



the

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No faith in FEARO

Innu reject "unfair" environmental review

In the face of threats from military supporters, the Innu are striving to avoid violence in their boycott of "unfair and prejudicial" environmental hearings on low-level military flight training (LLMFT'ing) over Innu homeland of Nitassinan (Labrador/Québec peninsula).

The Innu Nation and two other Innu organizations decided in September to boycott the Federal Environmental Assessment Review Office (FEARO)-appointed panel's hearings.

After over 150 Innu occupied the opening of the hearings in Goose Bay on September 19, they were confronted by over 800 members of the defence workers union and other supporters of LLMFT'ing the following day. Things threatened to turn violent when local politicians, including MP Bill Romkey (Chair of the House Standing Committee on Defence) and Newfoundland Justice Minister Ed Roberts, addressed the military supporters. Two dozen RCMP officers were then called in to keep order as the Innu peacefully left the chamber.

"I think that the pro-military

forces showed their true colours last night," stated Innu Nation President Peter Penashue. "Our people were engaged in a peaceful demonstration. But after some military supporters began to push some of our women and children around, we decided that it was time to leave. We are not willing to risk someone getting hurt in order to make our point."

Innu leaders announced their intention to boycott the hearings a week before they opened. The Innu are disappointed in the Panel's refusal to permit cross-examination or provide complete interpretation. The Panel has also failed to require the Department of National Defence (DND) to address 36 serious deficiencies in data and analysis which are crucial to the Innu assessment of DND's environmental impact statement.

Addressing the opening meeting, Director of Innu Rights and Environment Daniel Ashini stated: "We prepared a careful and exhaustive analysis of DND's research. We found it deficient.

"The Panel has chosen not to permit us to cross-examine DND's

OCT 0 7 1994



The Harrier They Fall

technical experts, nor will it permit us to adequately translate the hearing proceedings so our people can understand what is being said. This is unacceptable to the Innu people, and let there be no mistake. We are here to disrupt your hearings. You Panel members should be embarrassed to be sitting here, when you know that the process is a sham."

The Innu maintained control of the meeting, taking control of both the microphone and the agenda. They also received support from Assembly of First Nations regional vice-chief Gislain Picard, who announced that "the Innu nation is one. Our people are united in opposition to these military activities, and I have no reason to doubt the

support of other First Nations across this land."

In the place of the scheduled presentations, they invited Panel members to join them in a drum dance, and asked both the Panel and the small audience to listen to the accounts of Innu elders, who told of their experiences with low-level flights in the country.

"The flights frighten our children and make it difficult for our people to hunt and survive while in the country. This is our land and these are our rights. But the Panel doesn't seem willing to consider these things," said Innu elder Elizabeth Penashue. "It makes me sad, but I will never give up the struggle for Nitassinan".

"We wanted to make it clear that our communities have lost faith in the process," stated Innu spokesperson Penote Michel at the end of the hearing session. "We have tried repeatedly to get the Panel to address our concerns about the hearing procedures and the deficiencies in the Department of National Defence's environmental impact statement. They chose not to listen to us. Today, they had no choice."

Continued on page 5

Canadian company menaces indigenous people in Nicaragua

By Darwin Juarez
Tropical Conservation Newsbureau

A 720,000 hectare forest reserve in north-eastern Nicaragua, home to 95% of Central America's Sumu Indians, is under attack by a Canadian mining company, Nicaragua loggers and subsistence farmers.

The reserve is called Bosawas. Its northern boundary lies on the frontier of Honduras, where it connects with the Rio Platano Biosphere Reserve. This verdant jungle

corridor is one of the most biologically important expanses of tropical forests in Central America.

Nicaragua's minister of economy recently granted a permit to the Nyon Resource Company, based in Canada, to search for gold and other minerals in the reserve. Jaime Incer, who heads Nicaragua's Environment and Natural Resources Agency (MARENA), sent a strongly worded letter of protest to the ministry, but has not received an answer.

According to Nelson Lopez, director of MARENA's Bosawas

Project, mining could harm the health of the Sumu and "is a violation of the 1991 law establishing the reserve, which prohibits any activity that might cause ecological damage".

A MARENA study counted about 700 non-indigenous families living on the borders of Bosawas. Most have arrived since the election of President Violeta Barrios de Chamorro in 1990.

The new arrivals have cleared thousands of acres of forest in order to plant crops and graze cattle. They have opened up crude roads, mak-

ing it easier for loggers to haul the huge and valuable trunks of tropical hardwoods to Managua. Last year, over-flights of the region revealed large areas short of trees on the reserve's western and southern boundaries.

The Sumu have informed the government that they are unlikely to sit back and allow Nyon to invade the reserve. In a May 29 letter, Sumu leaders demand "cancellation of the concession, otherwise we will resolve this in our own manner".

the ACTIVIST

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Contributors in this issue: — **Editorial:** Janet Bloomfield, Penny Coetoglou, Stephen Dankowich, Tim Doucette, Robert Hunter, Innu Nation, Darwin Juarez, Vesna Kesic, Adrienne Reynolds, Kathryn Turnipseed, David Webster.

Contributors in this issue: — **Production:** Paul Dankowich, Stephen Dankowich, Tim Doucette, Angelo Gonsalves, Robert Hunter, Adrienne Reynolds, David Webster

Mailing and Distribution: Saul Chernos, Tim Doucette, Angelo Gonsalves, Frank Showler, David Webster, ACT Guelph, ACT Oakville

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Editorial

The choice of last resort

Women of Toronto can count their lucky abortion clinics after reading about the horrifying news of the woman in Florida who shot herself in the abdomen to abort her child. But many local women can remember, not too far back, the days when there was no choice in Ontario and women were forced to flee south to uncertain fates at the hands of uncertain doctors. And what then happened to the ones who couldn't afford this choice? The poor are being punished and the debate rages on. At this very moment the Pope is fighting avidly (with full church funding which could pay for the child care of millions!) for the rights of the unborn and this woman is being charged with murder! What about her rights? A single mother with one child certainly couldn't afford the close to \$1200 (U.S.) abortion let alone to have the child.

