



PEACE NEWS is published by the Kamloops - Shuswap Peace Council, P.O. Box 973, Kamloops, B.C. issue no. 46 FALL 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 PEACE NEWS.

THE CANADIAN PEACE PLEDGE CAMPAIGN

Major regional coalitions and local peace groups across Canada have recently launched the Canadian Peace Pledge Campaign -- one of the largest coordinated efforts ever undertaken by the peace movement in Canada. The campaign to "vote Canada out of the arms race" and turn this country into a world-leading voice for peace is our aim.

The campaign will make peace a priority issue in the next federal election by convincing politicians there is a peace vote to be won or lost in their ridings. Voters from coast to coast will be asked to sign pledge cards stating that they will only choose candidates in the next federal election who will: work to stop Canadian involvement in Star Wars; make Canada a nuclear weapons free Country; and work for a complete nuclear test ban.

These voter demands have taken on an even greater significance recently -- since the Defence White Paper has spelled out a policy which opposes these basic steps toward peace.

In June, representatives from six regional peace organizations - from Atlantic to B.C.- and five major national organizations met in Toronto to plan the campaign's next steps.

The most important decision was to involve peace groups across Canada in a massive coordinated pledge card distribution blitz in October. Groups in each area will be encouraged to organize planning meetings to decide the best method for getting cards signed - through door-to-door canvasses, public events, using displays, mailings, etc.. The Pledge Blitz will culminate in coordinated public demonstrations and events during Disarmament Week (October 26th to 31st).

As well as planning the pledge card strategy, several organizations are preparing other important campaign elements. The Pembina Institute for Appropriate Development will work to develop a high school curriculum which dovetails with the campaign; Voice of Women, National, will develop a proposal for post-election pressure and follow-up; and Peace Productions in Toronto will develop a proposal for self-financed TV and Radio ads to support the campaign.

Locally, Pledge cards were introduced at our annual Walk for Peace in April and at the August Hiroshima/Nagasaki Vigil. Cards have been distributed to local union offices and will be distributed through public events. The Peace Umbrella has booked a table in Thompson Park Mall for U.N. Disarmament Week which will be manned by members from KSPC and Ploughshares for the purpose of distributing Pledge cards and other information pertaining to the peace movement. Individually, all members are asked to keep a supply of cards on hand and to ask friends and relatives to sign them.

HIROSHIMA/NAGASAKI VIGIL

The annual Hiroshima/Nagasaki Candle-light Vigil was held August 6th on the beach by Overlander School.

Kamloops-Shuswap M.P. Nelson Riis spoke to the gathering. He said that the fight against nuclear weapons begins at home. He urged everyone to write to City Hall saying that we want signs erected to tell everyone that Kamloops is a Nuclear Weapons Free Zone. (The City passed the plebiscite but signs have not been put up as yet.)

"It's only because people like you continuously strive to remind others, that we can have some impact stopping the nuclear arms race," he said.

Charmian Ferguson, KSPC Secretary, said people should write to the Prime Minister, External Affairs Minister Joe Clark, and their M.P.'s pleading that the Canadian government press for nuclear disarmament and an immediate signing of an INF agreement.

Between the speeches, the group sat on the sandy beach listening to peace music played and sung by Roxanne Bennee, Leslie Charman and Gary Neilsen.

After the candlelighting, and in keeping with the Japanese custom of honouring their dead in Hiroshima and Nagasaki on August 6th, a flotilla of small, candle-lit boats sailed down the Thompson River to end the Vigil.

TOOLS FOR PEACE - 1987

Arlene Atchinson, coordinator for Tools for Peace this year, has been very active.

Arlene organized a successful concert, starring the Nicaraguan group, Kin Lalat, to kick off the fund raising this summer.

She will be writing to community groups to educate and enlist them in the T4P campaign.

Priority items for the Nicaraguan's this year are: safety gear - goggles, safety boots, hard hats, etc.; fishing gear (preferably commercial) and nets; boots for farmer's (size 8 and under); and corrugated roofing to help rebuild the war torn areas where the Contras have concentrated their raiding on villages and schools and hospitals.

Arlene is also selling salmon at \$2 a tin, which is canned by the B.C. Fisherman's Union to raise money for a fishing boat they are building for Nicaragua. Next month, Arlene will be selling Nicaraguan coffee at \$5.55 a lb., funding for T4P. FMI or if you wish to lend a hand, Phone Arlene at 376-7361.

B.C.M.A. STUDIES
EFFECTS OF NUCLEAR
WAR

The B.C. Medical Association has been studying the effects of nuclear war since 1981. In their view: "Nuclear war is the greatest threat to life and health in this century."

In keeping with their policy to educate physicians, politicians and the public about the effects of nuclear war, they have produced a publication, "A Brief about Nuclear War". The doctors say that it is clear that reducing the threat of nuclear war is the greatest and most important challenge facing us all.

