

EDITORIAL by Val Carey

Once again the anniversary of the nuclear attacks on the cities of Hiroshima and Nagasaki approaches. Once again the KSPC renews its pledge to continue the struggle against those who would again use these apocalyptic weapons.

Ronald Reagan and the U.S. military industrial complex continue to move ahead with their insane escalation of the arms race. Preparations continue for a first strike. Trident submarine production continues apace, while poverty runs rampant in the U.S.. Development of "star wars" space weapons is a top priority in that country.

At this time, it is important to remember who has fuelled the arms race from the beginning, and who has been the only country to use nuclear weapons, and who has consistently refused to pledge no first use. It is also important to understand that an active peace movement does exist in the U.S., even though the corporate controlled news media chooses to ignore it.

Peace forces world wide must unite now to stop the arms race. Together, we must pledge to those who have suffered and died in that unspeakable act of August 1945, "Rest in Peace, the mistake shall not be repeated."

CANDLELIGHT VIGIL - August 9th, 1984

Memorial service for the first victims of atomic warfare, will be held at the cenotaph, 2nd and Battle, at 8:00 p.m. Bring a candle, bring your friends and dedicate yourselves to working for a peaceful world.

B.C. NURSES TAKE POSITION ON NUCLEAR ISSUE

In discussing what position it might give the RNABC delegates to the 1984 CNA biennium, the Board realized that the association does not have a position on the nuclear issue. The Board was concerned that member views might be widely divergent, so it did not want to make a decision on the issue without members having an opportunity to express their opinions.


In almost 50 letters received, most agreed that "nuclear disarmament is of prime importance to the survival of the planet," as Lois Costello of Kamloops said in her letter. She continued; "As nurses, we should be very concerned and actively involved in the limitation of nuclear war."

Nuclear war is a primary health problem. In research, it has been stated that there is no adequate medical response to nuclear war. Primary prevention is the only strategy for nurses to pursue. We will be negligent in our duties as professionals if we do not object to this threat."

Costello went on to point out that the RNABC is not alone in adopting resolutions against nuclear war. The American Nurses Ass'n did it in June 1982, the BCNU a year later, numerous municipalities across Canada have held referendums which averaged 75% of voters in favour of disarmament and many churches, unions and community groups, as well as Physicians for Social Responsibility, are actively involved in the disarmament movement.

Many other writers agreed that an association position was needed, and needed now. As Bev Sorin of Nelson emphasized, "Thank God we lasted the two years this issue was deferred by the CNA."

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KAMLOOPS-SHUSWAP

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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.

WHY NUCLEAR FREE WEAPONS ZONES?

by Hannah Gidora, KSPC Salmon Arm

On Dec. 12, 1983, City of Vancouver engineering Dept. crews erected 15 signs on entry points around the city. They read, "Welcome to Vancouver, A Nuclear Weapons Free Zone."

On May 29th, 1984 Vancouver City Council voted 9 - 2 to request Premier Bill Bennett and the Federal government to declare the entire province a Nuclear Weapons Free Zone and to press Ottawa to hold election referendums on a similar declaration for Canada as well as on the Cruise missile testing.

It was also decided to send copies of the request to other Canadian municipalities along with letters urging Mayors and councils to take similar action.

This letter was before Salmon Arm council on June 18, 1984 and led to a lengthy debate. The debate, reported in local press, showed some serious misconceptions in our Aldermen's minds regarding a NWFZ, and its purpose. Most felt it would lead to unilateral disarmament, and one even suggested that we might not be able to have X-ray facilities in our local hospital.

Firstly, NWFZ's are not a new idea. In the '50's there was a proposal for disengagement of the opposed military groupings in Europe. This plan gave rise to the idea of establishing vast areas free of all nuclear weapons. A treaty banning all nuclear weapons has been in operation in Latin America since 1969, and some countries of South-east Asia and the Middle East are contemplating similar measures. Several nuclear free zones have been proposed in Europe, including both NATO and Warsaw Pact countries. What are the possible consequences of the establishment of such zones?

First, the danger of an accidental nuclear conflict will be reduced. The bigger the number of nuclear installations, the greater the risk of a "short circuit" occurring, and vice versa, the fewer the number the smaller the probability.

Second, there are some countries who do not have nuclear weapons on their territories. Their people would like them to remain free of nuclear weapons, naturally. The more weapons on one's territory, the more it is targeted by the other side. Therefore, the absence of such "magnets" enhances their security.

