

Kamloops~Shuswap



Peace News

No. 9, December, 1981

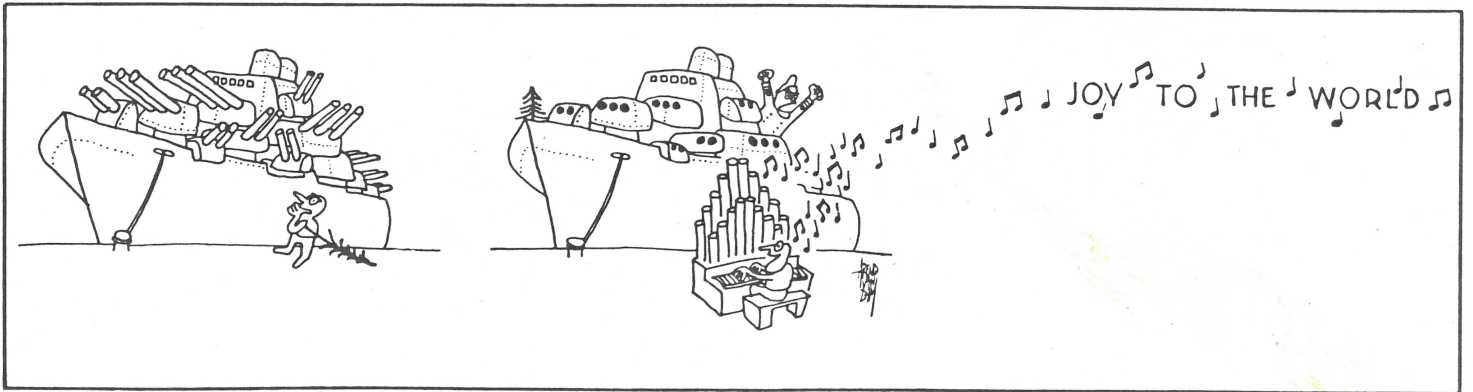
PEACE NEWS is published monthly by the Kamloops-Shuswap Peace Council, P.O. Box 973, Kamloops, B.C., V2C 6H1. Membership in the KSPC is open to any individual or organization, regardless of philosophical, religious or political outlook, which subscribes to the need for a secure and lasting global peace 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.

Peace on Earth



"... and they shall beat their swords into ploughshares, and their spears into pruning hooks; nation shall not lift up sword against nation, neither shall they learn war any more; but they shall sit every man under his vine and under his fig tree, and none shall make them afraid..."

REFLECTIONS ON A YEAR: AN EDITORIAL COMMENT



Somewhere between trimming the Christmas tree and swearing off drink forever New Year's morning, most of us take a few minutes at this time of year to reflect upon the past 12 months and make a few tentative plans for the next year.

1981 may well have been a pivotal year for the world's peace forces. It began with a new threat to world peace; US President Ronald Raygun and his passionate commitment to nuclear holocaust, and it's ending with a revitalized peace movement which gathers size, strength and influence with each passing day.

Since January Raygun has moved the world precipitously close to the brink of global war with his massive rearmament program.

Pershing II Missiles, MX Missiles, Cruise Missiles, Trident submarines, Neutron Bombs, B-1 Bombers—he wants them all—just like the kids thumbing through a Christmas toy catalogue. But worse yet; he has given every indication of wanting to use them—and soon. (Perhaps his fascination with bombs dates back to his career as a Hollywood actor.)

There is only one rational response to this cult of the mushroom cloud...protest.

For peace activists, 1981 will be remembered as the year that every European capital was rocked by millions of anti-weapons protestors; the year when one million people took to the streets of Athens; the year when governments committed to withdrawing from NATO were elected in Greece, and to a lesser degree, France. It will be remembered as the year in which hundreds of thousands of Americans took to the streets of Washington demanding an end to financial policies which cut out social services and pay for for deadly toys for a dottering president.

And, right here in Kamloops, peace activists will remember the year as one of the busiest in recent decades.

Our year started with the KSPC circulating and collecting "Peace Tax Credit" forms to protest the squandering of our tax dollars on a bloated military budget. In March and April, we were instrumental in organizing a coalition of groups to come together to mark Nuclear Awareness

Day in a week long calendar of events, highlighted by a march and rally in downtown Kamloops.

In August we organized a cavalcade of cars and trucks to travel to Comox to attend the Hiroshima Day events at the CFB base at the Island city; as well as events in Kamloops, Vernon, Salmon Arm and Kelowna.

