

JX1974  
V65

THE B.C.

# VOICE

Vol.13, No. 5  
April, 1978

THE B.C. VOW NEWSLETTER, published every 2 months by B.C. Voice of Women  
President, Editor & Treasurer: Box 235, Nanaimo, B.C. V9R 5K9  
Membership Chairman: 4107 W. 13th Ave., Vancouver, B.C. V6R 2T5

CORRECTION: February issue wrongly numbered, - should have read  
Volume 13 Number 4

ISSN  
0045-3080

## P R E S I D E N T ' S M E S S A G E

To the Executive, Members and Friends of the B.C. Voice of Women:

There is a flurry of activity in the books for the next two months. The essence of my last message is still timely, as the dates for the "Special Session on Disarmament" to be held at the United Nations in New York draws closer.

From the Stockholm International Peace Research Institute we learn that: "World military expenditure is greater than either world expenditure on education or health; it is some 15 times larger than official aid provided to the underdeveloped countries; and it is equivalent to the combined GNP of all countries in Africa, the Middle East and South Asia." \*

Let us do our best to help make the U.N. sessions profitable in terms of laying the basis for a World Nuclear Disarmament Conference at a later date. Your letters and telegrams to the Prime Minister and Members of Parliament will indicate our concerns and help to promote full Canadian participation at the sessions.

It is not too early to think of attending the Annual Conference of the Voice of Women to be held again at the Easter Seal Camp in Squamish during the week-end of May 12, 13, and 14.

I look forward to meeting as many members as possible and hope for a successful Conference.

Florence Stanton.

\*Murray Grossner,  
Financial Post, March 11, 1978.

Arrangements for the Annual Conference at Squamish are proceeding and details will be available at a later date.



RECENT MATERIAL AVAILABLE FROM B.C.V.O.W. LIT. COMMITTEE:  
(C/o Mary Cox, R.R. 1, Fanny Bay, B.C., VOR 1WO)

B.C. Medical Association brief to the inquiry on mining in B.C.  
Comprehensive support for the Canadian Coalition for Nuclear  
Responsibility position, especially with respect to uranium  
mining. 4 1/2 pp. 9 Jan./78

The Myths Behind the Arms Race, by V.O.W. member Soono Engineer.  
A look at the rationale which causes waste, unemployment,  
inflation and paranoia in our society. 5 1/2 pp. 1978

by William Epstein  
A terse evaluation of the arms vs. people dilemma -  
which we ignore at our peril. By an internationally  
renowned arms control historian.  
Reprinted from Canadian Forum, February, 1978.

Peace Conversion, a special issue of WIN magazine full of  
encouraging suggestions for dealing with the armaments ogre.

#####

RECOMMENDED READING:

Gordon Edward's brief on the "Management of Canada's Nuclear  
Wastes". Write to Printing & Publishing Supply,  
Hull, Quebec K1A 0S9

The Progressive for February 1976. Especially Sidney Lens  
report on "The Doomsday Strategy". Send \$1.50 to the  
Progressive, Inc., 408 West Gorham St., Madison,  
Wisconsin, USA 53703.

Trident supplement - originally included as part of Georgia  
Strait special issue on Trident. Include postage and  
send to David Garrick, 2882 W. 8th, Vancouver.

Harrowsmith, No. 11 - May be found on news-stands, or ordered  
through them. Has 3 articles on nuclear matters; and  
promises to be an excellent source of information and  
suggestions. Subs. \$7 per year; \$1.25 per copy (6 per  
year) at: Camden House Publishing Ltd.,  
Camden East, Ont. KOK1JO.

Harper's - for March, 1978. (The Underground World of the Bomb)

"Making a Killing" - by Ernie Regehr, McClelland & Stewart - 2.95  
- an introduction to the Canadian arms industry.

\*\* Note also - publications mentioned on page 3, this issue.

For those unable to obtain the Cartergate articles, arrangements  
could probably be made to photocopy the Victoria group set.



NOTES FROM NATIONAL STEERING COMMITTEE MINUTES

RE: NO CANDU FOR ARGENTINE (see Feb. VOICE).

