

the

ACTivist

February 1996

For Peace, Ecology & Human Rights



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Inside this issue:
Nuclear Wastelands,
Harriment,
Friends of the Lubicon,
Gulf War Syndrome,
Byte Size News,
Drunk & Disorderly.

and monthly coverage of the:
East Timor Alert Network (ETAN),
International Campaign for the
Innu & the Earth (ICIE), and the
Oakville Community Centre
for peace, ecology and human rights

Published by the ACT for Disarmament Coalition

Nuclear Forecast: Gloomy

by: Dan Silvestro

This century has witnessed the birth of the only industry with the potential to destroy humanity itself: the production of vast arsenals of nuclear weapons.

The 15-kiloton blast that obliterated the lives of 100,000 people in Hiroshima 50 years ago ushered in an era of unprecedented competition to build immense nuclear arsenals.

Although the end of the Cold War has seen the size of these arsenals significantly reduced, it has also seen several other countries (mostly Third World) become members of the prestigious nuclear club. This has facilitated a "world alert" owing to the general instability of these countries and has been accompanied by the increased possibility of such technology falling into the wrong hands, of an "accident" taking place, and of additional radioactive waste being produced. The world at this point does not know what to do with this waste - and it continues to accumulate.

The production of nuclear weapons requires large quantities of uranium ore to be mined and transformed along with other materials.

In the process, the nuclear industry creates highly radioactive materials and uses large quantities of non-radioactive hazardous substances. Some of the radioactive substances fabricated in the course of producing nuclear weapons have half-lives in the thousands to billions of years. Accurate estimations of the effects on health and the environment some ten thousand years from now is simply beyond the scope of human expertise. It's likely, however, that the damage already done is ubiquitous and irreparable.

Quite apart from the technical problems associated with trying to make such accurate estimates is the suppression and distortion of information, the poor state of much of the official data, and even fabrication of data by governments responsible for nuclear weapons production. The extension of governmental and corporate secrecy to include questions affecting health and the environment has posed some of the most difficult methodological problems. Even in the U.S., considered to be the most open of the nuclear weapons states, much of the relevant data remains secret.

The uncertainty regarding the long-term hazards posed by the introduction of various radionuclides into the environment partly reflects uncertainty about the pathways of exposure and hence the amounts of exposure to people in the future. Add to this other uncertainties regarding numbers of people exposed through industrial and community exposures, the type, level and duration of chemical and radioactive exposures sustained by certain populations, and the health effects of chronic exposures to radiation and chemical toxins, and you get some idea about the inherent complexity.

Serious health damage is well known to occur at high radiation doses (acute doses on the order of 1 sievert or more). There is also firm evidence about long-term damage from moderate doses below 1 sievert, such as those received by survivors of the atomic bombings of Hiroshima and Nagasaki (on the order of 0.2 sievert). At lower levels of exposure, studies suggest a strong correlation between increased risk of cancer and chronic low-dose exposure. Indeed, with the accumulation of data, official scientific assessments have increased the magnitude of "risk estimates" per unit dose of radiation with each new study.

Large amounts of non-radioactive hazardous materials have been used in nuclear weapons production, but exposures to them are poorly understood.

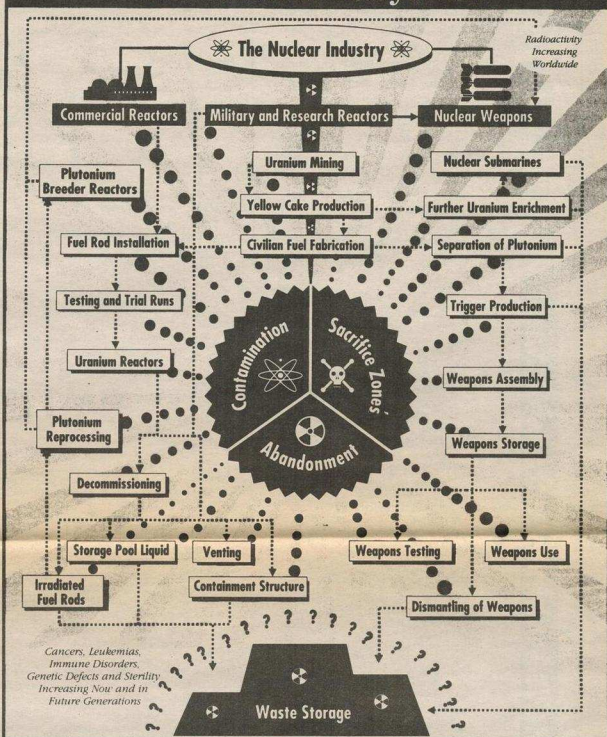
At the same time, concern is rising over the health effects of the wide variety of ordinary chemical pollutants emitted by nuclear weapons facilities, including metals, solvents and PCBs.

Epidemiological studies of many of these contaminants show that low-level exposures may significantly increase the risk of contracting chronic illnesses such as cancer, hypertension and kidney disease.

The Trail of Radioactive Contamination

conceived by Anthony Phillipson, designed by Wendy Oser

The Nuclear Labyrinth



KEY CONTAMINATION: rendering toxic through contact with radioactivity. This includes leaks, spills, explosions, tests, transportation accidents, scheduled and unscheduled releases into the atmosphere, soil and bodies of water.

ABANDONMENT: releasing or leaving radioactive gases, materials and structures without effective, ongoing containment.

SACRIFICE ZONES: areas that must be permanently abandoned due to radioactive contamination from mining, accidents, spills, explosions, weapons fabrication, testing and use, dumping of waste, etc.

WASTE STORAGE: What is our capacity to maintain containment enduringly?

NOTES

- The entire cycle of the nuclear industry occurs globally and is not necessarily present in an individual country, although the technology and materials for each step are sold internationally.
- Every step of the nuclear industry contributes directly or through connecting steps to the virtually permanent contamination of the atmosphere, the water system, the soil, and organic life.
- Wind and water, microbes, insects, seeds, birds and other life forms move through all ecosystems, even those identified by humans as sacrifice zones.
- Uncaptured radioactivity in the biosphere eventually disperses worldwide.

At this time the only known protection of life from an increased burden of radioactivity is to immediately cease the nuclear industry and to constantly monitor the poison we have created.

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With the end of the Cold War, the existence of large amounts of plutonium 239 and highly enriched uranium 235 and 238 poses a severe proliferation problem.

More definitive research and analysis is badly needed as to the exact role of the doctrine of deterrence in the spread of nuclear weapons. This has divided the world into militarily-strong "haves" and weak "have-nots".

It is compelling that this "dynamic" has provided a strong impetus to proliferation. The world needs to come to grips with the counter-productive aspects of this doctrine, both from the standpoint of security as well

as from the standpoint of the devastating damage to health and the environment that it has created.

Excellent New Book

Readers interested in exploring this topic in more detail should obtain a book called "Nuclear Wastelands: a global guide to nuclear weapons production and its health and environment effects".

It is authored by the Special Commission of International Physicians for the Prevention of Nuclear War and the Institute for Energy and Environmental Research, and edited by Arjun Makhijani, Howard Hu and Katherine Yih. MIT Press, 1995. ISBN 0-262-13307-5.

