KAMLOOPS-SHUSWAP

PEACE NEWS

PEACE

NEWS

PEACE NEWS is published by the Kamloops - Shuswap Peace Council, P.O. Box 973, Kamloops, B.C. ISSUE 10. #45 MAY/JUNE 1987 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 PFACE NEWS.

#### YOUTH MUST ACT TO END NUCLEAR THREAT

Four members of Students Against Global Extermination arrived in B.C. last month, as part of a cross-Canada tour to promote the message of resistance to nuclear war.

A majority of Canadian teenagers expect that nuclear war will happen in their lifetime and feel powerless to change the situation, according to a survey of high school students conducted last year. SAGE is out to change the statistics by encouraging the students first to talk about nuclear war, then to learn about the issues, and finally to take action to stop the threat of global extermination.

Seth Klein, Alison Carpenter, Desiree McGraw and Max Faille, all students from Montreal, launched their tour of B.C. in Prince George, Williams Lake and Kamloops. They had presentations at four local high schools in Kamloops. KSPC hosted the students and we were very impressed by their intelligent and enthusiastic approach to disarmament. Pointing out that youth will account for two and a half million new votes in the next federal election, the SAGE students encouraged the Kamloops students to make their beliefs known through letters and act-

ive participation in peace activites to their local politician.

An information meeting hosted by SAGE was attended by three Kamloops high schools, who were interested in forming their own disarmament group.

As a result of the cross-Canada tour, SAGE has been invited to the States and the Soviet Union.

SAGE students, (left to right) Seth Klein, Alison Carpenter, Desiree McGraw and Max Faille, bring message of action to B.C. students.



#### SANE FORMED IN KAMLOOPS

Students Against Nuclear Extermination was formed in Kamloops as a direct result of the visit from the four Montreal teenagers from SAGE, who were our guests last month.

SANE is comprised of approximately 25 students from three local high schools. Rodney Plante is their spokesperson.

KSPC representatives were present at the initial meeting for SANE, and were very impressed by the groups energy and enthusiasm. We welcome SANE to the growing number of peace and justice groups in the Kamloops area and we look forward to working with them in the future.

#### WALK FOR PEACE - 1987

Although the 1987 "Walk for Peace" didn't increase in numbers as we anticipated, it was certainly one of the best "Walks" to date.

The Peace Umbrella, a coalition of peace and justice and church groups, worked well together producing an excellent program, with just the right balance between speeches, music and children's activities.

A colourful parade walked to the park, singing and carrying blue balloons with white peace doves, placards with peace messages and banners denoting the different groups such as peace, church and labour. There were about 500 people.

Nelson Riis, M.P. for Kamloops-Shuswap, opened the rally. He stated that the Canadian government seems to have taken a step backwards in its role as a world peace leader. The Canadian Government has allowed and encouraged Canadian merchants of war products to flog their wares in some of the worlds trouble spots he said. The Canadian Government has shown itself in favour of cruise missile testing and Reagan's Star Wars.

However, he said that he was still encouraged by the number of peace lovers who joined their fellow man around the world in walking for peace.

Reverend Alan Richards, in an impassioned speech to the crowd, urged us to become more involved in the disarmament issue. We must connect ourselves to others who oppose nuclear arms, keep up the political heat and cultivate our imaginations to rid society of old ideas of defence and security.

"Take back the earth for me means taking claim of our own political power again. I no longer believe that the minister of defence knows anything about defence. We know more than he does," he said.

Rev. Richards also said that we must overcome our mistrust and fear of the Soviet Union. One way he suggested was to learn more about them as people, perhaps "twinning" Kamloops with a Soviet city as a beginning.

Norah Ashmore and Gary Neilsen led a children's sing-a-long; Gary, Roxanne Hall andfriends played and sang peace songs; and Don Waldon, Roger Cooper and Rob Lyall organized the music for the parade and also performed at the rally.

Poet Laureate, Jack Jones, wrote a poem especially for this years "Walk", which was read by Bill Walton.

M.C. John Harper announced that the stude ents group, SANE, had been formed and introduced them to the crowd, who responded by clapping and cheering. SANE encouraged their members to walk for peace as their first activity, and they did. Almost half of the Walk's participants were young people in their teens.