It's mind boggling to think of the hypocrisy of giving more rights to those unborn than to the already living. The cost to the state in pressing charges would certainly have covered at least the cost of this abortion but justice for the unborn takes precedence! So what was her crime? The crime of being poor? The crime of being a woman on her own with one child? The crime of being pregnant (Her guy was going to help but "nothing happened")? The crime of taking her own fate into her own hands?

We should be rushing to this woman's side to help her grieve the horrible loss she undoubtedly feels for this child. We should be asking how the system failed her. We should be asking her forgiveness and hoping that there is some way to repay her. But charging her. It's obscene!

When a friend of mine had an abortion recently she marveled at the treatment she received. Because of laws in Ontario she was covered to go to a clinic rather than the hospital and her doctors (all female) were remarkable. Even so the decision was trying and she was emotionally drained by the experience. Even under the best of circumstances abortion is not easy, yet if we had a dollar for every stone thrown by the Anti-choicers perhaps, at least every woman would have the option.

— Adrienne Reynolds

ACT Chapters & Contacts

ACT Toronto
736 Bathurst Street
Toronto, ON M5S 2R4
(416) 531-6154
Fax: (416) 531-5850
act@web.apc.org

Peterborough Contact
Ontario Public Interest
Research Group
(705) 748-1767

ACT Oakville
c/o Oakville Community
Centre for peace,
ecology & human rights
148 Kerr Street
Oakville, ON L6K 3A7
Tel/Fax: (905) 849-5501
occp@web.apc.org

St. Catharines Contact
Bruce Allen
(905) 934-8233

ACT Guelph
P.O. Box 1302
Guelph, ON
N1H 6N6
(519) 767-0313
Fax: (519) 767-1785
hands@web.apc.org

Vancouver Contact
Susan Moors
(604) 988-3740

Fredericton Contact
Diane Terry
(506) 472-2629

Letters



The article by Bruce Allen in the Sept 1994 issue of the ACTIVIST (*An agile threat to the labour movement*) includes a nasty swipe at the NDP, which reminds me of one of my husband's favourite sayings, "I forgive the faults of my friends."

Nobody's perfect. We all make mistakes. We need solidarity in the left-wing of our planet to take on the very juggernaut Allen is so eloquently describing.

One thing the right understands is "divide and conquer." They own most of the media. I wish what little media we have could be a uniting force.

Mary Maron
Willowdale

the ACTIVIST
encourages you to
submit letters to:

736 Bathurst Street
Toronto, ON
M5S 2R4

Fax (416) 531-5850

Internet:
act@web.apc.org

NEXT MONTH

- **Books section:**
Peaceful Fall reading
- *Innu support in Europe*
- *Report from International Peace Bureau convention, Barcelona*
- *On the front lines in Bosnia*
- *And more!*

T-SHIRTS



100 per cent cotton T shirts for sale from
ACT — the perfect gift, any time of the year!

Three neat designs:

- ACT for Disarmament white T's, with yin-yang peace doves
 - NATO out of Nitassinan/International Campaign for the Innu and the Earth, red T's with funky logo
 - Women Overcoming Violence, purple T's — still available!
- T's are only \$15 from ACT for Disarmament, 736 Bathurst St., Toronto ON, M5S 2R4, (416) 531-6154.**

Blueprint for a nuclear weapon-free world

By Janet Bloomfield
Chairperson, Campaign for
Nuclear Disarmament, England

In a little over five years we will enter a new millennium. Will the new era continue the world as it is with all its conflicts, economic problems and environmental threats, or will it mark a decisive change? CND believes that change is possible - but only if the right decisions are taken now.

In April 1995, the most important international conference since the Rio Summit will take place at the United Nations in New York. The result of the "1995 Conference of the Parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons" will shape the world's nuclear future. It may well determine whether North-South co-operation for a better world can become a reality, or whether the aspirations of Rio for the environment and development are doomed as the world spends more and more material and human capital on weapons of mass destruction. The latter course will ensure that it is only a matter of time before nuclear weapons are used.

Public awareness of the nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty discussions is essential so that Governments know their decisions in the run-up to the 1995 conference are being monitored. This is only possible if the public is aware of the options.

CND's Blueprint For a



Nuclear Weapon-Free World is an integral part of our contribution to that end. It is a document based on practical and achievable solutions, inspired by the unique opportunity that the current superpower detente offers. This opportunity will not be with us forever. The Blueprint shows the importance of acting now.

1995 is the 50th anniversary of the nuclear bombing of Hiroshima and Nagasaki. It also marks the half century that has passed since the UN was founded on a Charter that promises to "save succeeding generations from the scourge of war".

For the sake of the planet, 1995 must be the year when this obligation is honoured and the world com-

mits itself to total abolition of nuclear weapons.

The Blueprint argues that:

1. Extension of the Non-Proliferation Treaty should be for a limited period only and should be conditional upon the agreement and implementation of a Treaty to Ban All Nuclear Weapons.

2. The only long-term solution to the problem of nuclear proliferation is worldwide nuclear disarmament.

3. Since the 1950s there has not been a better opportunity to agree on a treaty to rid the world of nuclear weapons.

The 12 key steps:

1. The Non-Proliferation

Treaty (NPT) should be extended for ten years only, conditional upon agreement on a protocol guaranteeing that by the end of this period a Global Treaty to Ban All Nuclear Weapons must be drafted, signed and ratified by all current NPT signatories and all other states.

2. Each nuclear weapon state should unconditionally scrap all planned new nuclear weapon deployments. Most urgently, Britain should immediately cancel the Trident system, which is due to become fully operational in 1995.

3. A Comprehensive nuclear Test Ban Treaty (CTBT) must be agreed on before the NPT Conference begins in April 1995. The Treaty should not include any provision for "phase-out" tests.

4. As a sign of good faith, all nuclear weapon states should agree on a treaty which guarantees No First Use of nuclear weapons and an additional protocol to the NPT which provides unconditional negative security assurances to non-nuclear signatories of the NPT.

