

Peace News

BULLETIN OF THE CANADIAN PEACE CONGRESS

VOL. I NO. 2

WINTER 1985.

May 1986 Truly Be A Year Of Peace!

1986 has been designated as the International Year of Peace by the General Assembly of the United Nations. Throughout the world, 1986 will become a focus for intensified efforts to establish a lasting and just peace for all peoples.

Noting in May of this year that IYP was declared to focus attention on the requirements of peace, U.N. Secretary General Javier Perez de Cuellar noted: "Unless there is a halt in the arms race, particularly in the nuclear field, the threat of global war will continue to shadow humanity's future."

Let us all redouble our efforts in 1986 so that it may truly become an International Year of Peace.

POSTMASTER: IF UNDELIVERED PLEASE RETURN
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NO to NORAD! NO to STAR WARS!

Despite denials on the part of Canadian government officials, and by Defence Minister Eric Nielson in particular, there is little doubt in anyone's mind that the continuance of the North American Radar Aerospace Defence (NORAD) agreement would result in Canadian participation in the U.S. Star Wars plan, albeit through the back door. NORAD is up for renewal in March of 1986 and the Mulroney government is under intense pressure from the Reagan administration and the Pentagon not only to prolong this one of many agreements which tie us to U.S. so-called "defence" policy, but also, in so doing, to advance the efforts already agreed upon to renovate the DEW Line and install a North Warning System in Canada.

Under a program known as Strategic Defence Architecture 2000, the Canadian and U.S. governments are secretly discussing changes in the structure of NORAD so as to render it even more conducive to the furtherance of the Pentagon's nuclear war strategy in general, and Star Wars in particular. NORAD and Star Wars are indivisible!

There already exist, officially, some 364 separate Canada-United States defence-sharing agreements. It is very disconcerting in the present situation that elected representatives of the Canadian people, the members of the Parliamentary Standing Committee on External Affairs and National Defence, which is currently gathering evidence on renewal of NORAD, had to receive the names of eight of these "defence-sharing" agreements in Washington from a private American citizen. The Canadian Department of National Defence censored them from the official list provided to members of the Standing Committee. Of particular import and concern is the fact that the private American source, William Arkin of the Institute for Policy Studies, indicates that four of these censored agreements relate to cooperation in regard to nuclear weapons.

Arkin, whose credentials in this sphere are impeccable, also indicates the existence of yet other agreements between the two countries not listed in the DND list supplied to the Standing Committee. Thus, a situation arises in which the government of Canada, calling on public support for the renewal of NORAD, does not even have confidence in the public's elected representatives to provide them with accurate and pertinent information. There can be no doubt that the Mulroney government is prepared to use all means at its disposal to make our country even more a

Peace News

Published periodically by the
Canadian Peace Congress, 671 Danforth Avenue,
Room 301, Toronto, Ontario M4J 1L3

All signed articles are the viewpoint
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Peace News is typeset by voluntary labour
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military appendage of the U.S. and a partner in the Reagan administration's first-strike nuclear strategy.

The Canadian peace movement must insist upon the establishment of an independent Canadian policy for peace, must demand withdrawal from NORAD and force total repudiation by the Canadian government of any direct or indirect participation in Star Wars. If Canada is to continue to aspire to the role of a global peacemaker and, in fact, be one, there can be no ambivalence on these points.

Little time remains for the voice of the majority of the Canadian people to be heard. Now is the time for the peace movement to mobilize public opinion and force total Canadian withdrawal from NORAD.

Saying "no" to NORAD means saying "no" to Star Wars!

After The Summit

Following the recent summit conference between the leaders of the two major nuclear powers, the first such meeting in six years, all of us may breathe a little easier. In the words of General Secretary Gorbachev, "the world has become a more secure place." In their final statement, he and President Reagan stressed jointly what each had previously acknowledged separately, that a nuclear war would be an unimaginable catastrophe for humanity from which no victor could emerge and that it was imperative for them to work together to see that this does not occur. They also agreed on the importance of improving the relations between their countries in order to create an international atmosphere more conducive to the preservation of peace.

In this sense, perhaps it might be said that a fresh start has been made in the direction of detente and peaceful co-existence, that we have edged a step away from the brink of the nuclear abyss toward which an unconstrained arms race, fueled by unrelenting hostility and confrontation, has been leading us.

However, the distance moved from the precipice remains narrow, and the results of the Geneva meeting leave us with no cause for complacency. Although agreements were reached in several minor areas, apparently no progress was achieved on the major substantive issue, that of halting the arms race and preventing its extension into space.

On the question of Star Wars, it was reported that no minds were changed at Geneva. Some insight into the reasons for this lack of progress and a greater appreciation of the obstacles which stand in the way of arms reduction are provided by the incident of the Weinberger letter which someone in the Defence Department leaked to the press on the eve of the summit

meeting. This document urged that President Reagan insist on maintaining his Star Wars program and that he refuse any commitment to continued U.S. observance of the constraints set in the ABM and SALT treaties. White House officials were reported to be incensed by the leak, describing it as an act intended to sabotage the summit conference. However, in the event, President Reagan did pursue the course of action which Weinberger had recommended.

