

1. PEACE IS A CIVIC MATTER

1.1 THE SPECIAL ROLE OF MUNICIPALITIES IN WORKING FOR PEACE

In the past few years, there has been a remarkable growth in the peace movement in Canada. This growth has been amplified by the increasing support of disarmament initiatives by civic governments. The special role played by municipalities in the public opposition to the arms race is a result of the close relationship between civic governments and the public. Civic governments are often more accessible and accountable to the community. Local organizations and individuals are permitted, and even encouraged, to have a say in policy-making. Most individual members of City Council are approachable and willing to listen; and City Council meetings frequently include presentations from the public. For these reasons, municipal governments are much more responsive to people's concerns and desire for change. Federal and provincial governments are often much slower to respond to changes in public perceptions.

Peace groups in particular have found civic governments accessible and responsive. Cities and towns are a natural organizing base for the peace movement. City coalitions have been formed in most larger centres, and smaller municipalities usually have their own peace group. A close working relationship has often developed between the local peace group or coalition and those members of city council supporting peace. Because the federal government is particularly inaccessible and less sensitive to public opinion on nuclear policy, peace groups find city councils to be a valuable and powerful ally in pressuring the federal government on peace issues.

Another reason for the special role that has emerged for civic governments in working for peace is that cities and towns would be the primary targets in a nuclear war. The only nuclear bombs ever used in war were dropped on cities. In a recent letter, the mayors of Hiroshima and Nagasaki urged cities to become actively involved in the search for peace:

"When we consider that in war, especially nuclear war, people of the cities suffer most, it becomes obvious that cities, scientific research institutes, press agencies, civilian organizations, and also each individual must work diligently in the search for peace".

1.2. JURISDICTION AND LEGAL ASPECTS

Those opposed to civic governments taking positions on peace and disarmament issues often use the argument that peace is not a civic matter. They argue that peace is beyond the jurisdiction of cities, and may even be illegal for municipalities to deal with such issues. However, there are strong arguments that municipalities do have both a legal and a moral right to be involved in peace issues. In 1982, an Oak Bay resident went to court to argue that it is illegal for cities to spend money on a disarmament referendum, since such questions are not within the jurisdiction of municipalities. The Municipal Act of B.C. states that a local referendum can be held in B.C. on "any question which affects the municipality and with which the council has the power to

deal". The implications of this wording was the key point in contention during the Oak Bay case. On Nov. 17, 1982, B.C. Supreme Court Justice Patricia Proudfoot decreed that questions about nuclear disarmament on municipal ballots were legal because the nuclear arms proliferation affected "...not only the municipality but the entire universe". This ruling firmly established that municipalities have the right not only to speak, but also to spend time and money, on peace issues.

The federal government has also implicitly recognized the right of municipal governments to be active in promoting disarmament. A pamphlet published by Emergency Planning Canada in 1980 stated that "under constitutional arrangements, initial responsibility for handling most emergencies lies with the municipal, provincial and territorial governments. Each is responsible for its own emergency program. Most emergencies are dealt with by the municipalities in which they occur". The pamphlet defines emergencies as "everything from floods to nuclear war". Since it is widely recognized that the only solution to nuclear war is prevention, this federal government pamphlet implies that municipal governments have the "initial responsibility" for preventing nuclear war by promoting disarmament.

As well as the legal right, municipal governments also have the moral responsibility and duty to work for peace and disarmament. Ending the arms race and preventing nuclear war is not just one of many issues we face in this complex world, it is the one single issue at which we must succeed if any other issue, or thing, or person is to matter. Preventing nuclear war is not just the responsibility of one group of people, or one level of government, or one political philosophy - it is the responsibility of everyone. Because the very existence of the human species is at stake, there is no place, organization, or chamber where discussion and action on this issue is out of place or inappropriate.

Albert Einstein once said that "mere praise of peace is easy, but ineffective. What is needed is active participation in the fight against war and everything that leads towards it." The time is past when any person, institution, or level of government could leave the threat of nuclear war to be solved by others.