The ACTivist

Vol 12 #2 February 1996

Published monthly by ACT for Disarmament
148 Kerr St., Oakville, ON Canada L6K 3A7
(905) 849-5501, Internet: act@web.apc.org
Canadian Publications Mail Product Sales Agreement
#330825

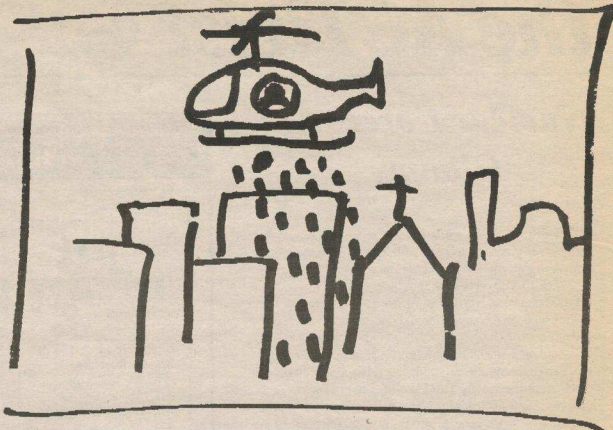
Subscriptions are available with a donation of \$15 or more (\$25 for institutions and funded agencies) to: the ACTivist, 148 Kerr St., Oakville, ON L6K 3A7.

PROMOTION: Saul Chernos, Stephen

Dankowich, Chris Davenport, Susan Dymnet, Angelo Gonsalves, Sharon M., Frank Shermos.
PRODUCTION: Philip Alister, Saul Chernos, Paul Dankowich, Stephen Dankowich, Chris Davenport, Sharon M., David Webster..

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Opinions expressed in this paper may not necessarily be those of ACT.



Although Mike Harris denies waging war on the poor, he could not explain the government of Ontario helicopter dropping leaflets on Bay Street that read: "Poor men are sleeping with your wives and mothers while you work!"

cartoon by: Sharon M.

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ON THE RIGHTS OF WORKERS
AND THE POOR

BYTE SIZE NEWS

by: Susan Dymnet

The Japan Times Weekly International Edition (Jan 22-28), "Rally Opposes Bases"

Some 500 peace activists from various parts of the country held a rally in Naha, Okinawa Prefecture on Jan 13 calling for the removal of US bases there. The activists gathered amid heightened opposition in Okinawa to the military presence after the rape in September of a local schoolgirl, by three US servicemen. An academic told the rally that in the post-Cold War era, the Japan-US security alliance could pave the way for the United States to use facilities in Japan for Washington's global strategy beyond the Far East and the stipulated geographical limitations of the bilateral security treaty.

Granma International, Havana, Cuba (Jan 24), "Brazilian Parliamentarians Favour Increased Commercial Links"

The recent Jan 3-10 visit to Havana by ten Brazilian congress members, was described by Brazilian Senator Roberto Requião as a public demonstration of rejection by the US blockade. The Brazilian parliamentarians visited family doctor offices, some of the island's scientific institutes in West Havana, such as the Genetic Engineering Centre, and agricultural projects related to Cuba's food program...

The Statesman Weekly, Calcutta and New Delhi, India (Jan 13)

"The bipolar world we have known is finished, and the world of tomorrow will be multipolar," said French President Jacques Chirac.

"Currently divorcing, the world's most favorite President is about to become South Africa's most eligible bachelor." (*Cosmopolitan*, a women's magazine, on 77 year-old, Nelson Mandela).

South China Sunday Morning Post (Dec 3), "Prostitutes Forced to School"

"The traditional morality and good virtue of the Vietnamese woman" may be a tricky subject to teach on a blackboard, but Mrs. Kim has a captive audience. Her pupils are the prostitutes rounded up on the river banks, pavements and barber shops of Ho Chi Minh City, the former Saigon, and its Chinatown, Cholon. The women face six months detention in Mrs. Kim's school for re-training and re-education. Meanwhile, in Cholon, Hong Kong gangsters rile authorities by reportedly busting virgins to Taiwanese businessmen who believe they will bring them luck and strength. A few streets away on a boulevard dedicated to the revolution, women try to flag down cars, seemingly oblivious to signs nearby warning of AIDS.

The Straits Times Weekly, Singapore (Jan 17)

The government on Thursday tabled a bill to amend the Women's Charter, which would, among other things, give greater weight to the contribution of homemakers in a marriage... Besides widening the definition of violence to include psychological hurt, it also makes it easier for a victim

of violence to obtain a personal protection order (PPO), by proving that he or she is likely to be hurt, rather than proving beyond reasonable doubt that the would be. Other changes include: empowering the court to exclude the abuser from a shared home with the victim; stipulating penalties for breaching PPOs; making the breach of PPOs a seizure offence, that is, the offender can be arrested by the police for breaching a PPO; and, allowing applications for PPOs to be made on behalf of children or incapacitated adults by third parties.

The Japan Times Weekly International Edition (Jan 22-28), "Key Monju Investigator Commits Suicide"

A leading member of the team conducting an in-house probe into the cover-up of the coolant leak in the Monju fast-breeder reactor jumped to his death on Jan 13 at a Tokyo hotel. Shigeo Nishimura, 49, was deputy general manager of the general affairs department of the Power Reactor and Nuclear Fuel Development Corp., the government corporation that operates the reactor. His apparent suicide came one day after PNC officials held a news conference to disclose that the corporation's headquarters were directly involved in the cover-up.

South China Sunday Morning Post (Dec 3), "Taiwan Votes for Peace"

In what amounted to a vote for peace with China, Taiwanese voters upheld the ruling Kuomintang's majority in legislative elections yesterday but boosted the New Party that advocates reconciliation with Beijing. New Party officials said China's threats to attack the island if it dropped a pledge to reunify and embraced independence had helped with the votes. "Communist China's military exercises drew some support for us from people who supported Taiwan independence before," New Party presidential candidate Wang Cheng-hsueh told hundreds of supporters after the result. The pro-independence Democratic Progressive Party Chairmen Shih Ming-Teh said it was ludicrous for the New Party to attribute success at the polls to cross-strait relations. "To explain election results with such sweeping claims is simply ludicrous, because there are so many factors involved in elections," said Mr. Shih.

Montreal Gazette (Jan 29), "Quebec Probably is Divisible: Charest"

Conservative Party leader Jean Charest says Quebec is probably no less divisible than Canada. "If (separatists) have a right to dissent they can't deny the right to dissent to others," said Charest. Bouchard said the idea is "ludicrous and provocative".



DRUNK AND DISORDERLY

"Keeping an eye on the Tory revolution"

A regular Queen's Park column by Sharon M. Hey Mike, that's not what we meant by "Provincial"

Bill 26 became law, receiving Royal Assent in early February. An unprecedented 30 people were dragged out of the Legislature as the Tories used their majority muscle to push through the Omnibus Bill.

Outside the legislature, a "confrontation" broke out between Queen's Park security and protesters behind new barricades. Nine people were charged with trespassing and refusing to leave.

Public hearings on Bill 26, the all-encompassing and draconian Omnibus Bill, often had deputations booked even before the dates were officially advertised.

Bill 26 heralds a new age of politics in Ontario. Opinion polls claim the majority of people support the Tory cuts, but as hospitals close and Ontarians become mired in user fees, public opinion may change.

Individual Tory MPPs (forgive the oxymoron) presented a united front as last minute amendments were added to the Bill. The mantra, "we clarified, not changed the Bill", echoed through the press gallery.

