

KAMLOOPS-SHUSWAP

PEACE NEWS

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issue no. 33 MAR/APR 1985

CRUISE MISSILE TESTING

The Cruise missile is a small pilotless aircraft. It can be launched in the air, from the ground or from the sea, from surface ships or submarines. It can deliver a conventional warhead or a nuclear warhead (15 X the explosive power of the Hiroshima bomb) to within yards of a target 1500 miles away.

The Cruise is guided by an on-board computer that corrects its course during flight, enabling it to read the terrain, twisting and turning to avoid obstacles along the route. It flies close to the ground, escaping radar.

Second generation advanced Cruise missiles are already being developed which will be supersonic in the final phase of their flight and will incorporate "stealth" technology which reduces the probability of radar detection.

The U.S. military has now tested the Cruise in Canada. The technical reason for testing is to perfect the complicated guidance system over terrain which closely resembles the Soviet Union. The political reason is to implicate Canada in the nuclear arms race and to show that she supports the U.S. policies.

The Cruise missile is the latest escalation in the arms race. It is not a defensive weapon. The U.S. can already destroy the Soviet Union several times over. The Cruise is designed and intended as a war fighting weapon in a so-called "limited nuclear war". It offers great accuracy, low costs, and the possibility of early deployment in large numbers.

In the official Pentagon document "U.S. Military Posture F.Y. 1984", the Joint Chiefs of Staff state that "if deterrence fails, nuclear weapons such as the Cruise and Pershing 11 would make it possible to escalate the intensity of the conflict in a controlled manner." What the Pentagon really means is that the Cruise is designed not to deter nuclear war, but to wage it.

Are we obliged to test it as a NATO partner? While some people suggest that we must, this is not so. The air-launched Cruise missile is not part of the NATO arsenal. It is part of the U.S. independent Strategic Command. The ground launched Cruise deployed in Europe, is assigned to NATO but under U.S. control. Canada had already committed itself to a non-nuclear role in NATO; and just as other European countries, such as the Netherlands and Belgium, have no prior commitment to accept Cruise missiles on their soil, Canada did not have to test the Cruise! Indeed, by allowing the tests, Canada has aided in the development of a new generation of nuclear weapons, hindering progress on arms control and disarmament. Because it is a small mobile weapon, any verification of locations and numbers becomes extremely difficult. Such verification is essential before an agreement to limit nuclear weapons can be concluded.

CRUISE (con't)

The Cruise testing agreement is the first Project Arrangement under the recently signed "Canada-U.S. Test and Evaluation Programme" (CANUSTEP). Under this umbrella agreement, the U.S. can test a large variety of weapons, weapons systems and equipment in Canada. This agreement lasts for five years with an automatic extension for another five years. Canada can refuse any test and the agreement can be terminated by either country on one years notice.

CANUSTEP has serious ramifications for Canada. The agreement itself has never been brought before Parliament nor debated in committee. Further, proposed testing arrangements need only be negotiated and approved by the Minister of National Defence in Canada and the Secretary of Defence in the U.S. or their designates. There is no role for External Affairs.

That means that the decision about what to test and how to test it will not be made between governments, or between parliaments, but between two defence departments, who both have vested interest and whose sensitivities to the political implications and liabilities of specific programs will be blunted.

Furthermore, the agreement provides that information on the testing will be made available to the public only if both defence departments agree. In other words, the public, Members of Parliament, even Parliament itself can be kept in the dark about what is being tested in Canada if the Pentagon wishes it so.

CANUSTEP compromises Canadian sovereignty and undermines our independence. Any number of weapons or weapon systems can be tested here for use anywhere in the world, including Third World countries, and the public has no opportunity to know about the tests in advance, no control over what is tested, and can even be denied any information regarding the results. THIS AGREEMENT MUST BE CANCELLED!

ANSWERS ALLAY NUCLEAR ANXIETY

Parents can ease their children's anxiety about the threat of nuclear war by giving candid and well informed answers to their questions, says an American psychologist.

"The horror films and books about nuclear war should be followed by a discussion of what can be done to stop it," Dr. Ralph White told delegates to the Ontario Psychological Ass'n Annual Convention.

"Give them two reassuring facts - first, there has been no real war since the

DR. WHITE (con't)

first atom bomb was dropped, and second, the peace movement is growing and we parents can handle it," suggested White, a professor at George Washington University.

Recent studies show that young people feel incapable of halting the arms race and this hopeless outlook is affecting the way they view the future. Some experts say it is causing mental health problems.

