

Kamloops~Shuswap



Peace News

No. 15, June 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.

As many as 100,000 people from across B.C., Washington State and from as far as Mexico are expected to descend upon the Peace Arch Saturday, June 12 in one of the most significant peace rallies in North America to coincide with the opening of the United Nations Second Special Session on Disarmament.

More than 100 B.C. and Washington peace groups, trade unions, churches, student, environmental and womens' groups are taking part in the preparations of what is certain to be an historic event.

This rally is one of the scores of events which will take



DISARMAMENT

in virtually every major city around the world to show support for the work of UNSSOD.

In order to ensure that as many people from our area as possible attend the Peace Arch Rally (the Peace Arch is on the Canada-US border south of Vancouver), work is underway in Kamloops to organize buses and carpools for the trip.

We are still in need of cars with drivers to guarantee a large contingent from the interior. If you are able to volunteer your car...or simply need a ride call us at 376-7663 or 374-3269.

Peace activists, from all countries, regard UNSSOD as one of the most significant events in the fight for peace and disarmament. A multiplicity of events and activities, from individual acts to major protests involving hundreds of thousands of people are either in the advanced planning stage or are already underway.

Locally, the KSPC is involved in a number of activities leading up to UNSSOD, are morally supporting all other actions.

KSPC Chairperson Val Carey will represent our council at what is expected to be the major event June 12, a giant peace rally in New York City, which may attract as many as 500,000 people from around the world. At last report, some peace enthusiasts were chartering aircraft from Europe to be in attendance. In addition to the rally, Val will take part in a wide

range of activities which are scheduled for New York to parallel the UNSSO.

Project Caravan, a group of peace activists from Vancouver is yet another of the many actions highlighting UNSSOD. In this case a group of people is travelling from Vancouver to New York for UNSSOD, making stops and meeting with groups across the country. Kamloops was the first stop for the Caravan, which will visit a total of 9 Canadian cities before heading to New York, along with several hundred other people organized by the *Toronto Disarmament Network*.

While several hundred are travelling to New York by bus, some 40 people are *walking for Peace*, from Toronto to New York. They left in April and are soon to meet up with more hikers who set out to New York from San

(cont'd page 2)

UNSSOD (from page 1)

Francisco. Both groups have reported that rather than losing numbers as the kilometers go by; they have grown in size.

However, while most of the world's attention will be focussing on the need for disarming, that dinosaur of dinosaur, NATO, will be convening a summit for June 10, right as the UNSSOD is meeting. The KSPC has wired Prime Minister Trudeau urging that he lead the Canadian delegation to UNSSOD, rather than attend the NATO meeting, as he has indicated he will.

Yet another symbolic gesture in support of UNSSOD is the transporting of the Olympic Torch to Bonn, site of the NATO summit, through Canada to New York.

And, finally in Kamloops, several local peace groups, including the KSPC are planning a public meeting and film showing for the week immediately prior to the opening of UNSSOD to focus even more local attention to the work of that gathering. As speakers and other arrangements of the meeting are finalized, a special mailing will be made to ensure that all peace supporters in the area are notified.

This list is by no means a comprehensive account of all that is planned in support of UNSSOD...not even for Canada; but it does indicate the importance which all peace forces have put upon the success of UNSSOD.