5. The safeguards regime of the NPT must be significantly strengthened. The nuclear weapon states must accept full-scope safeguards on their nuclear fuel cycles, whilst the nuclear sites of all states must be declared and open to intrusive inspection.

6. A treaty must be agreed on to halt production of all fissile materials, including reprocessing of civil material, and all enrichment of uranium. All existing stocks, civil

and military, of separated plutonium and highly enriched uranium should be placed under international control and storage.

7. An International Fund for Nuclear Disarmament should be set up to help implement disarmament agreements (including START and any unilateral initiatives). The fund could also be used to assist nuclear industry workers in the former Soviet Union in order to limit the possibility of nuclear materials leaking onto the black market.

8. Pending a final agreement to scrap them entirely, each of the nuclear weapon states should agree to restrict deployment of their weapons to their own soil and territorial waters.

9. Establishment of regional nuclear weapon-free zones respected by all states, should be encouraged.

10. An international fund should be created to support the research into and establishment of safe, sustainable alternatives to nuclear power.

11. All NPT parties should agree on a protocol to set up an International Citizens' Verification Tribunal. This would encourage citizens to report possible breaches of the NPT and guarantee full confidentiality and protection. The protocol should be applied to all subsequent disarmament treaties, including the Global Ban Treaty.

12. Nuclear weapons should be confirmed as illegal under international law. ☐

Oakville community centre continues to grow

The Oakville Community Centre for peace, ecology and human rights (*occepher*) continues to bring members of their community together.

occepher is an independent gathering place for people who value the goals of disarmament, respect for the Earth, and nonviolence.

From its storefront location in downtown Oakville, this all-volunteer, grassroots, not-for-profit social movement organization is dedicated to community building.

They will soon celebrate their 2nd anniversary with a social open to all on Saturday, November 5th.

occepher organized the most successful ever annual Oakville Peace Festival last June. Attended by over 2,000 people, the theme was "Building a Healthy Community".

occepher continues to work with the newly founded Healthy Oakville Project and is now planning a Bike-a-thon scheduled for May 13th. The

campaign is called "Bike Paths for Health and the Environment". There are 136 kilometres of bike paths in Oakville but they are not all connected. The campaign calls for their completion so people can traverse safely throughout the whole community.

Over 260 supporters attended the end-of-summer "Localpalooza" show that featured 10 local bands. The event raised over \$2000 and a lot of awareness about *occepher*.

Oakville activists are energetic about merging culture with politics. *occepher* hosts regular Saturday night socials at its Peace Centre. On Saturday, September 24th, the Disciples of Mud played to a wonderful



crowd of 30 supporters, as did Neon God on October 1. Sian plays October 22. Thanks to Jordan Estall, artistic director.

occepher members also work diligently in support of the Innu of Labrador and Québec to stop low-level military flight training. It is one of six Canadian co-sponsors of the International Campaign for the Innu and the Earth (ICIE).

The *occepher* literature table at the annual Take Back the Night March was well received by the over 400 mostly women in attendance.

occepher has produced a beautiful purple and white button that simply states "Stop Violence Against Women". They are selling them for \$2 each and are donating \$1 from every button sold to the Halton Rape Crisis Centre. Please write or phone to order yours!

The Centre recently endorsed the East Timor Alert Network and plans to host a fundraising dinner at

a member's home in November.

Students are preparing a display board to promote the World Court Project which advocates having nuclear weapons declared illegal. Over 200 declarations already have been signed!

Its major environmental project is the annual EarthWeek Waterways Cleanup Campaign. Last April, over 200 supporters cleaned up garbage from the shores of six creeks and portions of the lakefront. Plans are already underway for the

Nuclear hostage supported

TORONTO — Local peace activists demanded the release of nuclear hostage Mordechai Vanunu on Sept. 30. The protest, in front of the Israeli Consulate, marked eight years of solitary confinement for Vanunu, who was kidnapped by Israeli agents and jailed for treason after he published photos proving Israel was making nuclear weapons. Vanunu had been a technician

4th annual Cleanup scheduled for April 15, 1994. They also promote environmentally friendly water products and sell water saving toilet dams for \$20.

The Centre has established a positive environment for people of Oakville and Halton Region to gather, share ideas, and work to make a difference for their community and for others.

occepher, 148 Kerr Street, Oakville ON L6K 3A7, (905) 849-5501 by phone or fax. ☐

at the Dimona nuclear reactor station.

The activists heard the songs of the Raging Grannies and signed a birthday card for Vanunu, who turns 40 on Oct. 13. The next planning meeting for the Campaign to Free Mordechai Vanunu and for a Nuclear Free Middle East will be held on Oct. 12, 7 p.m. @ Voice of Women office, 736 Bathurst St. ☐

Croatia: Homes for people or the State?

By Vesna Kesic
and Kathryn Turnipseed
Special to the ACTivist

On Wednesday, September 28, police in Zagreb, the capital of Croatia, evicted a woman and her two children from her flat, using physical violence and verbal assaults against the 60 people who had come to protest this action. This was a case of business as usual for the Croatian Ministry of Defence that has pursued a policy of "reclaiming" flats that formerly belonged to the Yugoslav National Army (JNA) without due process or protection of the legal rights of the residents.

Under the rule of Croatian democracy, over 5,000 flats throughout Croatia have been "reclaimed" by the government in this manner, in other words 15 - 20,000 people have been thrown onto the streets. The government has tacitly approved the evictions of people of Serbian ethnicity including women who years ago divorced former JNA officers and women who stayed in Croatia although their husbands left after the outbreak of war.

Some people face public harassment and were fired from their jobs so they fled from their apartment without resistance, others had their homes blown up. In other cases, police and/or soldiers used physical violence, intimidation (e.g., threats, carrying a gun), and ethnic and gender based slurs, e.g., soldiers screaming "you are a Chetnik whore."

There are cases of residents protesting such actions through the court system and receiving favorable judgements that the police ignore.

