

The newsletter of campaigns and activities of the Toronto Disarmament Network

TDN Launches Emergency Campaign

STOP STAR WARS!

At the Toronto Disarmament Network general meeting April 2 over 70 group representatives and individuals agreed to launch a major Stop Star Wars campaign. The campaign will escalate over

the next 2 months to coincide with the deadline given Canada to decide whether or not to back the space weapons scheme. This plan is part of the TDN education and outreach campaign for this

year which will continue until Disarmament Week in October.

"We're going all out," said TDN spokesperson David Kraft. "We're going to make sure the government knows there is huge opposition to Canadian involvement in further nuclear escalation."

The Stop Star Wars campaign is in 4 stages. The first stage involves mass produced "Lettercards". These pre-addressed cards will be distributed at rallies, public meetings, through the TDN groups and by mail. The first panel of the perforated card is to be sent to Prime Minister Mulroney, the second to an MP of the writers choosing and the third returned to the TDN. The third panel of the card is designed to allow participants to pledge their involvement with other aspects of the campaign. Those supporting the campaign will also be encouraged to write a personal letter to Brian Mulroney and to send letters to the media.

The second part of the campaign involves a mass phone blitz to Brian Mulroney, External Affairs minister Joe Clark, and Defence minister Erik Neilson. Participants will be asked to commit themselves to a certain number of calls per day or week.

Stage three involves fundraising for the placing of major advertisements in newspapers. Stage 4 involves lobbying or picketing of federal MP's either in Toronto or Ottawa.

The "TDN plans will be communicated to peace groups across Canada to encourage similar activities and to link up with other stop Star Wars plans.

—Robert Penner

Star Wars 'dangerous, destabilizing' new paper asserts

The Strategic Defence Initiative (SDI) or 'Star Wars' represents a "dangerous and destabilizing, new escalation of the arms race" according to a paper released by the World Federalists of Canada. The paper outlines the major reasons why President Reagan's plan, which in theory would intercept incoming missiles using advanced weaponry, should be opposed.

The paper quotes from U.S. strategic authorities including Robert McNamara and McGeorge Bundy who state "the (Star Wars program) offers no prospect for leak-proof defence against strategic ballistic missiles."

The paper points out that the Star Wars plan will force the Soviets to respond by trying to develop their own system as well as prompting them to further develop their offensive capabilities.

Even if SDI was successful it would be tremendously destabilizing. It would give the side which was losing the star wars race the impetus to take preventive action if it believed that once the opposing system was in place, it would be vulnerable to nuclear attack or blackmail.

The WFC paper further points out that development of space-based defensive systems would clearly violate the Anti-Ballistic Missile treaty and "would signal a shift from (a deterrent doctrine) to a nuclear war fighting capability"

If defensive systems were deployed the decisions to fire at incoming missiles and launch a counter attack would have to be made in seconds, increasing the risk of accidental nuclear war.

Ernie Regehr, researcher for Project Ploughshares has pointed out recently that the economic arguments for Canada's participation in star wars research would likely produce "hundreds, not thousands" of jobs for Canadians. Past studies have shown that spending on any other area produces more jobs than does military expenditures.

Move-a-Thon to raise funds for Stop Star Wars campaign

Don't miss this opportunity to join hundreds of other peace movers in the annual TDN 'Move-A-Thon' to "put our bodies where our mouths are!"

The goal this year is to have over 500 participants in this exciting and very moving fundraiser. And for some the good news is that you don't have to walk!

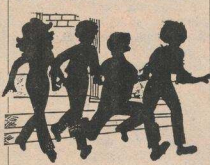
All you have to do is somehow move yourself around the 25 kilometer route and collect pledges for each kilometer you travel.

THE POSSIBILITIES ARE ENDLESS

You can do course walk, run or hobble. But this year you can also roller skate or ride your bike (more than one lap if you can make it) How about dragging a friend along in a wheel barrel. Put wheels on a bathtub and push

your kids-or have them push you. Hop, walk on your hands, crawl or roll. Whatever!

