

THE B.C.

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# VOICE

1979  
INTERNATIONAL YEAR OF THE CHILD

1979  
ANNÉE INTERNATIONALE DE L'ENFANT

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**\* SPECIAL I.Y.C. EDITION \***  
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THE INTERNATIONAL YEAR OF THE CHILD IS AT ITS MIDPOINT!

"There are promises being made now which should last the children of the world well into 3000 A.D., the Fourth Millennium." (From Newsletter of the I.Y.C. Secretariats)

DO THE INDIVIDUALS, ORGANIZATIONS, GOVERNMENTS . . . MEAN TO DO WHAT THEY SAY?

The unusual letterhead you see superimposed on the B.C. VOICE was created by a VOW grand-daughter and adopted by National for its I.Y.C. All-Canada Project and for the use of the National Co-ordinator for I.Y.C., Muriel Gough-Azmier of Victoria. Her statement about The Voice of Women/ La Voix des Femmes in relationship to the World's children and what our emphasis should be in celebrating 1979, follows:

"THE TENTH PRINCIPLE OF THE UNITED NATIONS DECLARATION OF THE RIGHTS OF THE CHILD IS THE MOST IMPORTANT OF ALL - YET OFTEN OVERLOOKED. IT IS THE RIGHT TO LIVE AND GROW IN A FRIENDLY AND PEACEFUL WORLD. THAT IS THE RIGHT ON WHICH ALL THE OTHERS DEPEND."

MURIEL GOUGH-AZMIER  
VOW NATIONAL COORDINATOR for  
INTERNATIONAL YEAR OF THE CHILD

VOICE OF WOMEN • LA VOIX DES FEMMES



I..Y..C.. PROJECTS (The Voice of Women)

I. NATIONAL: "A CHILD'S VIEW OF PEACE . . . AND WAR."

"It would be a color FILM, 16 mm. in both English and French, suitable for showing to all manner of groups of all ages, 18-20 min. in length. Distribution prints would be available at minimum cost.

The total amount required for making the Film would be around \$50,000.

Evelyn Cherry, well-known as one of Canada's top producers of educational and documentary films would be in charge. She has applied to Canada Council for a grant of \$25,000. Applications for grants have been made to the I.Y.C. Commission by VOW groups in Regina, (Ev.'s home and where she is a VOW member) Victoria, Calgary, Toronto, Montreal, Halifax, and by National VOW." (taken from Minutes of March meeting of the B.C. Executive.)

Since then, all VOW requests for I.Y.C. funding have been turned down by the Commission for no stated reason. Because the Commission is believed to have been overly cautious in allotting funds to date, a request has gone forward from the Co-ordinator that it reconsider its decision. Canada Council's reply to E. Cherry's application is not known yet. In view of the contribution to Canadian life which has been made by members of The Voice of Women/ La Voix des Femmes during the past 20 years and in consideration of the value of such a topical film, it would be strange should VOW not be considered as worthy of public moneys in The International Year of the Child.

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In order to be eligible for a Canada Council Grant and for promised contributions from The Canadian Friends' Service Committee, Saskatchewan I.Y.C. Commission and some others - all on a dollar for dollar matching basis, VOW IYC PROJECT NEEDS AN IMMEDIATE \$15,000 IN ITS TRUST ACCOUNT.(e.g. 15 @ \$1000 = \$15,000 )\*\*\*\*\*

IF ANY WHO READ THIS ARE IN A FORTUNATE FINANCIAL POSITION AND WISH TO BE

"ANGELS" TO A FILM PRODUCTION, PLEASE LOOK INSIDE BACK PAGE OF THIS NEWS-LETTER FOR FURTHER INFORMATION AS TO HOW TO GO ABOUT BEING AN ANGEL!

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"Peace today means more than international treaties or ending 'Hot Wars'.

It involves non-violent conflict resolution applied to the causes of war. Peace is organically linked to the issues of Social Justice, Revolution, The Third World, Sexism, Energy, Nuclear Power, Medical Practices, Food Production etc. None of these can properly be approached in a War-making World.

THE WORLD MUST DISARM FOR THE SAKE OF HER CHILDREN. (M. G-A.)