State officials have "justified" evictions on the grounds that they need to provide apartments to Croatian soldiers, invalids and widows. Under socialism, the state or companies issued apartment rights to people to live in state or company owned property. These rights were analogous to ownerships that they were inheritable and exchangeable. Tudjman's government passed a decree on July 24, 1991 that invalidated all transactions involving JNA-owned property. This decree was issued in a period of moratorium (under Brioni treaty, summer 1991) when no decisions were allowed concerning independence or Yugoslav state owned property. Officials use this decree to argue the state's right to evict people in Zagreb, Split, Pula, Osijek and other locations.

While popular opinion persists that it is "only Serbians" that are being denied their legal rights the



Mary Hutchinson

reality is that ethnicity is not a determinant of evictions. At a press conference on July 12 the Croatian President, Mr. Franjo Tudjman, claimed "Only, and exclusively, evictions are being done on the basis of court decisions. You mustn't forget mostly these people who are evicted are people who are directly or indirectly involved in aggression against Croatia."

It is widely known that in reality 90% of the evictions are not supported by a court order. Tudjman's assertion of "indirect involvement" suggests, contrary to principles of law, that "guilt" can be transferred from one family member to another, to people who worked in JNA hospitals or to anybody granted apartment rights by the JNA. Conversely, it is widely believed that the Ministry of Defence is taking advantage of the unclear legal situation to accumulate property.

In all evictions, women and children comprise the majority of persons displaced in this manner. Women are subjected to intimidation and physical abuse by police

men and are subject to gender-based harassment. At Wednesday's eviction a woman attempted to stop a policeman from hitting her by claiming to be pregnant, a policeman replied "You are so ugly you could fuck you, someone can fuck you only if they cover your face with a blanket." Policemen called another woman, who is married to a Muslim man, "a mujahadeen whore," and beat her with their fists.

The majority of evicted people are unable to afford private accommodation - pension and average salary levels do not support market rents - and must move in with family or friends. After the police have evicted a family, Croatian soldiers move their belongings into storage (which must be paid for by the family). A social worker then appears to offer to place children in an orphanage; this is the only support provided by the government.

A resistance movement is growing. Dom ("Home") an association of citizens directly effected by these actions and human rights are campaigning against these evic-

tions. Following the eviction of the D. family on September 14 in which the police used force to remove the 34 peaceful protesters and arrested 13 men and women, Ms. Vesna Bernadic protested in front of the Parliament.

They demand a halt to evictions of people from flats without court decisions; a review of all cases by the Constitutional Court, the establishment of a neutral judicial commission to address the problem; and the establishment of the Court for Human Rights that the Croatian President promised in 1992.

Some members of opposition parties supported this action while ruling party officials dismissed these demands. Though the strike was, for health reasons, called off after ten days it raised the visibility and popular support for DOM's activities.

On 28 September, 60 people showed up to protest the eviction of Mrs. M., including friends, family, journalists and activists from DOM, Citizens Committee for Human

Rights, the Anti-War Campaign, Centre for Women War Victims, BaBe, Otvorene Oci, Zagreb Women's Lobby, and other human rights organizations. More than twenty policemen were ordered to use force to remove people from the apartment. Policemen hit and kicked many of the protesters including those who were handcuffed. Police took away cameras to expose the film, ordered people not to write notes and to leave the parking lot outside the apartment. Thirteen men and women were arrested including Mr. Dragan Hlinic of the Serbian Peoples Party and member of Parliament who in solidarity refused his "diplomatic" immunity.

Following this well-publicized peaceful resistance to police violence the Parliamentary Human Rights Commission has invited representatives from DOM and other human rights organizations to discuss the situation of evictions on Wednesday October 5.

A family in Zagreb was scheduled to be evicted on Monday October 3. Activists planned to protest this action and expected that police will continue the policy of using violence to remove people from the apartment.

On October 5, a family in Split was to be evicted following a judgement that they are illegally occupying a flat which was given to them by the JNA. Since August the family has been forced to live in their apartment with Edo Aljinovic, a soldier who forcefully entered their apartment with a tank of gasoline and a bomb. Aljinovic claimed the apartment was his on the basis of a "decision" given by the Ministry of Defence granting him the right to the apartment, before the appropriate official had decided that the apartment belonged to the Ministry of Defence.

You can protest these actions by writing to:

Nikica Valentic
President of the Croatian
Government
fax #385 41 277082

Copies of these letters and messages of solidarity should be sent to:

Coordination of Croatian Human
Rights Organizations
and The Association DOM
fax #385 41 271143

Environmental panel rejected by Innu

(from page 1)

On September 29, Innu groups released letters from a former member of the Panel corroborating many of their concerns. "Personally, I see no alternative other than to strike a new panel composed of qualified and objective members, and with fair representation from the affected first nations of Labrador and Québec," wrote Paul Wilkinson (a Montreal consultant who resigned from the panel in 1992). In his letter, Wilkinson says the members of the panel have "few visible qualifications and little apparent relevant experience" and there was "an unacceptably close relationship between the panel's secretariat and the Department of National Defence."

Wilkinson said native people and their nominees were systematically excluded from the panel. He added that the panel caved in to political pressure from then-Environment Minister Jean Charest, who pressured the panel to "revise" documents and told the panel it could not recommend an end to LLMFT'ing.

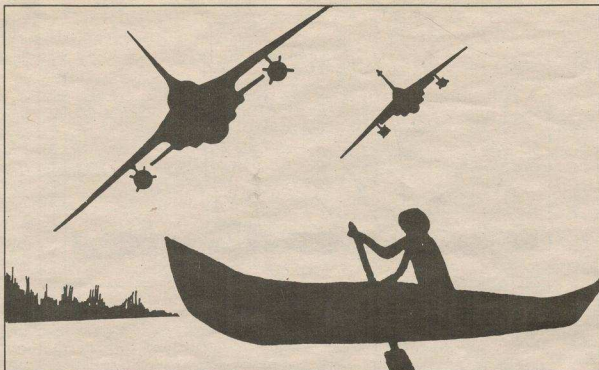
Current Environment Minister Sheila Copps said the panel will be replaced if there's evidence that it's biased.