Participants in the symposium on the psychological impact of nuclear war threat agree greater emphasis in discussions should be placed on how the doomsday scenario can be avoided.

ANTI-CRUISE RALLIES

KSPC and Project Ploughshares have had two rallies to mark the testing of the Cruise missile in Canada. On the Saturdays following each of the tests, Jan. 17th and Feb. 23rd., about forty people turned out to voice their disapproval of Canada's role.

Charmian Ferguson, of KSPC, told the people at the rally on Feb. 23rd, "I am sure that we are all angry, disappointed & frustrated over the continuance of these tests.

While millions of Canadians are out of work, homeless, ill-clad and hungry, the money continues to pour into the arms race. We see new uniforms and upgrading of the military as one of the main priorities of this government. The arms race is not only bankrupting the country - but will ultimately cause the destruction of the world as we know it.

We must channel our anger and frustrations into positive action! We must build the peace movement in Canada into a force that no-one can ignore! We must force the Canadian government to listen and to act on our behalf; as the Belgians, Australians, and New Zealanders have succeeded in doing.

We will march, protest, and make our voices heard until we reach our goal! On April 27th we have our annual "Walk for Peace". Let us make it at least 1,000 strong this year. Together we can do it!"

COFFEE HOUSE FOR PEACE GREAT SUCCESS

On Feb. 23, we held a Coffee House for Peace.

Tom Hawken, Vancouver folk singer, donated his time to us, and we wish to take this opportunity to thank him for making the evening a great success.

Local musicians, who also helped make the evening memorable were Gary Neilsen, Bruce Campbell, Norm Westbrook, and Cathy Jones. Special thanks to Cathy, who drove from Salmon Arm to be with us.

AN OPEN LETTER FROM PAUL by Sheri Deleew

My name is Paul. I live in a hole in the ground. It's not a big hole, really; there's just enough room for me to stand up, but that's okay, because I'm supposed to stand up anyway. I was made that way.

I don't go out a lot. In fact, I don't go out at all. I haven't been out of my hole since I first moved in. I want to stay in. I'm safe in here. Everybody's safe when I'm in here. Some humans, though, I think they want me to come out. They want to send me to Russia.

I don't want to go to Russia. I don't think I'd like it there. It would be all charred and barren after I got there. The humans said there are some just like me and if I went over there, they'd come over here. Sort of like an exchange program I guess, but I don't want to go.

I don't think my Russian counterparts would want to come either. I bet they like their nice, safe holes in the ground. They probably like their nice, quiet neighbourhoods as much as I like mine. If I went over there and they came here nothing would ever be the same.

I've tried to tell the humans that they wouldn't like the exchange program either, and so have my relatives. My cousin went to Japan several years ago just to show them what it would be like after he got there, but I guess the humans didn't understand what he was trying to do.

I guess they thought he was trying to show them what was wrong with his generation, because after he went to Japan, the humans started building more and more of us and making us bigger and stronger than my little cousin was. Even though it would mean that I wouldn't be here, I wish they had listened to my cousin. I sure hope one of us doesn't have to go to Russia to try and show them.

Why don't they learn?

*Sheri is a student at Cariboo College.

In this issue we have two contributions from students. The cartoon on page four is drawn by Jim Ferguson, an eleven year old student from Lloyd George. The cartoon and caption are his own. Jim is a fourth generation peace activist.

Thank you both. We look forward to more items from you and from other students in the Kamloops area.

We appreciate any items from our other readers, also.

PROJECT OF THE MONTH - a Pyramid Letter

Write to the Prime Minister, and copy your M.P. regarding CANUSTEP (see Editorial). Demand that this agreement be cancelled and that Canada cease testing the Cruise and any other weapon on Canadian soil. Use New Zealand and Australia as examples of governments who have listened to their people and are looking after their best interests.

Insist that Canada play a peaceful role and actively take a role in disarmament.

Enclosed is a sample letter that you can use or write your own. Photocopy this and pass it along to two friends, who will do the same. The message will grow as each friend, in turn, passes it along to two more friends, and so on, and so on.

MAJ.-GEN. LEONARD JOHNSON (Retired) SPEAKS OUT AGAINST THE ARMS RACE

On Friday, March 15 Maj.-Gen. Johnson will speak in Vernon at the College Lecture Room, at 7:30 p.m. His topic is "Canada and the Search for World Peace".