1.3. WHAT CITIES HAVE DONE FOR PEACE

In recent years, municipal governments have compiled an impressive list of achievements in advocating and working for peace and disarmament. Perhaps the most important measure undertaken by municipalities has been the declaration of particular towns and cities as nuclear weapon free zones (NWFZ). By prohibiting the deployment, production, transit or storage of nuclear weapons or their components in a particular region or municipality, NWFZs help to restrict the spread and expansion of the nuclear arms race. As well, by declaring itself to be a NWFZ, a town or city symbolically conveys to the leaders of the world the active opposition of the citizens of a designated region to the continuation of the nuclear arms race. The United Nations General Assembly endorsed the concept of NWFZs on June 30, 1978 in a resolution that stated "the process of establishing such zones in different parts of the world should be encouraged, with the ultimate objective of achieving a world entirely free of nuclear weapons". Already over 2800 towns and cities from 17 countries have declared themselves to be NWFZs. In New Zealand, the federal government de-

clared the whole nation to be a NWFZ as a direct outcome of earlier NWFZ declarations by the vast majority of that country's towns and cities. As of January 1986, there are over 80 Nuclear Weapon Free Zones in Canada, including major cities such as Toronto, Vancouver, Hamilton and Regina. In B.C., there are 30 towns and cities that have been declared NWFZs by their local governments. (See Appendix 1 for a complete list of Canadian NWFZs.)

In 1982 and 1983, approximately 200 Canadian municipalities conducted public referenda on general disarmament. In every case, the public voted to support disarmament, with an average support of 76.2% of the voters. Another important action that has frequently been taken by civic governments is to pass a motion urging the Government to change its position on a particular disarmament issue. For example, 91 Canadian municipal councils have passed motions endorsing a mutual and verifiable nuclear weapons Freeze. Many councils are also on record as opposing cruise missile testing in Canada. A wide variety of other disarmament measures have been undertaken by civic governments across the country, including the co-sponsoring of peace marches, organizing public education events and activities, dedicating a peace garden, establishing a special council committee on peace, and forming sister-city attachments with towns and cities in the Soviet Union.

1.4. FIRST WORLD CONFERENCE OF MAYORS FOR PEACE

The participation of towns and cities in promoting peace received further momentum from the First World Conference of Mayors for Peace Through Inter-City Solidarity held in Japan in August, 1985. The conference was attended by the mayors of 98 cities from 23 countries, and was hosted by the mayors of Hiroshima and Nagasaki. In his declaration to the conference on August 6, 1985 marking the 40th anniversary of the atomic bombing of his city, Hiroshima mayor Takeshi Araki said:

"Hiroshima, an A-bombed city, has been devoting itself to building a city dedicated to peace - a living symbol of the ideal of lasting world peace. It is in this spirit that we are hosting the First World Conference of Mayors for Peace through Inter-City Solidarity this year, for it is our hope that all the cities of the world aspiring to lasting peace will be able to develop inter-city solidarity transcending national boundaries, ideologies and creeds, and will impart momentum to the international quest for peace."

Mayor Hitoshi Motoshima of Nagasaki appealed to cities to become actively involved in the search for peace:

"A large portion of the world's population is concentrated in cities, and if a nuclear war breaks out, it is obvious that cities and their inhabitants will be the first in line for destruction and death. The protection of citizens from nuclear war is a vital duty of all city mayors."

The mayors from the 98 cities at the conference unanimously agreed that cities must be involved in the disarmament issue. They agreed to make the Conference an ongoing, permanent organization. Each mayor pledged to communicate the results and carry on the work of the conference in his or her own country. At

the conclusion of the Conference the mayors issued the "Hiroshima Appeal", which said in part:

"We take the experience of Hiroshima as our own and consider it not as a mere incident of the past but as a warning to the future of humankind. We have pledged ourselves to exert our utmost efforts towards the total abolition of nuclear arsenals and the attainment of lasting world peace. We have pledged to unite ourselves by establishing firm bonds of friendship and solidarity, transcending national boundaries, ideologies, and creeds in order to secure the lives and properties of our people and bequeath to future generations the history and culture of our cities, which took thousands of years to develop...We must lay a well-established foundation for lasting world peace through inter-city and inter-people solidarity."

2. THE CITY OF VANCOUVER AND PEACE

The City of Vancouver has been at the forefront of the movement of cities for peace. The following sections describe some of the peace initiatives undertaken by the City, Mayor, and Council of Vancouver:

2.1 NUCLEAR WEAPON FREE ZONE

On April 19, 1983, Vancouver City Council passed a motion that declared Vancouver to be a "nuclear weapon free zone". The motion stated "that any manufacture, storage, transportation or distribution of such weapons or their components be banned within our boundaries". The motion also called for City Council to "strike a committee to put specific content into the nuclear-free weapons zone declaration for Vancouver".