The Canadian Environmental Defence Fund announced it was withdrawing from the assessment review "because of the clear failure to provide a fair hearing process."

Ovide Mercredi, chief of the Assembly of First Nations, also blasted the panel for ignoring aboriginal land rights.

The International Campaign for the Innu and the Earth, a coalition of peace and environmental groups in Canada and Europe, supported the boycott in a letter on Sept. 18, withdrawing its participation in the hearings.

"We concur with the Innu Nation, the Conseil des Atikamekw et des Montagnais, and the Naskapi Band of Québec enu-



merated 130 deficiencies in their critique of August 26, 1994. Our participation is contingent on the panel requiring that certain information in the 1987 guidelines and the 1990 deficiency statements be provided by DND either before the hearings commence, or during the hearings.

"Finally, we find it appalling that the hearings are proceeding

"We concur that the panel made an error of law in not requiring DND to provide additional information and analysis of the impact of the project on aboriginal rights, and specifically the negotiation and settlement of comprehensive land claims in Québec and Labrador.

"Further, we cannot participate in a process that establishes one set of guidelines for everyone else and another for DND. The panel's decision of August 23, 1994 releasing DND from compliance with certain guidelines and deficiency statements makes a mockery of the whole process. When did the panel receive the authority to release DND from its 'stutory obligation'?"

"The Conseil des Atikamekw et des Montagnais, the Innu Nation and the Naskapi Band of Québec enu-

merated 130 deficiencies in their critique of August 26, 1994. Our participation is contingent on the panel requiring that certain information in the 1987 guidelines and the 1990 deficiency statements be provided by DND either before the hearings commence, or during the hearings.

"Finally, we find it appalling that the hearings are proceeding

despite a clear request from the three Innu organizations that they not take place during their traditional hunting season."

The Innu vow to carry on non-violently. "This is our land. We are willing to defend it. But we will not be drawn into a brawl with military supporters over Panel hearings where nothing important will be said," concluded Penashue.

Innu lands invaded

The Innu are the original people of Nitassinan (now known as Labrador and eastern Québec). There are approximately 13,000 Innu today. The traditional hunting lifestyle of the Innu is threatened from several directions. The Innu have never signed a treaty surrendering any rights to Canada.

In Labrador, the Innu are overflown by low-level military training flights, conducted by the air forces of Britain, Germany and the Netherlands from Canadian Forces Base Goose Bay. The flights, which take place each year from April to October, occur under memorandums of understanding with Canada that expire in 1996. In 1992, there were 7,355 sorties. The Department of National Defence hopes to increase that number to 18,000 sorties per year by 1996. The low-flying jets produce ear-shattering noise. The impact on wildlife — particularly caribou, the mainstay of the Innu hunting culture — has been disastrous.

The Innu settlement of Davis Inlet has received a lot of media attention lately. Despite government promises to move the Innu from the island where

they were forcibly resettled, the Innu have still not been allowed to move back to the mainland. Recently, their demands for an Innu-based justice system were met with armed force when the Newfoundland government sent in RCMP officers. A confrontation was averted, but Davis Inlet's problems are unresolved.

The Innu of Mani-Utenam and Uashat on the north shore of the St. Lawrence are fighting a Hydro-Québec plan to dam the St-Marguerite River. This is not the first time the Innu have resisted dams: in the 1950s, the Churchill Falls megaproject in Labrador flooded a vast area that included gravesites and archaeological sites. Fish in the Churchill River have been contaminated by mercury poisoning. The Innu of Sheshatshib downstream have never been compensated. The same is true for the Innu of Betsiamites, who have seen much of their land flooded out by Hydro-Québec dams on the Manicouagan and Outardes rivers.

There have also been major increases in forest cutting, with resulting new roads and sawmills. There has been no environmental assessment of the forestry plan.

TURTLE ISLAND NOTES



Roll Over Columbus

As this school year kicks off U of T is offering a minor program in Native Studies for the first time ever. The program is jointly run by the Anthropology and Linguistic Departments with courses being offered through a variety of departments including (appropriately) the Canadian Studies Department. The only compulsory course for the program is the Aboriginal Studies 200, to be joined by Aboriginal Studies 300 next year; otherwise students can select from a list of courses including *Aboriginal Peoples' & Their Relationship with Canada* co-taught by Ontario Regional Chief Gord Peters with Peter Russell of the Political Science Department; *First Nations Perspectives on Canada*; and the very timely course *Aboriginal Self-Government*. For more information contact First Nations House @ 978-8227.

Lonefighter jailed

Milton Born With A Tooth of the Peigan Lonefighter Society has been sentenced to 16 months in jail and given a ten year prohibition on the possession of a firearm. Born With A Tooth fired two shots into the air to warn approaching RCMP that they were trespassing during a protest against construction on the Oldman River Dam Project. Courts had revoked the license needed by the Alberta Government to build the dam but construction was going ahead anyway.

Healing Cape Croker

The Cape Croker Healing Circle was formed by a group of Chippewa women in early August this year to help survivors of sexual abuse by Jesuit father, George Epoch, who mis-served in the community from 1971-1983. While The Society of Jesus has publicly apologized for Epoch in 1992, and has been negotiating with the victims and their families, talks have recently taken a turn for the worse and the community feels frustrated and insulted by what they feel to be insufficient compensation and high pressure deadlines from Jesuit lawyers. The Chippewa have expressed their dissatisfaction and will continue to do so until a settlement can be agreed upon.

Urgent appeal!

Innu ask supporters to act now in solidarity with their boycott of environmental hearings

Prime Minister Jean Chrétien's Ministry of the Environment and Energy (headed by Sheila Copps) has preceded to public hearings despite overwhelming evidence that the Department of National Defence should have been sent back to the drawing board and the panel reconstituted to include Innu elders — the real experts.

