

Kamloops~Shuswap



Peace News

No. 14, May, 1982

PEACE NEWS is published monthly by the Kamloops-Shuswap Peace Council, P.O. Box 973. Kamloops, B.C., V2C 6H1, ph. 376-7663. 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 the World Peace Council. We welcome your comments or opinions on any material printed in PEACE NEWS.

Thousands Walk For Peace April 24

More than 45,000 British Columbians, including almost 500 in Kamloops, took time on April 24 to demonstrate their concern over the spiralling arms race. Police estimate that as many as 40,000 people took part in a giant march and rally in Vancouver, another 4,000 in Victoria, at least 300 in Vernon and we have no reports as to how many joined in a demonstration in Nelson. In addition there were other demonstrations in cities across Canada.

The Kamloops rally, the third consecutive Nuclear Awareness Day rally, was organized by a coalition of 13 groups including the KSPC, the Kamloops and District Labour Council, several trade unions,

and a number of Church and disarmament groups.

Speakers at the rally included Dean Patrick Lee of the Anglican Church, Lavern Isert of the Yellowhead Ecological Association, Sharon Prescott, executive assistant to MP Nelson Riis, and Bill Ferguson of the Canadian Union of Public Employees. Entertainment was offered by a number of local performers, too numerous to mention here.

The April 24 rally and Walk for Peace was the culmination of a week of activities organized by the Kamloops International Nuclear Awareness Day Committee, including a civic proclamation.

EDITORIAL

April 24th marked the beginning of a new era for the peace movement in B.C.

With more than 40,000 British Columbians taking to the streets to protest the nuclear arms race the peace movement has become a movement of mass proportions.

But, even though we're entitled a little bit of celebration - we're not entitled to relax.

The opponents of the peace movement - and there are lots of them - are already stepping up their attack against us. Even in Kamloops both radio stations and one newspaper have dedicated editorials to attacking us.

This shouldn't surprise us - nor stop us.

In fact, it's even a little point of pride because it means that the peace movement - all of it -



has become a force to be reckoned with; not simply ignored.

No, there is still lot's to be done, lot's of petitions to circulate, rallies to organize, politicians to lobby and most importantly, lots of people to convince.

Sure, let's celebrate a little and then get back to the job at hand. We have a movement to build... and a world to save.

Voters to Have Say on Disarmament



Despite furious opposition from most of the local media, Operation Dismantle, together with the whole of the Kamloops peace movement, was able to convince Kamloops City Council to conduct a referendum on the question of global disarmament during the November civic elections.

Dismantle's brief requesting the referendum was supported by the whole of council, with one exception, Ald. Helen Kerr. Ald. Kenna Cartwright, who presented the motion, said that despite arguments to the contrary, the city of Kamloops is already involved in the problem of the arms race. She said that the vote in November would give individuals a "role to play" in a serious world problem.

Congratulations to Operation Dismantle, those who signed their petitions, and to Council for having the courage to carry forward with the referendum.

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UNSSOD Demonstrations Set for June 12

The United Nations General Assembly will open June 8 for the Second Special Session on Disarmament (UNSSOD), and actions are being planned in all parts of the world to coincide with that most important event.

It is expected that many heads of government will take part in the second special session, and public attitudes in their home countries will play an important part in shaping the form of their contributions.

Disarmament groups throughout B.C. and Washington State are planning to mark UNSSOD with a giant rally at the Peace Arch, the monument which straddles the Canada-US border just south of Vancouver. They are hoping that at least 60,000 people will participate.

Currently, plans are underway in several interior centers to mobilize people to travel to that demonstration, either in chartered buses or through car cavalcades. Plans will firm up in the next few weeks.

But, while the June 12 demonstration is important in keeping the pressure on Ottawa, it is important that actions be taken now to inform the politicians that Canadians expect Canada to play a positive role during UNSSOD, specifically that Canada declare itself a nuclear weapons free zone.

From here and there....

....Peace actions of all kinds highlighting Canada's role in the arms race and the need for disarmament are taking place. Two of the more imaginative are the plans of Bob O'Neill to bicycle from Vancouver to Toronto under the banner of Cyclists for Peace, and the plans of a number of Vancouver people to mount a cavalcade to New York to attend the UN Special Session on Disarmament. Both groups will be passing through Kamloops....

....Page 4 of this issue of PEACE NEWS is a copy of a letter which the KSPC received from actor Ed Asner in response to our letter supporting his efforts in defence of the people of El Salvador...

....With the need for coordinated peace action greater now than at any time in history, a number of groups in the interior of B.C. are currently discussing the feasibility of the formation of an Interior Coalition for Disarmament. The coalition would work towards better coordination of peace forces in this part of the world....