Throughout the year, as issues arose, the KSPC fired off letters to elected officials and government agencies demanding that Canada's voice internationally be one of peace. As well, we were in frequent contact with both the School Board and City Council on issues of peace and war in our area.

Out of that contact came the preparation of a peace education kit for presentation to the school board, and the city council and school board endorsed Disarmament Week, 1981, the council supported Nuclear Awareness Day and the School Board extended support to the Operation Dismantle Global Referendum.

The KSPC organized a film festival as the centerpiece of our activities marking Disarmament Week, maintained a week long informational booth in the Thompson Park Mall, placed ads in newspapers and so on.

But, most importantly, 1981 was the year in which we talked to people... and at least 3000 of them have added their names to the Peace Is Everybody's Business petition, while many others have expressed an interest in the ongoing activities of the Peace Council

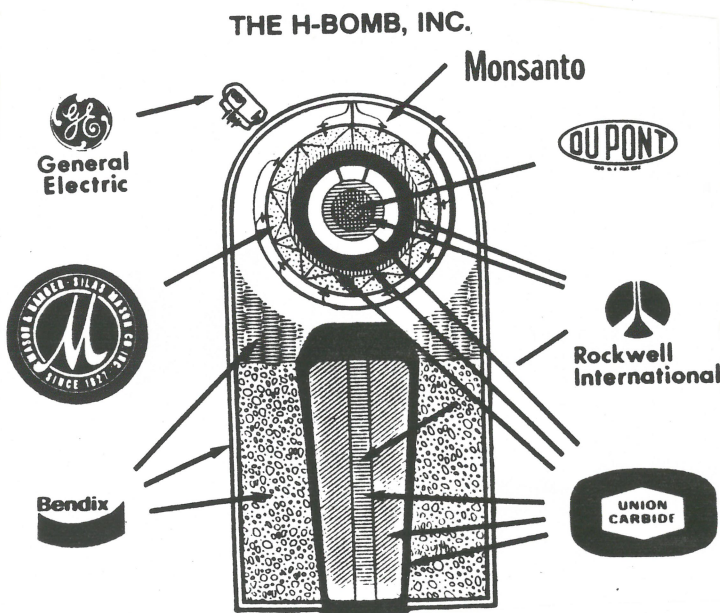
But, so much for 1981; and we're entitled to take a minute or two to reflect upon a good year. But, only for a few minutes because we haven't won...yet.

In 1982, we'll need just as much effort, and a lot more people. So, while reflecting upon all of the good things we've done, remember that a new year is on the way, and we'll be back at it as soon as it arrives.

Finally; the KSPC thanks you...our members and supporters for all of your assistance and cooperation this year. Without you nothing would happen

At this time of year, everyone has Christmas shopping. Most of us are pretty careful about what we buy as presents... no model B-1 Bombers for our favorite nephews; nor GI Joe dolls for the kid next door; nor any of the other war industry toys which flood our stores for the season of Peace and Joy.

But, what about that 'absolutely darling little skirt' you just picked up for your granddaughter? If it contains any synthetic material, and it probably does, the chances are pretty good that either Dupont or Monsanto had something to do about making the material. Both are major suppliers of material for the production of hydrogen bombs.



And, that electric carving knife, or blender, that you're picking up for your aunt Ethel was quite probably built by General Electric, or Sylvania, or any one of a number of other electronics companies. Again, both are suppliers for H Bombs, as well as being prime contractors for the MX missile.

And that new watch for your husband. That's right, Timex is another MX contractor. And so is Goodyear, Rockwell International, Bell and a host of others so that means no tires, no movie projectors, no power hand tools and so on.

So, you'll play it safe and send money... just don't borrow it from AVCO Finance. Nope. AVCO is yet another contractor for the MX.

And don't even think of getting that 'long distance feeling' over the holiday season, or flying out to see your relatives because General Telephone, Bell Communications, Boeing, Douglas and every other aircraft producer are all up to their necks in the MX.

We don't really expect you to avoid every company involved in the arms race. Unless you're prepared to uninvent the

wheel, you're pretty well bound to come into contact with one or another of these arms profiteers somewhere along the line this holiday season.

All we're pointing out here is that as one arm of the corporate octopus is packaging up your loved one's Christmas gifts, and advertising the beauties of peace and joy, another arm is preparing to make a fortune by blowing us all from the face of the earth.

