

Kamloops~Shuswap



Peace News

No. 7, October, 1981

PEACE NEWS is published monthly by the Kamloops-Shuswap Peace Council, P.O. Box 973, Kamloops, B.C. V2C 6H1. Membership in KSPC is open to any individual or organization, regardless of philosophical, religious or political outlook, which subscribes to the need of a secure and lasting global peace through disarmament. The KSPC is a member council of the B.C. Peace Council, and through it, the Canadian Peace Congress and World Peace Council. We welcome your comments or opinions on any material printed in the PEACE NEWS.

EDITORIAL

The whole thing seems to come from a bizarre and frighteningly real Alice in Wonderland episode.

The Secretary of Defence of the United States is assuring the world that with Cruise and Pershing 11 missiles "we will be able to win a nuclear war."

A member of the US National Security Council, that inner sanctum which shields the president of the United States from reality, is calmly stating that the aim of US military policy is to create a situation where the "Soviet leaders have to choose between peacefully changing their communist system in the direction followed by the west or going to war."

We have a president of the United States, lurching on the fringes of senility and living out the dreams of a series of Hollywood B movies, reviving weapon of mass destruction after weapon of mass destruction: the Cruise Missile, the Pershing 11 missiles, the MX Missile system, the B-1 Bomber, a "new, improved, North American defense system," and the horrific Neutron Bomb. All that's missing is the Mad Hatter. Even the White Rabbit would want out of this nightmare.

There can no longer be any illusions about the intentions of the current administration of the United States. It is to create a climate of confrontation. It is to force the rest of the world to do what they want it to. It is, bluntly stated, to control the destiny of the world.



The last man who was on that kick started World War 11: we can't let this one start World War 111. (The only consoling thought about WW111, is the fact that there sure as hell won't be a WW 1V)

The choice is obvious.

Either enough public pressure is generated to force a retreat of this latest assault against world peace, or we all go tumbling off towards nuclear graves.

In this issue of the *Peace News*, we devote considerable space to explaining what these new weapons can do, and what we can do to stop them.

We urge every supporter of world peace, everyone who would rather live a full and healthy life than live under the shadow of a mushroom cloud to get angry and demand a halt to this juggernaut in the Pentagon.

THERE CAN BE NO MORE IMPORTANT UNDERTAKING!

NEW THREATS OF THE ARMS RACE

In recent months, a lot has been heard about the new generation of weapons being prepared by the Pentagon. The most talked about have been the Neutron Bomb, the Pershing II and Cruise Missiles and the massive MX Missile system.

Below, we are printing a brief description of each of these weapons systems and their major features.

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.

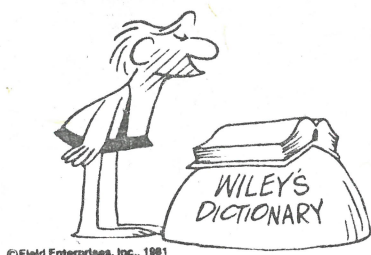
PERSHING II MISSILES: These are intermediate range rocket-propelled strategic nuclear weapons designed to penetrate the earth before exploding. Aimed at military command posts and missile silos, the U.S. plans to place these missiles in Western Europe, providing for the first time the ability to strike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

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.

B.C.

NEUTRON BOMB



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Hiroshima by John Hersey. New York: Bantam, 1979, c1946.

Hiroshima is the eyewitness accounts of 6 people, a clerk, 2 doctors, a German priest, a methodist pastor and a widow, who were in the city of Hiroshima at the time of the world's first atomic attack. John Hersey interviewed these people soon after the event, and in their catastrophic experiences lies a message for all the people of the world.

As Hersey traces the activities of each of the people, the total breakdown of all normal systems becomes very evident. Most hospitals were destroyed or damaged beyond use, most medical people were dead or severely injured.