Thinking and acting locally

The City of Toronto has launched a campaign to block the Provincial government from scrapping rent controls. Out of 287,848 homes in the City of Toronto, 160,518 or 55.8% are rental units. Support Rent Control petitions can be obtained from City Councillor Peter Tabuns' office at 392-7914.

The City of Toronto has set up an emergency "Survival Fund". The creation of this fund was controversial in itself. Anne Mulvaie, Mayor of Oakville, was quoted as saying City Councillors had "blinked too soon". How many homeless should freeze to death before its okay to blink, Mayor Mulvaie?

Number WHAT on the Tory priority list?

The provincial environment ministry budget was cut by 18.2%. The Ministry ended funding for the Blue Box recycling campaign and Green Community Initiatives geared towards energy and water conservation measures. These cuts will "affect" thousands of direct and indirect jobs. Amendments to the Planning Act dismantle environmental safeguards introduced by the NDP government.

Gone but not Unghosted

When one reporter suggested that even Mike Harris reflected kindly on his service, Mr. Rae quipped "If he was to resign today, I'd say nice things about him too."

COMMUNITY ACTIONS FOR ALL

Riverdale Against the Cuts Committee is boycotting the Harvey's Restaurant chain, whose parent company, CARA, contributed the \$4,000 maximum allowable (under the Elections Act) to the Tory Party in 1993, 1994, and 1995. Contact CARA at 962-4571. (Riverdale Against the Cuts, c/o 785 Queen St. East, Toronto Ontario, M4M 1H3).

Rent Control Hearings are being held at City Hall on February 26 at 7 pm. Call City Councillor Peter Tabuns' office at 392-7914.

IF NOT YOU, WHO? IF NOT NOW, WHEN?

SOME REFLECTIONS ON NON-VIOLENT RESISTANCE IN INTERESTING TIMES

by Brian Burch

Down the street from me is a new townhouse development, starting at \$289,000. Meanwhile the province of Ontario is threatening to remove housing subsidies from the cop who I live, a move that will drive people onto the streets. Cabbageton in the 1990s is a fine place if you are well off, but a frightening place if one signature by a cabinet minister or even a staff person from The Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing can take away your home.

In the midst of ads seeking telemarketers and door-to-door solicitors for charities, there is only one federal department actively seeking new employees - the Canadian military. Headlines announce cuts in unionized factory jobs, and to hospital workers and educational funding.

Under the guise of getting the government off our backs, the power of elected officials at the municipal level - whether school trustees or local councils - is being centralized just north of the corner of College and University in downtown Toronto.

In Mike Harris' Ontario, unlike Mexico, Chile, Nigeria, Uganda, Guatemala or the United States, it is once again illegal for a farm worker to sign a union card. Efforts to bring Ontario labour legislation into line with U.N. declarations has been tossed away.

From massive cuts to the welfare programme to gutting employment equity, the economic time we are living in is frightening. Social services and our right to actively participate in the decisions that affect our lives - aspects of our society that have been built up over generations - are being thrown out in a planned assault by a succession of right wing governments. More deaths will occur and there will be a greater deterioration of our society unless we, individually and collectively, refuse to collaborate in the actions of the Mike Harris government in Ontario and the Chretien government in Ottawa.

Creativity Required

There are signs of massive dissent. As seen through such efforts as political strikes in London and Hamilton, a demonstration of 37,000 teachers and boycotts of corporations like Shoppers Drug Mart that finance right-wing parties, people are seeking ways to effectively reject the creation of a harsh, competitive and corrosive society. Creative actions such as shop-ins and mass job searches are matched by statements by church leaders that it is wrong to hurt those who are the least powerful in our society.

In Ontario at this time, in our Weimer Republic period, we have a unique opportunity to explore ways of creatively and non-violently resisting the attacks on the poor, unemployed, battered women, unions, health care, education, public institutions and the social fabric of our society. We have a chance, and an obligation, to resist the corporate and state power that has injured the quality of life we are entitled to. In the spirit of Martin Luther King's resistance to the three darknesses of war, racism and poverty, and Gandhi's efforts to both seek Indian independence and to create a society of compassion for all, it is time for all of us concerned with social justice to build a movement for radical social transformation of a healthy, inclusive sort to counter the reactionary social transformation around us. A key part of this movement should be a willingness to fill the jails and courts of Ontario until it is no longer feasible for the government of Ontario to function smoothly.

Civil Disobedience

There are many ethical arguments in favour of civil disobedience at this time. The willingness to accept personal suffering to oppose unjust laws and governmental actions has a long and honourable history. The ethical reasons for non-violent resistance are very well developed in the work of writers as diverse as Dorothy Day, David MacReynolds, Desmond Tutu and Emma Goldman who have written about the need for personal risk to bring about radical social change; personal risks that link the means and the ends in a coherent fashion. It is time to look again at their work before either anger at the real effects of the Harris cuts grows or acquiescence becomes the norm even among those traditionally politically active.

For me the ethical demands for active non-violent dissent are persuasive. But before I would take such risks there has to be both a chance of success and a range of options available so that resistance does not become mere ritual.

Reverse the Attacks

It is likely that there can be success in reversing the attacks on the quality of our social systems. Part of this optimism is the fact that dissent is so broadly based at this time. From the Moderator of the United Church to former Tory candidates, from trotskyists of various tendencies to Liberal members of the provincial legislature, voices of opposition have been raised in numbers and from such diverse sources that is phenomenally rare. Part of this optimism is based on the range of tactics that have been attempted or proposed, from political strikes to petitions to mass lobbying to civil disobedience, that are coming from congregations, union locals, coffee klatches and housing co-op gatherings. Perhaps the most interesting, but underreported, suggestion was from the United Church of Canada which has urged a consumer "fast" on the 15th of every month, a day when we totally withdraw our participation from the marketplace.

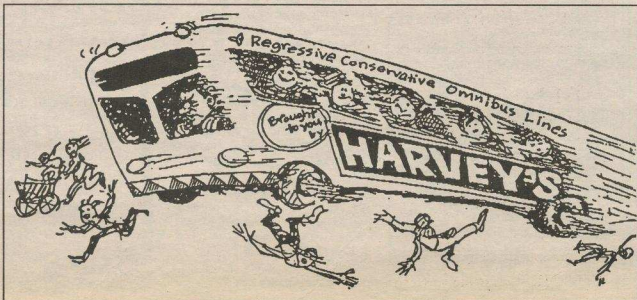
Active non-violent dissent has already begun in Ontario. The Ontario Coalition Against Poverty (OCAP) has organized a shopping visit that showed a creative response to suggestions by the Minister of Community and Social Services that low income people could negotiate food prices with local store managers. A women's action on December 6th blocked traffic in the downtown core and helped focus attention on the way cuts are affecting the lives and safety of women and children in Ontario. A symbolic blood pouring on the steps of the provincial legislature brought the protests closer to home, and tried to raise awareness that the deaths that have occurred in Ontario as a result of the cuts is the responsibility of all members of the provincial legislature. It is my hope that such resistance will grow both in numbers of participants and in frequency.

Jam the Legal System

Civil disobedience, in opposition to the cuts and programmes taking place, is a public repudiation of acceptance of the values and actions that have actually caused suffering and a public statement that we will accept suffering in order to alleviate the suffering of others. It is also an active interference in business as usual. If the numbers of participants and frequency of actions is large enough, it can make the government back down.

