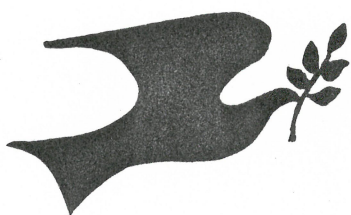


Kamloops~Shuswap



Peace News

No. 16, July, 1982

PEACE NEWS is published monthly by the Kamloops-Shuswap Peace Council, P.O. Box 973, Kamloops, B.C., V2C 6H1 and P.O. Box 3121, Salmon Arm B.C., V0E 2T0; telephone (604) 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 World Peace Council. We welcome your comments and opinions on any material printed in PEACE NEWS.

EDITORIAL
After June 12

Even the optimists were surprised.

World wide, millions of people, young and old; veterans of the peace movement and newcomers; conservative and radical, all took to the streets on June 12 to let the politicians and statesmen of the world gathered in New York that they expected positive action to curb the arms race during the special UN session on disarmament.

Much of downtown New York itself came to a standstill as over one million people marched demanding realistic moves towards disarmament. Hundreds of thousands more took part in various local and regional gatherings. (See special UN report, and

other stories more more detail.)

Without a doubt, it was an historic day, and an historic week for the peace movement.

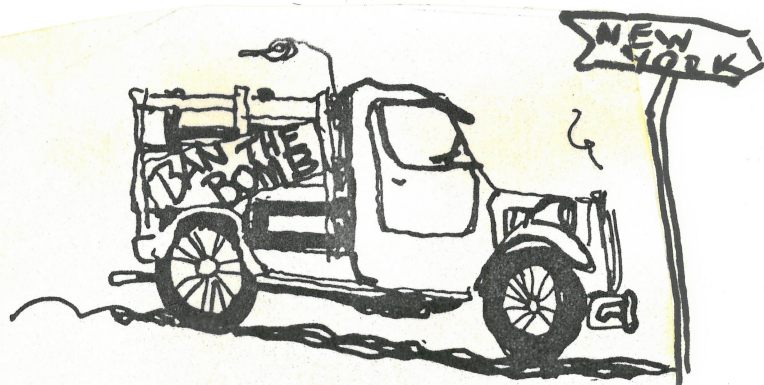
But, while revelling in our successes, let's be a little bit careful. The temptation is there to sit back and say "That's it. We've done it. We've let them know how we feel."

Oh, we've done that alright...but have they listened? US Defence Secretary Casper Weinberger reacted to the New York rally by saying that he "didn't think that it would affect US military policy." US president Reagan essentially echoed those feelings before the UN.

The message is clear....we can't relax and we won't until they listen...and act.



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A Caravan of Peace

They came by all modes of transport to New York. Some walked from San Francisco, others walked from Toronto, some flew from Europe. But, for a group of nine peace activists, getting there was part of the experience.

The nine, eight from B.C., and one from Alberta, 'caravanned for peace' from Vancouver to New York, stopping nightly for meetings, film showings and discussions to draw attention to the UNSSOD, and bring their message of disarmament.

The caravaners, which included for the last part of the journey KSPC chairperson Val Carey, were accorded official recognition at the Canadian Labor Congress convention in Winnipeg, showed films to school classes, met with MP's and Mayor Charlotte Dewar in Ottawa, and met with a number of peace groups from across the country.

In Montreal, the final marshalling point before the trip to New York, the caravaners were enthusiastic participants in a 15,000 strong Peace March which accompanied the Olympic Flame

through the streets of Montreal and sent it on its way to New York.

In New York, the caravaners all obtained grounds passes to the UN and took part in a wide variety of parallel activities organized by various New York based peace groups to coincide with the UN special session.

In addition to regular 'NGO' (non governmental organization) briefings and UN organized activities, caravaners attended a special briefing conducted by Gerard Pelletier, Canada's ambassador to the United Nations, took part in the presentation of petitions, totalling millions of signatures calling for an end to the arms race, to UN officials, attended the New York premiere of the film "Eight Minutes to Midnight" (the name drawn for the atomic clock of the Bulletin of Atomic Scientists), which features the life and activities of peace activist Dr. Helen Caldicott. The premiere, hosted by Performers for Nuclear Disarmament, was an unqualified success with more than 1500 turned away.

Among the many notables taking part in the premiere festivities were violinist Itzack Perlman, singers Holly Near and Ronnie Gilbert, Carly and Lucy Simon, Judy Collins, along with playwright Arthur Miller. The host for the evening was acclaimed actress Meryl Streep.

The caravaners' experiences were an education for all participants, and in turn the caravan itself added to the activities of those they met. Above all, the caravaners experienced first hand the unity of purpose of the international peace movement - even though that movement is extremely broad and diversified - and all have returned home armed with optimism and a sense of urgency to carry on their activities.

- Val Carey

Chandra in Vancouver

Peace activists from across B.C. lunched in Vancouver June 19; but with a difference. They were together to meet and hear from a high ranking delegation from the World Peace Council led by WPC Romesh Chandra. In addition to Chandra, the delegation included Portuguese Marshal Francisco da Costa Gomes, WPC representative to the United Nations, Karen Talbot of the United States, and other ranking WPC officials.

Chandra, on his first visit to Vancouver, urged the gathered activists not to let the recent upsurge in the peace movement detract for the overwhelming necessity to keep up their pressure.

He pointed out that for every new victory for the peace forces, there was an

ever stronger reaction from the militarists.