In his interview with the Toronto Star, Oct. 27th/84, he states, "Freedom and democracy won't survive militarism, the wasting disease of human society."

The disease is far advanced. Military spending, driving up government deficits, leads to high interest rates, economic recession, and high unemployment. The same factors contribute to the international debt crisis that threatens Western banks and condemns the people of the debtor nations to poverty.

Investment capital essential to future prosperity is diverted to non-productive military consumption, leading to a spiralling decline. The military profession itself, as we saw in Viet Nam, is degraded, its officers sacrificed. And it was militarism that destroyed Korean Airlines Flight 007.

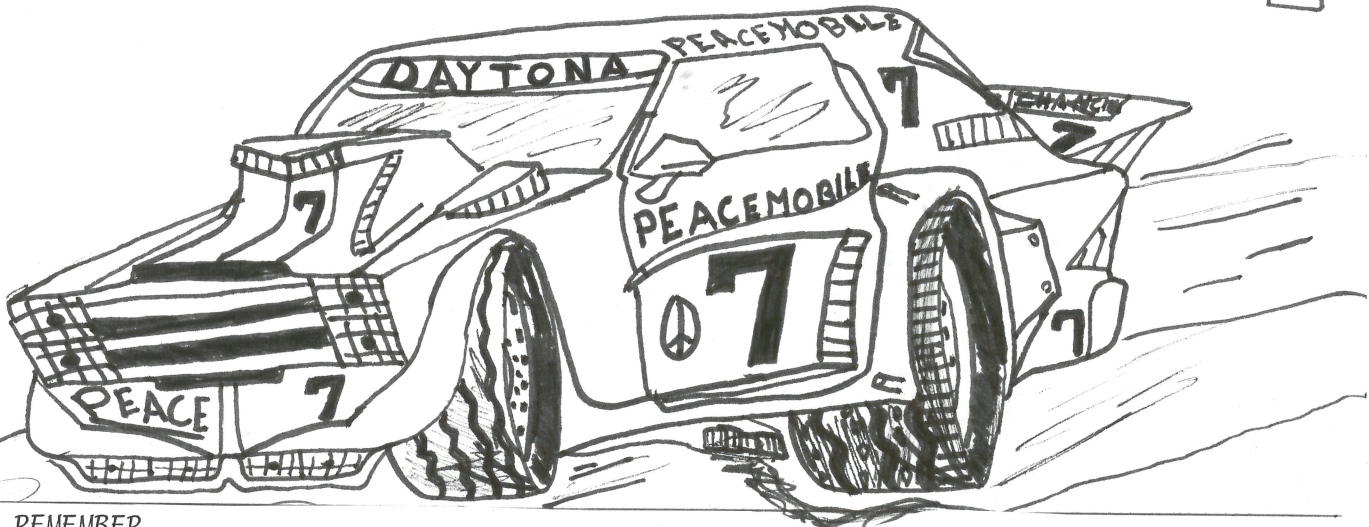
Why does the U.S. plan to destroy the Soviet Union if deterrence fails? I find it inconceivable that any rational president would do so, but could reason prevail in such circumstances? It would be a monstrous crime and a useless act."

KSPC is trying to put together a car pool of anyone interested in going to Vernon to hear the Maj.-Gen. speak. Anyone, who has a car or anyone who would like to go, please phone Val at 376-6053 as soon as possible.



"Well? Did we win or lose?"

**PEACE is Like A
HOT ROD, The more
its modified the
Better it Works!**



DATES TO REMEMBER

March 11th/April 8th - KSPC meets at 523 McKenzie Ave. the second Monday of each month.
7:30 P.M.

March 15th - Hear Maj.-Gen. (Retired) Johnson speak, "Canada & Search for World Peace".
Vernon College Lecture Room, 7:30 P.M. (See details inside)

March 27th - KNAD Cttee meets at Christian Ed. Centre, 4th and St. Paul St., 7:30 P.M.
Please send a representative from your group to finalize plans for Nuclear Awareness Day.

April 12th - Kelowna Peace Group hosts the second annual meeting of peace groups in the
April 13th Interior. Reception and billeting on Friday evening. Planned activities on
Saturday. For Billets phone - Dave Cursons at 493-2918 or John Cameron at
492-0302.

April 27th - Our annual "Walk for Peace" will start at Allen Matthews, 6th and St. Paul
at 12:00 Noon sharp. Rally to follow at Band Shell, Riverside Park. Watch for more
details in the local media. Let's have at least 1,000 people out there this year!

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