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the ACTivist

Newspaper of the
ACT for Disarmament Coalition

Volume 4, Issue 1

Winter 1988

pay what you can

Yes to Peace, No to a Nuclear Canada

On Saturday April 23 ACT for Disarmament (Toronto) will hold its 6th Annual Spring Peace Protest. This year's demonstration opposes the dark circle of the nuclear fuel chain in all its aspects. We are calling for:

- the scrapping of the Defence White Paper which proposes buying nuclear submarines for Canada
- an end to the mining and export of uranium
- no transport, export or commercial use of tritium
- cruise missile testing to be stopped

ACT for Disarmament is a peace coalition which, since it was founded in 1983 as the Against Cruise Testing Coalition, has concentrated its energies on organizing demonstrations against Canada's involvement in the arms race. We believe that peaceful public protest is necessary in the global movement for peace and survival.

It was in the aftermath of the April 1986 Chernobyl disaster that ACT began to address the connections between nuclear bombs and power, as do the independent peace movements in both sides of Europe. Our 1986 Hiroshima commemorations were held on the theme of "No more Hiroshimas, no more Chernobyls". In Toronto the 1987 Spring Protest for Peace demanded an end to weapons testing in Canada, no tritium transport or export, and that we remember Chernobyl by stopping Darlington. The 1987 ACT for Disarmament conference adopted a three-fold focus for the coming year:

- getting Canada out of the arms race
- exposing the relationship between nuclear bombs and nuclear power
- promoting East-West dialogue

The April 23rd demands are meant to highlight the role of the Canadian nuclear industry as an integral part of the arms race. By being the world's largest exporter of uranium (the raw material for both nuclear weapons and nuclear reactors), Canada is making a deadly contribution to the nuclear

weapons programmes of the United States, Britain, France and other aspiring nuclear states. Tritium exports to the US will aid their nuclear weapons buildup. The proposed acquisition of nuclear submarines by the Mulroney government is the first open use of Canadian nuclear technology by the military.

Nuclear Subs

The further militarization of Canadian society is implied in the Conservative government's Defence White Paper issued on June 5, 1987. Its goals, shrilly couched in the basest of Cold War rhetoric, raise to new heights Canada's participation in the military bloc system.

In arguing that Canada's credibility and voice in the Western alliance will only be accomplished if we pay our "fair share" for Western defence, the White Paper proposes that towards 4% of our Gross National Product be devoted to "defence". The government wants to spend \$200 Billion over 15 years in order to contribute to the survivability of the United States' strategic nuclear forces". This increased military expenditure would cost every Canadian \$8,000 over the next 15 years.

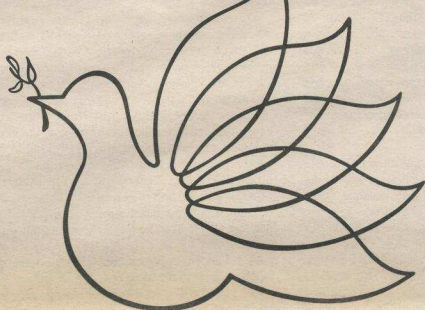
The Defence White Paper assumes that by strengthening our conventional forces in Europe, Canada will contribute to the eventual adoption of a more conventionally-based defence posture by NATO. In truth, Canada will have little say in such matters, and we will only reinforce policy directives taken by the United States. Furthermore, with NATO's strategy for using nuclear weapons to repel a conventional Warsaw Pact attack, the expensive shopping list of new arms for Europe becomes an inventory of what would be destroyed in the first few minutes of any new war in Europe.

Instead of promoting realistic

ACT
FOR
DISARMAMENT
960-2228



APRIL 23



**NO
NUCLEAR SUBS
URANIUM
MINING
TRITIUM
EXPORTS
CRUISE
TESTING**

**YES
TO PEACE**

Ordinary people can make a difference. Canada should be a world leader for peace and disarmament. Protest against Canada's expanding role in the arms race.

