



Kamloops-Shuswap Peace Council

PEACE NEWS

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END THE ARMS RACE POSITION ON PUBLIC HEARINGS RE: THE WHITE PAPER ON DEFENCE

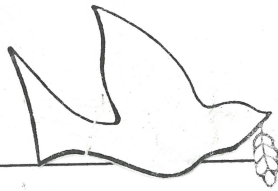
Challenge and Commitment, the white paper on defence, represents a major change in military policy in Canada. While the document is sketchy in detail, it leaves no mistake about the main thrust of "defence" strategy as envisioned by the Progressive Conservative government and Minister of Defence, Warren Beatty.

Until now the Canadian position has been that continuing escalations of the arms race represent the greatest threat to humankind; the proposed policy accepts the arms race as an integral part of the defence strategy and ignores the growing instability which the arms race is causing.

Challenge and Commitment calls for more money, more troops and more equipment for the Canadian Armed Forces. It calls for research, development and production of war materials by Canadian industry. It calls for a greater commitment of Canadian resources to alliances such as the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) and North American Aerospace Defence (NORAD). It also calls for a heightened public relations program on the part of the military to convince Canadians that these types of military programs are necessary.

Mr. Beatty and the Conservative government have set their sights on a more aligned and aggressive defence posture for this country, but before such a policy is adopted it should be the subject of intense public debate. It should be studied and commented on by those whose lives it affects: Canadians in cities and communities across the country.

Many believe that Challenge and Commitment is leading us down a dangerous road. For example, members of the End the Arms Race coalition



would like to express their reservations and concerns with regards to the white paper, which EAR sees as a drastic and dangerous shift in our historic military role.

The white paper has been launched from a dangerous premise that the Soviet Union must be looked upon as an implacable "enemy" of the West. At the outset the USSR is portrayed as a nation intent on weakening the NATO alliance and ultimately overwhelming the free world.

Drawn from the "enemy" premise is a second equally untenable position, namely: that we can afford to divide the world into a "we-them" scenario, and that somehow the security of "our" side can be achieved without consideration for the security of the other. Security in this document is not seen as a global objective that must be reached by everyone.

We want an opportunity to elaborate our position in a public forum. EAR believes that:

*the concept of the "enemy" has lost all meaning in the nuclear age and it must be abandoned even by the military. If we hope to survive we must fix our eye on a global collective security rather than restricting our vision to the needs of one block of nations opposed to another.

* belief in a technological solution to the present nuclear dilemma is naive. It fails to look at the clear lessons of history.

* defence policy should be more open to public scrutiny and debate. Our military and political leaders should stop operating under the premise that they know better than the rest of us what risks we all have to take.

* disarmament and non-military dispute resolutions should be at the heart of Canada's defence policy. The armed forces should not act as though its decisions do not impact upon foreign affairs and diplomatic relations.

* we must examine the actions of our allies and be ready to criticize decisions openly if they reduce Canadian -- and by extension, global -- security. Ultimately, our defence and foreign policies must be based

upon an honest assessment of the positions of our allies and the "enemies" they are arrayed against.

* there are no positive economic benefits derived from military spending or to be found in the development of a large scale arms industry. Any such notions should be given up and an appropriate procurement policy should be adopted.

* the white paper's assessment that detente has failed is shortsighted. Working towards a lessening of tension and ultimately world peace is not a linear process. It is organic. Sometimes it will falter, but the goodwill generated at the grass roots endures. The will to peace is strong and the Canadian Armed Forces and the government of Canada should realize that and accomodate it.

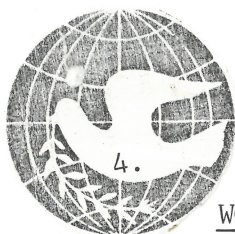
* submarines cannot establish sovreignty. Canada should not embark on a program to aquire nuclear submarines. Instead other means should be explored to resolve territorial differences in the Arctic archipelago.

* high morale is essential to Canada's Armed Forces. But to achieve that two conditions must be met: 1) service men and women must be engaged in purposive activity that is yeilding purposive results and 2) they must be carrying out jobs that can be approved unreservedly by society at large. Expanding the role of the military so that more peace oriented activities are included in its mandate and in the tours of duty of forces personnel would help meet these objectives. A task force should be established to investigate means for Canadian services personnel to become involved in positive peace related initiatives.