YOU JUST CAN'T DRIVE OR USE A MOTORIZED VEHICLE



Last year almost \$25,000 was raised and divided between the TDN and the TDN group or committee of each participant's choosing. This year peace-supporting non-TDN groups will also be participating and each group that

recruits 10 movers or more will receive 60% of their amount raised. All organizing and expenses are to be covered by the TDN so participating groups need only recruit movers. For smaller and medium-sized groups, there is no better way to raise money.

An average of over \$150 per participant was pledged last year. It is expected that some groups will raise \$3,000 or more for their work and at the same time make a crucial contribution to the TDN.

Last year's event was considered highly enjoyable by the participants and this year's move-a-thon will be just as exciting. It will conclude with a celebration featuring entertainment, food and cash bar at Holy Trinity Church behind the Eaton Centre.

—Lynn Connell

REGISTRATION 11-1 • SUNDAY MAY 26 at CITY HALL • OFFICIAL KICK-OFF 11:30



American weapons analyst William Arkin discusses U.S. nuclear plans at TDN forum.

Analyst tells Canadians about secret U.S. plans

Bureaucratic power was behind the U.S. government's failure to disclose crisis plans to Canada, says the man who made public secret U.S. defence department documents. William Arkin, speaking recently in Toronto on behalf of the TDN, told a crowd of over 200 that Canada was kept in the dark about U.S. plans to deploy nuclear weapons here during wartime, because such a disclosure was not considered necessary by

the Pentagon power elite.

Arkin, in his first Canadian speaking engagement made numerous criticisms of U.S. military secrecy. Arkin noted that Canada was not the only American ally to be treated in this manner. Iceland, Spain, Portugal and four other countries were equally surprised when U.S. deployment plans were disclosed. Describing his meeting in Iceland, Arkin said pro-NATO

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Peace Groups to form National Alliance

VANCOUVER-The peace movement in Canada took a major step forward with the decision taken here to form a national alliance of peace groups. Delegates from 36 major organizations and coalitions from across the country have called a founding convention for the new body to be held in Toronto on November 8, 9 and 10.

The meeting agreed unanimously that the major function of

such a new body would be to increase communication between disarmament organizations, provide a national forum for debate on peace issues, and to facilitate the organization of common actions between peace groups.

There was little dissension on most issues at the Vancouver meeting. The delegates agreed that

See National Alliance, page 2

TDN BRIEFS

Caldicott to speak in Toronto

"Nuclear Madness—A Prescription For Change" is the topic of a speech to be given to Toronto audiences later this month by Dr. Helen Caldicott. Co-sponsored by the TDN and Toronto Nuclear Awareness her talk will deal with issues from Tritium exports to Star Wars.



Dr. Helen Caldicott

Caldicott has been an international leader of the disarmament movement since 1971. She was featured in the film "If You Love

this Planet" and has written "Nuclear Madness" and "Missile Envy."

Caldicott will speak at Convocation Hall at 7:30 on Friday April 12. Tickets should be purchased in advance at the TDN or at one of various other outlets.

Wanted: Computer

Help the peace movement enter the twentieth century. The TDN is in desperate need of a computer to help us with organizing lists and for the writing and preparation of correspondence, literature and documents. Is there someone out there who can donate or loan us a computer?

National Alliance, cont'd.



Representatives from disarmament organizations across Canada meet in Vancouver to lay plans for national alliance of peace groups.

the first steps of any new body should be modest and focus on information exchange and networking. Although not all agreed a new alliance should organize campaigns in its own name, the view that it should be working towards this goal was widely accepted.

An ongoing planning process was elaborated with a 10 member Organizing Committee struck. The organizing group is responsible for ongoing decision making within the planning committee.

The TDN will continue in its role as the facilitator of the planning process. Also on the Organizing Committee is the End the Arms Race coalition in Vancouver, the Winnipeg Co-ordinating Committee for Disarmament, the Newfoundland Coalition of Peace groups, and two delegates from Quebec. National organizations represented are Operation Dismantle, the Voice of Women, Greenpeace and the Canadian Peace Congress.