In times of cutbacks to corrections and the administration of justice, from closing of jails to slashing of police services budgets to the probable laying off of crown attorneys, protesters can jam the legal system effectively. This, more

(Continued on page 4)



**Ontario Court Rules
Consumer Boycott
Illegal
in Daishowa Inc.
vs. Friends of Lubicon**

Vancouver - A decision handed down January 23 by the Ontario Divisional Court has struck a serious blow against democratic rights of expression, declaring a consumer boycott to be illegal. According to Toronto-based *Friends of the Lubicon*, the decision may affect all future boycotts.

The Friends began a consumer boycott in 1991, to help the Lubicon prevent clearcutting of their lands. Timber licenses covering virtually all 10,000 square kilometers of Lubicon territory are held by Daishowa Marubeni International Ltd., a subsidiary of the Japanese-owned Daishowa conglomerate. The grassroots *Friends of the Lubicon* organized a boycott against paper bags and other paper packaging products manufactured by Daishowa Inc., another member of the Daishowa group.

Now the Divisional Court has ruled the *Friends* boycott illegal and granted Daishowa Inc. an interlocutory injunction forcing a temporary halt to the boycott until Daishowa's case seeking a permanent injunction can be heard.

In granting Daishowa's injunction, the court found that the *Friends*' primary intent in boycotting Daishowa Inc. was to cause economic damage to the company, and not to support the Lubicon Nation. Although the Court held that boycotts are not necessarily illegal, it ruled that they are illegal when specifically intended to cause economic damage to the boycott target.

"This decision seriously jeopardizes freedom of expression," says lawyer Karen Wristen of the Sierra Legal Defence Fund which is representing the *Friends of the Lubicon*. "The Court has said essentially that the intention to cause economic harm made this boycott illegal. Every successful boycott inevitably results in economic impacts on the company targeted. It is difficult to imagine how any boycott could be said to be legal, following this reasoning." Consumer boycotts are commonly used as an important component of grassroots movements for social change.

Kevin Thomas of the *Friends of the Lubicon* confirmed they will appeal this decision.

The Divisional Court decision itself was an appeal from a lower court ruling last May. The judge in that case held that boycotting is a form of "expression" as described in the Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms, and refused Daishowa's injunction application on the grounds that an injunction would deny the *Friends*' their democratic right to freedom of expression on a matter of public concern.

The three appellate judges were not unanimous in their ruling against the *Friends of the Lubicon*. One dissenting opinion agreed with the judge below that Daishowa's injunction application should have been dismissed, and strongly upheld the legality of the *Friends*' "secondary picketing" activities. These informational pickets targeted consumers who might have unwittingly ended up obtaining Daishowa paper products while patronizing a retailer using those products.

The *Friends*' boycott against Daishowa Inc. was launched in 1991 among the company's Ontario customers. So far, some 47 major retail chains have been persuaded to switch from Daishowa to new suppliers in support of the Lubicon Nation. The company claims the boycott has cost it \$8 million in lost sales.

This latest decision will afford some relief to the Lubicon Nation. At least, the court has restrained Daishowa from logging on Lubicon land until trial. The Lubicon believe the company planned to begin cutting there as early as this winter.

The *Friends of the Lubicon* are a group based in Toronto, whose purpose is to assist the Lubicon Cree of northern Alberta in resolving their land rights issues (416-631-4046).

The *Sierra Legal Defence Fund* is a Vancouver-based charitable organization that donates legal services to the environmental community across Canada. It is funded through individual donations and private foundation grants (604-685-5618).

CO

(Continued from page 3)

than at any other moment in recent Canadian political history, gives the non-violent resistor power. A thousand people arrested every month in the Toronto area for offenses as small as trespassing or mischief would have an impact on the Ontario system as powerful as the recent French strike wave and have a realistic chance of success.

Demands should be simple and straight forward. I recommend the following: the immediate implementation of the SARC report, an immediate return to the labour laws of June 1, 1995, the immediate implementation of the recommendations of the Ontario Fair Tax Commission, preservation of current tenant protection, a permanent moratorium on selling of our publicly owned corporations and resources and the immediate repeal of Bill 26.

Civil resistance does not have to involve large numbers. If on May 1st there were five people sitting in at the Ontario Lottery Corporation office in Sault Ste. Marie; seven pouring blood on the door of Mike Harris' constituency office in North Bay; three chaining themselves to the provincial welfare office doors in Thunder Bay and one hundred blocking traffic in downtown Toronto it would be very difficult for the media to ignore the growing network of resistance and for government officials to claim that "it was just another protest by the paid promoters of Toronto". The issues that prompted the protests would be heard.

The greater the numbers and the more frequent the activities, however, the greater the short and long term impact of the movement.

Other forms of action such as consumer boycotts of major PC donors such as Shoppers Drug Mart (Imperial Tobacco) and Harvey's (CARA) and traditional forms of political activity such as lobbying MPP's should not be put aside in favour of civil disobedience. Such efforts, however, are stronger when other forms of public protest are occurring in parallel efforts.

Ensure the Future

Please consider doing one public act of non-violent resistance in the next four weeks. Consider it carefully. What would you do? With whom would you do it? What are your demands? What preparation do you need? How would you get the word of the action out? If you need help, perhaps with drafting press releases or in non-violence training, call the *Ontario Coalition for Nonviolent Action* at 416-651-5800. The more people that undertake such actions, the greater the chances are that we will be able to ensure that people do not lose their homes, that health care is not slashed and that our schools are able to provide our children with quality education.

On January 29, nine individuals were arrested, myself included, at Queen's Park for trying to hold a prayer vigil on the steps of the legislative assembly. This was one part of a day of protest against the passage of Bill 26th.

The set-date for trial is February 28. It is hoped that this effort of *Toronto Action for Social Change* (416-651-4514) will be just one of many acts of non-violent direct action to help end the attacks on the people of Ontario that are coming from Queen's Park.

THE GULF WAR SYNDROME

By Joe Vials

During late 1995, devastating new evidence on Gulf War Syndrome was released, providing strong scientific support for those who have long suspected the Gulf veterans are suffering short and long term effects of unproven anti-bacteriological warfare inoculations and anti-nerve gas tablets, forcibly administered by U.S. Army doctors in Saudi Arabia.

With thousands of U.S. veterans suffering from Gulf War Syndrome, it came as no surprise to learn in October that several hundred British veterans were suffering in the same way, with three to five new cases being reported every week.

Like their U.S. counterparts, most were puzzled by the origins of the disease, which they initially attributed to exposure to oil-laden smoke in Kuwait, toxic dust from depleted uranium rounds fired by U.S. weapons, and possible contamination from expended Iraqi chemical shells in the area, fired before the Gulf War commenced.

In a startling break with tradition, one British military doctor stated that in her view, 99% of the problems could be sourced back to the anti-bacteriological warfare "cocktail" inoculations, and anti-nerve gas tablets forcibly administered to military personnel in the Gulf region at that time.

In an October 1995 broadcast of the ITN TV World News from London, she further explained that all British military personnel had been provided with the same un-trialed and unproven drugs as the Americans, from the U.S. medical sources.