Write Sheila Copps:

- House of Commons 509-S, Ottawa ON, KIA 0A6.
- Ministry of the Environment and Energy, Phone (819) 997-1441, Fax (819) 953-3457
- Parliament Hill Phone (613) 995-2772, Fax (613) 992-2727
- Riding of Hamilton East, Phone (905) 547-7040, Fax (905) 547-4877

Who benefits from aid to Rwanda?

by Tim Doucette
the ACTIVIST

Who is responsible for the genocide in Rwanda? What can solve the refugee crisis? How effectively is aid being distributed and who is it benefiting?

Those were some of the questions raised at a September 14 forum at Toronto's Metro Hall. Many questions centred around the North's responsibility for the tragedy and its self-interest in the current interventions.

While insisting that the culpability of Rwandan war criminals must not be played down, Célestine Kayitare of the Rwandese Canadian Cultural Association stressed France's role in training the militia that orchestrated the genocide, and in financing and co-ordinating the military build-up. He pointed out that France wasn't even Rwanda's colonial power — Belgium was — and that the reasons for France's involvement are complex: testing arms; controlling Rwanda's UN vote, as part of a bloc of 14 French African countries; and geopolitical factors such as Rwanda's proximity to Zaire.

Moreover, Kayitare emphasized, world leaders knew what was coming for at least two years before April 6 — state radio had been relentlessly broadcasting hate propaganda against Tutsis — and while most of the world was simply ignoring the war, France was actively participating in it.

French Premier Edouard Balladur's boldly stated reason for France's current intervention is that "France wants to be a world power... and the first area of its intervention is Africa, especially French-speaking Africa."

The United Nations was described as "dysfunctional" by Friends of Rwanda's Shyma Gilbert, citing the Security Council's decision to allow a unilateral French presence.

The global issue of aid used as a smokescreen was brought up by an African man who noted that Africa is in fact a net exporter of wealth. As he put it, the North



Len Mankiewicz/Peace Media Service

gives aid by the cent and steals by the dollar. Soldiers in Santa Claus caps are sent to "help" Africans who supposedly can't help themselves, when what is really needed are apologies, respect and reparations. With the foxes in charge of the henhouse, "the present approach is doomed, if not meant, to fail."

The specific failure of the humanitarian effort for Hutu refugees in the French "safe zone" of Goma, Zaire was addressed by Rob Shropshire of the Inter-Church Coalition on Africa. He questioned whether the zone is either humanitarian or safe.

Press reports have blamed a fear of reprisals from the new Tutsi government on the reluctance of refugees to return home. While acknowledging a grain of truth in such reports, Shropshire pointed out that not all Hutus took part in the killings, and moderate Hutus were targeted themselves. The real reason for the refugee's fear comes from within the "safe zone."

Whether or not France is deliberately protecting soldiers of the old regime from legal charges of war crimes, it is allowing an estimated 50,000 Hutu militiamen to remain active among the refugee population (about 800,000 people in four camps). The fact that only two thirds of the daily food requirement is being distributed gives this self-declared "government in exile" effective control over much of the on-the-ground distribution, so aid is going primarily to the strongest. Soldiers of the old regime, who are trying to regroup for an assault on the new government, are using force and intimidation to prevent the emergence of new, moderate Hutu leaders who did not participate in the genocide. This perpetuates the refugee crisis by undermining national reconciliation.

Further, the perpetuation of the crisis is breeding dependency and disenfranchisement among refugees who should be returning to the land and reconstructing their lives. September marked the beginning of the rains, and crop planting has now been missed for the next six months to a year.

Although war criminals must be isolated from the refugee population, Shropshire does not believe that aid agencies themselves should attempt such police work or discriminate in aid distribution. Until Rwanda can establish a functional justice system, policing and prosecution should be done by the United Nations, he said.

On October 1, the UN High Commissioner for Refugees conceded that "ninety percent of the [refugee] problem is related to the presence of ex-government soldiers in the camps. They are the main obstacles to repatriation. As long as they are there, there's nothing much we can do.

"People who want to go have to leave secretly at night. They fear for their lives, and it's getting more and more violent."

Dr. Jacqueline Mankiewicz Smith of SOS Children's Villages guaranteed that any money sent through her organization would go directly to a needy child. SOS International has undertaken the immediate reconstruction of Children's Villages in Kigali and Gikongoro; construction of an Emergency Village in Byumba to receive 1000 small children until their parents can be found; implementation of the family re-unification program; and assisting the government in the long-range planning of services to children.

SOS Children's Villages can be contacted at 396 Cooper St., Suite 203, Ottawa ON, K2P 2H7. ☐

Radio for Rwandan refugees

(Peace Media Service) Zaire has approved a broadcast licence allowing Reporters Sans Frontières, an international journalists' organization, to operate a radio serving victims of the civil war in Rwanda. The project has support from UNESCO.

Radio Gatashya ("the swallow that heralds good news" in Kinyarwanda) will broadcast on short wave and FM frequencies.

Through the station relief organizations can provide the population with information on distribution of food and medicine, disease prevention, and possibilities for relocation.

"It responds to a crucial absence in a country where information has become a question of life and death," the founders note. ☐

PEACE MEAL

BRUSSELS (PMS) — The International Federation of Journalists and the International Federation of Newspaper Publishers have called on the UN to reconsider the imposition of sanctions against media in Serbia and Montenegro. "The application of international sanctions against media is counter-productive to the process of democratization and is seriously detrimental to the independent media which provide the only alternative voices" to the Serbian government, a report from the two organizations argued. "Sanctions do little damage to official media but are used extensively to penalize and restrict the development of independent media." The report added that independent media are harassed by the government.

ANKARA (PMS) — There was juridical panic in a Turkish courtroom when conscientious objector Arif Hikmet Iydogan stripped himself of an army uniform he had been forced to wear in a military prison. Arif is one of four Turkish conscientious objectors currently facing prison terms for "seeking to alienate the population from the army" — in fact, for speaking out for the right to refuse military service.