On land, water and in sky, the dark circle of the nuclear fuel chain surrounds us all. Canadian production and export of uranium and tritium fuels the arms race and poisons our environment. The testing of the cruise, low-level, bomber flights and the nuclear militarization of the Arctic all contribute to the destabilizing arms race.

Make the connections for peace. Together we can make a difference!

Saturday April 23 Noon-1:30
Music for Peace, Toronto City Hall Queen & Bay
1:30 pm March to Queen's Park

A project of ACT for Disarmament (Toronto) 456 Spadina Av (at College) M5T 2G8
SIXTH ANNUAL SPRING PEACE PROTEST

scenarios of increasing security through diplomacy, the White Paper actually serves to undermine existing arms control measures. This is the case with the most eccentric of the White Paper proposals, the launching of nuclear-powered attack submarines in the Arctic.

The federal government wants to purchase 10-12 nuclear subs. The government estimates that these foreign-produced subs will cost \$7 Billion over 20 years. Critics suggest that the cost will be 2-3 times as much.

At a time when the peace movement looks forward to further substantial arms-reduction agreements by the superpowers, the Mulroney government raises the Cold War stakes with its proposed nuclear subs purchase. Counter to their own arms control objectives of maintaining a stable deterrence, the White Paper seriously increases international tensions. As part of the US Navy's new Forward Maritime Strategy, Canadian nuclear subs will be integrated

into the aggressive US first-strike nuclear war fighting strategies.

With the introduction of nuclear subs, Canada will become the 6th country in the world to use nuclear technology for military purposes. What little diplomatic credibility Canada now possesses in the global effort to curb the spread of nuclear weapons will be seriously eroded.

(See p. 4

ACT for Disarmament Coalition: IN ACTION

Refusing the Cruise

The cruise missile flew again this January, with two more flights going ahead despite the recent INF agreement which supposedly banned cruise missiles from Europe.

On January 19, the date of the first cruise test of 1988, ACT for Disarmament held protests in seven cities. Local Conservative MPs were picketed in Hamilton, Peterborough and Oakville. At St Catharines City Hall 20 people heard speeches from Tracy Leahy of ACT Niagara and Olga Keith of the World Federalists, then marched through downtown. Successful protests were also organized by ACT Thunder Bay and ACT Vancouver.

In Toronto, over 100 people joined the largest protest of the day at the US Consulate. Other Toronto peace groups, including North York for Peace, the Toronto Disarmament Network and the UoF Campaign for Nuclear Disarmament staffed polling stations around the city where they asked people to vote or against the cruise test.

Other groups which held public protests were Brantford Youth for Peace, the Nuclear Awareness Committee in London (Ont), the North Bay Peace Alliance, the Sault Ste Marie Peace Association, and the Alberta Citizens Anti-Cruise Coalition in Edmonton. International protest extended further than ever, to New York City, Britain and West Germany. For the first time, opposition to cruise testing also came from independent activists in East Berlin. ACT for Disarmament thanks all these friends for their solidarity.

When a second cruise test was announced for January 22, demonstrators gathered at the office of Toronto cabinet minister David Crombie. Simon Threlkeld of ACT Toronto read a list of demands, but discussion was cut short when Crombie was rushed off to another appointment. Demonstrators in Oakville got even less response (see report this page).

On January 23, "Saturday After" demonstrations were held in three cities. Toronto marchers gathered at Conservative Party headquarters and marched in a snow storm to the Peace Garden at City Hall. The 200 activists sang and chanted, then listened to speeches by Dan Hoag (MP - Spadina), Stephen Dankowski of ACT Toronto and members of Brant Youth for Peace who had travelled to Toronto for the march.

