

Give Peace a Chance



KAMLOOPS — SHUSWAP
PEACE COUNCIL
P.O. Box 973
Kamloops, B.C. V2C 6H1

Published by:
B.C. Peace Council
#712 - 207 West Hastings St.
Vancouver, B.C. V6B 1H7
Tel: 685-9958

The Peace Movement

New threats of Arms Race

Military spending / Solidarity

The B.C. Peace Council— 30 years fighting for peace

For over 30 years the B.C. Peace Council has been in the forefront of the peace movement in B.C.

Born with its affiliated peace organizations, the Canadian Peace Congress and the World Peace Council, in the aftermath of WWII and the unleashing of the atomic bomb on Hiroshima, the danger of nuclear war and the cause of disarmament have underscored all of the activities of the Peace Council from 1950 till today.

The Peace Council movement believes that only people — working people, especially — can prevent another world war. It is for this reason that the Peace Council has responded to each crisis and renewed threat of war with militant, public action.

During the cold war years of the early 1950's, the Peace Council took the lead in the Stockholm Appeal, the first mass petition for nuclear disarmament. During the Vietnam War, the Peace Council organized

OFFICERS OF THE PEACE COUNCIL



CARMELA ALLEVATO
President

Vice-President *Bert Ogden*
Secretary *Rosaleen Ross*
Treasurer *Minnie Searle*
Rec. Secretary *Ed. Hendel*

and participated in demonstration after demonstration to demand an end to U.S. aggression. In 1973 the Peace Council again took to the streets on the day of the fascist coup in Chile. From 1975 - 1977, the Peace Council led the campaign for the second Stockholm Appeal which sent over one million signatures from Canada to the United Nations calling for world disarmament. In 1979, it was the Peace Council which spoke out and demonstrated against the Chinese invasion of Vietnam. In the summer of 1980, the Peace Council helped build the 3,500 strong demonstration at Comox to demand the immediate withdrawal of nuclear weapons from Canadian soil.

But peace and the survival of mankind has never been so threatened in these 30 years as it is today.

The new American administration of Ronald Reagan appears determined to undermine detente and return the world to the era of brinkmanship and confrontation.

The insane idea that a nuclear war can be won has now been officially enshrined in U.S. foreign policy by "directive 59", issued by former president Carter in 1980 authorizing a "first strike" use of nuclear weapons in a time of conflict.

This new and heightened danger also is at a time when the peoples of Asia, Africa and Latin America are determined to secure democracy, independence and new world order to assist social and economic progress in their countries. Each place where world imperialism attempts to block national liberation and the struggle for democracy is a potential spark to ignite new regional and world wars.

To meet the challenge of maintaining peace in the 1980's, the B.C. Peace Council convened a special conference of peace activists and representatives of unions, churches, political parties, ethnic and community organizations and other peace committees, February 21-22, 1981, in Vancouver.

The Peace Movement

New threats of Arms Race

Military spending / Solidarity

This highly successful conference brought British Columbians up to date on the new threats of the arms race, on the impact of military spending on living standards and on the pressing need for solidarity with peoples struggling for freedom. This brochure condenses some of the information from the conference which every person concerned with peace should be armed with.

The conference also renewed and consolidated the peace movement in B.C. around a program of peace action. At the centre of this program is the goal of 150,000 signatures in B.C. on the Canadian Peace Congress petition demanding that the government of Canada:

- pressure the U.S. to sign the SALT II treaty limiting strategic nuclear weapons and begin talks on limitation of medium range nuclear weapons.

- work towards simultaneous dissolution of all military alliances, the dismantling of foreign military bases and the banning of chemical and germ warfare.

- actively support the convening of a conference on military detente and disarmament.

- Delegates from all over B.C. have returned to their communities with concrete tasks to accomplish in the fight for peace. Local peace councils in Vancouver, the Fraser Valley, Kamloops-Shuswap, Vernon, Port Alberni and Victoria have begun work on the tasks set by the conference.