Reagan's intransigence on these issues has been described as a victory for the hawks in his administration, particularly for Weinberger's key advisor, Richard Perle. Although pundits are fond of picturing the Reagan administration as being in disarray and internally divided on matters relating to arms control, it is important to recognize that the less belligerent wing, represented by Secretary of State Shultz and his advisors, also takes a very hard line on these issues. During the dispute over the deployment of Pershing and Cruise missiles in Europe, Shultz was reported as saying that one must not be too eager to reach an agreement. Reporters from the *New York Times* have observed that the major concern of the U.S. negotiators at Geneva has not been how to reach an agreement, but how to succeed in portraying their adversary as the one responsible for disagreement.

In accordance with this perspective, the media have tended to paint the summit conference as a contest in public relations. However, no application of Madison Avenue techniques can conceal the true culprit responsible for continuing the arms race. The evidence of the record is irrefutable. The Soviet Union and its allies have repeatedly shown themselves willing to take initiatives to move disarmament negotiations off of

dead-center, while preserving the principles of military parity and equal security. Their moratoria on nuclear weapons tests and on the deployment of medium range missiles in Europe are only the most recent compelling examples of this fact. The unwillingness of the U.S. government to respond positively to these initiatives once again has clearly shown who really seeks arms reduction and who is content to continue the arms race. The register of proposals and votes at the United Nations, from declarations on the non-use of force in settling international disputes and the non-first-use of nuclear weapons, to proposals for reduced spending on armaments and for the recognition of nuclear weapons free zones, as well as resolutions calling for a freeze on the testing and deployment of nuclear weapons and missiles, all provide an abundance of documentation on this question. But, as Paul Warnke has remarked, the Reagan administration refuses to take yes for an answer! Instead, it has consistently advanced proposals which would undermine the security of the Soviet Union or place it at a military disadvantage, while constantly pressing forward with the introduction of new types of weapons and their wider deployment.

It also is clear that the Reagan administration is inclined to employ its far-flung military forces to bolster regimes or insurgencies which it regards as more subservient to American commercial interests. The Pentagon has embarked upon a major program of salesmanship, which it describes as creative truth-telling, to promote public and congressional support for the huge financial expenditures which are entailed by these military adventures and by the Star Wars project.

At the conclusion of the recent summit conference, both participants recognized that much

work remains to be done. This also is the lesson which the peace movement must draw from the outcome of this meeting. It is particularly important for us to appreciate the fact that future progress in arms reduction will critically depend upon the extent to which we succeed in creating the necessary political will in North America and Europe, one based upon a clear understanding of the differences which now divide the two adversaries and the rationale which underlies the official posture of the Reagan administration on arms control.

Further summit meetings have been scheduled for the next two years and the possibility of making them an annual event has been suggested. Thus, there is some reason to hope that a process has been set in motion which can gain momentum and lead in time to genuine arms reduction.

The current summit process would not have begun without the successes of the world-wide peace movement in creating public pressures for an end to the arms race, as a result of the growing appreciation of the dreadful consequences of nuclear war, and a more general awareness of the increasing danger arising from the present destabilizing trends in arms developments. Commentators have indicated that it will be difficult for the U.S. to justify an on-going summit process if it continues to be unproductive in resolving the present impasse on armaments, especially Star Wars weaponry.

If the U.S. government succeeds in its campaign of misinformation and endeavours to use these conferences as a facade behind which to continue its quest for military superiority, the process of reconciliation now begun will inevitably founder. It is our task to see that this does not happen. To this end, it is essential that we maintain a united peace movement and create a much broader public

awareness of the dangers inherent in Reagan's Star Wars project.

Rather than providing safety and security, it will lead to a further surge in the production and deployment of offensive nuclear weapons. It will make the outbreak of nuclear war more, rather than less, likely, as the result of miscalculation or equipment

failure.

All other issues which divide humanity pale into insignificance in comparison with this transcendent fact. The fate of the earth will hinge on how well we discharge our responsibility. We have, indeed, much work to do.

Dr. James Folks,
Vancouver, B.C.

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Nanoose Bay — What's Going On?

Nanoose Bay, 48 kilometres from Vancouver on Vancouver Island, is the site of an underwater testing range for U.S. submarine weaponry. The range, lined with sophisticated monitoring devices, is a 140 square kilometre strip of Georgia Strait. On the charts used by commercial fishermen, it is known as Area Whiskey Gap. Though this is part of their fishing grounds, they are frequently "warned off" because a test is taking place.

The official name of the base is Canadian Forces Maritime Experimental Range (CFMETR) and it is jointly operated by Canada and the United States under a 1966 agreement, due for renewal in April next year. On September 1, the submarine USS Salt Lake City made its third visit to the test range and was met by members of the Nanoose Bay Conversion Campaign who maintain a peace camp on the Island Highway across from the base. They charged that the Salt Lake City carried Tomahawk missiles.

According to William Arkin of the Institute for Policy Studies in Washington, D.C., "the Tomahawk's job is to create a world wide threat against Soviet bases". He also quotes Admiral Stephen Hostettler, head of the U.S. Cruise Missile program, as saying in 1984: "It (the Tomahawk) provides a new threat spectrum to the Soviets through a world wide strike capability."