"We have left our children alone with this problem inasmuch as they are forced to learn what they can about it from the media, and possibly from each other. We have provided neither reliable information through the schools nor the opportunity for open, considered discussion with responsible adults - parents, teachers, religious, community and government leaders."

This publication is designed to address that need. Available from the KSPC lending library. (374-3269).

SOVIET PEACE COMMITTEE TO VISIT B.C.

A delegation of three people from the Soviet Peace Committee will be touring across Canada this fall. The new situation internationally and within the Soviet Union has opened growing interest in meeting and hearing from these representatives. We are hoping that we will be able to host them in Kamloops. Val Carey is in charge of arrangements, and will notify us as soon as possible.

If the visitor's time schedule does not permit a local visit, we will let interested people know when they will be in Vancouver or the nearest city, where they will be.

THIRD B.C. PEACE CONFERENCE

The Third annual B.C. Peace Conference, "Alternatives and Solutions", will be held on Friday, September 18 to Sunday September 20th.

The fee schedule is: \$40 for the original delegate from an organization, and \$20 for each additional delegate.

The goals of the conference are to unify the B.C. Peace Movement behind the two major nationally approved campaigns: Canadian Peace Pledge and Nuclear Weapons Free Zones. With our combined support for these two actions we can send a clear message to all politicians that we intend to make PEACE an issue in the next federal election.

For registrations and agenda's phone Lisa 376-1550

SOUTH CENTRAL INTERIOR PEACE LIASON MEETING

The Kelowna Peace Group will be hosting the South Central Liason Meeting on Saturday, September 26th at the I.O.O.F. Hall, 2597 Richter Street, beginning at 10:00 A.M..

Refreshments will be available. There are no registration fees. Billets will be provided on advance notice.

The purpose of the meeting is net-working--sharing what each group has done in 1987 and what we will be doing.

For more information, (agenda and map) contact Lisa (376-1550) or Charmian (374-3269).

U.N. DISARMAMENT WEEK-OCTOBER 26/31

During the week of October 26th to 31st, the Peace Umbrella will have an information booth at Thompson Park Mall. KSPC will be manning the booth for half of the week. We will need volunteers to take shifts in the booth. Anyone who can spare a few hours, please contact Lisa or Charmian, (Phone numbers above.)

PLANS FOR NUCLEAR SUBS QUESTIONED

NDP critic Pauline Jewett pointed out that Canada would have to violate its own nuclear policies of long standing to secure the fuel for the proposed nuclear subs. This country has no facility capable of refining the uranium to the degree of purity required.

Furthermore, as Jewett pointed out, it would violate Canadian policy to import nuclear fuel for military purposes. As a matter of national policy since the 2nd World War, Canada has refused to export uranium for other than peaceful purposes.

To export Canadian uranium for refinement, for example to the U.S., would violate Canadian policy to simply have in domestic possession nuclear fuel for military purposes.

It's difficult to determine if Perrin Beatty, Defence Minister, is aware of the backlash of opponents to nuclear subs, although nuclear fuel aboard a sub is not quite the same as nuclear tipped warheads.

Beatty's suggestion that B.C. would be a good spot in the country for a school of nuclear subs indicates that he may have seriously underestimated the West Coasts peace movement.

Emerging nuclear weapons nations, 1986-1987

The following list of nations whose nuclear capability bears watching was compiled by the Carnegie Endowment for International Peace.

Argentina

- Negotiating nuclear restraints with Brazil.
- Civilian government opposed to nuclear arming.
- Building facilities necessary for nuclear weapons capability as part of nuclear energy program, but not subject to international inspection.
- Not party to Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT).

Brazil

- Negotiating nuclear restraints with Argentina.
- Civilian government opposed to nuclear arming, but military would keep option.
- Building facilities necessary for nuclear weapons capability as part of nuclear energy program, but not under international inspection.
- Not party to NPT.

India

- Tested nuclear device in 1974.
- May have small number of undeclared atomic bombs.
- Has greatly expanded nuclear weapons production capability in recent years.
- Pursuing space program with ballistic missile potential.
- Not party to NPT.

Iran

- Years away from possibly building nuclear weapons indigenously.
- Some nuclear installations and weapons research inherited from Shah.
- Party to NPT.

Iraq

- Many years away from possibly building nuclear weapons indigenously.
- Thought to have been developing nuclear weapons capability until Israel destroyed Osiraq reactor in 1981.
- Party to NPT.

Israel

- Thought to have obtained the first nuclear weapons in late 1960s.
- May have 100-200 atomic bombs.
- Since 1982 allegedly built "boosted" weapons that rely on hydrogen bomb principle.
- Thought to have deployed short-range nuclear-capable missiles in early 1980s.
- Not party to NPT.

Libya

- Many years away from possibly building nuclear weapons indigenously.
- Attempted to purchase atomic bomb in early 1970s, 1981.
- Party to NPT.