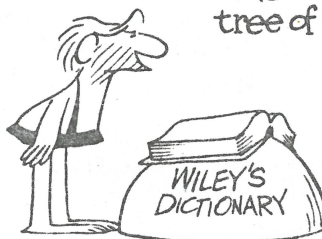
"of a hundred and fifty doctors in the city, sixty-five were already dead and most of the rest were wounded. Of 1780 nurses, 1654 were dead or too badly hurt to work. In the biggest hospital, that of the Red Cross, only six doctors out of thirty were able to function and only ten nurses out of more than two hundred."

Soldiers were stationed in Hiroshima, but were of no use in the emergency as they too were injured, dying and dead.

Hiroshima is a short book, and does not take much time to read, but is important reading for everyone today. John Hersey tells the reader of the catastrophic effects of a small, primitive A bomb. Can we even imagine the impact of a modern hydrogen bomb on a city today.

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the last apple on the
tree of forbidden fruit

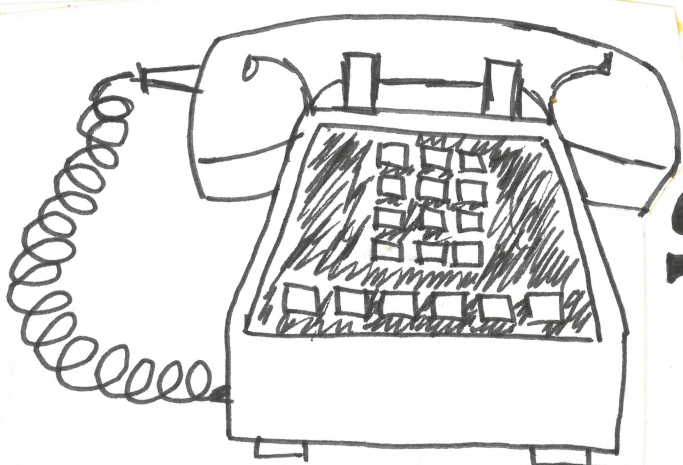


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Stopping The Neutron Bomb

Public opinion can, in fact, stop the insanity of the Neutron Bomb. But, to be effective public opinion must be marshalled and directed at those making the decisions. Every voice heard from is another vote cast for reason. The alternative is oblivion. Here's some ideas about where to start.

- 1** INFORM yourself and others by producing leaflets, posters and circulars about the specifics of the Neutron Bomb. Contact your local peace councils for this information and circulate it to trade unions, municipal councils, school boards, church organizations, environmentalist organizations, community groups and student councils. Keep abreast of protests in other communities and countries.



- 2** ORGANIZE opposition wherever possible by seeking resolutions against the Neutron Bomb from all organizations possible, by seeking sermons against the bomb, by urging prominent citizens to speak out against the weapon, by pressuring elected officials to oppose the Neutron Bomb, by placing advertisements in the press against the bomb and circulating petitions. Above all else, get your friends, neighbors and co-workers to protest the Neutron Bomb.

- 3** PROTEST the production of the bomb in your community. Write letters to President Reagan demanding he stop his plans to destroy the world, write letters to your MP, MLA, the Prime Minister, Minister of External Affairs, etc.; demanding they speak out against the Neutron Bomb. Demand an answer from them and keep the pressure on. Organize special meetings and demonstrations against the Bomb, write letters to the editor, ask to speak to meetings of various organizations.



Remember, while it sometimes gets a little lonely protesting these types of decisions, every activity of protest, no matter how small, adds to the growing tide of world wide opposition to this horrific weapon. To do nothing is to support the production of the Neutron Bomb. To do nothing is to invite destruction.

Organize, Mobilize...and SURVIVE

DISARMAMENT WEEK - October 24-30

Peace activists in all parts of the world are busy putting the finishing touches to their plans for Disarmament Week.

And, the Kamloops-Shuswap Peace Council is no exception as plans are now falling into place for local activities. Though some details are still up in the air, the general outline for the week is ready to go.

KSPC secretary Kathy Gidora said that because Disarmament Week is to both inform people of the pressing need for a halt to the arms race and encourage increased action in support of peace the KSPC activities will focus on both aspects of the week.

"One of our major goals during the week will be to drastically step up our petitioning campaign, which we will do by having volunteers in as many central points as possible during the week. Every signature we get on the petition is another conscious declaration for peace." she said.