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THANKS from Editors-past for notes of appreciation from Etta at Campbell River, Marie at Nelson, John and Carol of Kelowna - we all owe much to them too - and to E. Symons, Rocanville Nutritional Research, Rocanville, Sask. You encourage our efforts and spur all of us on to do our best.  
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## I..Y..C.. PROJECTS (The Voice of Women)

## II. B.C. PROVINCIAL:

## VIETNAM APPEAL to the Premier &amp; Government of B.C.

to release TWO AND ONE-QUARTER MILLION DOLLARS TO BE SENT AS MEDICAL AID TO THE CHILDREN OF VIETNAM, as promised by unanimous agreement of all Parties in the Provincial Legislature of 1973.

All Members and many Friends of VOW received copies of the Petition in support of the Viet Appeal in the Spring of 1979. Many were returned complete with 20 Signatures each. Thanks to all of you. At present 1500 names have been added to the Petition, 1000 of which were presented to Premier Bennett at the end of June. According to News Reports on Radio, the Premier has denied the Appeal and the Petitioners.

The Petitioning will continue. Most people are shocked and surprised to be reminded that the gesture of generosity made by our Parliamentary Representatives in 1973, remains in 1979 an empty gesture. They are happy to be given an opportunity to express their concern by signing their names to the Appeal. One hears remarks like, "They shouldn't be allowed to get away with broken promises."

Quite aside from the great suffering of children in Vietnam and many other parts of the world and quite aside from our responsibility to help the innocent sufferers, especially in The International Year of the Child, this matter can be viewed as a test of Integrity, of the honesty of our Government and of ourselves as residents of British Columbia who value our good name at home and abroad.

As Grace McCarthy, Minister of Human Resources, wrote recently in another context, "We should serve as examples to our youth, especially in the International Year of the Child."

If Newsletter readers wish to help to continue this Project, they could write to Editors of Community Newspapers, expressing their concern, and informing other people about the Appeal and the Petition. Perhaps your local Editor would publish the Appeal and add a few lines below it for signatures, which could then be clipped out and sent to Premier Bennett. (Or use the sample letter enclosed here.)

VIETNAM APPEAL PETITION BLANKS are available in any quantity. There are Data Sheets which tell the story of the Fund and its failure to reach those who were to be its beneficiaries. For further information, Petitions and etc., contact:

D. Blair, Bowser, B.C. (VOR 1G0) or Telephone 757-9216

AN APPLICATION FOR A WORLD CITIZEN PASSPORT is included with this Newsletter.

At the Sri Lanka World Symposium, attended by Alice Coppard in December, one of the Resolutions adopted states, "When 25 Nations accept the concept of World Citizenship, then the Constitution drawn up at the World Symposium will make it an accepted reality. These Nations will recognize the World Citizen Passport as valid." The Passports are now available in Esperanto, English and French to applicants of any age, from the Centre in Vancouver.

Those who remember or are acquainted with Helen Tucker, prime mover of The Voice of Women almost 20 years ago, will be interested to know that she is recognized as, and proud to be among the earliest to take World Citizen Status.

(Look for the Application Form in these pages.)



## ENERGY, NUCLEAR, URANIUM

The Bates Inquiry into Uranium Mining SHOULD be considering the safety of humans now and in future. It SHOULD be inquiring into the health of miners, the preservation of the environment and SHOULD be asking if there can be any justification at all in exploration for minerals which make possible the Nuclear Complex of Weapons and Energy. WASTE OR WORSE!

(Address Correspondence to Dr. David Bates, Royal Commission on Uranium Mining in British Columbia, 3724 West Broadway, Vancouver, B.C.)

EMPHASIS SHOULD BE ON STOPPING ALL EXPLORATION FOR URANIUM UNTIL THE HEARINGS HAVE BEEN COMPLETED.

Our objective should be the total prohibition of Uranium Exploration, Uranium Mining and Uranium Use.

RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT FUNDS WOULD BETTER BE CHanneled INTO RENEWABLE ENERGIES.

These are some of the thoughts reported by Lille D'Easum at recent meetings of the Executive of the B.C. Voice of Women. Lille foresaw what was to come well ahead of most people. She educated herself into becoming outstandingly knowledgeable on all issues relating to Nuclear development to the point where her expertise outdoes the "experts" and she is constantly called on for materials and advice. After the process of self-education, she went on to educate many others and is still attempting to meet further requests that come daily in the mail and to her door. There must be few others in Canada who are as up to the minute and as well informed.