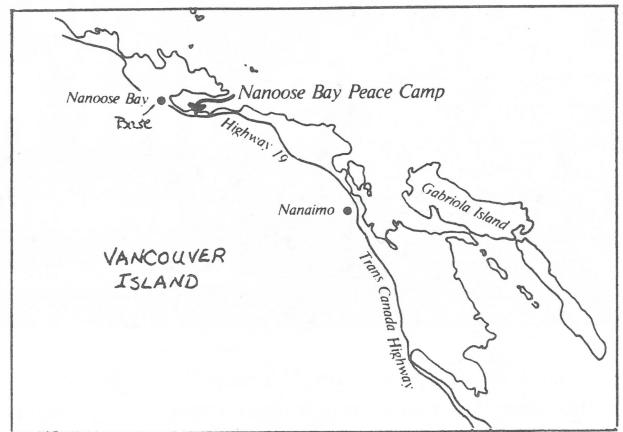
The American military have consistently refused to confirm or deny that Tomahawks or other nuclear weapons are brought into Nanoose Bay. However, according to *Jane's Fighting Ships*, the Salt Lake City and other submarines of her class were due to be fitted with 12 Tomahawk missiles each last year.

A story in the *Vancouver Sun* of Oct. 31, 1985, quotes Lt. Commander Mike Dunn of the base as saying that the range does test ASROC, an "all weather day or night, ship launched ballistic missile carried as the primary anti-submarine warfare weapon aboard U.S. Navy destroyers as well as some cruisers and frigates." These are armed with either a standard torpedo or a one kiloton nuclear depth charge.

Canadian Armed Forces spokesman Major Norbert Cyr denies that the Tomahawk launch system is being tested at Nanoose Bay. However, he is also quoted as saying that "nuclear capable vessels be they armed or capable of being armed with nuclear weapons are perfectly welcome to visit Canadian ports".

The primary goal of the Nanoose Conversion Campaign is to demand that the federal government not renew the Canada-U.S. agreement next April. However, the Campaign has been told by Canadian Defence Minister Eric Neilson that negotiations for renewal could begin any time soon and probably in secret. The utmost pressure is therefore called for to demand a Parliamentary debate on this question.

As part of this campaign, the Gabriola Island Peace



Association (Gabriola is just across from Nanaimo) is launching a People's Enquiry to investigate the implications of the CFMETR. Recommendations, based on the findings, will be made to the Canadian Government and the proceedings will be published. The Enquiry will take place on Saturday and Sunday, January 18 and 19, 1986, in Nanaimo at the Coast Bastion Inn with moderators Bishop Remi de Roo and Mel Hurtig. Participants include Dr. Rosalie Bertell and Canadian Major General (ret.) Leonard Johnson of Generals for Peace and Disarmament. Also participating will be Arne Tomlinson of the Vancouver Peace Assembly. Questions to be addressed include: "Who Is In Charge — Ottawa Or Washington?" and "Should Canadian Territory Be Used To Promote Escalation Of The Arms Race?".

Implicit in the campaign against the Nanoose Base is the campaign for British Columbia to be declared a Nuclear Weapons Free Zone.

Rosaleen Russell,
B.C. Peace Council.

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The Myth of Soviet Responsibility

By MARK SOLOMON

National Co-Chair, U.S. Peace Council

In a recent debate on U.S. television between a right-wing journalist and a well-known progressive writer and peace activist, the right-winger snarled, "I suppose that you are going to blame the United States for the arms race." The progressive replied, "They're both guilty — like two scorpions in a bottle reacting to each others' moves, tearing each other apart without rhyme or reason." The progressive then added triumphantly, "I'll bet you didn't expect that answer, did you?"

Was the progressive's apparent satisfaction with his own presumably reasonable and even-handed response justified? From the standpoint of more than four decades of cold war, in which the Soviet Union has been pilloried as the source and instigator of threats and aggression, his statement of "equal responsibility" could be viewed as an improvement over past distortions. But had the progressive sought to provide a forthright, factual, and principled answer, this would not have been it. Just as a disease can not be cured if its cause is not properly diagnosed, so the arms race can not be stopped by obscuring or concealing causes in the name of reasonableness or anything else. The arms race will be ended by an aroused global public that speaks truth to power, and forces fundamental changes in leadership and policy on the part of those who fuel the relentless and unspeakably dangerous escalation of weapons of mass destruction.

To address root causes is not to take sides. In the name of survival, we do not choose sides in the arms race; we fight to end it. But we can not end it if we fall into traps set by the Reagan administration and its corporate-military retainers. One such trap is the assertion (often heard in the freeze movement in the U.S., for example) that "our arsenal is in response to their arsenal". Such examples of "equal responsibility" feed the myth of an aggressive, expansionist Soviet military power and serve to justify the Pentagon's arms spending. This undercuts the very purpose of the peace movement and feeds the hysteria of the "Soviet threat" which has been the main pillar of the arms race.