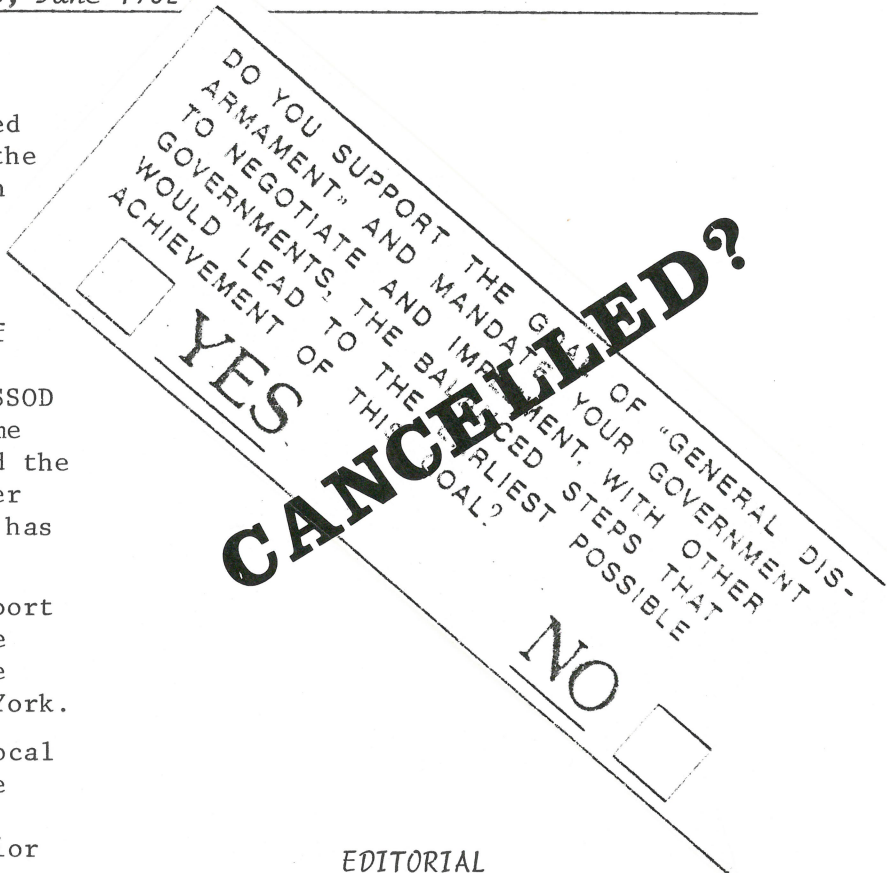
Noon Hour Peace Talks Set

Starting at noon, Monday, May 31 and continuing for the following two Mondays, the Kamloops United Church has scheduled noon hour peace talks.

The talks, to be held at the Christian Education Center, 421 St. Paul St., are open to all, and will focus on questions of war and peace. The PEACE NEWS urges as many people as possible to attend and keep abreast of the latest developments in the fight for peace.

Minority Report Makes Sense

Once in awhile something comes out of Ottawa on the question of disarmament which makes sense. Such a document is "Security and Disarmament: A Minority Report", which was prepared by six dissenting members of the House of Commons Standing Committee on External Affairs and National Defence. Copies of the report, which is must reading for all peace activists are available from the KSPC. The six MP's report was prepared to counter the majority opinion to be presented to UNSSOD.



EDITORIAL

In what KSPC Chairperson Val Carey called a "cowardly decision", Kamloops City Council reneged on a decision to include a vote on global disarmament in the November civic elections.

Using the pretence that the Municipal Act does not allow municipalities to schedule votes on matters such as disarmament, city council voted, with only Aldermen Kenna Cartwright and Cliff Branchflower opposed, to reverse their earlier decision. This vote came even though City Administrator Graydon Hayward pointed out that several other B.C. cities had also decided to set up such votes.

Apparently the B.C. Municipal Affairs ministry had a hand in overturning the city council's original decision, and should show where Municipal Affairs Minister Bill VanderZalm stands on disarmament, if not the whole provincial government.

There is no reason, however, that this vote cannot be overturned, again. Apparently when it was a popular issue the city council felt that the vote was worthwhile, but as soon as the pressure was off...so was the vote.

The KSPC, along with several other groups will be making their views known to council, and individual aldermen. In fact, we just happen to have their phone numbers handy: Ald. Bob Chalmers, 376-9868; Gordon Rye, 374-1142; Ald. Dianne Kerr 374-1335; Ald. Helen Kerr, 374-6062; Ald. Pat Wallace, 372-3517; Ald. Howard Dack, 578-7156, Ald. Kenna Cartwright, 374-4630; Ald. Cliff Branchflower, 376-3407; and, of course, Mayor Mike Latta, 573-5998. We know what you're thinking. Shame on you!

Canadian Peace Congress
Director Visits Kamloops

Gordon Flowers, newly appointed Executive Director of the Canadian Peace Congress visited Kamloops May 23-24 on a tour of western Canada.

Gordon, based in Toronto, met with members of the KSPC executive and carried out interviews with representatives of the local media.

The peace movement in Canada, he said, is growing by leaps and bounds and he offered as evidence of that the fact that at last count there were more than 45 separate peace organizations in the city of Toronto alone; a situation which is repeated in nearly every major city across the country. "In fact, we're hearing the same reports from everywhere. If a council holds a meeting expecting 200 people, they have to turn people away after they fill the hall." he noted.

In his discussion with the members of the KSPC executive, he outlined some of the plans for the Peace Congress in the next period of time.

"Our major focus right now, of course, must be mobilizing as many Canadians as possible to be part of the many demonstrations taking place across the country in support of UNSSOD," he said. Gordon pointed out that several hundred Canadians would be taking part in the New York demonstrations, and that Peace Congress affiliates were playing leading roles in organizing local demonstrations.