To reinforce the point she was making, the doctor explained that the number of British personnel suffering symptoms correlated exactly on a per capita basis with the Americans. It was a controversial claim, but apparently lacking in substance.

Shattering confirmation of her claim came eleven hours later when Australian Channel 10 television carried exactly the same story at 8 p.m., but with an extra piece tagged onto the end. The extra piece claimed that French military personnel in the Gulf region, numbering about the same as the British contingent, had been prevented from taking the "cocktails" and tablets on the direct order of the French Commander-in-Chief. The story continued that since the end of the Gulf War, not a single member of the French military has suffered from Gulf War Syndrome or reported any of its known symptoms. By 6 p.m. the same night, when the other Australian television networks ran their news broadcasts, the awesome story with its stunning implications had vanished from sight and was not run by any other Australian TV network. Nor was it reported in the Australian newspapers.

For any scientist or veteran, the fact that the French should be completely clear of Gulf War Syndrome while the Americans and British during 1991, has huge and potentially horrifying implications.

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After all, the French ate the same food, drank the same water, breathed the same air and trudged through hundreds of miles of the same desert. They also fired much the same weapons at much the same target.

So what were the additional environmental variables which made the French unique in their ability to completely withstand the deadly Gulf War Syndrome? The truth is there were none at all, save for the experimental American "cocktail" inoculations and tablets.

To attempt to confirm this very short-lived story, the author contacted the French Military Attache in Australia and inquired if it was correct that the French Commander-in-Chief forbade his own personnel the untested substances. The Military Attache was happy to confirm this, and further confirmed that not one French soldier or airman has suffered since the end of the Gulf War. It seemed to be a subject of which he was very proud, and rightly so. Perhaps it is time for U.S. and British veterans to confirm the same points with their local French consulates, before taking a very hefty legal swing at their own governments.

Carine, Australia (January 6, 1996).

From 1/96 Gulf War Issue of **BLAZING TATTLES**. Other articles in issue: Analysis of recent GWI reports; What happened to Kuwait's oil lakes; Kuwait silent on post-war illnesses; Gulf fires created chemical weapons; DU: Dead children, sick soldiers; "Father of Environmental Illness" dies; Is the globe heating up?; Award winning biological food program; Workshop on nitrogen and ecosystems; Thank you Dupont, Mellon, & Hearst; Conference on biological carbon sinks; Symposium on heart, nerves, & environment; A conservative speaks on sustainability; Bioregionalism; Conference on international env. law; Sleeping in petroleum wastels?; A book for just about everyone; Pesticides and culinary interests.

Claire W. Gilbert, P.O. Box 1073, Half Moon Bay, CA 94019, USA. Email: <blazing@erl.com>. For complimentary copy of February issue ONLY (Valentine & Sex), send stamped, self-addressed envelope to above address.

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Innu Occupy the Military Base at Goose Bay, Sept. 93 (photo by K. Reynolds)

Innu Jailed as Political Prisoners

by: Karl Reynolds

Eight Innu and two supporters served jail sentences of 3 to 10 days last November as a result of a protest at Canadian Forces Base Goose Bay in September, 1993. They had been convicted, along with about 30 others from the Innu settlement of Sheshashit, Labrador, under a criminal charge incongruously called "mischief".

The protest was one of a number of actions that Innu have been provoked to take in response to the military use of their homeland for war games by air forces belonging to three NATO countries.

When the Netherlands sent their Minister of Defence to Goose Bay to negotiate a contract for further training in September 1993, the Innu responded to his visit by surrounding a Dutch F16 bomber jet on the runway at the air force base, located on traditional berry-picking grounds.

They held placards and a banner, written in Dutch. When the military police came to arrest them, they sat under the jet until they were charged and dragged away. It was a peaceful protest.

The activists were sentenced to 14 days in jail, unless they paid fines of \$250. The majority of Innu did not pay, feeling they had paid a high enough price with the invasion of their territory, Nitassinan.

After being processed at the RCMP detachment, the men were taken to the men's "Correctional Centre" elsewhere in Goose Bay. The women were held in the "lock-up", recently built to house many more prisoners than the previous facility.

Inspector John Henderson, head of the RCMP in Labrador, (who until recently had his office on the base), acknowledged the authorities' embarrassment at having Innu jailed as political prisoners. He said he had no doubt about the respectability of the inmates and their purpose and that he hoped to "get this behind us as soon as possible."

After serving one day, the prisoners were approached with an offer for conditional release under the "temporary absence" program which is normally available to

inmates eligible for treatment programs. The strict conditions for release are essentially those of "house arrest".

Four women rejected the conditions and were shipped out to spend another 7 days at the Stephenville Correctional Centre in Newfoundland, after 3 days in lock-up.

The jail was a sort of "catch-all" pen for women with various provincial and federal sentences. Most were much younger than the convicted protesters, and were clearly victims of poverty. Some were held under the Mental Health Act. There was warm-hearted camaraderie among the women, as often happens when disadvantaged people recognize some commonality in their oppression. The inmates showed genuine interest in the issues and protest that caused the Innu to be incarcerated with them.

The Innu women found jail particularly stressful. Their first language is Innu-aimun. One of the women is not fluent in English, and another does not speak it at all. They often thought about their families, who would not have been able to visit them so far from home. They experienced nothing familiar during their time in jail. They clearly did not belong in prison, and it was only the strength of their principles that made the ordeal both necessary and bearable.

There are 17 Innu and one supporter from the same protest action remaining to serve their sentences.

STATEMENT FROM

ELIZABETH PENASHUE:

I would like to thank everyone who has supported Innu in the past. Hopefully you will continue your support.

I often wonder what you all are thinking, because you have not heard from us. It doesn't mean that the struggle has stopped. It just means we are re-evaluating our position, and how best to continue the fight.

Innu women are continuing to meet to discuss the local issues that include low-level flight, family violence, and any other issue that is important to the community.

EMISH ALERT 24 Jan 1996

Registration of Road, Airstrip and other Infrastructure Threatens to Fragment Environmental Assessment of Voisey Bay Project

Innu Nation Calls for Single, Comprehensive Environmental Review

Voisey Bay Nickel Company has registered under the Newfoundland Environmental Assessment Act to build a new camp facility, 12 kilometres of two-lane access road, a dock, and a 1,250 metre airstrip at Emish (Voisey's Bay). According to the company, this infrastructure is intended to support advanced exploration activities by providing improved access and accommodations at the site. The company is seeking permission to begin construction in May, 1996.

The Innu Nation believes that Voisey's Bay Nickel Company (Diamond Fields Resources) is attempting to fragment the environmental review process in an effort to meet short-term objectives and to avoid the expensive delays which can result from a full environmental review. By registering only the above infrastructure, the company is asking the Innu and Inuit, governments and the public to review and comment on the infrastructure outside of the context in which it is being built. We are being asked to review only a part of a major project which is going to have major and irreversible effects on our land, rights and way of life.

The goal of the Innu Nation is to ensure that there is a single, comprehensive federal-provincial environmental review of the whole project: all of the parts of what may eventually be a large nickel mine on Innu and Inuit land. By registering the project in small parts, the company is failing to respect the serious concerns of the Innu about the effects of the whole project on the land, the wildlife and the culture that has sustained us for thousands of years.

