor Abilio Osorio Soares, making it doubly dubious. His left arm was motionless throughout, clear evidence of torture (despite a statement by the Canadian embassy in Indonesia that he "appeared well"). It is clear to any informed viewer that Xanana, if in fact he spoke the words attributed to him, spoke under compulsion, and possibly under the influence of drugs. His mannerisms and delivery recalled the statements of British and American pilots captured by Saddam Hussein in the days leading up to the Gulf War. They certainly evoked none of the style on camera of Xanana in previous



film smuggled out of East Timor by Australian and Japanese video crews. Even former East Timor puppet governor Mario Viegas Carrascalao (now resident in Jakarta, Indonesia) called the truth of the "statement" by Xanana "doubtful."

Amnesty International reports that "according to unnamed sources within the police headquarters, he has been beaten and tortured with electrical shocks and subjected to severe psychological pressure while under interrogation. He is said to be in a poor emotional state, speaking in broken sentences and experiencing serious lapses of concentration."

For 17 days, the International Committee of the Red Cross was denied permission to see Xanana. The Indonesian Legal Aid Institute and Amnesty International are still denied access to Xanana. He is apparently to be put on trial under Indonesia's sweeping anti-subversion law, although he is not an Indonesian citizen. (Four non-violent independence campaigners were sentenced to jail terms ranging from ten years to life imprisonment earlier this year; Xanana's sentence would almost certainly be death.)

Meanwhile, at least 20 of Xanana's family and friends, ranging in age from 17 to 74, have been arrested since his capture on Nov. 20. One of them, Jorge Manuel Araujo Serrano, has already died as a result of torture. At least two of the women arrested have been raped in front of their families. Many members of the Organization of East Timorese Youth (Ojetti) and others have been arrested or

"disappeared" in the past two weeks. Ojetti has now been banned.

President Mitterand of France, President Soares of Portugal, Archbishop Desmond Tutu of South Africa, Nobel Peace Prize winner Rigoberta Menchu and many other international figures have called for the release of Xanana. UN Secretary General Boutros Boutros-Ghali is prepared to work for his release and participation in peace talks on East Timor at the UN, which open this month in New York. What is lacking is pressure from Indonesia's major Western supporters — Canada, the United States, Australia, Britain and Japan.

We appeal for letters calling for Xanana's release and an end to the new campaign of terror against the people of East Timor. Letters need not be long — any expression of concern will go a long way towards putting pressure on our government.

Please write or fax:

- (1) Barbara McDougall
Minister of External Affairs
House of Commons
Ottawa Ont., K1A 0A6
(postage free)
Fax (613) 996-3443
- (2) Indonesian Embassy
287 McLaren St.
Ottawa Ont., K2P 0L9
Fax (613) 563-2858
- or
Indonesian Consulate
425 University Ave.
Toronto Ont., M5G 1T6
Fax (416) 591-6613
- (3) Dr. Boutros Boutros-Ghali
Secretary General
United Nations Plaza
New York NY, USA 10017
Fax (212) 963-4879
- (4) Please send copies to:
East Timor Alert Network
PO Box 562, Station P
Toronto Ont., M5S 2T1
Fax (416) 531-5850

ETAN will forward copies to the Legal Aid Institute in Indonesia and to the human rights critics of the opposition parties in Ottawa, Beryl Gaffney and Svend Robinson.

ETAN

National Conference
Saturday, Jan. 23

1 p.m. - 6 p.m.

Sunday, Jan. 24
Noon-5 p.m.

History Lounge, 6th Floor,
Paterson Building,
Carleton University,
Colonel By Drive,
Ottawa, Ontario

For information: (613) 238-6933 or
(416) 531-6154

U.N. PROCLAMATION FOR TRANSLATING RHETORIC INTO ACTION

IN 1972, WE SAID, recognizing our ignorance

Declaration of the United Nations Conference on the Human Environment (1972)

- A point has been reached in history when we must shape our actions throughout the world with a more prudent care for their environmental consequences. Through ignorance or indifference we can do massive and irreversible harm to the earthly environment...
- Man has the fundamental right to freedom, equality and adequate conditions of life, in an environment of a quality that permits a life of dignity and well being, and he bears a solemn responsibility to protect and improve the environment for present and future generations (Principle 1)
- Man and his environment must be spared the effects of nuclear weapons and all other means of mass destruction. States must strive to reach prompt agreement, in the relevant international organs, on the elimination and complete destruction of such weapons (Principle 26)

IN 1982, WE WERE STILL SAYING,

World Charter of Nature (1982)

- Activities which are likely to pose a significant risk to nature shall be preceded by an exhaustive examination; their proponents shall demonstrate that expected benefits outweigh potential damage to nature, and where potential adverse effects are not fully understood, the activities should not proceed (11.b)
- Activities which are likely to cause irreversible damage to nature shall be avoided (11.a)
- All areas of the earth, both land and sea, shall be subject to these principles of conservation; special protection shall be given to unique areas, to representative samples of all the different types of ecosystems and to the habitats of rare or endangered species (3)
- Every form of life is unique, warranting respect regardless of its worth to man, and to accord other organisms such recognition, man must be guided by a moral code of action (a)
- Knowledge of nature shall be broadly disseminated by all possible means, particularly by ecological education as an integral part of general education (16)
- Military activities damaging to nature shall be avoided (Principle 20)