ACT Vancouver held a rally one hour prior to the usual one, which turned out larger than the traditional event, drawing 56 people and one dog. Sue Moore of ACT Vancouver MC'd, the speeches were kept short, and a totally different dynamic was created, with live music and free coffee. Statements of support were read from Mike Harcourt, leader of the provincial NDP and the leader of the BC Liberal Party. The demonstration was endorsed by a slew of area peace groups, most notably the newly-formed Students' Peace Activist Movement (SPAM).

A short symbolic action was also held at a downtown St Catharines intersection, with about 15 people. ACT Niagara members at Dennis Morris High School have now started a petition for a referendum on whether to declare their school a nuclear-free zone.

Future cruise tests: We'd like to be able to say we've seen the end of cruise testing for this year, but more are allowed under the terms of the testing agreement. On the day of the next test, ACT Vancouver is planning an arrest-risking action at the External Affairs office and accompanying picket. ACT Toronto will occupy Employment & Immigration Minister Barbara MacDougall's office and invite supporters to join a solidarity picket outside or phone MacDougall's office during the day. In other locations, contact your local ACT for Disarmament group.

The peace movement in Oakville has been revitalized by protests against this January's cruise missile tests. Members of ACT for Disarmament - Oakville have held pickets and sit-ins at Halton MP and federal cabinet minister Otto Jelinek's constituency office on the announced date of every cruise test. The debate over cruise testing has been covered extensively in the twice-weekly community newspaper, the *Oakville Beaver*.

Tues Jan 19: A group of protesters, some just returned from an earlier demonstration in Toronto, unfurl a banner with the words "Against Cruise Testing, Against Nuclear War" on Lakeshore Road downtown. The protest ends with a mock cruise missile crashing into Jelinek's office.

At this protest ACT Oakville presents a series of demands to Otto Jelinek:

- that his government renounce cruise testing

- that more than 48 hours notice of future cruise tests be given
- that a commitment not to test new weapons systems like the "stealth cruise missile" be made
- that land-based cruise missiles banned by the INF treaty not be replaced by sea and air-launched cruise missiles
- that both military blocs be dissolved, beginning with Canada leaving NATO
- that the right to protest, in both east and west, be recognized

Jelinek refuses to meet with the protesters or respond to their demands, calling them "misinformed".

Fri Jan 22: The second cruise test within a week is cancelled, but a demonstration at Jelinek's office goes ahead. Around 30 activists, mostly from Oakville high schools, picket and sit in, then support an ACT Toronto-initiated phone blitz of cabinet minister David Crombie's office.

Sat Jan 23: Several ACT Oakville members travel to Toronto for the "Saturday After" demonstration.

Mon Jan 25: The cruise test originally scheduled for Friday finally happens. Again, Otto Jelinek ignores protesters sitting in at his office, saying he has better things to do than talk to them.

ACT Oakville's future plans include sending a bus-load of activists to the April 23 demonstration in Toronto (tickets are \$5 each - less than the GO train fare!), participating in the Oakville Peace Festival on June 12, holding a series of educational forums on peace issues at St Jude's Church, and setting up a high school peace network across Oakville.

Together we are making a difference!



Protest group misinformed: Jelinek
Cruise missile protest



Otto Jelinek: policy unchanged

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The ACTIVIST is the newspaper of the ACT for Disarmament Coalition. Its purpose is 3-fold:

- 1) to present the views of ACT;
- 2) to provide a forum for debate within the peace movement, and;
- 3) to act as a source of information on events and campaigns which are of importance to the peace movement.

Signed articles do not necessarily reflect the viewpoint of the ACT Coalition or the editorial collective. Contributions of articles and photos are always welcome. All articles may be reproduced without permission.

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Peace: Locally and Globally

Draft Resistance East and West

In 1986, Jacek Czaputowicz, an activist with Poland's Freedom and Peace movement, was jailed for refusing to be conscripted into the Polish army. A campaign for his release by independent peace groups worldwide, including ACT for Disarmament, was successful in obtaining his release. Czaputowicz was recently invited to meet with US Vice-President George Bush - then abruptly disinvited. Why? He had planned to raise the case of imprisoned American draft resister Gyllam Kerley.