URANIUM, with a half-life of about  $4\frac{1}{2}$  billion years, decays first into Thorium 230, which decays into Radium, which changes into Gases called Radon daughters, including Radon-222 which when breathed into the lungs causes Cancer.

Even clearing the ground for exploration may release Radon gas into the atmosphere. The 'tailings' left behind after the extraction of Uranium are still Radio-active and remain so for millions of years. Open pit Uranium mining, tailings and the refining of Uranium Ore, constantly release Radio-active Dust and Radon Gas into the environment. This adds to the local background levels. It increases the exposure of people, vegetation, domesticated and wild animals, fish and aquatic life, to low-level radiation, depending on how close they are to the source, which way the wind blows and how much rain falls.

URANIUM IN QUANTITY HAS ONLY TWO USES:

1. The production of Nuclear Weapons
2. As fuel in Nuclear Reactors.

Either use threatens Human Lives and all of Life as well

URANIUM WOULD BE BEST LEFT IN THE GROUND until and while we learn to supply necessary (not wasteful) Energy Needs from small-scale renewable sources. This calls for sanity instead of the insanity of the present headlong flight into ultimate extinction.

European scientists, who studied Uranium Miners from Germany and Czechoslovakia in the 1930s, showed that by 1940, 65% of them were dying of lung Cancer. Between 1935 and 1939, 90% of Miners' deaths were from lung cancer or lung diseases such as tuberculosis, silicosis, emphysema and chronic bronchitis. (They were mining Pitchblende, a native oxide of Uranium, found in pitchlike masses, an important source of Radium.)

LOW-LEVEL RADIATION HEALTH HAZARDS HAVE BECOME MATTERS OF CONCERN TO MANY MEDICAL AND HEALTH SPECIALISTS.

e.g; Dr. Helen Caldicott,  
Dr. Rosalie Burtell  
Members of B.C. Medical Association.



HUMAN RIGHTS - or the lack of them in almost all parts of the world today - must be one of the most painful and at the same time one of the most necessary considerations constantly before us. We learn about Imprisonment without trial, often for years on end, Torture of prisoners whose 'crime' is being critical of repressive regimes, Disappearances, Sudden Death, Children being beaten, maimed and killed, and we ask ourselves from our comparative safety, what can we do.

Human Rights cannot be guarded except by using those we have. Like our bodies, they tend to atrophy if not exercised. Whenever we exercise the Rights we hold and cherish, by exercising them in behalf of others, we serve ourselves also by insuring their continued existence.

Voice of Women Groups and individual members have interested themselves in many facets of Human Rights. They have spoken up, demonstrated, written, and supported those who are unequal to defending and protecting themselves, here in Canada as well as in many other parts of the world. The vanished children in Argentina is a case in point, heart-breaking to contemplate yet only one of so many more. Individual cases such as that of Galindo Madrid, a young man refused Landed Immigrant status and due to be deported from Canada, probably to certain torture and death in Chile. As a result of telegrams and telephone calls to the new govt. in Ottawa, the deportation order has been temporarily delayed.

What is it like to live in a country where belonging to any political party - or even distributing leaflets for it - cuts you off from any Union position? The country is Chile where new labour repression is now making any political activity a crime. This most recent of Pinochet's repressive measures has aroused the AFL-CIO and the International Confederation of Free Trade Unions to declare a total boycott against Chile.

Chile, very recently, had a literacy rate of 90%. Today, most Chileans cannot afford to buy books. It costs \$150 a month to live marginally, but the average wage is \$30 per month. Most of Chile's population cannot afford to buy the food they produce. The military junta exports the food, some of it to Canada. Buying Chilean produce does not help its people; it strengthens the hand of the oppressor.

Ask your grocer if the apples, grapes, nectarines, pears and other fruits on the shelf are Chilean. If they are, don't buy them. We can boycott!

We can write to Members of Parliament, to the Minister of External Affairs, to the Minister of Trade and Commerce, expressing your views about Canadian trade with the Pinochet Junta and about investment such as Noranda Mines', which bolsters that anti-democratic regime.