What are the facts? At the end of World War II the Soviet Union was shattered and nearly prostrate — 22 million dead, 100,000 cities and towns leveled. Yet, Washington viewed its wartime ally with obsessive suspicion and hatred. U.S. armed forces numbering more than 1.2 million troops encircled war-torn Soviet Russia. Two atomic bombs had been dropped on Japan. Then U.S. Secretary of State James F. Byrnes told a group of troubled scientists that "the bomb would make Russia more manageable". In 1946, Washington presented to the United Nations the "Baruch Plan", which allowed the U.S. to retain its atomic monopoly under the cover of a U.S.-controlled "international agency", while the Soviets would be prevented from engaging in all atomic research. Shortly thereafter, the Soviets countered with the Gromyko proposals which called for a complete, unconditional ban on atomic weapons. Washington rejected this, and the arms race soon accelerated, based upon U.S. efforts to attain and keep superiority while the Soviets sought to catch up. From that standpoint, the arms race was indeed an "arms chase".

Six successive U.S. administrations have threatened the use of nuclear weapons on over 20 occasions since 1948, including at least four direct threats against the the USSR. There is no record of Soviet consideration of a nuclear first strike.

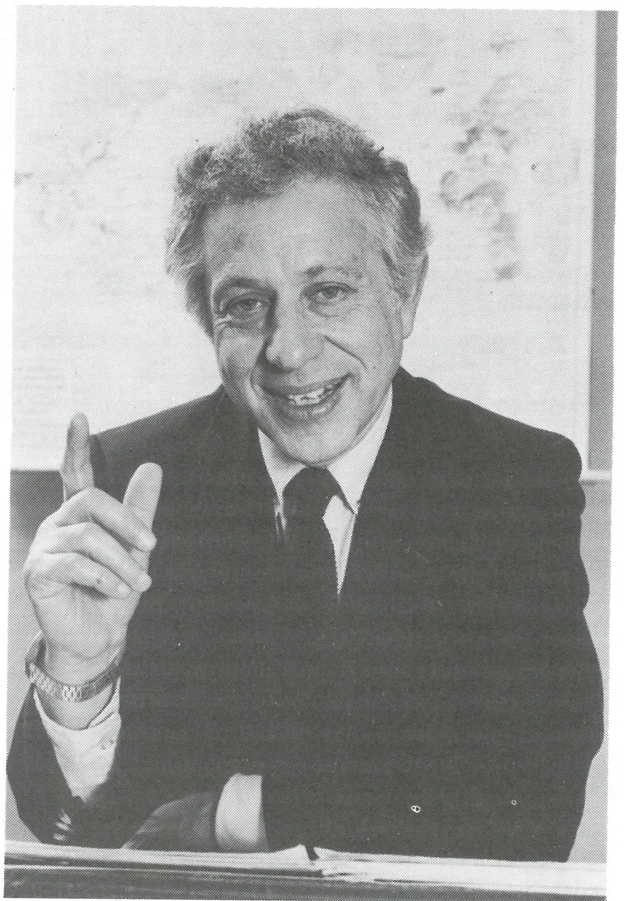
Between 1946 and 1975, Washington directly or indirectly used military force, or threatened such use, 215 times. In 1948, B-29 bombers armed with nuclear warheads were moved to Europe to pressure the Soviets during the Berlin blockade. In 1949, the Pentagon formulated a plan for a full-scale nuclear assault upon the USSR, called "Operation Dropshot". On at least two occasions during the Korean War, the U.S. threatened nuclear war against China and the USSR. During the Cuban missile crisis of 1962, John F. Kennedy prepared for nuclear war rather than agree to a mutual pullback of Soviet missiles from Cuba and U.S. missiles from Turkey. During the war in Vietnam, successive U.S. administrations repeatedly brandished nuclear bombs and drew up lists of targets for nuclear attack. In 1980, Jimmy Carter announced his "Presidential Directive 59" which ordered preparations for "prolonged, limited

nuclear war", with an attendant threat of preemptive attack against every level of Soviet use of military power.

In the 1980's, Ronald Reagan has engaged feverishly in a buildup of first-strike weapons, introducing silo-busting MX missiles, radar-evasive Cruise missiles, Trident II nuclear submarines with enough warheads on each submarine to wreak near-total destruction of the USSR, and Pershing II missiles capable of reaching Soviet soil within eight minutes. U.S. military policy is not based on deterrence (the ability to retaliate against a first strike) but upon increasingly accurate, powerful, high-speed weapons capable of destroying, in a swift first strike, the retaliatory arsenal of the other side. The Strategic Defence Initiative (Star Wars) is the capstone of first-strike policy and a frightening abandonment of the last vestige of deterrence. It can not completely defend against nuclear weapons, but it could make it possible to launch a first strike while shielding against a weak retaliatory strike. The experts have estimated that 100 small nuclear bombs, in retaliation against attack, would be enough to destroy 25% of the USSR and 50% of its industrial capacity — by any standard, an effective "deterrent". However, during the four decades of cold war, successive U.S. administrations have constantly added to America's stockpiles to a present total of 52,000 nuclear weapons.