Third, the creation of NWFZ's will have a favourable influence on the situation in Europe, and the world generally, demonstrating the possibility of reducing the level of war danger.

These advantages are by no means insignificant, and that is why so many peace groups pursue the goal of NWFZ's in their

(NWFZ's Con't)

own countries.

Now, what would it mean to Canadians specifically to be NWFZ?

- No nuclear weapons in Canada. The government is already committed to the removal of nuclear weapons from our soil. The air-to air nuclear missiles currently deployed for the CF-101's are being replaced with conventionally armed CF-18's.

- No nuclear weapons transported through Canadian territory. Gov't officials insist that U.S. nuclear bombers do not fly over Canadian territory, however, Canada-U.S. defence agreements allow such flights at the request of the U.S. gov't in times of crisis. Also, Trident submarines pass through Canadian waters on their way to Bangor, Washington. These and other uses of Canadian territory would be prohibited.

- No production of components for nuclear weapons. Currently Canada produces parts for the Cruise missile, the Trident Submarine and others. Such contracts would be prohibited.

- No support systems for N-weapons. This would mean dismantling systems that supply information to U.S. N-weapons systems. This does not mean dismantling systems for the sole purpose of warning.

- No testing or development of N-weapons systems. This would prohibit testing the Cruise, etc.

There are currently 50,000 nuclear warheads in the world that have combined power of 1 Million Hiroshima bombs. One Trident submarine has 3 times the explosive power of all WW11 bombs and can effectively destroy all major cities in the Soviet Union. Under these circumstances, I see no point in developing or deploying any more weapons.

To declare Canada a Nuclear Weapons Free Zone would not dismantle any existing weapons but would be one step towards a stop to the arms buildup. Hopefully, Salmon Arm Council will reconsider their decision in light of this information.

KSPC TO QUESTION POLITICIANS

At publishing time, a federal election appears to be close. The KSPC will be sending a questionnaire to each candidate on the peace and disarmament issue, which we hope will be published in the local press. We also would like to do a special election forum on the "KSPC Presents" on Channel 10.

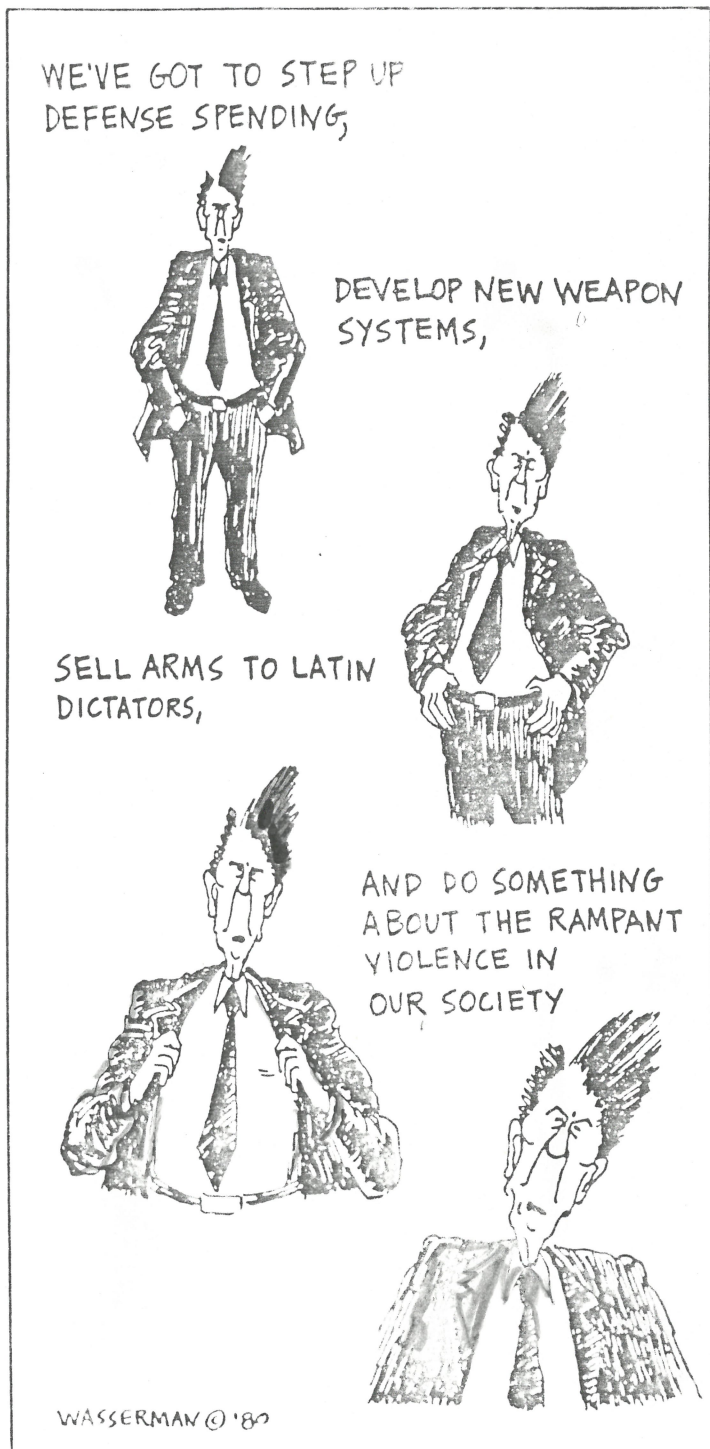
This election is a good time to pressure candidates to take a good position on Canada's role in the arms race and to expose the warmongers among them.