BANGKOK (PMS) — Buddhist monk and environmentalist Pra Prachak is again in trouble with the Thai military government. In the past he has been convicted of causing a public disturbance and obstructing authorities. Now he has been accused of illegal use of a radio, making an unauthorized road, and destroying the forest by using dead trees to build a Buddhist Sala (though an agreement had been made with the Forest Officer that such trees could be utilized). The charges came after Pra Prachak had gone to Japan to raise awareness of destruction of Thailand's forests, which continues largely unabated despite the Thai government's 1988 ban on logging. Pra prachak has also been active in campaigns by nearly five million rural Thais to resist a government plan to relocate them.

NEW YORK (PMS) — The GI Joe doll turned 30 in August, prompting collectors to hold a "birthday" gathering aboard the warship-turned museum USS Intrepid. According to manufacturer Hasbro Inc., for every US boy aged 5 to 12, an average of two GI Joe products are sold yearly. As with many violent toys, GI Joe is backed with a television cartoon and extensive TV advertising. New York area critics of war toys turned out to leaflet the Intrepid and discuss the meaning of military dolls with any passers-by who cared to listen. The GI Joe celebration also occasioned the launching of a campaign for non-violent toys by Christian Peacemaker Teams.

—Items from Peace Media Service

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EAST TIMOR UPDATE

Number 37 — October 4, 1994

In December 1975, just ten days after it had declared its independence from Portugal, the tiny southeast Asian country of East Timor was invaded by its neighbour, Indonesia. In the 18 years since then, 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 the Indonesian armed forces to maintain their illegal occupation of East Timor.

East Timor Update is a monthly news service edited in Toronto by the East Timor Alert Network. The service is also available by electronic mail: email etanor@web.upc.org. Contact ETAN for more information.

ETAN/Toronto: PO Box 562, Station P, Toronto, M5S 2T1. (416) 531-5850 (phone/fax).

ETAN/Calgary: 1—2127, 34th Ave SW, Calgary Alta., T2T 2C5. (403) 246-1759.

ETAN/Guelph: PO Box 1302, Main Station, Guelph Ont., N1H 6N6. (519) 767-0313.

ETAN/Hamilton: c/o Earth Action, Box 212, Gilmour Hall, McMaster Univ., Hamilton Ont., L8S 1C0.

ETAN/Montréal: No. 47505, Co. P, Plateau Mont-Royal, Montréal, H2H 2S8. (514) 848-7443.

ETAN/Ottawa: PO Box 1031, Station B, Ottawa Ont., K1P 5R1.

ETAN/Vancouver: 2120 West 44th #104, Vancouver BC, V6M 2G2. (604) 739-4947.

ETAN/Windsor-Essex County: 1050 University Ave. W., Windsor Ont., N9A 5S4.

CORRECTION

Last issue we reported that the United Nations Population conference in Cairo would be giving a "Population Control Award" to Indonesian President Suharto. This information, provided by sources close to the Canadian delegation and confirmed by sources in the Indonesian embassy, was not in fact correct. Suharto was given no award. This does not, of course, change the fact that Indonesia's birth control program is coercive and an example of both the Indonesian government's genocidal policies in East Timor and its failure to consider the needs of women when planning population policies. We apologize for the error.

New campaign to be launched in October

Six Months for East Timor

In October, the East Timor Alert Network and other national organizations will launch a new action campaign, "Six Months for East Timor."

Since Indonesia invaded East Timor in 1975, the position of the Canadian government has been to recognize the de facto incorporation of East Timor as Indonesia's 27th province, while not granting full legal recognition of the annexation and continuing to express concerns about human rights in East Timor. There have been occasional protests issued, but successive Canadian governments — both Liberal and Conservative — have viewed Indonesia as an important trading partner and friend, and played down the importance of East Timor in the interests of a strong bilateral relationship with the Suharto regime in Indonesia. In the view of the East Timor Alert Network, this position represents complicity in the genocide of the East Timorese people, who have still not been allowed to exercise their right to self-determination.

Prime Minister Jean Chrétien's government, while carrying out a comprehensive review of Canadian foreign policy, has already set its policy with regards to Indonesia. Trade is to be the lynch-pin. Two-trade is expected to hit \$1 billion in 1994, with Indonesia remaining our top export market in Southeast Asia. Government funds, through a number of agencies, are to be spent on encouraging expanded trade and investment. Indonesia is also to remain near the top of Canadian aid recipients (last year, it was the second-largest Canadian aid recipient).

When he was Opposition Leader, Jean Chrétien promised to work for the enforcement of United Nations resolutions requiring Indonesia to allow an act of self-determination in East Timor. Our campaign goals are aimed at having the Chrétien government fulfil its promises on East Timor.

FREE EAST TIMOR! We urge the Canadian government to (1) End Canadian government funding for the promotion of trade with Indonesia (2) Support an international arms embargo against Indonesia (3) Call upon the Indonesian government to free Xanana Gusmão and all East Timorese political prisoners.

EVENTS

- Campaign Launch, Oct. 24. Noam Chomsky (U.S. writer-activist) and José Ramos Horta (external representative of the East Timorese resistance movement CNRM) will speak at the Bytowne Theatre in downtown Ottawa from 1-3 p.m. and hold a news conference along with Canadian supporters in the morning. Horta and others will stay on for meetings with Canadian government officials, including cabinet minister Raymond Chan (Secretary of state for Asia Pacific in the Department of Foreign Affairs).
- National days of action around Dili



Highly O'Shaughnessy

massacre third anniversary on Nov. 12. These will include a vigil with 273 white crosses on Parliament Hill (representing the 273 unarmed women, men and children confirmed killed by Indonesian soldiers on Nov. 12, 1991), as well as educational forums and vigils in cities across Canada.