Every escalation of the arms race has been initiated by Washington in the hope of attaining — and keeping — superiority. The record is unassailable. The United States developed and dropped the atomic bomb, led in the development of intercontinental bombers, the hydrogen bomb, submarine-launched ballistic missiles, multiple warhead (MRV) missiles, multiple independently targeted warheads (MIRV), and long-range Cruise missiles. With the exception of the first satellites and the testing of intercontinental ballistic missiles (ICBM), the Soviets have lagged five to ten years behind the United States in every weapons development. In the critical area of weapons deployment, *the US government has been the first to deploy all nuclear weapons.*

In light of this pressure, the Soviets have been playing catch-up — attempting to establish weapons parity as a basis for equal security. At the same time, they have advanced more than 150 peace proposals, including the discontinuation of all testing, production, and deployment of nuclear weapons, gradual reduction of stockpiles until total elimination, the end of all production of fissionable materials and chemical weapons, the prohibition of all nuclear tests, ratification of a comprehensive test ban treaty, non-proliferation of nuclear weapons, the creation of nuclear weapons-free zones, etc. The Soviets have unilaterally suspended nuclear-weapons tests on at least two occasions, have unilaterally reduced forces and weapons in Europe, have declared a moratorium on testing of anti-satellite



Mark Solomon

weapons, have frozen deployment of SS-20 weapons in Europe, and have unilaterally declared that they would never be the first to use nuclear weapons. On the other hand, Washington refused to ratify the SALT II treaty, has failed to ratify a new non-proliferation treaty, withdrew from comprehensive test ban negotiations just weeks before their conclusion, and has said "no" to a no-first-use pledge, a ban on anti-satellite weapons, a plea to stop the militarization of space, and a worldwide call to join the Soviets in a moratorium on all nuclear testing.

This record is underscored by Washington's refusal to join in the moratorium on all nuclear testing declared by the Soviets on August 6, 1985 (the 40th anniversary of the bombing of Hiroshima). But the Summit Meeting of President Reagan and Secretary Gorbachev must be seen as an ongoing opportunity to end the arms race. A comprehensive test ban is still possible. A 50% cut in strategic arsenals can be realized through the clear, incessant demands of informed publics around the world. Again, the main concern of peace activists must not be to score irrelevant points on ideology, to misstate origins, or inadvertently reinforce the cold war through advocacy of the untrue notion of "equal responsibility". Truth and integrity have ultimately been the best tools of those fighting for a just cause against powerful interests. Peace demands such qualities more than ever.

Canadian Peace Alliance — An Historic Event

On November 8-11, 1985, the Canadian Peace Alliance (CPA) was born in Toronto. This historic event — the formation of an alliance of peace organizations and others interested in the cause of world disarmament and the elimination of the threat of nuclear war — is of tremendous significance to the Canadian peace movement.

Approximately 400 delegates and observers from all parts of the country attended the founding convention of the CPA. In addition, invited foreign guests were present. The Planning Committee worked for over a year on the program of the convention and its technical and administrative services, and was occupied to the last moment with preparations for this huge and unprecedented gathering of representatives of the people. A leading role in this effort was played by the Toronto Disarmament Network, a peace coalition which unites over 80 peace organizations in the city.

Represented at the convention were such national peace organizations as Operation Dismantle, Project Ploughshares, Physicians for Social Responsibility, Canadian Peace Congress and many others. Canada-wide organizations which play an active role in the struggle for peace, like the Voice of Women, The World Federalists, the Congress of Canadian Women and many others were represented, as were many regional and local groups. There were representatives of women and native peoples. All the provinces and territories of Canada were represented.

An active and useful role was played by representatives of the workingclass movement, particularly the Canadian Labour Congress, which was represented on the Planning Committee. For example, the discussion contributions of David Werlin of the Alberta Federation of Labour, were notably clear and logical.

The Canadian Peace Congress, its councils and affiliates were well represented, with four delegates coming from the Congress itself. These representatives spoke at the plenary sessions and participated in the various workshops of the convention.

The convention opened on the evening of November 8, with a mass meeting in Convocation Hall at the University of Toronto. Besides convention delegates and observers, hundreds of people from the vicinity of Toronto were on hand to hear the speakers and the interesting cultural program.

The main speaker was E.P. Thompson of the British peace alliance Campaign for Nuclear Disarmament. He greeted those present on behalf of his organization and spoke warmly of the great global significance of the formation of the Canadian Peace Alliance.

Thompson also stressed the importance of the deci-

sion of the Canadian government, under pressure from the country's peace forces, not to take formal or official part in the American "Star Wars" plans. Thompson said that this achievement of the Canadian peace movement is an example to all the peace forces of the world. Sharply criticizing "Star Wars", Thompson warned his audience that, in spite of its decision not to participate in these plans, the Canadian government, under pressure from the administration in Washington, could still drag the country into "Star Wars" through the back door by extending the NORAD agreement in March. NORAD is an intrinsic part of American "Star Wars" planning.