The process must provide for a sound, thorough and balanced assessment of the Voisey Bay project. It must also provide for a full and open consultation with the Innu and Inuit to ensure that their concerns are fully incorporated into the guidelines. The process must also ensure preservation of ecosystem integrity, the maintenance of biological diversity, and respect for the right of present and future generations to enjoy the sustainable use of resources and the attainment of lasting social and economic benefits.

The purpose of an environmental assessment is to predict and evaluate the impacts of a project before irreversible decisions are made. Roads and airstrips will have a deep and permanent impact and can only be appreciated and understood in the context of the mine they are intended to serve. Without an opportunity to review and assess the project as a whole, it is impossible to make responsible decisions about whether or not it should proceed. Without a clear picture of the whole project, decisions made today may need to be changed later. This will result in impacts which might have been avoided with proper planning and assessment. Fragmenting the project into parts also

makes it likely that many of the direct, indirect and cumulative effects of the project will be overlooked during subsequent environmental reviews. The Innu and Inuit will have to live with the consequences.



Use of The Innu Nation

Support the Innu Nation's call for a single, comprehensive environmental review of the Voisey's Bay project by:

1) Participating in the public review of the registration of Voisey's Bay Nickel Company's "Advanced Exploration Infrastructure" under the Newfoundland Environmental Assessment Act. Call 1-800-563-6181 or (709) 729-2562 and ask to be put on the public mailing list. Submit your comments to the Minister of the Environment before 16 February, 1996.

2) Writing to the Newfoundland Minister of the Environment, Mr. Kevin Aylward, and the Canadian Minister of the Environment, Mr. Sergio Marchi, urging them to support a single, objective and comprehensive panel review of the Voisey Bay project through a joint federal-provincial environmental assessment process with provisions for direct Innu and Inuit participation.

Hon. Kevin Aylward
Minister of the Environment
Confederation Building
PO Box 8700
St. John's, NF A1B 4J6
tel: (709) 729-2574
fax: (709) 729-1950

Hon. Sergio Marchi
Minister of the Environment
Terrace de la Chaudière
10 Wellington St.
Hull, PQ K1A 0H3
tel: (819) 997-1441
fax: (819) 953-3457

3) Calling, writing or faxing the Voisey's Bay Nickel Company, Diamond Fields Resources and Inco to express your concerns over the fragmentation of the project.

Mr. Rick Gill
Executive Vice-President
Voisey's Bay Nickel Co.
Suite 940 Cabot Place
100 New Gower St.
St. John's, NF A1C 6K3
tel: (709) 758-8888
fax: (709) 758-8889

Mr. Cliff Carson, President
Diamond Field Resources
9th Floor, 200 Burrard St.
Vancouver, BC V7X 1T2
tel: (604) 682-2113
fax: (604) 682-2060

Mr. Michael Sopko, President and CEO
Inco Limited
145 King St. W., Suite 1500
Toronto, ON M5H 4B7
tel: (416) 361-7511
fax: (416) 361-7782

This alert and additional background information about Innu responses to the Voisey's Bay mineral discovery are available on the Innu Nation WWW site: <http://www.web.apc.org/~innu>

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International Days of Action for the Innu and the Earth
March 25 - 31, 1996



The pressure is still on. Demand an end to low-level military flight training in Nitassinan. Last Spring, the federal cabinet approved a flawed environmental assessment while recommending a tripling in the number of flights, a 30% increase in the Innu territory overflow, and new bombing ranges. Demand that no new Multinational Memorandum of Understanding be signed with the European Air Forces.



Oakville Community Centre for peace, ecology & human rights

148 Kerr Street, Oakville, ON L6K 3A7 ph/fax (905) 849-5501 e-mail: occpcnr@web.apc.org

#2-FEBRUARY 1996

EARTHWEEK 1996 WATERWAY'S CLEAN UP

Oakville is a Great Lakes community bordered by water and defined by its harbours, scenic waterway paths, the lakefront and numerous creeks. Our most precious and valuable natural resource, water is for life.

Oakville's waterways are cleaner today thanks to the efforts of more than 250 local environmentally-concerned citizens who participated in the 4th annual EarthWeek Waterways Clean-Up that we organized last April. Volunteers collected over three tonnes of garbage at the six designated locations. Inspired by the Campaign, neighbourhoods organized additional clean ups at four other locations. The clean-up continued in the following weeks at sites needing our attention.

During the past four annual clean-ups, we have removed over 10 tonnes of garbage from the shores of our beautiful lakefront and creeks. We retrieved tires, shopping carts, coffee cups and lids, fast food containers, soft drink cans and bottles, miscellaneous car parts, mattress springs, and more.



In general, the goals of the Clean-Up are to remove garbage from local nature sites and parks, protect wildlife in our community, show off local nature areas, and help people recognize that littering is a problem.

While the Campaign is succeeding in its goal of increasing awareness of the need to keep our waterways free of litter, we must expand the Campaign to include all creeks, the whole lakefront, and longer sections of creeks already being cleaned up.

Even more people and neighbourhoods need to be involved in protecting our waterways. Greater public education is required to stop littering our waterways and to encourage active participation on the clean-up day.

This year we shall be returning once again to the Twelve Mile Creek (Bronte Creek) at the QEW Overpass, Morrison Creek at Oakville Park, and McCraney Park, Sixteen Mile Creek at the GO Station on Old Mill Road and at Lions Valley Park, Joshua Creek, and Bronte Creek Park. We hope to add more locations as teams of volunteers are built.

The Clean Up does not cost the Town of Oakville a nickel. We hope to secure the support of more than 100 organizations. Last year, 80 businesses and other not-for-profit groups financially contributed to the success of the Campaign.

We are again the regional representatives for EarthDay Canada and will be happy to promote all local activities.

Make everyday EarthDay!

by: Dan Silvester

Oakville's Claim to Infamy

Efforts are growing to block a potentially dangerous radioactive waste facility in Oakville.

Canatom Radioactive Waste Services, jointly owned by Monoco Aggra and SNC Lavelin, plans to open and operate the facility following acquisition of both "Change of Use" and "Construction" Building Permits from the Town of Oakville.

LEGAL CHALLENGE

Ever since the Mayor and various Town officials met clandestinely with Canatom between April and November of 1994, the Town has been supportive of the facility and has accordingly offered little resistance. Issuing of building permits to Canatom, therefore, should be forthcoming by late Feb.96.

A small group of genuine citizens are providing the only resistance to the facility, opponents are in an "underdog" position of considerable proportion.

CORP (Citizens Organized for Responsible Process) met with its lawyer, Theresa McClenaghan, on Jan. 20/96 to seek a comprehensive legal opinion. Several options were delineated, but one unique, carefully-thought out legal manoeuvre was recommended in particular.

FINANCIAL SUPPORT CRUCIAL

Unfortunately, this particular strategy will also cost \$15,000 to 20,000, necessitating much successful fundraising. As well, the exact details of the strategy fall under the protection of attorney-client privilege and therefore cannot be revealed at this time.

Still, a letter sent to the Town by Ms. McClenaghan (on Jan. 10/96) emphasizing its "obligation to safeguard its citizens from...serious concerns as to health and safety", as well as admonishing the Town not to issue certain "municipal permits" was met with a quick and brief response by Assistant Town Solicitor, Diana Davidson. Ms. Davidson makes no attempt whatsoever to address Ms. McClenaghan's reference to "serious concerns as to health and safety" but rather focuses instead on the Town's intent "to issue the building permit once the application has been completed to his (the Chief Building Official's) satisfaction".