This, she added, will be the major part of the 'participation' aspect of the week's activities.

"As for educational and informational activities, we will start by requesting that city council once again declare October 24-30 as "Disarmament Week." she said.

"As well, we have, together with other organizations concerned about peace, secured display tables in Thompson Park Mall for the week where we will distribute material on disarmament and the KSPC.

"We have also arranged a week long film festival for Community Cablevision during the week, featuring films, video tapes and

slide tape presentations dealing with various aspects of the arms race."

Kathy said that as soon as the complete details on the film festival were known, these would be incorporated into a flyer and mailed throughout the city.

"Finally, we hope to be able to place a number of large advertisements in the local press highlighting various aspects of the arms race during the week."

In addition, she said that members of the peace council will be speaking directly to various groups on disarmament during the week and that the KSPC was trying to arrange a public debate on arms limitation.

* * * *

PEACE CONFERENCE ATTENDED

Three members of the KSPC took part in the Coalition for World Disarmament's provincial conference on peace action the weekend of September 19-20. The CWD is a province-wide co-ordinating body for peace groups based out of Vancouver and their conference attracted representatives from more than 23 groups.

The conference attracted a number of prominent authorities from various fields of expertise who conducted workshops on a wide range of topics from the International Military Situation, to the Economic Impact of the Arms Race to the Medical Consequences of War. Other workshops dealt with the 1982 second Session of the General Assembly on Disarmament and Canadian Foreign Policy and the Arms Trade.

The featured speaker was British Brigadier Michael Harbottle, former deputy Commander of the UN peacekeeping forces in Cypress and currently the secretary of the British based World Disarmament Campaign.

The KSPC delegates took with them a display of our activities in the Kamloops region and were especially pleased at establishing contacts with other peace groups throughout the province and are looking forward to a future of co-ordinated peace activity.

PUGWASH PUBLIC FORUM

Recently in Calgary, more than 1,000 people turned out at the first Pugwash public forum, held in conjunction with the Pugwash Conference on Science and World Affairs at Banff. Participants stressed the importance of the Salt 11 treaty. Former U.S. Salt 11 negotiator Paul Warnke told the forum that political considerations should not be allowed to interfere with the more important issue of preventing nuclear war. He stressed that public pressure must be used to get the U.S. back to the bargaining table.

Also speaking at the forum were: Olaf Palme, leader of the Social Democratic Party of Sweden and a former Prime Minister; Georgi Arbatov, a member of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of the Soviet Union; and Charles Percy, chairman of the U.S. Senate foreign relations committee. All four speakers issued a common appeal for renewed negotiations on world disarmament and urged the U.S. to return to the negotiating table.

This public forum was the first public meeting ever held by the Pugwash Conference and is indicative of the urgency felt by the Conference on the issue of disarmament.