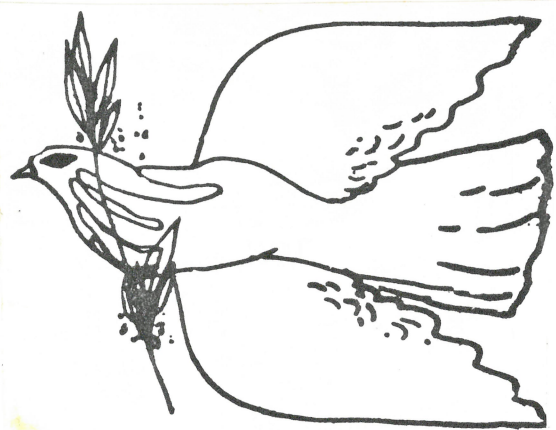
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INTERNATIONAL NOTES.....

As reported in our last issue, millions of Europeans took to the streets during Disarmament Week to demand their governments move towards sanity; and an end to the arms race.

However, much to the dismay of the Pentagon, the peace sentiment expressed during that week is far from waning.

In MADRID more than 500,000 Spaniards took to the streets November 15 to tell their government in no uncertain terms that they want nothing to do with NATO and its plans to turn Europe into a nuclear wasteland. The Spanish government is planning to put NATO membership to a referendum vote. As the Spanish people were saying they don't want to get into NATO, more than one million Greeks; the largest peace demonstration anywhere in Europe marched upon the American embassy in ATHENS demanding the removal of US nuclear weapons from Greek soil, and that Greece withdraw from NATO. The new socialist government of Greece is committed to pulling out of NATO.



And, in TOKYO, the government of Japan ignored heavy US pressure and announced that it would not increase its military budget as the US had demanded, nor would it accept any request to have Cruise missiles or any other nuclear weapons stationed upon its territory.

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Neither are inevitable

A friend argued with us last week that "peace is inevitable" because of the "balance of terror weapons" that are stockpiled in today's world. Such a notion is a most dangerous illusion. It is on a par with another notion that "war is inevitable". While appearing to be at variance with one another, both serve to fire the arms race. And to fire the arms race intensifies the danger of world nuclear war. Both notions serve the aims of the imperialist rulers of the capitalist world.

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The only guarantee for world peace rests in the hands of the peoples of all countries, and in particular in the hands of the workers. For, once mobilized around the demand for arms limitation and disarmament with security for all countries big and small and secure in the knowledge of **who** is the enemy of world peace, the power of the people is greater than that of the enemies of peace.

The right of all people to live in peace, and to determine their own collective destiny is violated daily by the imperialist rulers of the Western democracies. This is especially true in the USA and the other big NATO powers. To single out the big imperialist powers is not to excuse the smaller NATO powers such as Canada.

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NATO and the big member powers, spurred on by the USA and West Germany, are pursuing a hard-line policy in a most dangerous way. The aim of this policy is to reverse the present approximate military balance existing between the Soviet Union and the USA, and be-

tween NATO and Warsaw Pact, in favor of NATO and the dominant imperialist member powers. It is in this light one must view the December 1979 decision of NATO to deploy 108 Pershing II and 464 Cruise missile systems in Western Europe, and the reactivating of the N-bomb and new nuclear weapons' systems by U.S. President Reagan.

Not less than 268 of the Sherman II and Cruise missile systems are to be deployed in the Federal Republic of Germany. The addition of these new-type, medium-range strategic missile systems, added to the 5,000 nuclear warheads already deployed on West German soil, makes the FRG a storehouse of the biggest concentration of nuclear arms in the world. Such a concentration of nuclear weaponry aimed principally at the Soviet Union does not soften the danger of world nuclear war. Rather it intensifies that danger and can only evoke a heightened response from the USSR and Warsaw Pact.

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Since 1975 NATO's arms build-up assumed horrendous proportions. In 1970 the NATO countries spent \$103.3-billion for military purposes. In 1979 that sum more than doubled to \$211-billion. At the current rate of increase it will amount to some \$300-billion during the 1981 fiscal year. Under the long-term Washington arms agreement NATO countries are committed to spend \$100-billion during the 1980's for the sole purpose of introducing new weapon systems.

In addition to arms spending under NATO auspices, the U.S. military budget for the 1981-82 fiscal year amounts to \$200.3-billion (Reagan recently asked for a further \$17-billion). For the next five years the U.S. Administration plans total military expenditures of \$1.3-trillion. The FRG, which runs the USA a close second in its advocacy of the arms build-up, plans to spend DM 1,000,000 million during the 14-year period 1979-1993.

By its own admission, the U.S. Administration has embarked on a path aimed to restore the tattered leadership of the USA within the imperialist camp. It hopes to accomplish this objective through its economic and political clout including threat of punitive action on both these fronts if necessary. As for the developing countries, U.S. imperialism

uses force by proxy, the threat of force, subversion, destabilization tactics, and the incitement of counter-revolution to compel such countries to submit to Washington's dictat.