North Korea

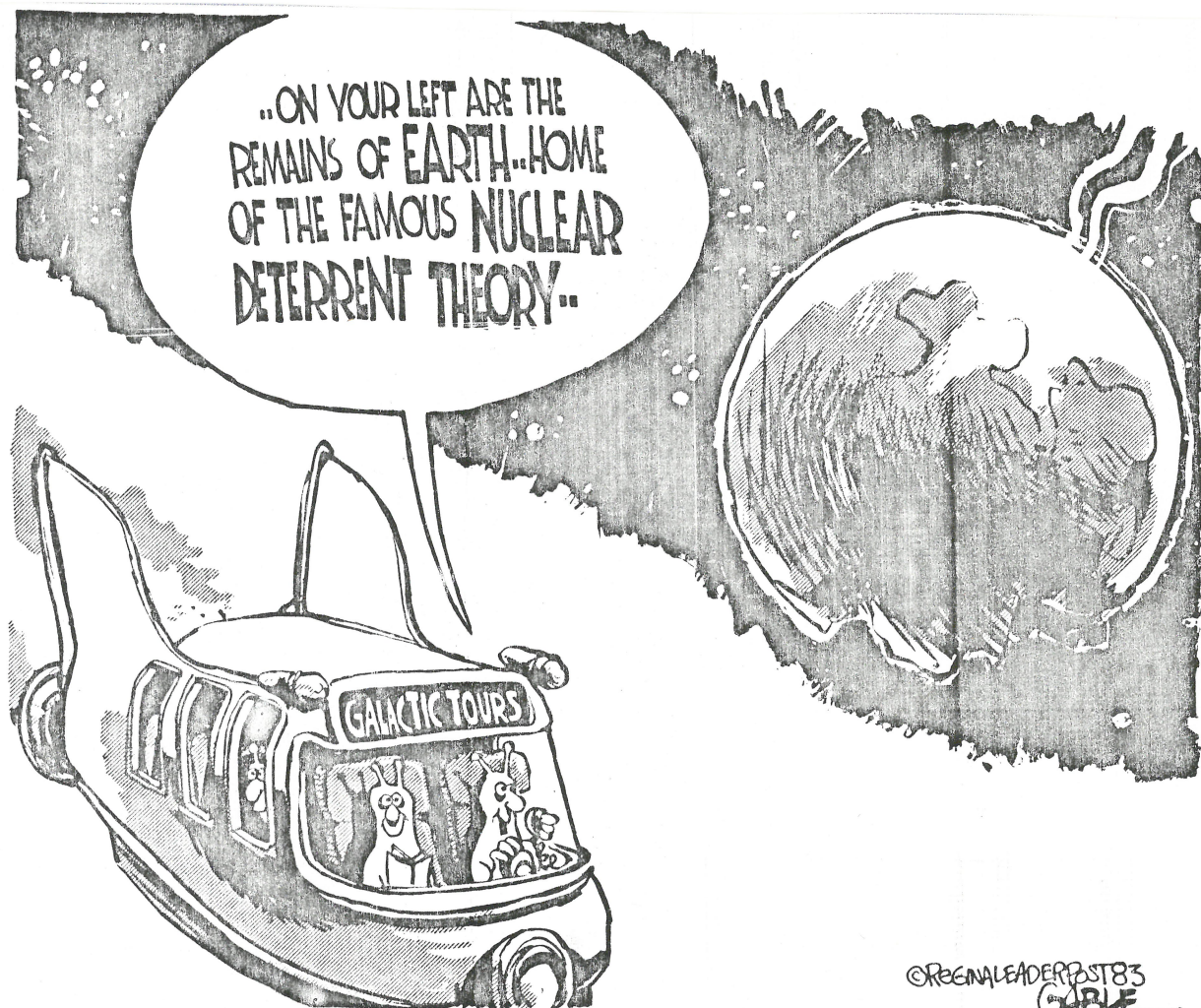
- Many years away from possibly building nuclear weapons indigenously.
- Building suspiciously large research reactor, but joined NPT in 1986, which will put plant under international inspection.

Pakistan

- During 1986 apparently manufactured all components for first atomic weapon; weapons production thought to be continuing.
- Not party to NPT.

South Africa

- Able to build nuclear weapons since 1980-1981.
- Possible arsenal of 10-15 weapons.
- Not party to NPT.

CALENDAR:

September 14 - Regular KSPC meeting. North Kamloops Library (rear Door) -7:30 P.M.

September 18-20 - B.C. Peace Conference . See Newsletter for details.

September 26th - South Central Interior Peace Liason Meeting. See Newsletter for details.

October 12- Regular KSPC meeting.

October 26-31st - U.N. Disarmament Week. Display booth in T.P. mall.(See inside)

FALL PROJECTS:

Peace Pledge Campaign
Tools for Peace

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