Meanwhile, Kerley is temporarily out of jail pending the results of his appeal against a 3-year sentence handed down for his refusal to register for "military service". Contact: Committee Against Registration and the Draft, 731 State St, Madison WI 53703, United States. For information on Poland's Freedom and Peace, contact ACT Toronto.

White Rose vs. NAVSTAR

The NAVSTAR satellite system is one of the most dangerous new high-tech military systems now under development. When activist Katya Komisaruk entered Vandenberg Air Force Base in California (in what she called the White Rose action) and damaged NAVSTAR-related computers, the reaction was swift and vicious. She has been sentenced to 5 years in prison and fined \$500,000 on the off-chance she might try to write a book about her experiences. Contact: Katya Komisaruk Defence Collective, 1716 Felton St, San Francisco CA 94134. Canadian Defence Committee: 325 Mutual St, Toronto ON M4Y 1X6, phone (416) 934 7020.

Bombers Over Ontario

If the US Air Force has its way, B-52 and F-111 bombers will soon be practising nuclear first strike strategies over northern Ontario, in a corridor which overflies wilderness from Sault Ste Marie to NORAD headquarters at North Bay. The Canadian government has already given permission for low-level flight testing similar to that already being done over Innu lands in Labrador. Another testing corridor in BC is also under consideration, ending at Comox on Vancouver Island. Corridors in New Brunswick and near Baguville Quebec are also in regular use.

Protests and lobbying by northern peace and ecology groups was successful in raising the flight ceiling over two provincial parks to give limited protection to wildlife, but only managed to postpone the start of the flights. A number of creative protests are planned to prevent yet another part of Canada from being turned into a testing ground for nuclear war games. Contact: North Bay Peace Alliance, PO Box 264, North Bay ON P1B 8H2.



"Nuclear Spy" Held

Mordechai Vanunu, who worked for years as a nuclear technician at Israel's Dimona nuclear reactor, quit his job last year and made public proof that Dimona was being used to produce not only nuclear power, but also nuclear weapons. An alarming discovery, in the already

polarized and unstable Middle East. Shortly after, Vanunu was kidnapped by Israeli agents and disappeared. He has since resurfaced in an Israeli jail, charged with treason, and sentenced to 18 years in prison. Vanunu's lawyer has appealed the decision.



Nuclear Resistance 1987

The number of arrests for anti-nuclear civil disobedience in the United States and Canada increased in 1987 by nearly 60% over recent years, to a total of over 5300. This equals the record number set in 1983. About 400 of the total were for protesting nuclear power, uranium mining and related projects. Of total arrests, 95 were in Canada, during nine actions at three different sites, including the Nanossee Bay BC submarine test range (see last issue) and the Department of National Defence in Ottawa.

Popular Summit

This June, the leaders of the seven major Western economic (and military!) powers will be in Toronto for their annual economic summit. Citizens' groups have joined together to plan protests and alternative event to the presence of Ronald Reagan, Margaret Thatcher, Francois Mitterand, Brian Mulroney and friends. When the leaders arrive on Sunday June 19 they will be greeted by

a large demonstration. Activists are expected to attempt a citizens arrest of at least some of the leaders for their crimes against humanity. There will also be two alternative conferences: "Crimes of the Official Terror Network" on June 1-2, organized by the Alliance for Non-Violent Action (PO Box 235, 253 College St, Toronto ON M5T 1R5) and the Popular Summit Alternative Conference the following weekend. For details on other events being planned, contact the Popular Summit Facilitation Committee, PO Box 111, Station C, Toronto ON M6J 3M7, phone (416) 537 3520 or 921 9730.