Spokesmen for the Reagan Administration have publicly stated that the Administration wants to build up U.S. military might to the point where the Soviet Union can be compelled to change its economic and political aims in conformity with U.S. aims. These are words of war.

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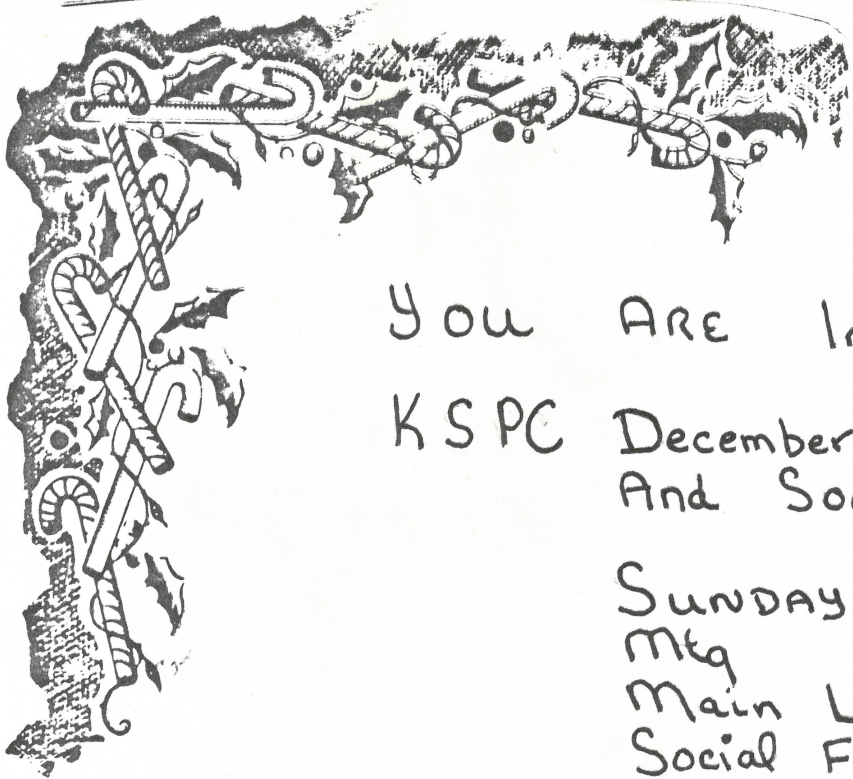
Proof of the above is to be found in the following statements made by the U.S. Secretary of State Haig before the Senate Foreign Relations Committee in Washington. Asked what he thought about the use of nuclear weapons, the Hawkish general declared:

"In the atomic age there are things worth fighting for. Our deterrence will only be credible if we are seen to be willing to use our power, including nuclear power." And further: Asked whether the maintenance of peace ought to be the primary goal of U.S. foreign policy. Haig said "... there are things more important than peace." (DPA, January 10, 1981)

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It is time that the voice of concerned Canadians should be heard in ever rising crescendo demanding: Canada out of NATO and NORAD, No to the neutron bomb, make Canada a nuclear weapon free zone, stop the arms race, begin disarmament now!

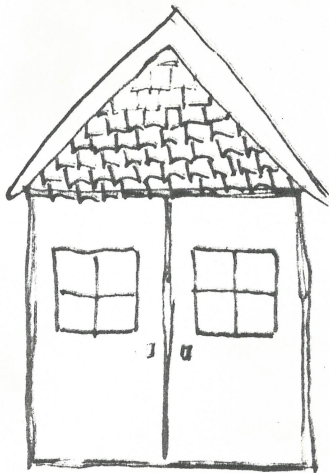
The writer, Alf Dewhurst is widely recognized as a leading Canadian authority on the peace movement. A participant and leader of Canadian participation in many international peace events, he frequently devotes his weekly column in the Pacific Tribune to questions of peace and war. The above is a reprint from the Pacific Tribune.



YOU ARE INVITED TO
KSPC December Monthly Meeting
And Social Evening

SUNDAY DECEMBER 13
Mtg 7:30 P.M.
Main Library 2nd fl. St. Paul
Social Follows
120 W. ST. Paul St.

GUEST Speaker: Pat GIORA
Delegate To North American
Meeting of Youth & Students
FOR Peace, Detente &
Disarmament



Draw on Doll House
Raffle will be held
at the Social Evening