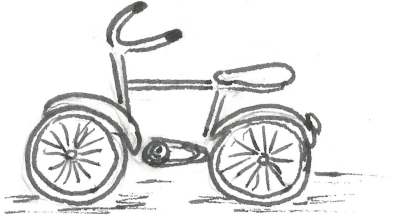
Following the June 12 events, he said that a final effort would be made on the Peace Is Everybody's Business petition, this time focussing on organizational endorsements to secure the goal of one million Canadians. "We hope to be able to reach this target by the fall, and at that time we will propose to the affiliates of the Congress that we really take up the issue of Canada as a nuclear weapons free zone. This, we feel, is an idea whose time has come."

He also discussed plans for a re-organization of the Peace Congress to aid in such things as fundraising and a more regular issuance of materials from the Canadian Peace Congress. He said that plans were now being made to publish a series of four pamphlets in the next period of time outlining topics such as the history of the Canadian Peace Congress, the economics of the arms race and so on.

Another of the Congress' major focal points will be the need to stop the testing of the Cruise Missile in Canada, a demand which will be increasingly

important if the concept of Canada as a nuclear weapons free zone is to have any meaning.

In the past few months, Gordon said that the Peace Congress had met with the government to present its brief on UNSSOD (copies of which are enclosed) and had been working towards the establishment of a larger coalition to take up the campaign for the declaration of Canada as a nuclear weapons free zone.



Cycling For Peace

Are you a bike nut?

Do you have a thing about peace?

If the answer to either of the above questions is yes, then you should be prepared in the first week of August to join with the Cyclists For Peace who will be passing through Kamloops en route from Vancouver to Toronto.

The cyclists, there are three who plan to go the whole distance, will leave Vancouver on July 31 with the aim of being in Toronto in time for Labor Day. Along the way they will be promoting the Peace Is Everybody's Business petition, and getting into extremely good shape.

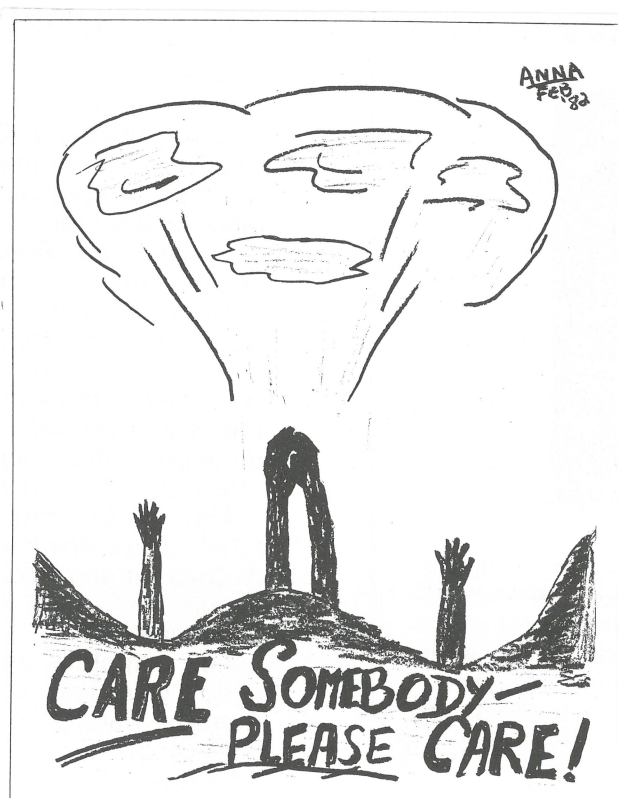
The KSPC is planning on welcoming them to Kamloops in grand style by meeting them at the city limits and escorting them into town for a meeting and social events.

If you have a bike collecting dust in the garage...or are looking for a positive way to lose those extra few pounds; start training and be ready for them. For more information call the KSPC at 376-7663.

Chandra in Vancouver

Romesh Chandra, one of the world's most articulate and impassioned spokesmen for peace and President of the World Peace Council will lead a delegation of five WPC leaders to Vancouver June 19. Also on the delegation will be General Francisco da Costa Gomes, former President of the Republic of Portugal and a Vice President of the WPC, and three other WPC leaders.

For information call 376-7663



Once in awhile something comes across our desk which speaks louder than anything we can ever say. Such is the case with the above drawing which came to our attention with the following note:

"I am a worried teacher. Enclosed you will find a copy of a drawing showing how one of my students feels about the future with the growing stockpiles of nuclear bombs. Would you listen to the childre, and care? They fear they will not be alive in four years. They cope by thinking of life after death. Where is the beauty of humanity to come from if we rob the children of caring, concern and compassion? Please listen and help them."

Sincerely,

A Sad Teacher

SPECIAL NOTICE: Due to the June 12 rally at the Peace Arch, and the June 19 Vancouver visit of World Peace Council president Romesh Chandra, the regular KSPC meeting for June will not be held. All KSPC members are urged to attend these Vancouver events if at all possible. Our regular meetings resume in July.