Many thanks to all those who made this year's "Walk for Peace" a success.

#### PEACE VOTER PLEDGE CAMPAIGN

The Peace Voter Pledge Campaign got off to a good start at the "Walk".

The idea for the campaign is simple. People are asked to sign the pledge which states, "When deciding my vote at the next federal election, I the undersigned voter in the federal riding of ...... pledge to consider only those candidates who with words and Action support nuclear disarmament and an end to Canadian involvement in the arms race."

Completed cards will be returned to End the Arms Race in Vancouver, who will process them. Every candidate in each riding will receive copies from constituents in their ridings.

Peace Pledge Voter cards will be available through KSPC and Project Ploughshares, and union offices, etc. for the next several months. Sign one and join the campaign.

#### APPEAL FROM HIROSHIMA AND NAGASAKI

We have received arrequest from Japan to support their appeal. In part it reads:

Forty years have passed since the atomic bombing of Hiroshima and Nagasaki, and the end of the Second World War.

In spite of the intense desire of the A-bomb survivors of Hiroshima and Nagasaki and the people of all the world that such tragedies must never be repeated, nuclear weapons over One million times more destructive than the Hiroshima and Nagasaki bombs are stockpiled, the result of the arms race. The use of these weapons will destroy the human race. They are illegal and immoral.

#### SANE FORMED IN KAMLOOPS

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#### APPEAL (Con't)

Humans must not co-exist with nuclear arms."

The Appeal goes on to state that "There must never be another Hiroshima anywhere on earth. There must never be another Nagasaki on earth.

Now is the time to call for the complete prohibition and elimination of nuclear weapons. Let us work together urgently to achieve a total ban in the use, testing, research, development, production, deployment and stockpiling of nuclear weapons."

We are requested to sign the appeal and return it to Japan.

The Appeal was at the peace walk, where many have signed it, but if you have not, watch for it. We will have it at any of our events in the next few months. Petitions are available through KSPC office, Phone 374-3269, also.



#### PEACE MOVEMENT IN THE USSR

Val Carey, past Chairperson of KSPC, had an opportunity to visit the USSR for six months. KSPC asked her to give us her impressions of the Soviet peace movement. Vals article follows:

"Peace is on everyone's mind in the Soviet Union. The very pressing issue of nuclear disarmament is seen as the concern of all citizens from the worker in the factory to the child in school to the leaders of the country, and all participate in one way or another in the Soviet Peace Movement.

Workers in factories and other enterprises express their concern in the most concrete way by working peace shifts, where all that they earn for the whole shift is donated to the Soviet Peace Committee. AS well, rallies are held on peace issues at workplaces,

letters are written by workers and petitions circulated. They may write to various heads of state, for instance, pressing for arms control talks.

Children are very active in the Soviet Peace movement, partly because peace issues are regularly included in the cirriculum in the USSR. Their participation includes activities at school, at the pioneer palaces after school, and with their parents. It is because of the high profile of the peace issue in their country, children are much more aware of the problem than our children are, and are very much more active. The first day of school in the fall is peace day in every school in the USSR, whether the school is in a major city like Leningrad or in a rural area.

The horror of war is something that most of us in Canada do not have any experience with. The Soviet people however, have experienced war more than many people; there was not a family that was not touched by the second world war. Many old people remember how Russia was invaded by 14 countries following the October revolution in 1917. War has been forced upon the Soviet Union, a country whose first legislative act following the revolution was the decree on peace. All levels of Soviet society agree that disarmament and security is the most important issue facing themselves and the whole world. They know from experience what price must be paid for militarism, and they clearly understand what price the whole world will pay for a nuclear war. The moratorium on nuclear testing was strongly supported by their people, as was placing of seismic equipment at the test site in Kazakstan by American scientists. Equally strongly supported was the decision to resume limited testing following the ReaganAdministration's refusal to join the moratorium that lasted nineteen months.