- Actions around APEC (Asia Pacific Economic Cooperation) heads of government summit, to be held Nov. 15 in Bogor, Indonesia. The Canadian delegation is the highest-ever sent to Indonesia, including Prime Minister Jean Chrétien, Foreign Minister André Ouellet, Trade Minister Roy MacLaren and Asia Pacific secretary of state Raymond Chan. We will be demanding that the Prime Minister boycott the summit on human rights grounds, as an expression of Canadian concern about East Timor and human rights in the rest of Indonesia. Canadian representatives attending the APEC meetings leading up to the summit itself should use the meetings as a forum to press for human rights, rather than focusing exclusively on trade.

(There is a precedent for this: last year Malaysian Prime Minister Mahathir Mohammed boycotted the APEC summit in Seattle. Malaysian officials did, however, attend in support of their interests.)

In Canada, we will use APEC-related publicity to raise the issues of human

rights in East Timor and Indonesia, through an open letter to be published and advertised in the Ottawa Citizen in early November. This ad will be financed by the groups that agree to sign the open letter (\$100 apiece).

Finally, there will be a counter-APEC forum held in Toronto, co-sponsored by solidarity groups working on human rights in the APEC member countries.

- Dec. 7 commemorations of 19th anniversary of invasion. Hand in petitions in Parliament.

- Speaking tour in February and March.

- Campaign culmination events on April 22, 1995 (Six Months after launch). These would be followed by an evaluation of the campaign and hopefully provide the basis for further work in Canada by many more organizations.

WE NEED YOU

ETAN hopes that this campaign will demonstrate a broad range of concern from many Canadian organizations and individuals about East Timor, thereby showing the government that Canadians do care about the issue. We are seeking as many organizations as possible to endorse and co-sponsor of the Six Months for East Timor campaign.

Since this campaign will cost money, we are asking those organizations that are able to kick in \$100 each towards the expenses of running the campaign. We also welcome donations in kind, such as photocopying and translation services.

The time has never been better to influence the Canadian government's policy on East Timor. ETAN asks all friends to get involved in this action campaign. For details, contact ETAN/Toronto or the local group nearest to you.



INTERNATIONAL DISARMAMENT WEEK

EVENTS, ACTIONS AND FUN

OCTOBER

<p>SUN/23 CELEBRATION</p> <p>INTERNATIONAL YEAR OF THE FAMILY</p> <p>and the work of the United Nations</p> <p>First Unitarian Church St. Clair and Avenue Road</p>	<p>MON/24 EDUCATION</p> <p>THE DOWNSVIEW CONVERSION PROJECT</p> <p>What next for Canadian Forces Base (Toronto)?</p> <p>Metro Hall (to be confirmed) 7:30 p.m.</p>	<p>TUE/25 INFORMATION</p> <p>NOAM CHOMSKY: THE MIDDLE EAST PROSPECTS FOR PEACE AND JUSTICE</p> <p>Convocation Hall - 8:00pm For tickets and information call Student Christian Movement - 979-9629</p>	<p>WED/26 DISCUSSION</p> <p>DEVELOPMENTS IN NITASSINAN</p> <p>The International Campaign for The Innu and the Earth and the Ontario Public Interest Research Group</p> <p>33St. George Street - noon</p>
<p>THU/27 CULTURE</p> <p>INDRA MAHA DANCE ACADEMY</p> <p>A dance program of Tamil legends at the Tamil Cultural Centre</p> <p>Details T.B.A. - Call 285 - 7332</p>	<p>FRI/28 PARTY</p> <p>"SIX MONTHS FOR EAST TIMOR"</p> <p>Launch party for the campaign</p> <p>Food - Music Suggested Donation - \$10.00 For details call 531-5850</p>	<p>SAT/29 COFFEE HOUSE</p> <p>Social at the Oakville Community Centre for peace, ecology & human rights, 148 Kerr St. (just south of Rebecca), with live music.</p> <p>For details call (905) 849-5501</p>	<p>BENEFIT FRIENDS OF RWANDA</p> <p>Details to be announced Please call 466-6503</p> <p>SUN/30 PICNIC PICNIC FOR PEACE High Park for details call 535-8005</p>

For more information please call the Toronto Disarmament Network at (416)535-8005

Classified

HOW MANY ACTIVISTS does it take to save the planet? Maybe just one more—YOU! Call Sari at Greenpeace, 351-0430 for full and part-time canvassing opportunities. Women and people of colour are encouraged to apply.

KNOWLEDGE IS POWER! Read books about the global food system, pesticides, the great lakes, dam projects, forest issues, healthy eating and cooking, today's women, media manipulation and current affairs. Write to Wise Hearts, 7700 Hurlontario St., Suite 312B-183, Brampton, ON L6Y 4M3.

ACT NEEDS DONATIONS of camera, blank and coloured paper, touch-

tone phone and general office supplies (especially pens!). Call Angelo at 531-6154.

ARCHIVIST NEEDED to sort through and store the peace movement's history for ACT for Disarmament. We've got tons of files! Keep history alive! Call Stephen at 531-6154.

FUNDRAISING COLLECTIVE MEETING. Bring ideas! Thursday, Oct. 6. Contact Angelo, 531-6154.

THE ACTIVIST NEEDS YOU! Can you spare a few hours a month to help put out Ontario's monthly newspaper of peace, ecology and human rights? Volunteers needed for all aspects of production and circulation. 531-6154.

Peace: There's no life like it

The newspaper you are reading is published by ACT for Disarmament. We are an all volunteer organization and the production of this journal is only a small part of our activities. We also organize demonstrations, lobby government, hold educational forums, and network internationally with like-minded organizations from Columbia to India. Many volunteer opportunities are available.

How can you help? Well...there's proof reading, media outreach, writing, public speaking, research, collecting petitions or fundraising. We need donations of office equipment and computers, bands to play benefits, and require

use of telephones to conduct local fundraising. We need your time.

If you have no time, we need your financial support. At our current print-run, we run out of newspapers within days of publication. It's not as if the demand isn't there. A 100 dollar donation means an extra 2,000 copies we can publish of this journal. 75 dollars means we can mail our paper to an additional 50 overseas groups for a period of three months. Any donation helps us to buy supplies and pay bills. Pick up a subscription. Make a donation. Volunteer. Help make the difference.



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