Ironically, isn't it that the only people who have sufficiently investigated this matter are the very same people who have substantial concerns about the serious health and safety issues relating to it?

CORP must sacrifice considerable time and money to retain legal counsel in an attempt to safeguard the community from such a facility. This is something those with "the power to act" had an obligation to do from the outset.

Make no mistake. CORP stands to gain nothing from such advocacy except for perhaps a safer and healthier community, which is certainly worth fighting for. However, in doing so, it risks losing everything. Ironically the Town has made

no effort to try and work cooperatively with CORP's environmental lawyer, Ms. McClenaghan, despite Town Council's allocation of 10,000 unbudgeted dollars to obtain legal advice from...an environmental lawyer! Such attitudes and decision as those described reflect badly on the underlying values and philosophies of those who have been "accorded the appropriate powers" to protect the public...whoever they might be.

DANCE NUCLEAR BLUES AWAY

CORP is holding a fundraising dinner and dance on the evening of Feb. 24 at St. James School in Oakville. Tickets are \$15.00 for adults and \$7.50 for children between the ages of 7 and 12. A number of draws will be held and prizes given out.

Its important to emphasize that this proposed facility will, eventually, become a dump because, as stated in Canatom's Revision 5, which resulted in the AECB granting Canatom its "prescribed substance licence"... more 45 gallon drums will be coming into Oakville than going out. The result is a net accumulation per year of 290 drums while the maximum storage capacity for the facility is only 200 drums!

Surely the AECB is capable of accurately reviewing a given document submitted to them for possible licensing. Yet, it would appear as though Canatom has, in fact, been issued an invalid license. The health and safety implications of this error is yet another matter.

Tickets for the fundraising dinner/dance can be obtained by contacting Arlene at 827-9815 or Dan at 815-0207. Similarly, should you wish to attend a meeting of CORP the above two individuals will be happy to provide you with the time, date and location. For those unaware of the polemics surrounding radioactive waste and related matters, attending a meeting might offer you the opportunity to get closer to the truth than would otherwise be possible.

"We look forward to sharing what we know with you."



Youth to Celebrate International Women's Day

Friday, March 8, 7 pm to 1 am
at the Knights of Columbus Hall
(Wallace Rd, east of 3rd, south of Speers)

9 local bands,

highlighting women artists!

INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY!

Making It Happen: After Beijing

Saturday, March 16 (10 to 2 PM)

How Can We Keep Making It Happen?

at the: Brant Hills Community Centre
(Brant St. between Upper Middle Rd & Hwy #5)
Bring A Brown Bag Lunch, please. Glynis 637-2463



Bike-A-Thon for a Healthy Oakville

Pick up pledge sheets
from your Peace Centre, on Kerr St.

Cycle for health, the environment,
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Oakville Community Centre
for peace, ecology and human rights

APRIL 20, 1996



EAST TIMOR UPDATE

Number 45 — February 8, 1996

In December 1975, just nine 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 by writing to etantor@web.apc.org. Contact ETAN for more information: PO Box 362, Station P, Toronto, M5S 2T1, (416) 531-5850.

ACTION OF THE MONTH

The new Foreign Minister, Lloyd Axworthy, was a leading supporter of East Timor when the Liberals were in opposition. Letters to Axworthy at this time would be particularly useful. Congratulate the minister on his new job, and stress that you look forward to early Canadian action in support of East Timor. One good first step would be a ban on military sales to Indonesia. Another would be to link trade with human rights, for instance by imposing a freeze on new investments in Indonesia.

Write to your own MP as well, or seek a meeting, to discuss the same points. Some backbenchers have proven very receptive, and spoken out in support of East Timor. You may wish to refer to the comments of Liberal MP Warren Allmand at ETAN's January news conference:

"It is my strong conviction that the Prime Minister and his delegation (to Indonesia) must raise with the Indonesian leaders the fact of the UN Security Council resolutions (supporting East Timor's right to self-determination), publicly demand that the government of Indonesia respect those resolutions, that they cease their human rights violations, and make it clear that if they don't we will play hardball... As I said the Prime Minister made a commitment to support these resolutions as a leader of the opposition."

All members of parliament can be written postage-free at: House of Commons, Ottawa ON, K1A 0A6. If you don't know who your MP is, ETAN can provide their name.

Ambassador's threats spark Canada-Indonesia diplomatic flap

Indonesia's Ambassador to Canada, Benjamin Parwoto, has landed in a diplomatic fluff after visiting the mother of East Timorese refugee Bella Galhos. In January, Parwoto paid a "social call" to Teresa Galhos in Dili, the capital of East Timor. Parwoto's visit came hard on the heels of Prime Minister Jean

Feb. 7. Since Canada has already warned Parwoto not to engage in intimidation of the families of residents of Canada, ETAN has called for him to be expelled.

The whole incident shows that Canada's quiet diplomacy with Indonesia is self-defeating. A more public stance, including measures such as an official arms embargo, is the next logical move.

Suharto shoots; "Team Canada" scores

In January, Prime Minister Jean Chrétien and six provincial premiers (spanning the ideological spectrum from Ontario's Mike Harris and B.C.'s Mike Harcourt) stopped in Jakarta, the capital of Indonesia and the third stop on their "Team Canada" Asian trade mission. The mission inked \$2.7 billion in trade and investment deals, according to a government news release. Even more striking was the figure given in the media briefing before the mission left. According to government figures, Canadian investments in Indonesia

now stand at \$6 billion — double the figure given when Chrétien was last in Indonesia at the end of 1994.

Clearly, the Chrétien government has identified Indonesia as a leading target for Canadian business. The deals signed in Jakarta last month undercut any whispered sentiment that Chrétien may have made to human rights, and to the self-determination of East Timor, in his bilateral meeting with Indonesian President Suharto.

Also on the PM's dance card is his Indonesian visit was vice-president Try Sutrisno, who was commander-in-chief of the armed forces at the time of the Santa Cruz massacre of November 12, 1991. A few days after "the massacre," Sutrisno promised he'd do it again. "These ill-bred people have to be shot... and we will shoot them," he said.

Chrétien also met with research and technology minister B.J. Habibie, supreme of the Indonesian military-industrial complex. Habibie has been implicated in the diversion of reforestation funds for a pet aircraft project, and was instrumental in a massive purchase of the former East German fleet in 1993. Critical reporting on this purchase prompted the Indonesian regime to ban three weekly publications and warn four more that they too would be closed down if they persisted in criticizing Habibie.

As the mission landed in Jakarta, the East Timor Alert Network and Canadian Labour Congress issued a joint call for Chrétien to raise East Timor publicly on the trip. They were

This issue of East Timor Update is focused solely on events in Canada. There has been a lot of news out of East Timor this month, which will be covered in next month's issue. Those looking for more in-depth coverage are invited to take out a free subscription to ETAN's quarterly newsletter — just provide us with your address and phone number.

joined by Warren Allmand on behalf of Parliamentarians for East Timor and Sunera Thobani, president of the National Action Committee on the Status of Women.

Meanwhile, ETAN member Sharon Scharfe, author of *Complicity: Canadian Foreign Policy and East Timor*, was expelled from Indonesia for fear that she would raise human rights and embarrass the Canadian and Indonesian governments during their meetings and contract signings.