The Peace Council invites you to join in struggle on the issue of our times. Help us "Give Peace a Chance". Contact the peace council in your area, or the B.C. Peace Council office in Vancouver.

Peace Councils in Your Area:

B.C. Peace Council—#712-207 W. Hastings St., Vancouver, V6B 1H7 Tel: 685-9958

Comox Valley Nuclear Responsibility—R.R.#1, Fanny Bay, B.C., V0R 1W0 Tel: 335-0393

Finnish Peace Group—22788 Gilley Ave., Maple Ridge, B.C., V2X 2G2

Fraser Valley Peace Committee—16124 9th Ave., White Rock, B.C., V4A 1A6, Tel: 531-4178

Haney Alliance for Nuclear Discouragement—13210 232nd St., Maple Ridge, B.C. V2Y 7E7

Kamloops-Shuswap Peace Council—P.O Box 973, Kamloops B.C., V2C 6H1 Tel: 372-8944

Mid-Island Disarmament Association—c/o 5743 Amsterdam Cres., Nanaimo, B.C., V9T 2M8

Salmon Arm Peace Council—P.O. 3121, Salmon Arm, B.C., V0E 2T0

Vernon Peace Committee—c/o Pete Drabuik, Vernon B.C., 3801 27th AVE. V1T 1S7

Victoria Peace Council—5574 Medberry Close, Sooke, Vancouver Island, B.C., V0S 1N0

Update — New threats of the arms race

Each year technological advances in the arms race produce an arsenal of weapons which draws the prospect of nuclear war a step closer. Here are just a few of the new nuclear weapons which have been developed in recent years. Without exception, the development of these weapons originated in the U.S.

NEUTRON BOMB: This is the nuclear weapon known to most people as the one which kills people, but does not destroy property. The neutron bomb is a new tactical nuclear weapon which emits rays of neutrons that are deadly to humans. However these rays pass through inanimate objects like buildings and tanks. All individuals within a radius of a mile of a neutron bomb explosion will die within a week. The neutron bomb can be assembled and deployed in the field, thus narrowing the gap between conventional and nuclear war.

PERSHING II MISSILES: These are intermediate range rocket-propelled strategic nuclear weapons designed to penetrate the earth before exploding. Aimed at military command posts and missile silos, the U.S. plans to place these missiles in Western Europe, providing for the first time the ability to strike targets deep within the Soviet Union.



New threats of Arms Race

Military spending / Solidarity

CRUISE MISSILES: These are non-piloted "flying bombs" propelled by turbine engines. They are computer programmed to enable them to fly at low levels where they can not be detected by radar. They have their own built in radar to allow them to zero in on targets with great accuracy.

MX MISSILE SYSTEM: These are missiles based in the U.S. which are mobile rather than placed in underground silos, and therefore less vulnerable to attack. The U.S. claims these missiles are accurate to within an area of a city block at ranges of up to 6,000 miles.

Arms race — main cause of inflation

The crime of the arms race is the waste of human resources on non-productive implements of destruction, while people's needs go unmet.

Consider what the 1.5 billion dollars spent each day on armaments could do to raise world living standards.

The money squandered on one MX intercontinental missile would build 5 hospitals. The price of one F-14 fighter plane would build 9 schools. The money spent on one Trident submarine would pay one year's tuition for 16 million children.

But the most sinister way in which the arms race undermines the living standards of Canadians is in the form of inflation. The single largest cause of inflation is war and war spending.

Canada's military expenditures, corrected for inflation, increased by 4.1 percent between 1971 and 1976. In the next four years, military spending in Canada increased by 10.6 percent. In 1979-80 it increased by 7 percent. Military expenditures in Canada in the last ten years increased at a faster pace than in the U.S. This is the real explanation of why for the first time since WWII inflation has been outstripping wage gains, thus reducing living standards in Canada.