Lobby planned by the Group for the Defence of Civil Rights in Argentina expressed concern that Candu Reactor will be used by the multi-nationals for their own benefit and the benefit of the Junta. Mr. Ross Campbell, Chairman, Atomic Energy of Can. Ltd., stressed that business was one thing and human rights another and that business decisions were not going to be influenced by any consideration for human rights. He stated that atomic industry is so important to Canada's future that even if we sell reactors at a loss we are keeping the technology and know-how going here in Canada. (Ottawa, Feb. 7/77)

\*\*\*\*

CALGARY - An item of particular interest was the proposed development of an \$8,000,000 chemical processing plant in an industrial park in Calgary to extract uranium which would be processed by ESI Resources Ltd. into uranium oxide (yellow cakes). In September VOW was the sole opponent of the granting of a permit. Calgary City Planning granted ESI a development permit. In October VOW was joined in appealing against the permit by Unitarian Social Action Committee, Sierra Club of Alberta, Alberta Energy Coalition, a number of university students and Bill Oxendale NDP. The Calgary Development Appeal Board sustained their appeal against issuing the permit. In December three judges heard the lawyers argue the case for and against the ESI appeal. In mid-January the judges brought in their decision upholding the company's appeal; and ordered the City to issue the development permit without further delay.

\*\*\*\*

VOW - OFFICIAL NGO REPRESENTATIVES TO THE U.N. Ann Gertler now official rep. and Donna Elliott is alternate.

Ann Gertler reported on visits to New York, Geneva, London and Halifax. At a New York meeting, an International Public Servant of the U.N. talked about the Special Session and what our expectations should be. In reality the Special Session is looking at arms control not general and complete disarmament. It is not realistic to expect anything more. General and complete disarmament will not come for a long time.

There will be a large demonstration on May 27 and the demand will be general and complete disarmament.

Pamphlet entitled "A Citizen's Guide to the U.N. Special Session on Disarmament" - write: WCRP International, 777 U.N. Plaza, New York, NY 10017, USA - \$1 each or 10 copies @ 50¢ plus postage. SSD will be chaired by US and USSR. Chairman of the Preparatory Committee is an Argentinian, Mr. Rojas

Ann passed around a book sent out by the Ministry of Trade and Commerce, "World Market Opportunities - Defence". "The meeting was shocked".

\*\*\*\*

DISARMAMENT TIMES - will be published daily by the NGOs - \$7 for 25 issues, Suite 7B, 777 U.N. Plaza, New York, NY 10017, USA.

=====

A VOW member wrote to Penthouse Magazine re the excellent articles by Craig S. Karpel on the Trilateral Commission in Dec., Jan., Feb. and March issues, (Cartergate I to IV). They sent free copies and said a few more available. Also in March issue - excellent article on Chile. In Feb. issue - "Africa, Jimmy Carter's Vietnam".

Write Penthouse International Ltd., 909 3rd Ave., New York, N.Y. 10022.

+++++

Many thanks to those who sent in clippings, notes, letters etc. to the VOICE.



## THE UNITED NATIONS SPECIAL SESSION ON DISARMAMENT

Our Ad Hoc Committee members here at the Coast and those in the rest of Canada are hard at work preparing for the U.N. Special Session in May. Kurt Waldheim, U.N. Secretary-General, has called this session "the largest, most representative gathering ever convened to consider the question." Numerous proposals for international disarmament will be produced including: a declaration of principles for disarmament, a plan of action, a review of the UN Disarmament machinery and the possibility of a World Disarmament Conference.

The February Newsletter of the San Francisco Women for Peace points out that the annual diversion of about \$350 Billions of the world resources to military purposes is the main cause of the present inflation. Military expenditure in the USA, according to the present budget, accounts for more than one-third of the total. President Carter stated (UN speech, March/77) "... we will make a strong and positive contribution to the on-coming Special Session on Disarmament." However, the S.F. Newsletter points out that Carter's budget proposals for fiscal year '79 call for a real increase of 3% over the budget voted by Congress for 1978.

Another point mentioned is that the military industrial complex has a political machine of sorts - it has a mass of people (plus their organizations) founded on self-interest. Defense workers and their families who depend upon, and expect in the future to depend upon, a defense or military job, become part of this political machine.

The need for conversion from military industrial capacity to civilain output was covered extensively in the Oct. 6/77 issue of WIN magazine (see Feb. VOICE), and also in the Vol. 1 No. 4 issue of PLOUGHSHARES MONITOR.