Embargo call spreads

The Canadian Conference of Catholic Bishops are the latest group to call on the Canadian government to stop issuing permits for the export of military equipment to Indonesia. In a December letter marking the 20th anniversary of the invasion of East Timor, the bishops joined the Anglican Church of Canada, most of the country's major trade unions, and many other groups in demanding a formal ban on military supplies.

In 1992, Conservative foreign minister Barbara McDougall halted the sale of military goods to Indonesia, in line with Canadian policy that is supposed to ban arms sales to countries at war or where there is a reasonable risk that the arms might be used against civilians. After the Liberals came to power, new foreign minister André Ouellet resumed issuing military export permits, and Indonesia was identified as a key market for "defence products" in the government's International Trade and Business Plan. In 1993 and the first three months of 1994, the Chrétien government issued permits valued at \$5.7 million — an amount equivalent to all the Canadian arms sales to Indonesia in the 1980s.

Several Liberal backbenchers have spoken out against these sales, and sought a meeting with the Prime Minister over East Timor in December. They received no reply.

Media watch

There has been a tremendous amount of media coverage of East Timor in the past few months. Although the human rights situation in East Timor remains appalling, and massive violations continue to prompt hundreds of Timorese to flee, this marks the first time a wave of media coverage in Canada has not been accompanied by bloodshed in East Timor. A package of clippings is available from ETAN.

In addition, CBC-TV's French-language network produced an excellent 15-minute documentary in January. For details, please contact ETAN.



Chrétien's "Team Canada" trade mission to Indonesia (see below).

Parwoto, a retired brigadier-general, dropped in unexpectedly on the Galhos family, accompanied by embassy official Achsen Djaelani and soldiers attached to the local Indonesian military command. They reportedly told Mrs. Galhos to "shut up" her daughter, who has been a vocal critic of Indonesia's occupation of her homeland. They also tried to force her to order Bella home — where her life would no doubt be in extreme danger from the military.

Instead of complying, however, Teresa Galhos called her daughter, the Red Cross, and Carlos Ximenes Belo, the Catholic Bishop of East Timor. Her refusal to stay silent was a remarkable act of courage in a country where military surveillance is pervasive and those who criticize the Indonesian regime meet with arrest, torture and death.

In Ottawa, Bella joined Liberal MP Warren Allmand at a news conference organized by the East Timor Alert Network to denounce the attempt to intimidate her mother and herself. (Bella herself has come in for harassment from the Indonesian embassy, as have other Timorese living in Canada.) And she vowed to keep on speaking out.

The Indonesian embassy tried to claim that "as an Indonesian envoy to Canada, it is his rights and responsibility that Ambassador Parwoto shed thoughtfulness to a mother who was concerned about her daughter's well-being in the country he is accredited to." However, the attempt was met with disbelief by the Canadian media and even the Canadian government. In his first act as the new foreign minister, Lloyd Axworthy ordered a note of diplomatic protest to be issued to Parwoto.

Indonesia, meanwhile, has responded with a similar note of protest to Canada's ambassador in Jakarta. Parwoto himself repeated crudely veiled threats against Teresa Galhos in an interview with Canadian Press on

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20 YEARS OF RESISTANCE TO GENOCIDE IN EAST TIMOR

INTERNATIONAL ARTISTS CD for EAST TIMOR

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- Abé ho Aloz (E. TIMOR / CANADA)
- Memo Acevedo (COLUMBIA)
- Joseph Ashong (GHANA)
- Rick Lazar (MIDDLE EAST)
- Omolara Oyesiku (NIGERIA)
- ... and more



- Stephen Fearing (IRELAND)
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CD RELEASE
Spring 1996

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A RELEASE IS SOON POSSIBLE WITH YOUR SUPPORT*

*To release ASAP, this international grassroots initiative needs your support to raise funds for mastering, manufacturing & distribution.

Please contribute! Net proceeds of international CD sales will be donated to the EAST TIMOR HOPE FOUNDATION, Windsor, ON.

Send form with your cheque(s) or money order to: Abé ho Aloz, Box 1302, Guelph, ON Canada N1H 6N6 • (519) 767-1781

I/we support the project by contributing: \$10 \$25 \$50 \$100 \$250 \$500 \$1000 \$_____ other

I/we having made a donation, would like to: be credited as a contributor; request donation be kept anonymous

Name: _____ Address: _____

Organization: _____ Phone: _____ Fax: _____ E-mail: _____

I/we support the "20" project by pre-ordering _____ CDs at the special price of \$20 each and/or _____ cassettes at \$12 each.

I/we would like to purchase _____ *Abé ho Aloz*: Sing for a free East Timor sampler cassette(s) at the special price of \$5 each.

Include \$4 for shipping and handling. Total enclosed \$_____ (please provide separate cheques for donations and/or orders)

Sing for a Free East Timor

Abé ho Aloz

Abé ho Aloz (Abé & Aloz) officially formed during the 1993 United Nations Year of Indigenous Peoples. *Abé ho Aloz* write, record and perform songs in four languages (Tetum*, English, Portuguese and Indonesian) for their love of the people, culture and country of East Timor and to reveal the global ramifications of the issue.

*Note: 'ho' is Tetum for 'and'

The Issue — East Timor

Tetum is the principal language of this island nation, colonized by Portugal and subsequently invaded by the brutal Indonesian military regime on 7 December 1975. Over one third of the indigenous 1975 population — over 250,000 East Timorese have died since Indonesia invaded. Almost 20 years later, despite United Nations resolutions that acknowledge East Timor's right to self-determination, it is still illegally occupied by Indonesia. This is because many Western countries condone and even assist Indonesia's continued physical and cultural genocide of the East Timorese through investment, aid, diplomatic support and arms and/or military components sales. Some governments have even assisted Indonesia in attempting to remove the issue from the U.N. agenda.

The Artists/Activists

A prolific poet, *Abé* is an exiled East Timorese citizen who has been exploring the boundaries of art and activism through his gentle voice and indomitable desire to bring the plight of his people to world attention. *Abé* is the Canadian representative of the CNRM (Conselho Nacional da Resistencia Maubere), the resistance movement of the East Timorese people. He recently made a significant presentation in Geneva to the United Nations (UNHCR). *Abé's* most recent collection of poetry, "Menari Megeliling Planet Bumi" ("Dancing Around the Planet Earth") was published May 1995 in Amsterdam by Stichting Budaya.

After several years as a successful musician and producer, *Aloz* decided to set aside his career ambitions to more fully devote his life to grassroots activism. He founded H.A.N.D.S. (Helping Activists Network During Strife) and the first Canadian boycott networks of General Electric, helping to move GE out of the nuclear weapons-making business. *Aloz* participates in a cross-section of activist groups and is a member of the International Peace Bureau (IPB), ACT for Disarmament, International Campaign for the Innu and the Earth (ICIE), and Amnesty International — to mention a few. At the 1992 Earth Summit in Rio, *Aloz* networked to increase world attention to East Timor by linking the war machine to the massive destruction of the environment. He then conceived and formulated a project combining his two vocations to reach a wider audience — inspiring grassroots activism through the potential of music.

The two artists/activists, both involved in the East Timor Alert Network (ETAN), then decided to combine their creativity to develop — *Abé ho Aloz* — to passionately sing for a free East Timor!

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