Following the recommendations of this committee, City Council amended the City bylaws to give legal force to the NWFZ declaration. The Zoning & Development By-law (#3575) was amended to include:

10.23 No person shall use or occupy land and no development permit shall be issued for the manufacture, distribution, or storage of a nuclear weapon or any component thereof."

Similarly, the Fire By-law (#2193) was amended to include:

180. Notwithstanding any other provision of this By-law, it shall be unlawful for any person to store or transport a nuclear weapon or any component thereof within the City.

Other measures taken by Council to give substance to the NWFZ declaration included putting 15 NWFZ signs around the perimeter of the city, a postal meter stamp, and a historic plaque. As well, Council passed a motion urging the federal government to declare the Port of Vancouver a NWFZ. City Council has no jurisdiction over the Port which is operated by the Canada Ports Corporation on behalf of the federal government. The Minister of Transport has

refused to act on Council's request to have the Port of Vancouver also declared a NWFZ.

2.2 MUNICIPAL REFERENDA

Vancouver City Council has approved and conducted two municipal referenda on peace issues during civic elections. In the November 1982 municipal election, voters were asked the following question:

"Do you support the goal of general disarmament and mandate the federal government to negotiate and implement, with other governments, the balanced steps that will lead to the earliest possible achievement of this goal?"

A resounding 80% of Vancouver voters approved this resolution, and City Council sent the results to the Canadian Government, the United Nations, and the Governments of the United States and Soviet Union.

On November 17, 1984, Vancouver voters had a second opportunity to vote in a disarmament referendum during civic elections. This second plebescite dealt specifically with cruise missile testing in Canada, and was worded as follows:

"Are you in favour of Vancouver City Council asking the Federal Government to exercise its option under the bi-lateral agreement with the United States Government, to cancel any further testing of the cruise missile in this country."

This resolution was supported by 57% of decided voters.

2.3 CO-SPONSORSHIP OF ANNUAL PEACE MARCH

Each April, tens of thousands of Vancouverites take to the street and participate in the annual Walk for Peace to protest against the continuing nuclear arms race. Since 1984, Vancouver City Council has co-sponsored this important event with the End the Arms Race coalition. The Vancouver Walk for Peace has become North America's largest annual peace event, with close to 100,000 people participating in each of the last few years. The success of this event, and City Council's strong involvement in this and other peace activities, has given Vancouver the reputation as the "Peace Capital of North America". As a co-sponsor of the Walk for Peace, the City absorbs all the costs for policing and traffic control during the event. As well, the Mayor and members of City Council lead the march with the city banner; and the Mayor brings greetings from the City to the participants of the rally at the conclusion of the Walk for Peace.

2.4 SPECIAL COUNCIL COMMITTEE ON PEACE

Through its co-sponsorship of the annual Walk for Peace and support of other disarmament initiatives, Vancouver City Council established and maintained a close informal relationship with the broadly based peace organizations in the city. To put this important relationship on a more official and permanent basis, City Council on March 12, 1985 established a Special Council Committee

on Peace. The Committee includes representatives from City Council and various peace organizations, and meets regularly to discuss initiatives the City can take to promote peace. The two primary functions of the Committee are to act as a "clearinghouse" of various initiatives on peace presented to the Mayor and Council for consideration; and to initiate ideas and proposals for development in cooperation with other Canadian municipalities.

2.5 SUPPORT OF PEACE INITIATIVES

In the last few years, the City Council of Vancouver has passed many motions supporting specific peace and disarmament initiatives. A partial list of some of the most important motions include:

Feb. 22, 1983: Urged the Canadian Government to declare Canada a nuclear weapons free zone.

June 21, 1983: Opposed the testing of cruise missiles in Canada.

Mar. 27, 1984: Urged a national referendum at next federal election on cruise missile testing.

May 29, 1984: Requested the Provincial Government to declare B.C. a nuclear weapon free zone.

Dec. 18, 1984: Supported a mutual verifiable nuclear weapons freeze.

May 28, 1985: Again urged B.C. and Canadian Governments to form NWFIs.

July 30, 1985: Opposed the militarization of outer space and called for no Canadian involvement in Star Wars.