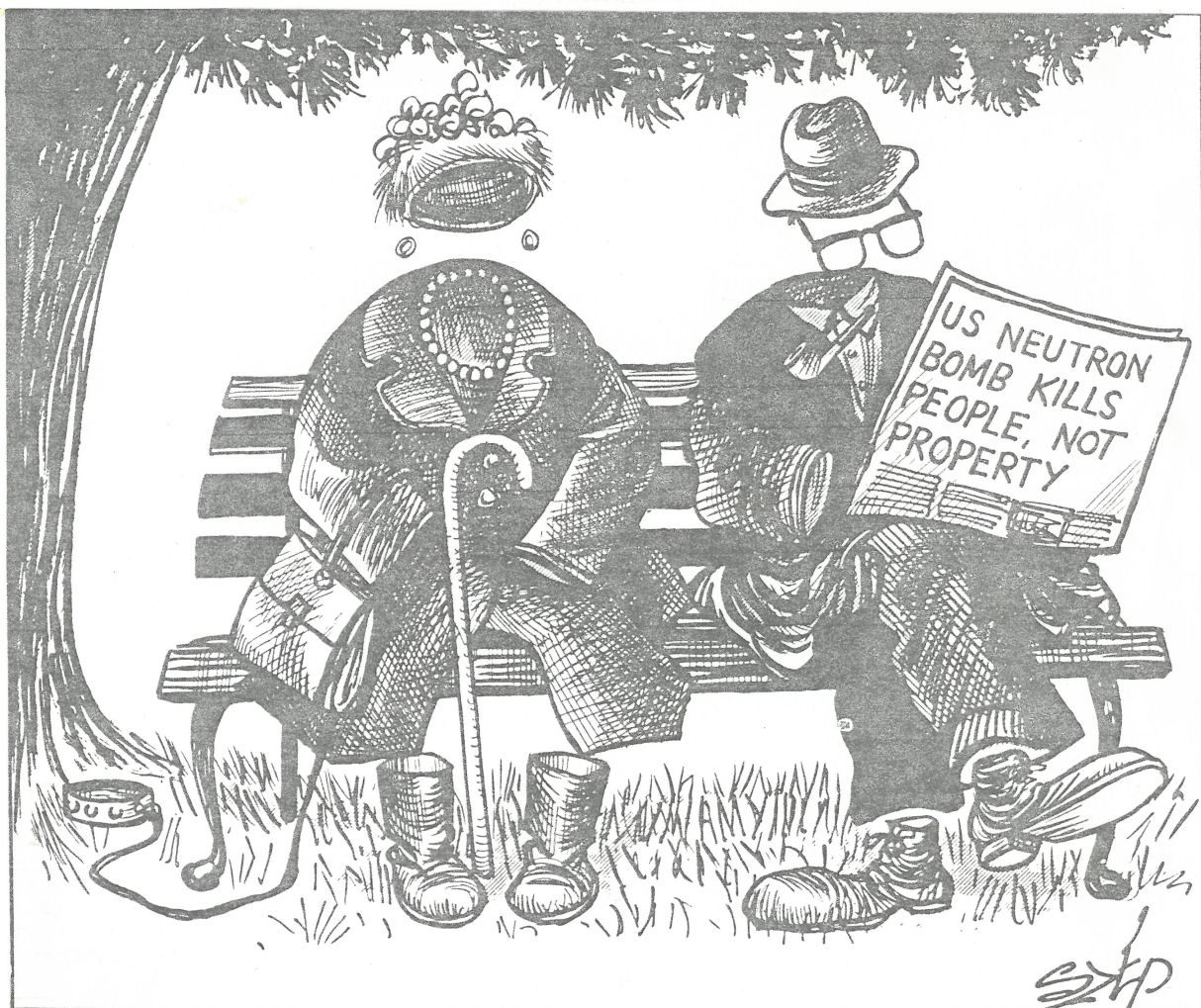
THEY SAID IT...

If anyone believes that a limited nuclear war is possible, then surely the words of Morton Halperin, formerly a top Pentagon official, should dispell these illusions. Describing Nato's strategy, he left no doubt as to the final result:

"The NATO doctrine is that we will fight with conventional weapons until we are losing, then we will fight with tactical nuclear weapons until we are losing, and then we will blow up the world".

RAFFLE

Members of the Salmon Arm Peace Council have built a two storey, 4 room cedar house fully furnished including Barbie and a friend. The house will be raffled at the December meeting of the Peace Council, just in time for Christmas! Tickets will be \$1.00 each, anyone wishing to help sell them or wanting to buy tickets contact either Chum Ferguson 374-3269 (Kamloops) or Kathy Jones 832-3056 (Salmon Arm).



(continued from 'OOPS' September 1981 Peace News)

1969

Kentucky, USA

A B-52 bomber carrying two nuclear weapons with warheads collided with a KC-135 tanker over Glen Bean, Kentucky. Both bombs were recovered undamaged from the wreckage.

Mediterranean Sea, off Sicily

US Navy Corsair aircraft crashed into the sea. US sources stated the plane did not carry nuclear weapons, Italian sources reported that it did.