Canada Shells Sacred Island

Every two years Canada participates in the RIMPAC military exercises with the United States, Japan and Australia. During RIMPAC, the Hawaiian island of Kaho'olawe is used for shore bombardment and shelling practice. The island is of important cultural, religious, historic and scientific value to Hawaiians, and is a recognized US Historic Site. Despite demands from the people and government of Hawaii, the Canadian navy continues to use Kaho'olawe for target practice. In 1984 and 1986, Canada was the only country to do this. (This year Britain's Ark Royal will also participate.) RIMPAC 88 military exercises will likely start this May, and Defence Minister Perrin Beatty has confirmed that Canada will again be shelling Kaho'olawe. Contact: South Pacific People's Foundation, 409-620 View St, Victoria BC V8W 1J6.

German Activists Arrested

Following an attempt by more than 100 people to take part

with their own slogans in an official demonstration on January 17, the East German authorities have mounted a series of arrests and trials of independent peace, ecology and human rights activists. 30 were arrested at the demonstration itself after hoisting a banner quoting Communist Party founder Rosa Luxemburg's remark that "freedom is only freedom for those who think differently". Some activists have been deported to the West, and five members of the "Initiative for Peace and Human Rights" in East Berlin are charged with treason against the state for their contacts with peace activists in West Berlin. ACT Niagara has networked protest in support of the activists across North America, and will send more information on request.

Warships Vote

After a debate which lasted five hours, with speakers from church, peace and veterans groups, Vancouver City Council voted down a proposal to urge the government to ban nuclear warships from Canadian ports. Warship visits to Vancouver harbour this summer were the target of more peace protests than ever (see the last issue of *The Activist*). Vancouver has long had a reputation as a "peace city" in the rest of Canada, and Council has annual sponsored the city's annual spring peace walk (set this year for April 23). This may be changing. For more information contact ACT Vancouver.



Tritium Cavalcade

After months of preparation, a cavalcade which included close to a hundred cars throughout the day travelled from the Bruce nuclear station on Lake Huron to the Darlington station last April 9. The route was that which will be followed by tritium trucks across some of the most densely-populated parts of Ontario. Rallies in Orangeville, North York, Scarborough, Pickering and at the gates of Darlington opposed Ontario Hydro's planned transport and export of tritium. The demonstrating drivers heard a speech from Ontario opposition leader Bob Rae among many others. Contact: Nuclear Awareness Project, PO Box 2331, Oshawa ON L1H 7V4, or Orangeville Citizens for Peace c/o Randy Dryburgh, RR#3, Conn ON N0G 1N0.

PEACE EDUCATION

Ukrainian Peace News is a thick tabloid newspaper surveying independent peace and labour activity in the USSR and Eastern Europe. The latest (double) issue was released in late 1987 and includes feature sections on Afghanistan and Chernobyl, articles on youth in the Ukraine and Russia, and an essay on "Peace and Human Rights" by ex Soviet political prisoner Yuri Orlov. Subscription information from: Ukrainian Peace Committee, 168/10 Kings Road, London W6 0QU, UK.

Peace Magazine is Canada's premier general interest peace journal. A lively letters page,

news of war and peace from Canada and around the world, interviews with activists, book reviews and a national listing of peace activities are some of its features. Peace Mag also incorporates *Disarmament Campaigns*, an international networking bulletin from the Netherlands. \$15/yr (6 issues) from CANDIS, 736 Bathurst St, Toronto ON M5S 2R4, phone (416) 533 7581.

Want to stay informed about what's happening in peace education? *Peace Education News* carries information on new resources, upcoming events, news from across the country, and what's going on internationally. Pitched to both

teachers and the general public, it promotes effective, balanced and responsible education about peace and security issues to ensure that educators across Canada can communicate and share resources and ideas. \$18/yr (4 issues) from Canadian Peace Educators Network c/o the Pembina Institute, PO Box 839, Drayton Valley AB T0E 0M0, phone (403) 542 6272.

Also available from CPEN is the Canadian Peace Educators' Directory, an annotated listing of organizations and agencies which includes an overview of peace education. The cost is \$10, with reduced rates for more than one copy.

