



KAMLOOPS-SHUSWAP

PEACE NEWS

PEACE NEWS is published by the Kamloops - Shuswap Peace Council, P.O. Box 973, Kamloops, B.C. V2C 6H1, ph. 374-3269. 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.

issue no. 31 NOV/DEC 1984

EDITORIAL by Charmian Ferguson

War Toys Are Offensive!

As the Christmas season approaches, we can't help but notice the increase in war toy displays; no doubt due to the intensification of cold war activities in the past few years. TV shows and politics beamed in from the States are mainly geared to this theme.

Some people feel that little harm is done when children play with guns, tanks, and toy soldiers but enlightened parents and educators realize that these toys are a subtle form of brain washing - glorifying war and dulling the sensitivity of the impressionable child to the destruction and havoc caused by the real item.

During the sixties, peace groups started an anti-war toy campaign by speaking to managers of stores carrying these items, and boycotting them if they refused to either remove them altogether, or at least display them less prominently. The campaign worked, with the result that war toy production went down. Lately, the trend seems to have reversed, and the KSPC feels that we must again raise our voices and reactivate this campaign. We will be joining with "Stop Military Toys" to police the toy shops.

When buying Christmas presents look for toys that are constructive, well built and fun. War toys are not only offensive at any time, but particularly during the Christmas season, which is traditionally a time for hope and peace.

Merry Christmas and a Peaceful 1985



ONE YEAR LATER -KAL 007

On the first anniversary of the downing of KAL 007, the media again tried to stir up cold war hysteria by going over the details, Reagan version.

While the left circles always claimed it was a spy plane, it is interesting to note that even some of the more moderate papers are questioning the incident, and coming out with a version much closer to the probable truth.

In the August issue of *The Nation*, there is a detailed essay by David Pearson, Ph.D candidate in sociology at Yale.

Although the article is much too long to publish, we will attempt to give you the highlights.

"Whether or not the airliner was on a spy mission and what the nature of such a mission might have been are difficult questions to answer definitively, largely because the Reagan Administration has remained silent on so many crucial issues. But one year after the downing of KAL 007, a careful and thorough analysis of new, complex and technical evidence now in the public records leads to the inescapable conclusion that official U.S. accounts of the incident are neither complete nor credible. While there is no doubt that the Soviet Union's act of downing an unarmed civilian airliner was the proximate cause of the loss of 269 lives, the U.S. government also must be held accountable and accept its share of the blame. The United States responsibility can now be demonstrated on the basis of the following virtual certainties:

*Various U.S. military and intelligence agencies, including the Air Force, the National Security Agency, the C.I.A., the North American Aerospace Defense Command and the National Military Command Centre at the Pentagon, had to have known that Flight K.A.L. 007 was off course well prior to the attack over Sakhalin.

*Those agencies had to have known that K.A.L. 007 was heading toward Soviet territory while a major Soviet missile test was in the making there, and that the airliner was thus in grave danger.

*The agencies had the time and means to communicate with K.A.L. 007 and correct its course, but not one of them did so.

*It seems probable that the Soviet radar systems were jammed at least on the Kamchatka Peninsula and perhaps on Sakhalin Island.

*Finally, given the capabilities of U.S. intelligence and communication systems, it can be presumed that the White House and the Secretary of Defense also knew of the events as they transpired, well in advance of the shootdown. They had plenty of time to issue instructions to civilian air-traffic control authorities to correct the jetliner's course, but no one did.

The article goes on to examine each of the points raised above, and draws attention to the fact that this is not the first such incident of this nature; and as in the past instances, coincided with sensitive and crucial peace talks, thus raising even more questions. Why provoke the Soviets during such inappropriate times?

Anyone wishing the entire article may receive it by contacting KSPC office or phoning Val at 376-6053 or Charmian at 374-3269.

HOW TIMES CHANGE!

Forty-two years ago, allied forces fought a vicious battle in North Africa against the "Desert Fox", Erwin Rommel. Last month his son, Manfred Rommel was guest of honor at a banquet for British war vets.

How times change! Those who were enemies then are now allies, and vice versa. It just goes to show how the ordinary people are manipulated via the media into fighting wars.

50's NUKE TESTS BLAMED FOR LOW GRADES

Nuclear bomb tests in Nevada in the 1950's and 1960's was blamed by a researcher, Prof. Ernest Sternglass, for a drop in I.Q. scores on Scholastic Aptitude tests done by students in seven states; Utah, North and South Dakota, Oklahoma, Wyoming, Colorado and Iowa.

"In fact, the test score patterns of these states are completely consistent with the known patterns of fallout," Sternglass said. He has studied the health effects of nuclear test fallout since 1961.

He said the federal government should halt all underground testing until scientists can further study reasons for the declining test scores.