There have been at least thirteen accidents involving aircraft carrying nuclear bombs and, on one occasion, a B-52 bomber crashed over South Carolina with a 10 megaton bomb on board. The bomb was equipped with five interlocking safety devices to prevent an accidental explosion but, on recovery, four of the five safety devices were found to have been triggered by the fall. Had the bomb exploded, it could have been interpreted as a surprise Russian attack and America could have 'counter-attacked'.

1970

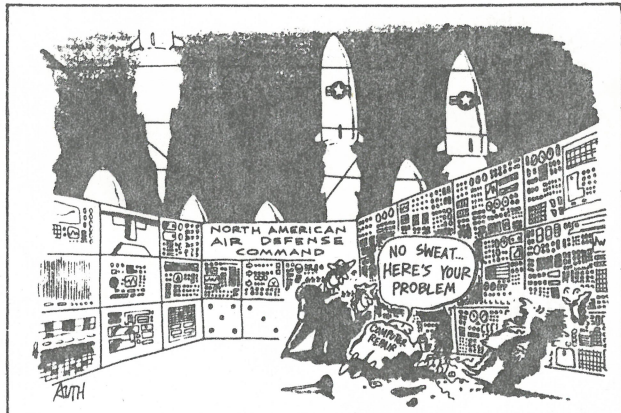
Bay of Biscay, Atlantic Ocean

Technical difficulties forced a Soviet nuclear-powered submarine, N class, to surface before eventually sinking. Since its loss the Soviets have stationed an electronic intelligence ship at the site, around the clock.

1973

Luxemil, France

A Mirage IV bomber crashed on takeoff. Two other Mirage IV bombers crashed the same year, one near Bellegarde and the other off the coast of Corsica.



1971

Lake Michigan, USA

Two-fold nuclear nightmare narrowly averted when a B-52 crashed near Big Rock Nuclear Power Plant at Charlevoix, Michigan. Since then, new flight patterns issued for B-52s. Official denial of nuclear weapons on board aircraft.

Yom Kippur War, Middle East

October 1973 Egypt faced major defeat, Brezhnev suggested to Nixon superpower intervention to prevent more violations of Israeli cease-fire agreements. This was rejected, but the US did apply considerable pressure on Israel. Simultaneously Nixon placed nuclear strike forces on a worldwide alert.

1974

Black Sea

A guided-missile destroyer of the 'Kashin' class exploded and sank.

1975

Nevada Nuclear Test Site

A canister containing a 20 Kiloton bomb fell 40 feet down a nuclear test shaft. No reported radiation leak.

1976

Ionian Sea

While travelling on the surface, a Soviet nuclear-powered submarine rammed the US frigate 'Vago'.

In 1976 the US House of Representatives Intelligence Committee learnt that US nuclear submarines on patrol in Soviet waters had collided with 'hostile vessels' nine times in the previous sixteen years.

1978

Kansas, USA

Oxidiser gas cloud engulfs a Titan II missile site. One man died and hundreds of people were evacuated from the area.

1980

USA

The Early Warning System of North American Air Defence Command was put on red alert twice, due to false alarms indicating Soviet military attack.

Arkansas, USA

A Titan missile catapulted hundreds of feet into the air due to 'human error'.



How was I to know that our formation flying would show up on their early-warning system?

All material in the black boxes quoted from 'Overkill' by John Cox. (see Also Worth Reading)

Details researched and compiled by Chris Smith, Armament and Disarmament Information Unit, University of Sussex.

All photos: Camera Press

UNSPECIFIED TIMES AND PLACES OF ACCIDENTS

One operational intercontinental ballistic missile blew up on its launching pad.

Anti-aircraft nuclear-tipped missiles have misfired on several occasions.

At least two occasions when missiles with nuclear warheads have been launched in error.

A nuclear bomb has been recovered by American personnel from a wrecked Russian aircraft in the Sea of Japan.

In 1949, two months after his retirement, former US Secretary of Defence James V. Forrestal committed suicide by jumping from a sixteenth storey balcony. He had become so convinced of the Communist 'threat' that when a fire engine disturbed his sleep he ran out in his pyjamas screaming that the Russians were coming. The most serious aspect of his mental illness was that many Defence Department officials accepted his anti-Soviet hallucinations whilst he was still in office.