"An exit from the war economy requires an economic blueprint, and also a social force that is competent to compel the implementation of conversion plans." (Seymour Melman)

\*\*\*\*      \*\*\*\*      \*\*\*\*      \*\*\*\*      \*\*\*\*

The prospect of masses of people in New York and other centres gathered together to support proposals for international disarmament, calls to mind the comments of USA historian, Gabriel Kolko in "The Roots of American Foreign Policy" (Beacon Press, 1969).

"What is cause for pessimism is the fact that the main beneficiaries of American power show not the slightest hesitancy in acting decisively to retain or magnify their power at home and abroad - they have, in brief, both a will and a still substantial capacity to survive . . .

"For though freedom is a posture decision-makers tolerate among the politically impotent, those in power act to make certain that all others remain ineffectual. . . The history of civil liberties in the United States is testimony to the fact that when freedom moves from rhetoric to social challenge it is suppressed insofar as is necessary. . . So long as intellectuals or the people exercise this right 'responsibly', which is to say to endorse and serve the consensus their rulers define, abstract freedoms flourish in public pronouncements and slogans because they lead nowhere . . . The celebrants of American freedom rarely confront the concepts of order that underlie the large body of law for suppression that always exists in reserve."

In Victoria, Jan. 23, John Morgan, President, Canadian Peace Congress, speaking on "New Hopes for Disarmament" described this as "a time of great hope and of great danger."



from SAN LUIS OBISPO (California) TELEGRAM-TRIBUNE  
May 30, 1977

V I C T I M S   O F   L 9 5 7  
N U C L E A R   T E S T

Jack Anderson

WASHINGTON -- Forty unsuspecting Canadian soldiers may be in mortal danger from a 20-year-old nuclear test on the Nevada desert. The U.S. Army has neglected to notify the Canadian government that the 40 volunteers may have received a dangerous dose of radiation. Now, two decades later, they are highly susceptible to leukemia, which could be fatal.

The 40 Canadians joined 1,200 American GIs at the desert site for the explosion of a nuclear bomb called "Big Smoky." Together, they huddled in foxholes near Ground Zero. The date: Aug. 31, 1957. The place: Desert Rock, Nev.

They survived the terrible blast, apparently no worse for the experience. The Army hailed the test as dramatic evidence that combat troops could withstand a nuclear shelling and still come out of their foxholes fighting.

But Big Smoky left some invisible injuries, which the Atlanta Center for Disease Control has detected. The military volunteers, who survived the test seemingly unscathed 20 years ago, are now in danger of dying from leukemia.

The Army Surgeon General's office has been quietly tracking down the American volunteers. But incredibly, the Canadian government was not informed of the life-and-death search until we called the embassy in Washington and then telephone the military authorities in Ottawa.

We're told that the Canadian volunteers were members of the Seventh Platoon, Second Battalion, Queen's Own Rifles.

When we asked the Army for an explanation of this blunder, a spokesman replied: "We've hardly got our own search started!" The Canadians had no official comment.

(Distributed by ANOTHER MOTHER FOR PEACE, 407 N.  
Maple Drive, Beverly Hills, California 90210;  
reprinted by B. C. Voice of Women Literature.)



THE UNITED NATIONS  
The material quoted on the other side of this sheet accompanied the December, 1977, Another Mother for Peace Newsletter, which describes in nightmare detail the suffering of hundreds of American GIs, who, with their families, are victims of the detonation of U.S. nuclear weapons in Japan, in the Pacific Ocean and within the United States itself. We have been told of the Canadians participating in the exercise at Yucca Flats, Nevada. There could easily be others, --especially among Americans now living in Canada.

Since it has been the policy of the American government not to recognize responsibility for the agonizing consequences of these experiments on human life, Another Mother for Peace is attempting to generate concern and action on behalf of the victims and their wives (or widows)--one of whom was recently assured that "The Army doesn't involve its troops in nuclear testing." The following paragraphs are extracted from the Newsletter:

"YOUR HELP is needed. Since the government is making little effort to locate and no effort to help the men (or the widows of the men) who were exposed to one or more of the 588 nuclear bomb tests the U.S. has made to date, it is up to us to help find these men....

"Ask these questions: 'Do you know anyone who ever witnessed an atomic test?' 'Do you know anyone who was on a Navy ship in the Pacific when Bravo or other nuclear tests were held there?'

"Hundreds of atomic bomb tests were made in Nevada...but 98 also took place in the Pacific...two at Hattiesburg, Mississippi...three at Amchitka, Alaska...others at Alamogordo, Calsbad and Farmington, New Mexico...and at Grand Valley, Colorado.