He said that there is mounting evidence that radioactivity reduces production of a thyroid hormone that controls the development of the brain during the first two years of life. Sternglass said he knows of no other reason why students of 16 to 18 years of age living downwind of Nevada test site have shown up to an 18 point decline on Aptitude tests.

UN DISARMAMENT WEEK

Although the KSPC had to cancel our Film Festival, planned for UN Disarmament Week, other activities took place.

Ploughshares sponsored a "Celebration of Life", with a speaker, Baichand Patel, Senior Political Officer from the United Nations Disarmament Agency.

"Celebration of Life" was an ecumenical service, where people from Ploughshares, the Ba'Hai Community and KSPC spoke. The urgency of the situation and the need for unity were two main themes expressed.

Baichand Patel made a good presentation on the state of disarmament in the world and stressed the need for peace action if we are to survive. He felt that the fact that North Americans have never experienced war on their continent is one of the major reasons that it is harder to mobilize our population to peace activity. One shocking fact that he brought to our attention is the budget of his agency, which is less than that of the New York Fire Department.

SOUTH CENTRAL INTERIOR PEACE LIAISON MEETING

On Sat, Sept. 29th, KSPC member, Sandy MacDonald attended the first liaison meeting between several Interior peace and disarmament groups in Kelowna. The meeting was well received with representatives from the host city, Keremeos, Salmon Arm, Kamloops, Grand Forks, Penticton, Vernon and Oliver in attendance.

The meeting focused on the sharing of group's activities, past present and forthcoming projects, and approaches to peace issues. Sandy would like to note that the Kelowna Peace Group was a very gracious host and laid out a lovely pot luck dinner and refreshments for the participants.

There was an abundance of ideas and activities among the groups, too numerous to mention. Samples were support for "Tools for Peace" (sending supplies, tools, toys, etc to Nicaragua); support for the Peace Tax Fund; to establish Nuclear Free Zones in cooperation with City Councils; to find a sister peace city in another country; and to hold regular spiritual vigils in synchronization with other cities around the world.

There was some emphasis on how children could play a role in the peace movement. It was hoped that children would be encouraged to form their own peace groups and work on projects. As well, Penticton brought a guest speaker, a Hiroshima survivor, to speak to school children. Grand Forks teaches peace as a subject in school and has a world peace scholarship for students interested in working for the peace effort.

In general, the groups felt that the liaison meeting to be beneficial, and an effective way of bringing groups and ideas together. Various representatives were eager to include delegates from our American counterparts to the next meeting for more international input. The consensus was to hold a meeting in Penticton, some time next April.

BOOK REVIEW

By Val Carey

Leaning, Jennifer (Editor)
The Counterfeit Ark: Crisis Relocation
for Nuclear War
Cambridge: Ballinger 1984

The Counterfeit Ark, sponsored by Physicians for Social Responsibility, exposes the fallacies and misinformation behind the civil defence programme in the U.S. In fifteen essays, experts in all aspects of the consequence of nuclear war, examine the crisis relocation planning policy of the current U.S. administration and demonstrate the utter futility of civil defense planning.

This book should be read by anyone who still thinks that civil defense in nuclear war has any value. It is not light reading but is a carefully documented examination of the evidence, based on current information on the effects of nuclear war.

This book is available at Cariboo College library.

KSPC HOSTS SEMINAR - JANUARY 12, 1985

KSPC will be hosting its second peace seminar on Saturday, January 12th at Cariboo College, starting at 9:00 a.m. for registration.

Confirmed workshops are:

- 1) "Economics of the Arms Race" by Emil Bjarnason, Economist and Director of the Trade Union Research Bureau
- 2) "Teaching Peace: Alternatives to Apathy and Despair", a psychological perspective by Al Mackinnon, psychology instructor, Cariboo College. This workshop will be for teachers and instructors mainly.
- 3) "Churches Response to the Arms Race" by Project Ploughshares and Ba'Hai Community.
- 4) Tentatively, "Music for Peace" by Tom Hawken, Vancouver folk singer.

The seminar will be for a full day this year, so that people will be able to attend more than one workshop, with the exception



SEMINAR (con')

of Al Mackinnon's, which will be held in the afternoon only.

Day care, with lunch, will be provided, upon advance request only. Billeting available, also, with advance request. Lunch will be available for adults at a nominal fee.

PROJECT OF THE MONTH

There are two things to do; please express your concerns to stores wherever you see war toys displayed and please mail in the enclosed letter to the Prime Minister.

DATES TO REMEMBER

Nov 12th
Dec 10th > KSPC MEETING 7:30 North Kamloops Library

Dec 24th - Watch for details for the annual "Christmas Eve Walk for Peace" sponsored by Project Ploughshares and Ba'Hai. Meet at Christian Education Centre, noon sharp.

Jan. 12th - Second KSPC Seminar. Come and make this as big a success as last years.

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