Nov. 19, 1985: Supported a Comprehensive Test Ban.

After these and other motions were passed by City Council, they were communicated to the provincial or federal government, as appropriate. Also, the approved motion was usually sent to the Federation of Canadian Municipalities along with a letter urging other towns and cities to pass similar motions.

2.6 SOLIDARITY WITH OTHER CITIES

On February 15, 1983, Vancouver City Council adopted a program put forward by the Mayors of Hiroshima and Nagasaki "to promote solidarity of cities towards the total abolition of nuclear weapons". The stated purpose of this program is to "awaken concern among cities for the eradication of nuclear arms through establishing closer solidarity between cities of the world". The program recommends that "a city which has joined in our inter-city solidarity program should exert its efforts in introducing the idea to as many other cities as possible". Since adopting the program, City Council has been very active in promoting inter-city solidarity in working for peace. The Mayor of Vancouver attended the August, 1985 First World Conference of Mayors for Peace Through Inter-City Solidarity in Hiroshima and Nagasaki. In May 1984, the City of Vancouver sent letters to over 600 Canadian cities and municipalities listing the peace actions undertaken by Vancouver City Council, and urging others "to take similar actions in the cause of peace and to promote solidarity of cities towards the abolition of nuclear weapons." Vancouver has also been very active in urging disarmament initiatives through the Federation of Canadian Municipalities. Finally, the recently established Special Council Committee on Peace has been mandated by Council "to establish closer solidarity with Canadian cities who are working for the eradication of nuclear arms in the world".

2.7 PUBLIC HEALTH AND PUBLIC EDUCATION

In 1982, the Medical Health Officer reported to City Council that the threat of nuclear war posed a serious public health risk to the citizens of Vancouver. His report stated: "if risk to public health is defined as a joint measure of the probability of an event, of its seriousness, and of the numbers affected, then nuclear warfare must rate as the greatest health risk to public health." The report continued by proposing that the only viable solution to this problem of public health was the prevention of the "final epidemic" through the dismantling of nuclear arsenals. This measure would only be possible if there was an informed and active general public. The Medical Health Officer concluded his report by recommending that a considerable effort must be made to inform the public fully about the risks posed by nuclear weapons, and to urge the public to become active in working for disarmament. In the Spring of 1983, Council followed-up on this report by producing and distributing a pamphlet to every Vancouver household about the danger posed by nuclear weapons. The pamphlet described the number of nuclear weapons that exist, how a nuclear war could start, the effects of a nuclear bomb exploding on Vancouver, some possible solutions for ending the arms race, and how the public can help bring about disarmament. City Council updated this information with a second pamphlet produced and distributed to Vancouver households in the spring of 1986. This second pamphlet also included information about the Vancouver Centennial Peace Festival.

2.8. VANCOUVER CENTENNIAL PEACE FESTIVAL

The year 1986 is both the United Nations International Year of Peace, and the City of Vancouver's 100th anniversary. To mark both of these occasions, Vancouver City Council organized, with the Vancouver Centennial Commission and local peace groups, a week-long Centennial Peace Festival. City Council contributed over \$80,000 to help make the Peace Festival a tremendous success. The week included cultural events, a youth conference, a peace film festival, and peace displays. It culminated with the annual Walk for Peace and a closing rally in B.C. Place stadium on April 27, 1986. One of the highlights of the Peace Festival was a three day symposium featuring 20 prominent international experts on the arms race and disarmament. A collection of the excellent speeches given at the Vancouver Centennial Peace & Disarmament Symposium has been published as a popular-selling book. While they were in Vancouver, the experts who addressed the Symposium also drafted an important document called the "Vancouver Proposals for Peace". This document outlines some important steps that can be taken immediately to break the nuclear deadlock, and has been sent to the leaders of all Warsaw Pact and NATO countries by Vancouver City Council. The text of the "Vancouver Proposals for Peace" is included as Appendix 3.

2.9 SISTER CITIES

To help build international understanding and cooperation, Vancouver has established Sister-city relationships with Odessa in the USSR, Yokohama in Japan, Edinburgh in Scotland, and Canton in China. The Sister-city program includes arranging cultural exchanges and reciprocal visits by city officials. A Sister-city committee of Council has been established by Vancouver to coordinate the Sister-City program.