— Robert Penner

Committee sets plans for International Year of Youth

The TDN Youth Committee has set its plans and goals to mark the International Year of Youth declared by the United Nations. The Youth Committee's three main areas of work have been defined as youth culture, youth issues and outreach.

The Toronto Star recently published a survey which revealed that the greatest concerns of Canadian youth were nuclear war, unemployment and suicide. The Youth Committee, formed by several existing youth groups last year, will be using the opportunity provided by the International Year of Youth to work for change in these crucial areas.

The aim of the Youth Committee is to help form coalitions of youth groups for specific events and to share resources and talents.

An ad hoc committee is already underway and is planning participation in International Youth Day. A joint dance is being planned for May with the World Youth Festival Committee.

A recent outreach meeting expanded the Youth Committee and the further issues call for research on the key issues facing young people in the disarmament movement. One of the priorities facing the youth committee is the involvement of youth in the decision making process.

Last year the Youth Committee focused its activities on gaining recognition, taking an active part in TDN programs and on organizing events such as a youth vigil at Litton.

— Leslie Charbon,
Karen Ruttimann

Member File

Religious groups play important role for peace

Religious groups have traditionally been an important part of the peace movement and this pattern has been carried into the TDN with 8 religious-based peace groups making an important contribution to the peace movement in Toronto.

Many of these groups are participating in a Good Friday event of April 5 entitled 'The Promise of Peace: The Way of the Cross.' Organized by the six year old Ecumenical Holy Week committee, this year's event will begin with a short service at the Anglican Church of the Redeemer to be followed by a candlelight procession ending at the peace garden at City Hall.

Many of the same groups will be participating in events on Pentecost, May 26. There will be a religious gathering in the evening and the United Church Peace Network (UCPN) will be holding a morning service at Metropolitan United Church prior to their participation in the TDN's move-a-thon.

The variety of views and opinions within any given church or congregation concerning peace are as broad and varied as amongst any segment of the population. The groups like the Eglinton United Church Peacemongers, Trinity-St Paul's United Church Peace Group, the Peace and Social Action Committee of Toronto Friends' Meeting (Quakers) — all TDN members or associates — have had to balance their involvement in the broader peace movement with their responsibility within their own community.

Religious outreach beyond the Christian community has been progressing as well, with efforts made by groups such as the World Conference on Religion for Peace attempting to bring together those from non-Christian religious groups. A coalition of Jewish groups, known as the Toronto

Shalom Group has recently joined the TDN as well.

Among the most active religious groups in the peace community is the United Church Peace Network (UCPN). This is a coalition of more than 100 United Church peace groups in the United Church's Toronto conference which extends as far north as North Bay and as far West as Owen Sound.

UCPN co-ordinator Joanne Clarke sees the Network's role as being not only one of co-ordination but of 'empowerment and education'. Through monthly workshops on issues of peace and justice aimed primarily at church members, the UCPN discusses topics such as 'Canada's role in the arms race' and 'the Christian and non-violence'. The UCPN aims at bridging the gap sometimes felt between spirituality and social responsibility.

Another TDN member group, the Christian Movement for Peace (CMP), operates under an even broader mandate. The Canadian CMP is part of a larger international movement which began 60 years ago in post World War One Europe. The ecumenical, unaffiliated and international nature of the organization, along with its venerable age, has allowed CMP to develop a specific theological approach to peace and justice that is not tied to the viewpoints of a particular denomination or congregation. This approach starts from a belief that "peace is not merely the absence of war" but "the active pursuit of justice".

Although the scope and direction of the various religious groups differ, all maintain a common interest in, and support for, local peace activities. They represent the valuable contribution that is made by an important constituency within the broadly-based peace movement in Canada.

— Chelsea Donaldson

Arkin, cont'd.

government officials in that country were "visibly shaken" at the prospect of nuclear weapons on their soil. So tight was secrecy, he said, that State department officials, and perhaps even NATO head Lord Carrington, were unaware that the plans existed.

