

DISARMAMENT WEEK.

# CANADIAN PEACE PLEDGE

## VOTING CANADA OUT OF THE ARMS RACE

Facilitated by the Canadian Peace Alliance  
555 Bloor St. West, Suite 5, Toronto, Ontario M5S 1Y6  
(416) 588-5555

### NEWS RELEASE

#### MAJOR CAMPAIGN LAUNCHED TO MAKE PEACE AND ELECTION ISSUE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

REGINA--MARCH 1, 1987--A major cross Canada campaign to make peace a central issue in the next federal election was agreed to by peace groups from across Canada at a weekend meeting here, organizers said.

"We're going to change the politicians minds or else change the politicians" said David Kraft of the Toronto Disarmament Network at a news conference at the conclusion of the three day meeting.

The Canadian Peace Pledge--Voting Canada Out Of The Arms Race campaign aims to work between now and the next federal election to build political and public support for the following goals:

--Stop all Canadian involvement in, and support for, Star Wars--work for the peaceful use of space.

--Make Canada Nuclear Weapons Free: end cruise missile testing, bar nuclear armed warships from Canadian waters, end low flight testing and training and end production of nuclear weapons components.

--Work for the U.S., U.S.S.R and other nuclear powers to end all nuclear weapons testing. Canada should participate and support international verification arrangements.

Joanne Dufay of the Regina Coalition for Peace and Nuclear Disarmament said the campaign would include a "Peace Pledge Card" which voters sign pledging to support only those candidates who would work for the above demands. "The majority of the public support these goals, we must now work to see that this support turns into votes for peace during the next election" she said.

...MORE

Locally peace groups will gather pledges to prove to candidates that there is a significant peace vote to be won or lost in their constituency. Public events, all candidates meetings on peace, and a questionnaire to politicians will be undertaken to convince local candidates to declare their support for the campaigns goals.

National strategies planned include: political lobbying, advocacy advertising, working for a national political debate on peace issues and coordinated cross Canada events.

The campaign will not be strictly limited to the electoral arena. The campaign's subtitle will vary to reflect the wide diversity of tactics employed by participating organizations.

The name "Canadian Peace Pledge" was chosen in reference to the voter's pledge card and also to emphasize the campaign's desire to see Canada as a nation, pledging to take concrete action internationally to help secure peace and nuclear disarmament.

The campaign was launched after extensive discussion by peace groups from across Canada. The outline of the campaign was decided last November at the convention of the Canadian Peace Alliance and referred back to participating groups for further debate. Final agreement on campaign details was hammered out during the Regina meeting of the CPA Steering Committee this weekend. Present at the meeting were representative delegates from 22 regional and 12 national groups from across Canada.

"This will be one of the largest coordinated efforts ever undertaken by the peace movement in Canada", said Leyla Raphael from the Montreal-based La Conference Mondial des Religions Pour la Paix.

Hundreds of local and national groups are expected to become the sponsoring organizations of the campaign.

The campaign will be facilitated nationally by the Canadian Peace Alliance which is an association of 350 Canadian peace related organizations.

Materials production, fundraising and further planning are now underway and the campaign should begin within several weeks, the organizers say.