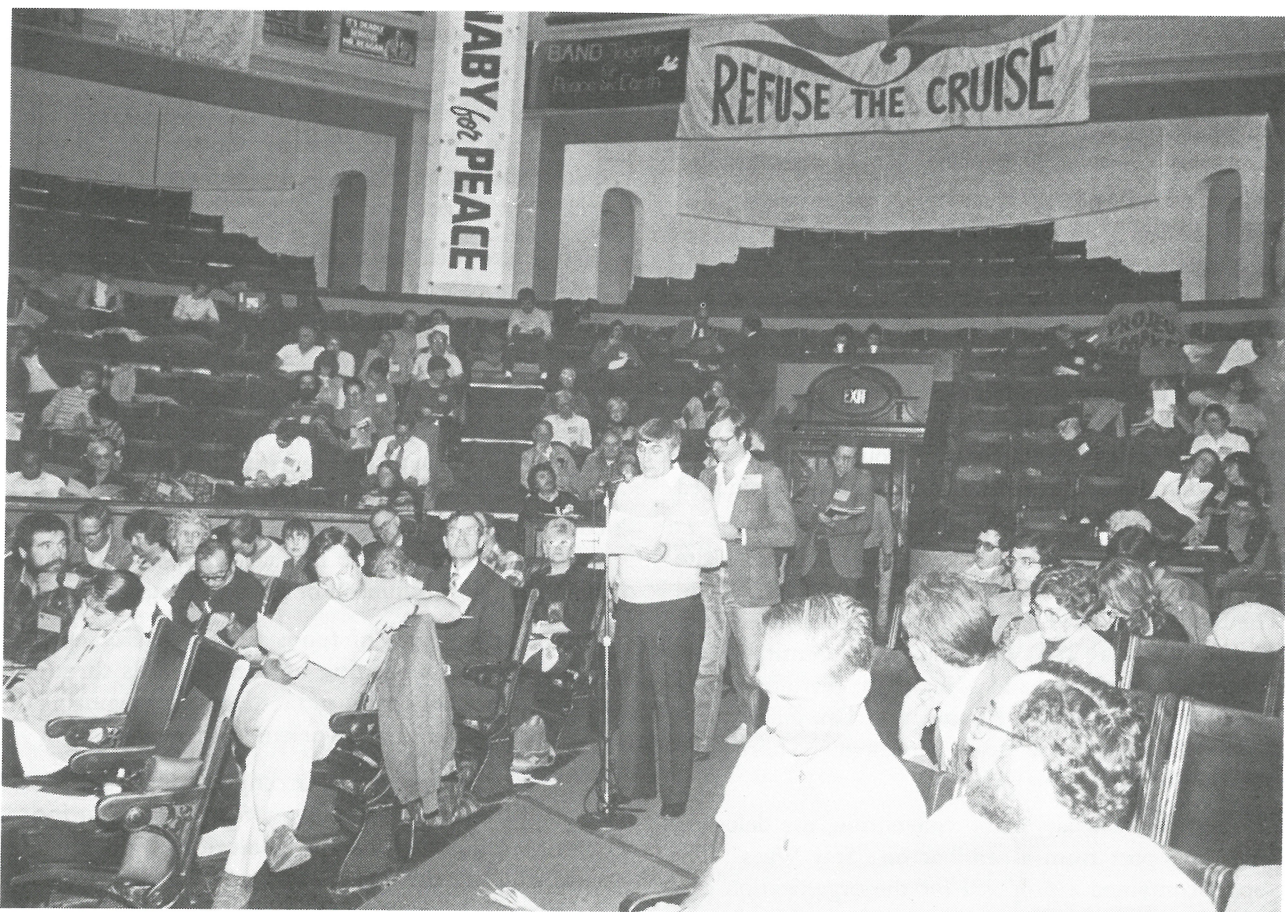
Thompson was very critical of the general policy of the United States of America in relation to disarmament negotiations. Commenting on the summit meeting planned for November between Mikhail Gorbachev and Ronald Reagan, the English peace activist stated that the Soviet and the American proposals on nuclear arms reduction, except on the question of "Star Wars", are close enough to be worked into an agreement, but the USA is not interested in signing such an accord.

There were also other speakers at the meeting. The audience most warmly received the remarks of Dr. Thomas Perry of Physicians for Social Responsibility. Perry also spoke of the dangers posed by "Star Wars" and of the serious consequences for humanity of even a limited nuclear war.

Speaking of the Canadian peace movement, Perry said that it had to avoid a number of mistakes if it were to be successful. First of all certain myths about the Soviet Union have to be corrected. He said that there is not a shred of evidence that the USSR threatens us with invasion or with the destruction of our way of life. Perry cautioned the delegates about the danger of red-baiting, and pointed to the success of the End the Arms Race coalition of Vancouver as an example of what can be achieved if factional fights are avoided.

Recalling his experiences as a veteran of World War II, Perry noted that he considers himself fortunate that we were allied with the Soviet Union, that he survived the war thanks to the Red Army, which bore the burden of 90% of the fight against the forces of Hitler. The speaker requested that everyone present, especially the young people, consider this carefully and ask themselves how many of them are now alive thanks to this fact.

Also speaking at the meeting were an activist, Joanna Miller, of the Voice of Women in Saskatoon and Adriana Roach, representing a Quebec peace alliance. Salome Bey and Judith Lander from English-speaking Canada and Richard Desjardins and Renee Claude from Quebec presented an interesting program of entertainment.