The existence of the plans brings up larger questions regarding Canada's status as a nation that does not possess nuclear weapons. Arkin expressed the fear that, while Canada does not have nuclear weapons of its own, its role as an accomplice may be growing. At present, Canada allows the U.S. to perform deep water tests here and to dock nuclear weapons-equipped submarines. Should the disclosed plans be carried out, Canada would allow nuclear bomber dispersals at C.F.B. Esquimaux, Cold Lake and at other bases. The Pentagon does not consider these plans an impingement on Canadian sovereignty as the bombs would not be technically on Canadian soil, but rather hanging above the ground from U.S. war planes.

Arkin touched briefly on the

controversial Northern Warning System (NWS), a system designed to prevent a Soviet sneak attack, and told his audience that the proposed \$2 billion renovation was a waste of money. Government claims that the system will strengthen Canadian sovereignty are misguided, he said. Either the system will fail to deliver or, in the event that it works will prove an easy target.

Arkin's Toronto visit was timed to coincide with the Reagan-Mulrone summit in Quebec Revelations, made by Mr. Arkin immediately preceding the summit, forced the government to defend publicly its lack of knowledge or concern about U.S. nuclear weapons plans for Canada.

Returning to the question of Canadian complicity in American programs, Arkin said it is "absurd" to think that the NWS has nothing

GET INVOLVED!

The peace movement needs you!

Volunteers are needed for:

- **Helen Caldwell Speech**
50 people are needed to usher, take tickets and do other tasks before, and on April 12.
- **Move-a-thon**
Movers are needed to help make this May 26 event a huge success (see article page one) If you can't go on the event, you may want to help with logistics and recruitment.
- **Office work**
Take a shift! Volunteers are needed to commit themselves to a regular office shift (answering phones, clerical work etc.) on a weekly or monthly basis. Drops-ins also welcome on the regular volunteer nights every Wednesday from 5-8 pm.
- **Phone Tree**
Our phone tree now reaches 300 people. You can help expand this by adding your name to the tree, agreeing to call 5 people a month or co-ordinating a team that will reach 30 people per month.
- **Committees**
We need your input on the committees which plan TDN events and campaigns. Please contact us for more information. THE PEACE MOVEMENT NEEDS YOU!

DON'T MISS IT!

TDN events for April and May

Friday April 12 Dr. Helen Caldwell speaks at Convention Hall

★ The event begins at 7:30. Tickets are \$5 in advance and \$6 at the door.

★ Tuesday May 7 TDN monthly meeting at 60 Loutham at 7:30.

★ Monthly meetings are the decision making body of the TDN and are always open to groups/individuals and observers.

Sunday May 26 The annual TDN Move-A-Thon

★ Our biggest fundraiser of the year. Funds raised go to the TDN and its constituent groups.

Please plan to participate.



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A great way to fundraise for your organization and support the peace movement.
Consignments available.

to do with 'Star Wars'. Star Wars, he said, as a complete continental defence, would require information from a variety of military bases on the ground. Quoting from a high ranking U.S. military official on the Star Wars connection, he said: "You don't close the doors and windows and leave the roof open".

— Gideon Forman

Yes, I want to be part of a growing movement for peace!

Enclosed is my contribution of
 \$15 \$25 \$50 \$100 (sustaining members)* Other _____
 My contribution is postdated No. of cheques _____ Amount _____
 Charge my Mastercard Visa Account No. _____
 Valid from _____ to _____ Signature _____
 I would like to volunteer _____
 Name _____ Phone _____
 Address _____
 Postal Code _____

Toronto Disarmament Network, 736 Bathurst St., Toronto M5S 2R4 535-8005

*As a coalition TDN decisions are made by member groups and standing committees. Individuals are represented through the TDN group or standing committee on which they are active. 'Supporting' and 'Sustaining Members' refers to the important role contributors play in keeping the TDN active.

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