FACT - One Trident submarine equals one years tuition for 16 million school children.

SUPPORT REQUESTED FOR NICARAGUA

The Congress of Canadian Women have received a request from the Women's Association of Nicaragua for supplies to outfit the women's hospital in Nicaragua. Although the materials will not be sent until the Tools for Peace ship arrives in December, items can be collected now in preparation for that time. Requested items are diapers, baby bottles, sewing supplies, cotton sheets, and pillowcases, and surgical gloves.

Watch for the Peace News for more information on the Tools for Peace ship.



SALMON ARM PEACE COUNCIL

Salmon Arm peace Council held it's first meeting for some time on June 22. Members of the Council are eager to revitalize the group, which is affiliated to the KSPC. Val Carey attended the meeting to bring greetings from the KSPC and to show a film. Read the news for more information on activities in the Salmon Arm area.

PEACE PETITION CARAVAN CAMPAIGN

Signature collection continues, but more help is needed. An Ad Hoc Committee has been formed in Salmon Arm to coordinate the collection of signatures, and meetings are planned in small communities in the area.

In Kamloops, we need more help. Enclosed in the Peace News you will find a volunteer form and some information, or phone Val (376-6053) or Chum (374-3269) Please do it now, time is of the essence!

NICARAGUA PEACE COMMITTEE PRESS RELEASE

The Nicaraguan Peace Committee has released the following statement by the Sandanista government:

"As long as the situation remains unchanged and as long as the United States refuses to take steps towards achieving detente, which would facilitate dialogue and a peaceful, political settlement to the crisis in the region, we cannot and should not give ourselves false hopes about a political solution. The Nicaraguan people will continue to prepare themselves to confront and defeat the imperialist aggression.

The government of Nicaragua, defending the right to defend its sovereignty and territorial integrity, appeals to all governments of the world to assist the Nicaraguan people with technical and military means so that they can defend themselves against the state terrorism unleashed by the government of the United States.

We shall continue making efforts to consolidate the revolution and to strengthen democracy. However, the aggressors should know that just as our aspirations for peace are inexhaustible so also is our determination to defend our sovereignty, our country and our revolution."