NOW IN 1992, WE ARE SAYING AGAIN, with knowledge,

Humanity stands at a defining moment in history. We are confronted with a perpetuation of disparities between and within nations, a worsening of poverty, hunger, ill health and illiteracy, and the continuing deterioration of the ecosystems on which we depend for our well-being (Agenda 21, Preamble, 1.1)

Rio Declaration (1992)

- States should effectively cooperate to discourage or prevent the relocation and transfer to other States of any activities and substances that cause severe environmental degradation or are found to be harmful to human health (Principle 14)
- In order to protect the environment, the precautionary approach shall be widely applied by States according to their capabilities. Where there are threats of serious or irreversible damage, lack of full scientific certainty shall not be used as a reason for postponing cost-effective measures to prevent environmental degradation (Principle 15)

Agenda 21 (1992)

- The growth of world population and production combined with unsustainable consumption patterns places increasingly severe stress on the life-supporting capacities of our planet (Agenda 21, 5.2)
- Forests worldwide have been and are being threatened by uncontrolled degradation and conversion to other types of land uses... and environmentally harmful mismanagement including... unsustainable commercial logging... and the impacts of loss and degradation of forests are in the form of soil erosion; loss of biological diversity, damage to wildlife habitats and degradation of watershed areas... (Agenda 21, 11.12)
- Despite mounting efforts over the past 20 years, the loss of the world's biological diversity, mainly from habitat destruction, overharvesting, pollution and the inappropriate introduction of foreign plants and animals has continued (Agenda 21, 15.3)
- Many of the problems have arisen from a development model that is environmentally destructive and from a lack of protection (Agenda 21, 18.45)
- Unsustainable patterns of production and consumption are increasing the quantities and variety of environmentally persistent wastes at unprecedented rates (Agenda 21, 21.7)
- Environmentally sound waste management must go beyond the mere safe disposal or recovery of wastes that are generated and seek to address the root cause of the problem by attempting to change unsustainable patterns of production and consumption (Agenda 21, 21.4)
- Ensure prior assessment of activities that may have significant adverse impacts upon the marine environment (Agenda 21, 17.23b)
- Apply preventive, precautionary and anticipatory approaches so as to avoid degradation of the main environment, as well as to reduce the risk of long-term or irreversible adverse effects upon it (Agenda 21, 17.23)
- ...taking into account the cradle-to-grave approach to the management (Agenda 21, 20.20)
- To promote a "culture of safety" in all countries... (Agenda 21, 7.60)
- Develop application of responsible care approach... (Agenda 21, 20.18)
- ...taking into account entire life cycle (Agenda 21, 19.45)
- ...equitable implementation of the polluter pays principle (Agenda 21, 20.39b)
- Effective prevention requires action through effective monitoring and the enforcement and imposition of appropriate penalties (Agenda 21, 20.20)
- To increase the availability... in developing countries for utilizing and producing environmentally [safe and] sound renewable energy resources, such as solar, wind geothermal, hydropower and biomass (Agenda 21, 9.9)
- Indigenous people and their communities shall enjoy the full measure of human rights and fundamental freedoms without hindrance or discrimination (Agenda 21, 26.1)

Now we must be resolved to act

- Given that, since 1972, the global community has made international commitments through international law to protect the environment,
- Given that the precautionary principle was adopted in the Rio Declaration, Agenda 21, Biodiversity Convention, and the Climate Change Convention,
- Given that, at UNCED, the international community has recognized the rights of indigenous peoples –
- **Be it resolved that the global community cease or phase out all activities that could have significant adverse environmental effects so that the states and the international community can phase in environmentally benign substitutes while assessing whether the activities are in compliance with international commitments (specifically activities such as the testing of nuclear weapons, the use of nuclear armed or powered vessels, the construction of new nuclear power plants, the engaging in ecologically unsound practices, and the production of ecologically unsound products).**
- **Be it further resolved that a significant proportion of the global military budget be transferred to achieve social justice, to protect human rights to preserve ecological heritage and to create ecologically safe and sound employment and to eliminate the practice of advocating and condoning environmental destruction to service debt**

Prepared for the ECO-Ed Conference, as part of the presentation "Miseducation Through Rhetoric: Implications for Global Education". Contact: Joan Russow, 1230 St. Patrick St., Victoria, B.C., V8S 4Y4, CANADA (604) 598-2740, or Alox, c/o HANDS, P.O. Box 1302, Guelph, Ontario N1H 6N6, (519) 767-0313, fax (519) 767-1785.

Signed at ECO-Ed by over 300 delegates from 40 countries. Copies being sent to international representatives to continue signature collection. Finally to be presented to the U.N. and international governments.

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