The Coming of World War Three by Quebec peace activist Dimitrios I. Roussopoulos is a two-volume analysis of both the international peace movements and the international war system. Roussopoulos believes that unless both activists and the public begin to see the issues clearly and take action, a third world war will happen. Volume 1, *From Protest to Resistance*, is available from Black Rose Books, 3981 boul. St Laurent, Montreal PQ H2W 1Y5. Volume 2, *A New Agenda, From Resistance to Social Change*, is expected out soon.

Submarines use 97% uranium 235. Commercial reactors use about 4% U-235. As current Canadian uranium export agreements preclude Canadian uranium being enriched for military purposes, Canada will have to buy enriched uranium from a nuclear weapons state. No doubt such a state will demand back the plutonium from their spent U-235 fuel used in our subs. As we will have no control over that, the plutonium will no doubt end up in more nuclear weapons.

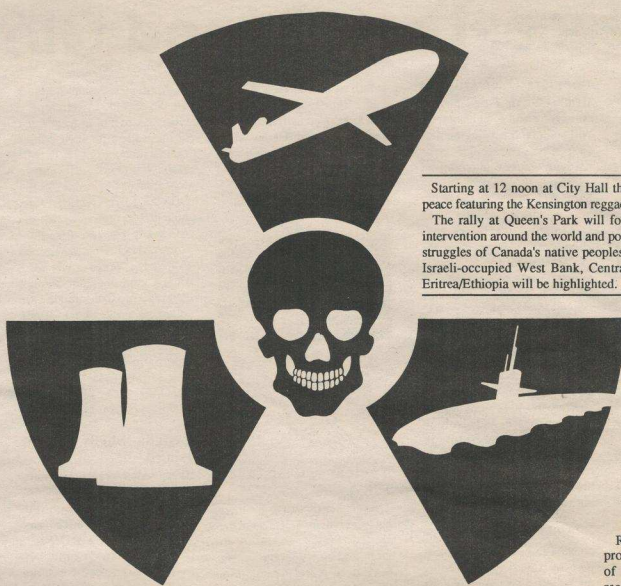
Nuclear subs have experienced accidents. To date, several have sunk with the radiation leaking out into the currents of oceans. Consider the ecological nightmare of an accident in the Arctic. There could be a fire on board; the oxygen gets used up fast; the sub must surface; but, it can't because of the ice! The sub could hit an ice keel and split open. The fragile ecosystem of the Arctic would be destroyed forever.

Nuclear subs will add nothing to Canadian Arctic sovereignty. Subs are not seen and can do nothing to ward off an intruding sub short of blowing it up! Clearly, any combination of surface vessels, air and satellite surveillance, and underwater stationary monitoring devices would better promote Arctic sovereignty.

Another frightening proposal in the White Paper is a solitary, one-line mention of the Defence Department's plans to take part in ADI, or the US Air Defence Initiative. ADI is being designed to defend against bombers and cruise missiles, while SDI or Star Wars allegedly provides protection against ballistic missiles. The Canadian government said that it would not participate in SDI. So why participate in ADI? Both are recipes for instability.

With the militarization of the Arctic, the total militarization of all regions in Canada will be completed. Canada is a nuclear battlefield! NORAD, SDI, ADI, the North Warning System, and now nuclear subs patrolling the Pacific, Arctic and Atlantic coastlines are all elements of a militaristic timetable for accelerating the integration of Canada into US nuclear war fighting strategies.

Not content with a Fortress America, US military strategies desire a Fortress North America. Willingly, the Mulroney government acquiesces to their desires.



Uranium

Canada is the western world's largest producer and exporter of uranium. Without purchases and investment from abroad, coupled with extensive government subsidization, the Canadian uranium industry could not survive.

It is simply not possible to separate the civilian and military nuclear industries. Some of the same processing facilities are used in the production of nuclear fuel for "peaceful" reactors as in the production of the two critical explosive components of nuclear bombs, plutonium and uranium. Canadian uranium mines directly and indirectly supply nuclear weapons programmes.