He drew attention to efforts by the United States government, particularly President Reagan, to discredit the peace movement by branding it as a "communist front"

Chandra told his listeners that the day of labelling an organization, or of creating splits in the peace movement over the politics of the various aspects of the movement were over. It doesn't matter, he said, if they call us communists, or socialists, or social democrats, or christian democrats, or liberals, or whatever...because the peace movement is all of that and more, a reference to the incredible breadth of the peace movement on a world scale.

The KSPC was represented by secretary Kathy Gidora.

DISARMAMENT VOTES

-One stalls; One waffles

As reported in the last issue of *PEACE NEWS*, forces hostile to the growing peace movement are surfacing in various municipalities throughout the province to try and block citizen efforts to place disarmament referendums on municipal ballots this November.



In both Kamloops and Salmon Arm, a number of community, peace, church and trade union groups have been working together to have their respective civic governments place the disarmament vote forward.

An ad-hoc committee for a peace vote involving more than 30 people from 12 Salmon Arm organizations presented a brief to the Salmon Arm council June 28. The ad-hoc committee was spearheaded by the combined efforts of the Salmon Arm Peace Council, the Shuswap Nuclear Study Action Group and the Shuswap Friends (Quakers).

Incredibly, even though the ad-hoc group presented a petition with approximately 800 signatures (more than enough people if transferred into votes to elect an alderman in Salmon Arm) Ald. Al Bianco's motion to conduct a peace vote failed to get a seconder. In order to avoid defeating the motion in public, the matter was tabled to a further meeting of council.

The ad-hoc committee had undertaken an intensive two week lobbying period which included information tables at Salmon Arm shopping malls, advertising campaigns in newspapers and radio, and active phoning campaigns.

While a positive result was not obtained, the ad-hoc group has indicated that they do not consider the matter closed and will continue to push council to end its stalling on this issue.

While the Salmon Arm council stalls on the vote, Kamloops city council is still

waffling on the question; at least some aldermen are.

As in Salmon Arm, an ad-hoc committee for the peace vote has begun meeting to plan for a summer long campaign to restore the vote to the ballot.

So far the committee has planned a number of newspaper advertisements, fully explaining the question, has begun to line up endorsers for the vote, and is preparing for a major submission to the Kamloops City Council in the early fall.

According to KSPC secretary Kathy Gidora, while more than 50 municipalities and cities across the country have scheduled disarmament votes, Kamloops is the only center to originally agree to such a ballot and then renege on that decision. "We're quite certain that the majority of the citizens of Kamloops would like a chance to vote on disarmament, and we hope that we can muster enough support from the community at large to have the question put to the people."

15,000 Jam Peace Arch

While more than one million people marched in New York June 12 in support of the United Nations Second Session on Disarmament, demonstrations across Canada, including more than 15,000 at the Peace Arch Park south of Vancouver, totalled over 70,000 strong.

A number of members of the KSPC took part in the Peace Arch rally, including two who took part in a 35 mile walk for peace from Vancouver to the Park.

While Rally organizers had hoped for a larger crowd, they still considered the 15,000 who turned out as a victory. This was particularly so as the crowd came despite a number of efforts to undermine the demonstration, including the spreading of reports that demonstrators should expect traffic jams of up to 6 hours, the withdrawal of permission to use the US side of the park less than 48 hours before the event, the last minute shuffling of park and ride sites, again at the insistence of the RCMP and traffic officials, the refusal on the part of transit officials to put on extra buses and so on.

The rally attracted participants from as far away as the Kootenays, and northern Vancouver Island, as well as Seattle, even though a reported 35 buses from Seattle were denied access to the US side of the park and were forced to make a circuitous detour if they wished to be part of the rally.

Speakers, all of whom re-iterated the need to continue pressure on the policy makers, and entertainment capped the festive mood of the event.

Quote of the Month....



"The USSR assumes an obligation not to be the first to use nuclear weapons. This obligation shall become effective immediately...If the other nuclear powers assume an equally precise and clear obligation not to be the first to use nuclear weapons, that would be tantamount to a ban on the use of nuclear weapons altogether."

USSR President L. Brezhnev
in a letter to UNSSOD

Upcoming Events....

With the advent of summer, many KSPC members and supporters will be taking vacations and will be out of town for extended periods of time. Keep the following dates in mind.

July 11...1:00 P.M. regular KSPC meeting in the students' lounge, Cariboo College. Agenda will include Hiroshima Day event, fund raising, and proposals for Disarmament Week.

August 6-8: Hiroshima/Nagasaki Days activities. Further details will be available from KSPC

October 24-31: Disarmament Week. Please bring your ideas for events to KSPC meetings

Materials Available From KSPC

Pamphlets

The Mobile Missile: Disaster on Wheels
An explanation and agenda for action to combat the MX missile (SANE)

Deadly Standoff

Destroys the myth of Soviet nuclear and military superiority, outlines a plan for balanced disarmament (SANE)

Looking Nuclear Death in the Face

An explanation of the horror of the Neutron Bomb, agenda for protest (WPC)

What Makes America Strong?

An analysis of the detrimental effects of military spending on the US (and Canadian) economy (SANE)

More Jobs

The benefits of economic conversion from military spending to a civilian economy (Coalition)

Buttons

"Peace Is Everybody's Business"

White and Black on Blue background, B.C. Peace Council

"Taxes For Peace Not War"

Black lettering on yellow background

"Give Peace a Chance"

White on Blue

Bumper Stickers

"If You've Seen One Nuclear War...You've Seen Them All" (KSPC)

"Vote For Disarmament" (Salmon Arm Peace Council)

Posters

"Gone With the Wind"

Ronald Reagan and Margaret Thatcher in a classic pose from the 1930's blockbuster film.

Prices Buttons/Stickers: \$1.00 each

Posters: \$5.00 each

Pamphlets: donation

Quantity prices available on request