Discussion from the floor during one of the sessions of the Canadian Peace Alliance Founding Convention. At the microphone is David Werlin of the Alberta Federation of Labour, one of many representatives of organized labour at the Convention.

— *UE News.*

The next day, November 9, the work of the founding convention of the Canadian Peace Alliance began in earnest. After the official opening of the plenary session, the representative of the Planning Committee, Robert Penner, presented the document on the structure of the CPA. Speaking of this document which had been in preparation for over a year, Penner made the tongue-in-cheek observation that perhaps the best that could be said for it was that every group found something in it to dislike, and that each group had had to agree to leave out something that it wanted. This joke underlines the fact that every group which participated in the formulation of this document strove to cast it in a form which would unite the widest sections of the Canadian peace movement around the broadest and most acceptable program. In large measure this was accomplished, for almost all of those taking part in the discussion on the document indicated their own desires and hopes while also expressing full support for the draft.

The most controversial article in the document was the one which ruled out membership in the CPA by political parties, included because many peace groups in Canada do not wish to be linked to a particular ideology. A good discussion developed around this issue, and it

was finally agreed to leave the article in the Structure Document (essentially, the constitution) of the CPA for the time being, though it may be changed at the next convention.

Another contentious article was the one that restricted the powers of the Steering Committee of the CPA by not allowing it to initiate peace campaigns and only permitting it to act as a coordinator of campaigns initiated by other organizations or by conventions of the Canadian Peace Alliance. Many delegates, perhaps even a significant majority, felt that the Steering Committee should have the power to initiate actions if there is unanimity in the committee. However, after a long and serious discussion it was agreed to adopt the original proposition in the interests of the unity of the movement.

It should be noted here that to adopt any particular proposal the delegates tried to attain consensus, and this was achieved on most questions. If a vote was needed, a proposition could only be adopted by winning a 70% majority of votes cast. This was the agreement reached, also in the interests of the unity of the movement.

During other plenary sessions of the CPA convention, there were presentations by acknowledged leaders of the peace movement and specialists in various

fields, not only from Canada but also from other countries. The themes of these sessions were "Perspectives on Canadian Defence and Foreign Policy" and "Future Directions for the Canadian Peace Movement". Each of these two plenary sessions was followed by workshops concentrating on particular aspects of the general theme.

Reports from the workshops revealed that the discussions were lively and informative. More important, in spite of the broad range of opinions represented by the participants, everyone tried to find areas of agreement within their diversity. Again it must be stressed that this desire to attain unity in the peace movement was the ideological foundation of this convention, as a consequence of which it can be judged entirely successful.

To show the variety of discussion themes we cite only a few seminar names: Militarization of the North; The Norad Review; Canadian Militarism and the Third World; Canada and the Geneva Summit; Peace Education; Feminism and Militarism; National Peace Literature Distribution; Establishing Computer Links Among Sectors of the Peace Movement. There were many other themes as well.

On the last day of the convention, the delegates heard a report from a seminar on "Star Wars". The report contained a proposal for the organization of a cross-Canada campaign against "Star Wars", put forward by Gary Marchant, a leader of the Vancouver peace coalition End the Arms Race. The creation of such a campaign was projected, with the new Steering Committee of the CPA assuming a coordinating role from spring of 1986. The Vancouver coalition had already begun this activity, and would continue to play the role of organizer of the campaign until the Steering Committee became fully functional. The proposal was accepted by the delegates almost unanimously.

It is worth noting that the delegates to the convention were so pleased with the work of the Planning Committee that they designated that committee as the Steering Committee until the next convention. This was done at the plenary meeting of November 10, which also adopted the Structure Document of the Canadian Peace Alliance. We cite the full text of the first section, titled Statement of Unity, of the Structure Document.

The Canadian Peace Alliance (CPA) seeks to involve Canadians in the world-wide movement to stop the arms race, ensure the non-violent settlement of disputes and guarantee the security and well-being of all peoples. We want to make Canada a peacemaker in the world community of nations by taking concrete initiatives to withdraw from the arms race and to encourage reciprocal initiatives by other nations,

The objective of the CPA is to build Canadian

public and government support for the following goals:

1. The involvement and participation of the Canadian public in the world-wide movement towards disarmament and a truly secure, and economically just world for all people.
2. A negotiated and verifiable freeze and reversal of the arms race, ending the vertical and horizontal proliferation of nuclear and other weapons on Earth and in space.
3. The establishment of Canada as a Nuclear Weapons Free Zone (NWFZ), thereby ending all funding (of) research, transport, testing production, and deployment of nuclear weapons systems and their components in Canada and also ending the export of nuclear technology and radioactive fuels that may be used for the production of nuclear weapons.
4. The redirection of funds from wasteful military spending to the funding of human needs through a program of conversion and re-training promoting the development of a peace-oriented economy.
5. The creation and strengthening of world institutions and mechanisms for the prevention of aggression, for the peaceful resolution of international conflict and the promotion of friendship among peoples.
6. The dissolution of all military blocs.
7. The assertion of an independent Canadian foreign policy for peace.