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The British Columbia Conference on the Emerging International Economic Order in Feb./79 brought together 200 delegates and resource persons from N.G.O.s, Churches, Universities, Labour, Native Indian and local community organizations. The following statement resulted:

IN ALL AREAS OF CONCERN TO THIS CONFERENCE: FOOD, TRADE, DISARMAMENT, ENERGY, ENVIRONMENT AND FINANCE, WE AGREED UNANIMOUSLY THAT THE CONCENTRATION OF CORPORATE POWER, FUNCTIONING AS ABSENTEE LANDLORDS OF WORLD ECONOMIES, IS THE GREATEST SINGLE FACTOR IN THE PROBLEMS OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND SURVIVAL FACING CANADA AND THIRD WORLD COUNTRIES. THIS WE HAVE DECIDED ARISES FROM THE FACT THAT TRANSNATIONAL CORPORATIONS ARE NOT ACCOUNTABLE TO ANY SOCIAL MORALITY OR UNIVERSAL AUTHORITY SUCH AS THE UNITED NATIONS.



## PEACE AND DISARMAMENT

\*\*\*\*\* There is growing participation and support by Churches in the Disarmament Movement. This is taking place, Canada-wide, as shown by Issues, past and present of 'The Ecumenical News', a paper being distributed to Church Members.

\*Operation Dismantle\* which originated in a small church office in Toronto continues to distribute ballots to individuals, asking that they mark and return them with their name and address. The Ballot is headed GLOBAL REFERENDUM and says, "I AM REQUESTING THE UNITED NATIONS TO IMPOSE TOTAL AND PERMANENT NUCLEAR DISARMAMENT UPON ALL THE NATIONS OF EARTH, TO OFFER AN EFFECTIVE PEACE-KEEPING FORCE AUTOMATICALLY TO ANY NATION THAT NEEDS IT, AND TO SET UP WHATEVER PRINCIPLES AND PROCEDURES IT TAKES TO ESTABLISH AND MAINTAIN A WORLD WITHOUT WAR." There are two squares to be marked for YES or NO.

\*Operation Dismantle\* wants Canada to lead the way to a Peaceful World by making the Motion at the Fall Session of the United Nations Assembly that a World Referendum be undertaken to give the people of the world the opportunity to express their views on the crucial matter of TOTAL WORLD DISARMAMENT. Letters should be written to the Prime Minister requesting our U.N. Representatives to make such a Motion.

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The Coalition for World Disarmament has a Petition available to hasten steps toward DISARMAMENT. It is headed, "AN APPEAL FOR ACTION ON DISARMAMENT IN THE INTERNATIONAL YEAR OF THE CHILD" and urges government to 1) pledge non-first use of Nuclear Weapons; 2) to agree on a comprehensive Test Ban; 3) to begin negotiations to prohibit research, production and deployment of new nuclear and other weapons of mass death and destruction; 4) to reduce stockpiles of nuclear bombs and their delivery systems

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There are Movements afoot such as Women Strike for Disarmament, by withdrawal of services and consumerism, similar to a Strike for a Day.

The Tax Refusal Campaign will be well-publicized by Income Tax Time, 1980. The Literature on this matter advises, "When making out your income tax returns this year, let the Federal Government know of your displeasure at the percentage of our tax moneys being spent each year on armaments and related industries." There will be more on this in future editions of The Voice.

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HISTORICAL Notes relating to the growth and activity of the Voice of Women since its inception in 1960, have been placed in the Archives at U.B.C. and are available for inspection on request. Included is a section of the Star Weekly Magazine, June 13/79, with an article entitled, "The United Nations Listened When Canadian Women Spoke", dealing with the International Co-operation Year as declared by the U.N. as a result of the dynamism of one, Helen Tucker, and the VOWs whom she represented and led.

..... This Year is the 50th Anniversary of the Recognition of WOMEN AS PERSONS in Canadian Law. Some women gathered in Toronto to discuss the formation of a Women's Political Party. Perhaps the time is not yet ripe, they thought, but did agree to seek out and support women candidates in future elections.

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(Among excellent Briefs to the Peoples' Food Commission, one was by VOW member and writer, Eve Smith, South Pender Island, R.R.1 Port Washington B.C.)



HOW TO BE AN "ANGEL" (See pg. 2 National I.Y.C. Project)

I. If sufficient Funding by means of Grants and Donations is procured, the FILM will go ahead and be produced. If the Project fails for lack of financing, all Donations will be returned to the donors. In order to be eligible to receive Granted Funding, the Film Account must show an initial \$15,000. At present it holds \$3000 in donations. Another \$12,000 must be found. (Interest is at 9½%)

ANGELS: please (1) Make cheques payable to : V.O.W. I.Y.C. Film Project Fund.