2.10 SCHOOL BOARD

Vancouver City Council is not the only level of municipal government active in peace issues in Vancouver. The Vancouver School Board is also on record in support of peace and disarmament. The School Board co-sponsored the 1986 Walk for Peace with City Council and End the Arms Race. The School Board has also passed a motion opposing cruise missile testing in Canada, and allows the distribution of peace literature in the school system. Finally, the School Board is initiating a pilot project on global education which has a strong focus on peace.

3. HOW TO LOBBY YOUR LOCAL GOVERNMENT

In many cases, City Councils have introduced their own peace initiatives and disarmament motions without any prompting from peace organizations. Usually, however, the initiative comes from peace groups who successfully lobby their Council to take action on peace issues. Some suggestions for steps to take when lobbying your City Council on peace are given below:

3.1. PLAN YOUR APPROACH

- form a committee with a broad cross-section of people on it to plan and coordinate your campaign.
- develop a timetable for your approach to City Council.
- decide the issue you would like Council to take action on (eg. to become a NWFZ, oppose cruise testing, support a freeze, etc.). Some factors to consider are: (i) How effective will the proposed measure be in helping to build pressure for an end to the arms race?; (ii) Is the issue timely and likely to attract media and public attention?; (iii) Is there a reasonable chance that Council will support the issue?
- plan the type of action you would like council to take (eg. pass a motion, hold a referendum, etc.). It is easier to get a City Council to pass a motion than to hold a referendum; but a referendum results in much greater public participation and education.
- consider any follow-up actions you would like Council to take (eg. send letter to federal and/or provincial governments, send copy of motion to neighbouring municipalities and urge similar action, etc).
- draft a proposed motion that includes the issue, action, and follow-up you have decided on. Include a pre-amble that gives some of the reasons why the motion is a good idea. The draft motion could be written with or by a sympathetic member of council. See Appendix II for sample motion.

3.2. FIND OUT BASIC INFORMATION

- thoroughly research the issue you have chosen, and be well prepared to respond to any counter-arguments. Also be prepared to answer questions about whether it is appropriate for municipal governments to be dealing with issues such as disarmament.
- find out from the City Clerk what disarmament measures have previously been adopted or defeated by your City Council.
- Compile a list of your City Councillors. Include names, phone numbers, and how they voted on previous disarmament motions.
- research whether any other communities in your area have passed similar resolutions.

3.3. INITIAL APPROACH TO MEMBERS OF COUNCIL

- try to arrange meetings with each councillor individually, and choose two or three well-spoken and respected members of your group to attend meetings.
- it is a good idea to meet first with those councillors you suspect are sympathetic to your motion. In this way you can acquire confidence, suggestions and support which may be useful when approaching less sympathetic members of council.
- explain the concept and its importance to each member of council, answer any questions they have, and leave with them some written information on your issue.
- try to get a commitment from each councillor to either support, move, or second your motion. It is very important to know how many votes you can count on, and which members of council you need to work on.
- it is necessary to have the mover and seconder of the motion pre-arranged before the issue is put before council. Working closely with your mover and seconder, choose a date for introducing your motion before council.

3.4. BUILD COMMUNITY SUPPORT

- council will be more likely to support your proposal if you can demonstrate strong community support.
- attempt to get letters endorsing your proposal from community organizations, businesses, churches, labour organizations, student councils, and prominent individuals. Send copies of these letters of support to all members of council before the council meeting where your motion will be dealt with.
- encourage individuals to send letters and make phone calls to those members of council who have not yet decided to support your motion.
- attempt to get some coverage in your local newspaper(s) and radio stations before the motion comes before council.

3.5. THE COUNCIL MEETING

- when your motion comes before council, arrange to have a broad range of organizations and individuals appear before council as delegations to speak in support of your motion. Contact as many church, professional, peace, women's, ethnic, labour and community organizations as you can and encourage them to appear. Try to ensure that the people who appear before council are well-spoken, credible, and fully prepared.
- have as many people as possible in the council chambers. This will demonstrate to council members that there is considerable local interest in this issue.
- notify the media of when your motion will be appearing before council, and offer to make a representative of your group available for interviews.

3.6. A REFERENDUM CAMPAIGN

- if council approves a disarmament referendum, your group should be prepared to conduct a campaign to educate the public and mobilize voters to support the resolution.
- public meetings with a disarmament "expert" as a keynote speaker, or with local municipal candidates are a good way of building support for your campaign.
- produce a "VOTE YES" poster and/or leaflet, and arrange group leafletting at public events, shopping malls, street corners, etc.
- attempt to get media coverage of your campaign through press releases, press conferences, guests on open-line radio shows, and if funds permit, newspaper advertisements.