This has been going on for 50 years. Canada provided the uranium for the Manhattan Project, which created the bombs used on Hiroshima and Nagasaki. Although official policy says no Canadian uranium is to be used in nuclear weapons, our exports to the US are not separated from American uranium destined for their weapons programme. As government officials have admitted "there's no way to put

a Canadian flag on a uranium atom".

And it's not just the Americans who build bombs with our help. Both France and South Korea own major stakes in Canadian uranium mines. France is an aggressive nuclear power, while the military government in South Korea, according to the US Congress, will soon be able to produce 36 plutonium bombs a year.

Even the Soviet Union is a customer. If nothing else, a Canadian uranium frees up their own supplies for nuclear weapons.

While uranium exports fuel the arms race, uranium mining poisons the environment. It has a catastrophic effect on the area immediately around the mine and contaminates the downstream region. The large volumes of liquid and solid waste remain hazardous for thousands of years. Radioactivity from the wastes accumulates in plants and animals downstream to a level thousands of times the surrounding water concentration. This contamination can eventually find its way into people. The accidental release of waste is

Starting at 12 noon at City Hall there will be a free concert for peace featuring the Kensington reggae band Imagine.

The rally at Queen's Park will focus on the theme of military intervention around the world and political repression at home. The struggles of Canada's native peoples and the ongoing wars in the Israeli-occupied West Bank, Central America, Afghanistan and Eritrea/Ethiopia will be highlighted.

quite common and all attempts to limit its spread have been unsuccessful.

Downstream from the Rabbit Lake mine in Saskatchewan (where the destruction of the Wollaston Lake Indian band continues), lead, arsenic and uranium levels exceed government standards, while the standards themselves are above safe levels for human drinking water and aquatic life. A government licence to operate a uranium mine is a licence to kill. There is no known method of stopping the spread of contamination from uranium mine wastes. Despite all this, the Canadian government allows exploration and new mining to go ahead.

Tritium

Tritium is a radioactive form of hydrogen gas, produced as a waste product by Ontario Hydro's CANDU reactors. For the safety of workers and surrounding communities, tritium must be removed from the reactors. There are plans to transport and export tritium, and to use it commercially. These plans could kill people, cause cancer and fuel the arms race.

Only one five-hundredth of a gram (seventy millionths of an ounce) is a fatal dose. One billionth of a gram could cause cancer if inhaled, ingested or absorbed through the skin.

One five-hundredth of a gram can kill a person, but in a nuclear bomb, two grams could destroy a city. Tritium greatly increases the blast effect of nuclear weapons. However, it decays quickly, so most of the weapons would soon die of old age without it.

Recently, the US cut back production of tritium because of fears about the safety of reactors in which it is made.

Canadian tritium could be mixed in with US stocks and even used directly in nuclear weapons. At best, it would free up American supplies for this purpose. Ontario Hydro claims that tritium will be used for fusion research, but ignores the military spin-offs this "civilian" research has.

Hydro is planning to cut costs by building only one tritium removal facility at the Darlington nuclear plant east of Oshawa. Heavy water contaminated with tritium will be shipped by truck from the Bruce and Pickering plants along routes which include Highway 401 through heavily-populated North York and Scarborough. One truck will carry enough tritium to kill thousands of people. In 1985, one tractor trailer in ten had an accident. The transportation danger could be easily eliminated by building separate tritium removal facilities at Bruce and Pickering - for less than 2% of the \$11 billion to be spent on Darlington.

The nuclear industry plans to create a need for tritium in phosphorescent lighting. A set of airport lights could contain up to ten grams of tritium. Imagine the effects of a leak, or of someone stealing the lights! Ten grams of tritium is enough for up to ten one-megatonne nuclear weapons.

Yes to Peace

What do we want?

Peace!

When do we want it?

Now!

What are we going to do if they don't give it to us?

Act for disarmament!