"Some of the men present may have illnesses which they may not realize are a result of exposure to radiation. Some may not be ill but some may have children who were born with defects. All who witnessed tests should be alerted to have medical examinations."

AMP asks that the names of any such men be sent for addition to their list. They suggest resorting to local newspapers and radio talk shows and publicizing the search by every possible means.

"By participating in this campaign," they write, "you will be helping these men and their families... and at the same time you will be helping to make the consequences of nuclear war real and visible."

--B. C. Voice of Women Literature Committee



WEST COAST OIL PORTS INQUIRY

"A CAN OF WORMS" - reprinted from WIN, February 16, 1978

In the aftermath of the 1954 United States H-bomb test, the inhabitants of the Micronesian atoll of Utirik were exposed to indirect radiation from the island of Bikini, 280 miles to the east. Twenty-two hours after the test, a deadly rain of ash fell on Utirik. In itself, the ash was harmless, being nothing more than the innocuous remains of the ill-fated atoll of Eniwetok that had been accidentally blown to bits by the Bikini shot. The problem was that the ash served as a vehicle for particles of radiation.

The day after the test the Navy evacuated 158 Utikiere to the island of Kwajaleen. After three months of perfunctory observation they were shipped home with blithe assurances that they had nothing to worry about. Since that time 11 Utirik islanders--along with 19 Rongelapese--have developed thyroid cancer or nodules on their thyroids and have been flown to the United States, studied by radiation experts at the Brookhaven national Laboratory in Upton, Long Island, and transported to Cleveland where eminent cancer surgeon, Brown Dobbins, removed their thyroids. The Utirikese have also shown high rates of infant mortality, and one child born to atomic parents has developed cancer.

So far the islanders have been told that iodine 131 was the only poison that affected them. But there were other isotopes in the fallout, such as strontium-90 and plutonium. Exposure to these substances may lead to cancer of the bone and lung. Dr. Konrad Kotrady of the University of Utah, who worked as a civilian doctor on the island, says concentrations of plutonium have shown up in urine samples.

Because they are exposed to indirect radiation from such sources as nuclear reactors, plutonium factories and radioactive waste in transit and storage, (North) Americans have much in common with the Utirikese. Radiation can reach them on dust particles, just as the stuff got to the people of Utirik on the ashes of Eniwetok.

In one respect the Utirikese are different. The U.S. Congress has recognized that there is a cause-and-effect relationship between their exposure to low levels of radiation and their endangered health. In October, President Carter signed an unprecedented bill granting every Utirikese with a "radiation-related malignancy" \$25,000 in compensation during his lifetime and \$25,000 in death benefits. The bill's sponsor, Senator Henry Jackson, represents the nuclear powerhouse of Washington. Apparently he pushed the bill because the Micronesian Islands are of enormous strategic importance as missile-tracking stations. The islands' Trust Territory agreement comes up for renewal before the Micronesian Congress in 1981. So when the Utirikese sued for damages, it seemed smart to offer them a payoff.

In their haste to calm the natives, Jackson and his cohorts have inadvertently opened a can of worms. Others may now decide to bring suits based on the Utirikese precedent. In fact, Ronald Bakal, the Los Angeles lawyer who handled the islanders' case, is representing the widow of a serviceman who died of leukemia after exposure to low-level radiation during a 1957 Nevada bomb test. Other servicemen and civilians exposed in Nevada are contemplating actions. Workers in nuclear plants and people living near nuclear facilities may soon begin to see that they could be in the same predicament as the islanders. Their claims could put the nuclear industry out of business.



remains of the ill-fated effort of Pawtucket, which had been

Feb. 23/78 or his final Report of March 30,

WRITE TO: West Coast Oil Ports Inquiry,

8th Floor, 549 Howe Street, Vancouver, B.C., V6C 2C6

Island, and transported to Cleveland where eminent cancer surgeon,

Q.W. MEMBERSHIP FEES

Regular . . . . .	5.00	Youth (under 25) . .	1.00	Family . . . . .	7.50
Sustaining . . . . .	12.00	Senior (over 65) . .	1.00		

Cheques payable to VOICE OF WOMEN may be sent direct

V O W Membership includes "B C Voice" Subscription

Return address:

Editor: B.C. Voice.

Vol. 13 No. 5

April 1978