3.7. IF AT FIRST YOU DON'T SUCCEED...

- Try again! In many communities it has taken two, three, or even four attempts to get a disarmament measure approved by city council.
- a good idea is to twin a member of your committee with each councillor who opposed your motion. The member of your group will undertake the responsibility to get to know the councillor and try to persuade him or her to support the motion if it is re-introduced.
- consider producing a petition urging the council to support the resolution.
- if you are attempting to have your community declared a NWFZ, and council has turned you down on your first attempt, try to start from the bottom-up by encouraging churches, schools and apartment buildings to declare themselves nuclear weapon free zones.
- in the next local election, send a questionnaire to every candidate asking if they will support peace initiatives if elected. Publicize the results of the questionnaire, and encourage people to vote for pro-peace candidates.

APPENDIX 1
CANADIAN MUNICIPAL NUCLEAR WEAPON FREE ZONES

B.C.

1. Vancouver
2. Port Moody
3. Vernon
4. Kitimat
5. Delta
6. District of Saanich
7. Ladysmith
8. Creston
9. Alert Bay
10. Terrace
11. Fernie
12. Lake Cowichan
13. Nelson
14. Sunshine Coast District
15. Nimpkish Valley
16. Sointula
17. Courtenay-Comox
18. Lasqueti Island
19. Port Alberni
20. North VANcouver District
21. Gulf Islands
22. Kaslo
23. Port Coquitlam
24. Fort St. James
25. 100 Mile House
26. Richmond
27. Houston
28. Burnaby
29. West Vancouver
30. Squamish
31. Kamloops
32. Victoria
33. Parksville
34. Williams Lake
35. Grand Forks
36. Kelowna
37. Castlegar
38. Powell River
39. Tofino
40. Campbell River
41. Maple Ridge
42. Denman Island
43. Hornby Island
44. Squamish/Lillooet District
45. Nuw-Chah-Nulth Tribal

ALBERTA

41. Didsbury

SASKATCHEWAN

42. Regina

MANITOBA

entire province a NWFZ

ONTARIO

43. Toronto
44. Geraldton
45. Bath
46. Kapuskasing
47. Hamilton
48. Gananoque
49. Kingsville
50. Trenton
51. Port Frances
52. Wellesley
53. Dover Township
54. Windsor
55. Port Stanley
56. Ancaster
57. Black River-Matheson
58. Vespra
59. Wilmet
60. Red Lake
61. Timmins
62. Hensall
63. Guelph
64. Owen Sound
65. Niagara on the Lake
66. Sarnia
67. Parry Sound
68. Brockville
69. North York
70. East York
71. Sudbury
72. Eastard & St. Burgess
73. Thunder Bay
74. Derby Township
75. Kitchener
76. Gravenhurst

QUEBEC

77. Charny
78. Drummondville
79. St. Georges-Ouest
80. Ancienne-Lorette
81. Ville de Lachenaie
82. Saint Felicien
83. Hull
84. Chateauguay
85. La Plaine
86. Boucherville
87. Ville de Lasalle
88. Lakefield
89. Mascouche

90. Beresford
91. Cote des Neiges

NOVA SCOTIA

92. Bridgewater
93. Lunenburg
94. Mahone Bay
95. Wolfville
96. Trenton

NEWFOUNDLAND

97. St. John's
98. Cornerbrook
99. Wabush

APPENDIX 2
SAMPLE MOTION

Motion passed by Vancouver City Council on December 18, 1984:

THAT WHEREAS City Council, on August 21, 1984, endorsed a resolution from the City of Toronto, supporting the declaration of six nations for a mutual and verifiable freeze on the production, testing and deployment of nuclear weapons and their delivery systems;

AND WHEREAS Vancouver City Council has passed many similar motions in support of a nuclear weapons freeze;

AND WHEREAS on November 20, the Canadian Government voted "No" to a nuclear freeze resolution at the First Committee of the United Nations:

AND WHEREAS this resolution will be voted on again in 2 weeks;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT Vancouver City Council call on the Canadian Government to change its vote at the General Assembly of the United Nations, to express the strong desire of the Canadian people for a mutual, verifiable nuclear weapons freeze;

AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT copies of this resolution be copied to Hon. Joe Clark, External Affairs Minister, John Turner, Leader of the Liberal Party, Ed Broadbent, Leader of the NDP, Disarmament Ambassador Doug Roche and U.N. Ambassador Stephen Lewis, and End the Arms Race.