*EAR's Committee on the White Paper is currently working on a brief explaining these points in greater detail. We urge the Prime Minister Brian Mulroney and Minister of Defence Warren Beatty to provide a forum where Canadians can present their views, and consider it only fair that such hearings be granted in cities across Canada so everyone has a chance to address the issues raised by Challenge and Commitment.

(End the Arms Race is a coalition of 230 organizations dedicated to abolishing nuclear weapons and funding human needs.)

Douglas Roche, Ambassador for Disarmament, has announced that his office is planning a series of public input meetings on above subject.



WORLD PEACE COUNCIL REPRESENTATIVE VISITS KAMLOOPS

Rob Prince, a former Denver school Teacher, and who is now a North American representative to the World Peace Council in Helsinki, has been touring B.C.. KSPC sponsored a public meeting for him on Nov. 17th.

Prince spoke about the upcoming summit meeting on December 7th, between Mikhail Gorbachev and Ronald Reagan, which will see the signing of the first step in the disarmament process leading to a non-nuclear world. He said that the peace movement can claim victory in the signing of this historic agreement.

"The day Mikhail Gorbachev and Ronald Reagan sign that treaty, I hope the people in Kamloops are celebrating in public, because this is something we all did together," he said.

Rob Prince stated that the treaty has been forced on Reagan by the power and pressure of public opinion. He warned us that Reagan will resist a further reduction of nuclear forces, so that while this is a victory for the peace movement, we still have a lot of work ahead of us.

Prince said that the peace movement must block Reagan's Star Wars program, which could jeopardize future disarmament processes.

CALL FOR ARCTIC RIM PEACE CONFERENCE IN '88

The entire world has gained hope with the prospect of the removal and destruction of all medium range nuclear weapons in Europe by both the U.S. and the U.S.S.R.. For decades, this most heavily armed region of the world, has been the focal point of East-West confrontation. The signing of this agreement will mark a dramatic and historic step back from the brink of global annihilation.

However, as we set the course for humanity on the path of disarmament

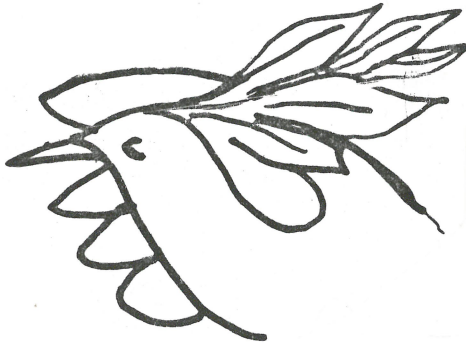
THANK YOU, JENNIFER STONE, BLACK CAT GRAPHICS, FOR OUR NEW LETTERHEAD.

and peace, new centres of nuclear confrontation are being established. It is cruelly disceptive and potentially tragic to reduce the threat of nuclear war in one area only to increase it in another. Such actions undo the value of agreements, mislead the world's majority craving peace and create greater, not lesser insecurity. Such a cruel disception is being carried out through increasing military nuclearization of the Arctic and northern regions of the globe.

Therefore a meeting between the Canadian Peace Congress, Quebec Peace Council and the U.S. Peace Council has called for an Arctic Rim Peace Conference some time in the spring or fall of 1988.

Peace Councils everywhere will be seeking endorsements from all levels of government, labour, peace forces and community groups.

PEACE PLEDGE CAMPAIGN UPDATE



The Peace Umbrella, represented by KSPC and Project Ploughshares, jointly manned a booth in Thompson Park Mall during United Nations Disarmament Week to collect signatures for the Peace Pledge Campaign and to hand out literature and answer questions concerning the peace movement.

The booth was such a success that one was held the following week at North Hills.

The Peace Umbrella has decided that booths will be set up from time to time for this campaign, until the next federal election is called. Peace will be a number one issue in the next election judging by public response at these booths.

KSPC would like to wish everyone a Happy Holiday and
PEACE in 1988!