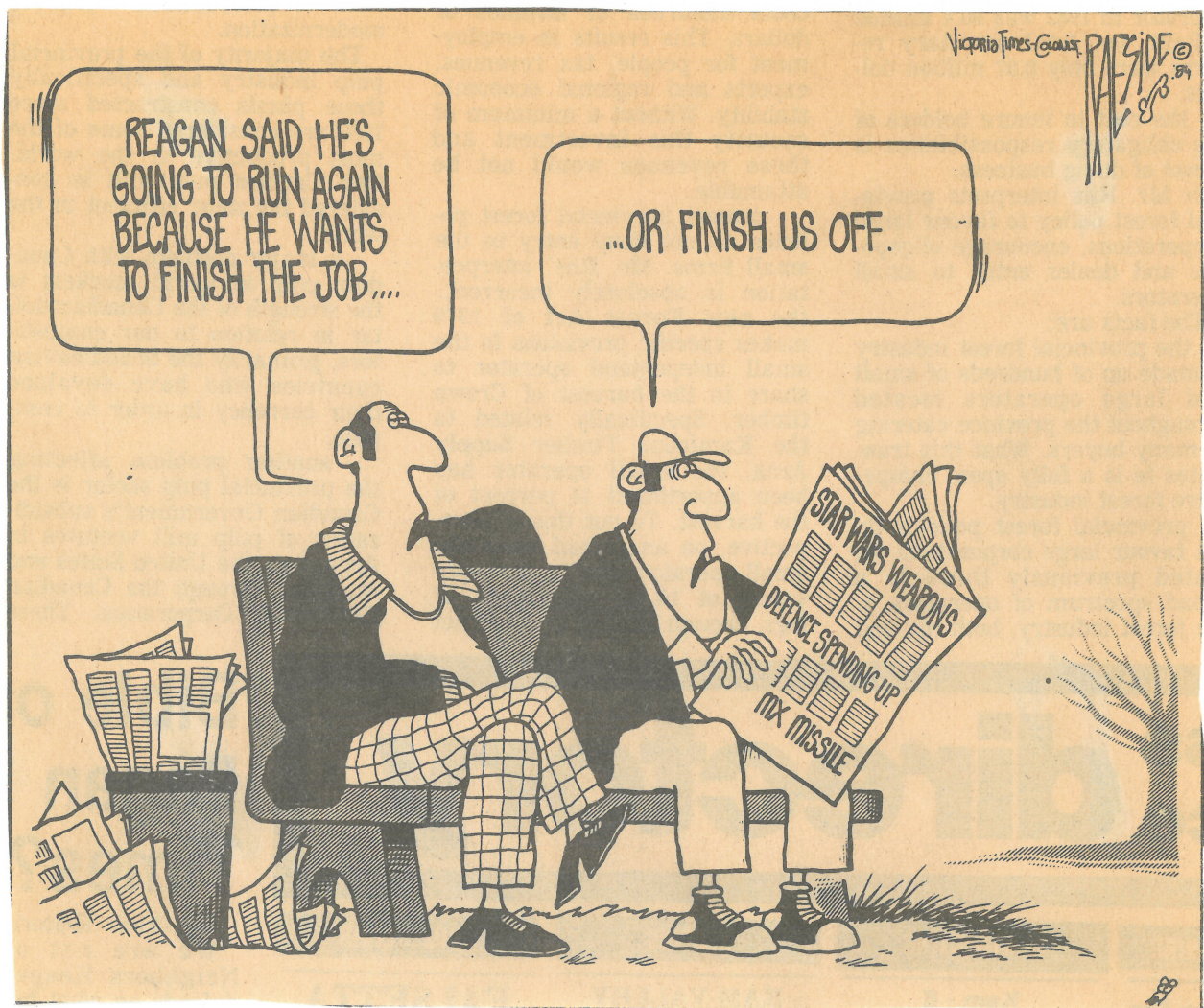
The KSPC urges all those concerned with peace and justice in the world to act in support of Nicaragua. The situation is extremely dangerous and serious; U.S. attacks on Nicaragua are straining the economy of the country.

A PERSONAL APPEAL FROM VAL CAREY

If you have any KSPC videotapes, please contact me (376-6053). I didn't keep track of who took what, so I now find that several are out there somewhere!

Some titles are:
 Eleven Steps to Survival
 Seattle After World War Three
 If you Love This Planet
 Nuclear War: A Guide to Armageddon

Thanks!



PROJECT OF THE MONTH

Please respond to our appeal to help with PPCC. If you are in the city, phone us. If you are out of town, write to us to let us know what you can do in your community. Let us know if you need more petitions, and lastly, send in the petition that we mailed to you in the Mar/Apr News. Some of you have sent yours back, and we thank you, but what about the rest of them? Hoping to hear from all of you soon.

CHANNEL 10 PRESENTS:

July show - "After the Big One" a film showing the effects that nuclear war would have on the Canadian Prairies, followed by an interview with Bill Brewer of the **Bahá'í** faith

August - Tentatively, Man on the street interviews.

DATES TO REMEMBER

KSPC meets the 2nd Monday of each month at North Kamloops Library, (rear door) at 7:30 p.m.

Next meetings: July 9th; August 13th

Hiroshima/Nagasaki Candlelight Vigil - to commemorate the victims, and pledge that their will be no more.

August 9th, 8:00 p.m., Cenotaph, Memorial Hill, 2nd and Battle

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