VANCOUVER PROPOSALS FOR PEACE

"End the Arms Race - Fund Human Needs" - this is the message of Vancouver's Walk for Peace in the year of its hundredth anniversary.

It is natural that this City, which has declared itself to be a nuclear weapons-free zone and which has, on many occasions, urged the cause of peace, should have chosen this occasion to sponsor the Vancouver Centennial Peace and Disarmament Symposium.

The people of Vancouver and their elected representatives are only too conscious of the threat posed by the arms race to the survival of humanity and of the tremendous waste of resources which it causes. This waste of resources has serious consequences everywhere, and we cannot ignore the fact that in many parts of the developed world there is unemployment, hardship and poverty which, although less severe, is otherwise not unlike that in the Third World.

In the nuclear age, war is no longer a way of resolving conflicts between nations. In 1961, the United States and the U.S.S.R. came to the conclusion that war could only be eliminated by general and complete disarmament and agreed on eight principles upon which all further negotiations should be based, and this was agreed by the United Nations General Assembly. Eight years ago, the U.N. General Assembly declared unanimously we must end the arms race and proceed to disarmament or face annihilation. Yet, despite this and other resolutions of the United Nations, we face the fact that no progress has been made towards nuclear or any other form of disarmament, despite the fact that most, if not all, of the thousands of nuclear explosive devices that have been piled up are militarily useless.

On the contrary, we are moving into a new phase of escalation and counter-escalation of the nuclear arms race and, if this process is not stopped and reversed, the inevitable outcome will be a further reduction in the security of the nuclear weapons powers themselves and indeed of the whole world. We are rapidly approaching the point at which there will be equality of security only in the sense that there will be no security for anyone.

The catastrophe we face is not inevitable. There are immediate opportunities to check this suicidal process and gain time to reverse it:

1. A Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty, stopping all further testing of nuclear weapons.

We urge the United States to respond to the Soviet initiative by immediately ceasing nuclear testing and urge the Soviet Union to extend its moratorium. We call upon other nuclear states to stop all nuclear weapons tests.

2. A ban on all weapons in space.
3. A freeze on development, testing or deployment of new nuclear weapons and their delivery systems.
4. Immediate and substantial reductions in the existing nuclear arsenals.

5. The establishment of nuclear weapons-free zones in Central Europe, the Nordic and Balkan regions and the Indian and North Atlantic Oceans and compliance by the nuclear-weapons states with the newly-established South Pacific Nuclear-Free Zone Treaty.
6. Renunciation by all states, and in particular by the nuclear-weapons states, of the use or threat of force and intervention in the affairs of other states, and a commitment to negotiate an agreement to that effect.
7. Recognizing that the arms race is having serious negative effects, both on the nations involved and on the whole world, it is now urgently necessary to reduce substantially all military budgets and transfer the resources thus saved to the promotion of human wellbeing.

These are steps that can and must be taken now. None of them need wait for long negotiations and formal treaties. The process must be *started* and independent initiatives are therefore needed. The Report of The Secretary General of the United Nations on unilateral or independent nuclear disarmament measures, adopted in December, 1984 by 126 votes to 1 by the U.N. General Assembly requires far more serious consideration and action.

We feel that the proposals made by General Secretary Gorbachev on 15th January, 1986 could lead to significant progress. We urge, therefore, that the existing disarmament forums consider these proposals and develop a mutually acceptable approach to the achievement of nuclear disarmament which can then be jointly agreed and implemented.

The measures we have proposed are essential first steps back from the edge of oblivion and toward a peaceful world. It is within the power of the people of each and every country to exercise their right to determine and preserve their own future, to intervene and compel a change of course. We particularly commend to the smaller nations the positive role they can play in bringing about this change.

Parallel with these changes, new creative initiatives are needed to address the problems of hunger, disease, education, environment and other global problems, and indeed to the establishment of a just international economic order.

From this peaceful city we appeal to our sisters and brothers everywhere:

Let us act together now to end the arms race and to fund human needs.