This is only a small sample of how the peace and disarmament issue is treated by the Soviet people and their government. We need to raise the issue here in such a way that awareness of our people can be introduced to the point where it is an issue for most people. Our people need to understand that the Soviets are not interested in invading us, or nuking us. They are interested in building their society in an atmosphere of peace and security, and they wish that peace and security for the whole world!"

 $\underline{\text{APPEAL}}\text{H}\text{(fien-stm}\text{)}\text{ust}$  not co-exist with nuclear arms."



## DO WHAT YOU CAN.

JOIN THE
KAMLOOPS-SHUSWAP
PEACE COUNCIL

BOX 973 KAMLOOPS V2C 6H1 374-3269 or 376-1550

ACTIVE MEMBERSHIP \$10/YR SUSTAINING \$25/YR.

BI-MONTHLY NEWSLETTER

#### "BLOWING OUR HORN"

We don't "blow our horn" very often, perhaps we should do it more.

KSPC has been the leading peace force in Kamloops, with the others forming groups more recently.

We have been successful in organizing seminars and peace education programs in schools, unions and for the public. We are active in campaigns such as petitioning, Tools for Peace, Shadow Project; Anti-war Toys, writing countless letters to members of parliament, heads of states, etc. regarding peace and disarmament, Peace Voter Pledge campaign, to name a few. We helped other groups to have Kamloops declared a NWFZ in 1986. As well, we have on-going annual events such as the Walk for Peace, Hiroshima and Nagasaki vigil and U.N. Disarmament Week.

We publish a bi-monthly newsletter and until recently had a weekly peace show on Community Cable 10; which we hope to resume soon.

All of this takes time, energy and people! We would like some feed-back

from our readers, so please take a moment to fill out the form below: (If you have already paid your dues or given a donation, please diregard this.)

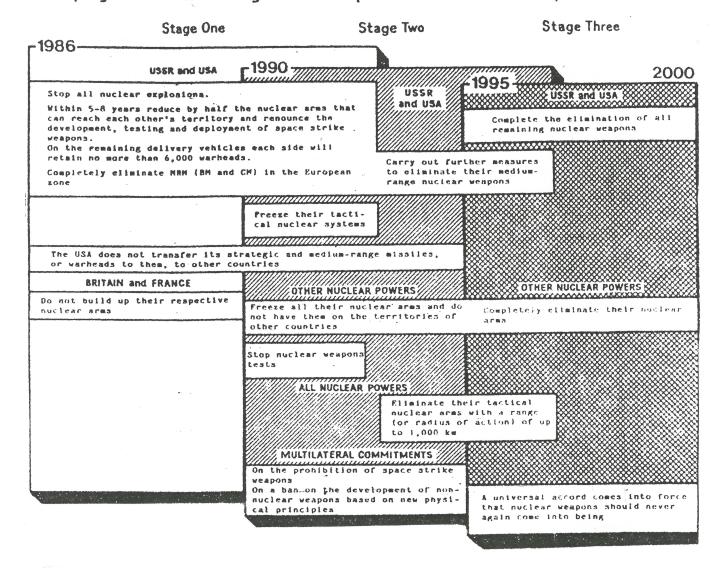
ARE YOU A MEMBER OF KSPC? YESNO
DO YOU WISH TO BE A MEMBER YES NO
DO YOU WISH TO CONTINUE TO RECEIVE THE NEWS IF YOU ANSWERED "NO" TO THE
ABOVE? YES NO
IF YOU ARE CURRENTLY A MEMBER, HAVE YOU PAID YOU 1987 DUES YES NO
(Note-If you are unable to pay at this time, due to unemployment, etc, we
still value your membership. We need active members as well as money)
NAME
ADDRESS POSTAL CODE
DUES OR DONATION ENCLOSED

KAMLOOPS — SHUSWAP PEACE COUNCIL P.O. Box 973 Kamloops, B.C. V2C 6H1

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# The USSR's proposal

on the programme of eliminating nuclear weapons worldwide before the year 2000



#### DATES TO REMEMBER:

MAY 11 - Regular meeting of KSPC, North Kamloops Library, 7:30 p.m. JUNE 8 - (rear door)

KSPC Box 973 Kamloops, B.C. V2C 6H1