....The activities of Nuclear Awareness Day, including our booth in the Thompson Park Mall resulted in several hundred additional signatures on the Peace Is Everybody's Business Petition. To date, the KSPC has collected more than 3,000 signatures and on a Canada wide basis, more than 160,000 signatures have been forwarded to the Federal government....

....Yet another professional group of peace activists has been formed, this time for teachers. Educators for Nuclear Disarmament (END) has been established with its first chapter at Capilano College in North Vancouver. Anyone wishing further information on this most important group should contact the KSPC for names and addresses....

....A camera, bearing the initials CDW, was found at the Nuclear Awareness Day rally in Riverside Park. Anyone losing a camera is urged to contact the KSPC at 376-7663....

....Harry Belafonte has been awarded the Martin Luther King Peace Prize, primarily for his work in defence of human rights in the United States....

....A rock concert with a difference was held in the German Democratic Republic last month. Fifteen of the GDR's top rock groups and soloists presented three concerts under the banner of Rock For Peace....

....The KSPC meets the second Sunday of each month, at 1:30 p.m., in the public library, 236 St. Paul. All invited....

QUOTE OF THE MONTH:

"...we must remember that it has been we Americans who, at almost every step of the road, have taken the lead in the development of (nuclear) weaponry. It was we who first produced and tested such a device; we who were the first to raise its destructiveness to a new level with the hydrogen bomb; we who have declined every proposal for the renunciation of the principle of 'first use'; and we alone, so help us God, who have used the weapon in anger against others, and against tens of thousands of helpless non-combatants at that."

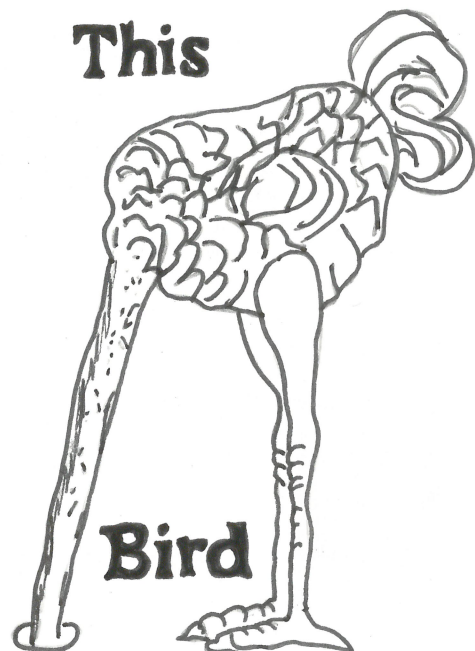
- George Kennan, former
ambassador to the USSR under
President Eisenhower

Edith Adamson, from the Peace Tax Fund Committee of Victoria visited Kamloops April 19th to popularize the concept of a Peace Tax Fund. She met with members of the KSPC and addressed the Kamloops and District Labour Council where she was very warmly received.

She told delegates to the Labour Council that about 10.5% of any individual's tax is earmarked for the military and urged as many as possible to withhold an amount equal to that from their income tax.

Ultimately, she said, after all appeals are exhausted there will be a test case before the Supreme Court of Canada. This, she said, will be the first test of the new Charter of Freedoms; specifically the first freedom of conscience.

Ms. Adamson said that there has been widespread international interest in the concept of the Peace Tax Fund, and that there were plans for a meeting of such groups during the UN.



REMINDER - Use the KSPC Library

Canadian Tree in Peace Park

A Canadian Sugar Maple, donated by the High Commissioner to Australia, is one of more than 300 trees donated to a Grove of Peace in Wollongong, Australia. The Grove is part of an overall plan for a Peace Park conceived by Australian Peace Activist Mike Clunne.

To Prime Minister Trudeau:

NO! to the testing of Cruise Missiles in Alberta!

YES! Canada — a nuclear weapons free zone!

This must be our contribution the Second United Nations
Special Session on Disarmament!

Name _____

Address _____

Signature _____

KAMLOOPS-SHUSWAP PEACE COUNCIL, Box 973, Kamloops, B.C.

Clip and Mail
to
Prime Minister
Pierre Trudeau
House of Commons
Ottawa, Ontario

Remember: No
postage is needed

For more cards,
contact the KSPC
P.O. Box 973
Kamloops, B.C.
V2C 6H1

EDWARD ASNER

March 29, 1982

Dear Ms. Gidora:

Many many thanks for your letter of support. It's especially heartening coming from your Council.

I'll continue to speak out and hope it makes some small difference for our neighbors in El Salvador.

I thank you and your Kamloops-Shuswap Peace Council for adding your important voices--and for adding to the courage of the people in El Salvador.

Best wishes,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read 'Ed Asner', written in dark ink.

Edward Asner

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