The current international confrontation threatens to engulf the world in nuclear war. All states possessing nuclear weapons and especially the two superpowers have a special responsibility to end the arms race between them, to achieve disarmament, and to establish the conditions of world peace with justice. People of all nations have the right and the responsibility to exert their fullest influence on their own and other governments to achieve these goals.

Bearing in mind the broad diversity of viewpoints and approaches of the various parts of the Canadian peace movement, it can truly be said that the formation of the Canadian Peace Alliance is of great significance not only to our country but to the entire world, that the founding convention was indeed an historic event.

Keeping in mind the important questions confronting the Canadian peace movement in the immediate future — the campaign against Star Wars and the much needed abrogation of NORAD — the formation of the CPA has come at an auspicious time. The unity of purpose achieved in Toronto this November will serve us in good stead in the struggles ahead to achieve an independent Canadian foreign policy for peace.

TOOLS FOR PEACE

The 1985 Tools For Peace campaign across Canada is already ahead of the pace set last year which sent \$1.5 million in material aid to Nicaragua.

Based in British Columbia, Tools For Peace has committees across the country. It is raising money and material aid (tools, office and educational supplies, etc.), and features three national projects to provide essential goods for Nicaragua: candles, blankets and pencils. The grass roots internationalism of the campaign has infused communities large and small.

In Hardy, B.C., a fishing village of 5,000 on North Vancouver Island, a special project was launched. The president of the Shoreworkers local of the UFAWU, Myra Johnson, organized fishermen and shoreworkers to donate a day's labour to the project, and also secured use of her plant to produce 50,000 pounds of canned pink salmon, currently on sale to support Tools For Peace.

If you would also like to help the Tools For Peace campaign, please contact the national office — 2524 Cypress, Vancouver, B.C., V6J 3N2 or phone: 733-1021.

STARS PROMOTE PEACE MARCH

Rock star Madonna and actors Martin Sheen, Betty Thomas and Ally Sheedy recently joined 1,500 other people to film a TV commercial to promote The Great March For Peace, sponsored by the U.S. peace group PRO-peace.

Scheduled to start on March 1 in Los Angeles, the Great March is expected to end in Washington approximately 8 months later.

Sheen is quoted as saying, "Either we eliminate nuclear weapons or we eliminate us, it's that simple."

WHAT'S HAPPENING

VANCOUVER

VANCOUVER CENTENNIAL PEACE FESTIVAL. The largest and most exciting event in Canadian Peace history! April 19-27, 1986. Activities include youth peace conference, cultural events, concerts, films, a poster display and world-class Peace and Disarmament Symposium. The Peace Festival will culminate on Sunday, April 27, with the annual Walk For Peace ending up in the B.C. Place Stadium, with prominent performing artists and speakers. For more information, contact: Vancouver Centennial Commission, P.O. Box 49386, 1055 Dunsmuir Street, Vancouver, B.C. V7X 1L5.

NANOOSE BAY

Peoples Enquiry into CFMETR at NanOOSE Bay — January 18 & 19, 1986, at the Coast Bastion Inn, Nanaimo, B.C. For more information, contact: Gabriola Island Peace Association, P.O. Box 82, Gabriola Island, B.C. V0R 1X0.

KAMLOOPS

Kamloops Peace Council meets the second Monday of each month at the North Kamloops Library at 7:30 p.m. (Back door).

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Channel 10 "Kamloops-Shuswap Peace Council Presents" is aired every Thursday night at 7:30 p.m. New show each month.

EDMONTON

Edmonton Peace Council meets the third Thursday of each month at the Edmonton Peace Council Office, 10563 — 97 Street at 7:30 p.m.

WINNIPEG

The Manitoba Peace Council holds a business and educational meeting on the fourth Thursday of each month in the Planetarium Classroom, Rupert and Main, at 7:30 p.m. For more information, please call 582-4248. January 23 meeting — Guest speakers Menno Klassen and Father Foliot, both of whom have recently visited Nicaragua. They will speak of their impressions and their view of the situation in that country. Everyone welcome!

HAMILTON

Annual General Meeting of the Hamilton Peace Council — January 21, 1986. For information, call: 679-4200.

MONTREAL

ILLUSIONS AND REALITIES IN THE NUCLEAR AGE — an international Conference on Peace and Security. April 21, 22, 23, 1986, at the Queen Elizabeth Hotel. For information, write to: Peace and Security Conference 1986, P.O. Box 367, Snowdon, Montreal, Quebec H3X 3T6.

INTERNATIONAL

WORLD CONGRESS devoted to the International Year of Peace — to be held in Copenhagen, Denmark, October 15-18, 1986, under the general slogan "Unite for Peace and Human Survival". This Congress will be open to representatives of all local, national, regional and international organizations which support the aims of the Congress. For more information, write: I.Y.P.C., 671 Danforth Ave., Ste. 301, Toronto, Ont. M4J 1L3.

SOLIDARITY **WITH THE CHILDREN** **OF SOUTHERN AFRICA!**



KAMLOOPS — SHUSWAP
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