As we know, a principal cause of inflation is the growing deficit of the federal government. The accumulated federal deficit between 1971 and 1976 was 6.2 billion dollars. During that same period direct military spending in Canada totalled 14.6 billion dollars.

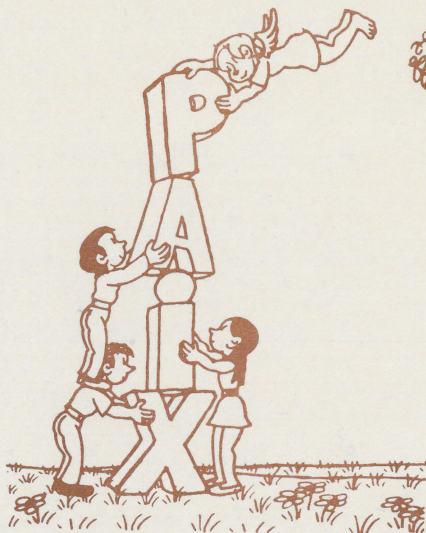
Military spending is the most inflationary of all spending because it does not produce goods that people can purchase and consume. It is direct and complete waste of the country's resources.

Canada, peace and the developing world

In 1978 Prime Minister Trudeau told the United Nations special session on disarmament: "the arms race must be suffocated by cutting off the military research and development efforts that feed it."

However despite that posture of Prime Minister Trudeau, Canada continues as the world's ninth largest exporter of arms at a rate of about \$500 million annually.

In July, 1980, our défense minister, Gilles Lamontagne, stated: "the west must develop nuclear weapons, including the neutron bomb, as a deterrent to Soviet aggression... I think the deterrent now is to try and find sophisticated weapons, like nuclear weapons."



Most recently, Canada welcomed U.S. president Ronald Reagan while the U.S. stepped up its intervention in El Salvador, and both Prime Minister Trudeau and external affairs minister Marc MacGuigan expressed tacit approval of U.S. designs in El Salvador.

Canada's hypocritical foreign policy must end. We must end our role in NATO, and NORAD and make the voice of our country a consistent one for peace.

The U.S. is attempting to re-define detente as preserving the status quo. We understand detente as the absence of war. But the struggle for national liberation and democracy, such as in El Salvador today, continues.

APPEAL

of the World Parliament of the Peoples for Peace

The peoples of the world are alarmed. Never before has there been so great a danger of a world nuclear holocaust.

The nuclear arms build-up, the accumulation of deadly arsenals has reached a critical point. Further escalation in the arms build-up could create a most dangerous situation, facing humanity with the threat of annihilation.

The "new nuclear strategy" is an elaborate deception of the people to persuade them that limited or regional nuclear war can be conducted without leading to a global nuclear holocaust. We categorically reject this dangerous and inhuman conception!

The peoples everywhere, who have for more than three decades successfully prevented the unleashing of a world war and who have so devotedly struggled for disarmament and detente, refuse to be a part of the schemes. They demand: stop the arms build-up; stop sabre-rattling; stop aggression or the threats of aggression; avert the danger of nuclear war!

We appeal to the reason and responsibility of all politicians and statesmen, we appeal to governments:

Abandon the new armaments programmes! Give up the manufacture of new types of weapons of mass destruction — missiles, neutron, chemical or any other weaponry! Reduce the stockpiles! Ban nuclear weapons! Negotiate!

We appeal to all who cherish peace:

To be concerned is not enough! To be alarmed is not enough! The peoples have the power to preserve peace — their basic right! Act now!

Let us stop those who seek to push the world ever closer to the nuclear precipice! Let us put aside all that divides us and join together to defeat the menace of nuclear war! Let our voice be heard as never before!

Sofia
1980

Send me more information ☐

I enclose a donation ☐ \$_____

Please Tear and Send To:

B.C. Peace Council, 712 - 207 W. Hastings,
Vancouver, B.C., V6B 1H7