NUCLEAR WEAPONS LEGAL ACTION UPDATE

Some time ago, we endorsed the Nuclear Weapons Legal Action initiated by the World Federalists of Canada.

The Action is seeking a federal ruling declaring nuclear weapons are illegal under international law.

Endorsations have come from 140 Canadian organizations; including the Canadian Labour Congress, Physicians for Prevention of Nuclear War, peace groups and churches.

On the legal side, the NWLA is close to a decision on what the thrust of the case should be. Discussions have identified two main approaches. One is the "broad" case which would try to show that nuclear weapons are inherently illegal, and so therefore is their use, possession and manufacture. The other is the "narrow" case which would focus on the use of nuclear weapons, with emphasis on Canada's support for NATO's policy of "first use" of nuclear weapons. The Western section of the Legal Committee has already recommended the narrow case. Interest in the case within the Canadian legal community remains high. There are 34 lawyers from all across Canada on the Legal Committee. The Canadian Conference on Nuclear Weapons and the Law held in Ottawa focussed major attention on the subject of the legal issues surrounding nuclear weapons. It attracted participants from around the world and generated valuable material for the case.

The Plaintiff's Coordinating Committee has discussed criteria for choosing Senior Counsel and will soon make the decision. Senior Counsel will work with the PPC and the Legal Committee so that they have the benefit of the experience of all their lawyers and peace activists when the case goes to court.

Finances have been steadily growing, but financial support is still needed for this history-making case. Donations are now tax deductible and may be sent to:

The Jur-Ed Foundation
Nuclear Weapons Legal Action
c/o World Federalists
46 Elgin St., Ste 32 Ottawa, Ont K1P 5K6

OLAF PALME PEACE MARCH

In 1982, the Commission on Disarmament and Security issues (then chaired by, and subsequently named after, the Swedish Prime Minister, Olaf Palme) recommended the creation of a nuclear weapon free zone in Central Europe running 150 kilometres wide on both sides of the borders between NATO and WTO blocs. Later in 1986, the FRG's Social Democratic Party drew up an outline on basic principles for the establishment of the Palme Corridor.

The peace movement had also taken up the issue. The FRG based German Peace Society-War Resisters called on the Czechoslovak Peace Committee and the GDR Peace Council to hold joint actions, "Palme Marches", in support of the nuclear weapons free zone. The idea developed further when these organizations, together with the Austrian Peace Movement issued a joint statement last January to initiate the Olaf Palme Peace March, and base it on a programme of events in all four countries. Other parts of the peace movement, national and international, soon supported the project. For nearly three weeks in September, a mass of events took part in each country - bike tours, rallies, public debates, concerts, civic receptions and foot marches - all focussed on promoting support for the visionary proposal of the Palme Commission.

TOOLS FOR PEACE

Arlene Atchison, coordinator for T4P, is still looking for donations for the 1987 campaign. Arlene has calendars, coffee and salmon for sale, also; to go towards T4P. FMI Phone 376-7361.

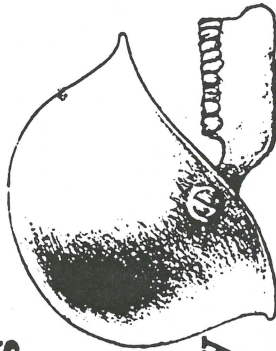
CALENDAR

- December 1 - KSPC regular meeting. Parkview Activity Centre, 500 McDonald Ave, 7:30 p.m. *** NOTE TIME & PLACE CHANGE!
- December 7 - Peace Umbrella is planning something to celebrate signing of INF Agreement between the U.S. & U.S.S.R.
FMI Phone Chum 374-3269 or Val 376-6053
- December 24- Annual Christmas Walk for Peace. FMI Ploughshares 374-3926
- January 5 - KSPC regular meeting. Same as above.

CONGRATULATIONS TO BRUCE AND LISA ON THE BIRTH OF THEIR SON, NOVEMBER 14th, MILES FRASER CAMPBELL. BEST WISHES FROM KSPC.

**The money required
to provide adequate
food, water, education,
health and housing
for everyone in the world
has been estimated
at \$17 billion a year.
It is a huge sum of money**

**...about as
much as
the world
spends on
arms every
two weeks.**



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