The Account No. is 31191-0 .

(2) Mark on back of cheque "For Deposit Only".

(3) Mail direct to Greater Victoria Credit Union,  
3053 Shelbourne, Victoria, B.C. (Tel. No. is 595-1124)

II. Some "Angels" may wish to turn over their free shares in the British Columbia Resources Investment Corporation (BRIC SHARES) to the I.Y.C. FILM PROJECT.

"Energy File", a splendid little publication, is asking supporters to donate their shares for cash. The N.D.P. asks members to send in their shares for use by the Party. No doubt there are similar requests here and there.

NOT TO BE OUTDONE, Voice of Women suggests that Shares could be donated to the Film Project on the same basis as mentioned above. If the Project does not go ahead, all contributions will be returned to senders.

BE AN ANGEL IF YOU POSSIBLY CAN. USE TEAR-OFF SECTION BELOW IF YOU WISH. THANKS!

A SPECIAL NOTE TO VOWs who wish they could do more to help:

Try to remember that all anyone can do is only what may be possible for her. Those who dwell in confined circumstances need not feel unimportant or not needed. No-one can do as much as she would like, so do not be worried or ashamed that you cannot do more. Your smile and your quiet, friendly contacts with those around you, make this world a better and more peaceful place. Thank you for being You and a Voice, A VOW.

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This section may be completed and sent to Jean Craig, President V.O.W., 3714 - Dollarton Hwy., North Vancouver, V7G 1A2

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Here is my contribution to the V.O.W. I.Y.C. Film Project Fund

I enclose

BRIC SHARES

no. of shares

I understand that if sufficient funds are raised, my Shares will be used in the production of the Film, "A CHILD'S VIEW OF PEACE/AND WAR."

If the Project is unsuccessful my contribution will be returned to me.

Remarks -----

(Signed) \_\_\_\_\_

Please Print: Name & Address \_\_\_\_\_



BOYCOTTS ARE EFFECTIVE. They do 'get the message across'. Even the largest corporations don't like losing a single customer.

By now, everyone knows about some heartless profiteers who persuade young mothers in Third World Countries that powdered milk is better for baby than mother's milk.

NESTLE'S is one of the worst offenders. Don't buy Nestle products. Boycott: Quik, Nescafe, Tasters' Choice, DeCaf, Sunrise Instant, also McVities and Libbys Foods. They are controlled by Nestle as well.

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SMOKE DETECTORS? If you must have one, try to get the photo-electric (or photo-cell) type. These contain no radio-active source, and are more sensitive than the ionizing type. The ionizing type should not be used because of a bit of radio-active material in each, not much but why take unnecessary chances?

Dr. Wayne Green, Provincial Radiation Protection, Ministry of Health, Government Buildings, Victoria, is the person to write to in this matter.

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#### THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF THE B.C. VOICE OF WOMEN WILL TAKE PLACE IN SEPTEMBER

Plans are underway for an All-Day Session on Saturday, September 8th, 1979, at Irene Abbey's 'Family Estate', 26963 - 18th Ave., Aldergrove. Members will bring their overnight sacks (bedding) on Friday evening if they wish and may stay over on Saturday night as well. There is room for tenting and for parking and indoor shelter if needed.

Details will be ironed out at the July Executive Meeting. Members will receive notification soon thereafter. PLAN NOW TO ATTEND THE 1979 ANNUAL GET-TOGETHER.

The next meeting of the Executive of the B.C. Voice of Women will be in Victoria, at the Friends' Meeting House, 1831 Fern St., Wednesday, JULY 18, 11:00-3:00

ALL ARE WELCOME.

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MEMBERSHIP FEES: Cheques, payable to The Voice of Women, may be sent to the local Membership person, or to Pearl Barrett, B.C. Membership Sec., 938 West 16th St., North Vancouver. FOR NON-MEMBERS, "THE B.C. VOICE" is \$4.00 for 6 issues.

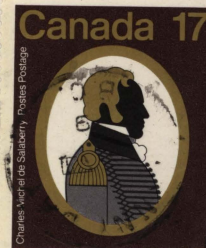
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Please Print: Name & Address