

THE B.C. VOW
NEWSLETTER
Published
Every 2 months
by BC VOICE OF WOMEN
BOX 235, NANAIMO, BC
Vol 9, No.6
April 1973

PRESIDENT, EDITOR & TREAS., BOX 235 NANAIMO. MEMB. SEC. BOX 3212 COURTENAY

JX 1974

V65

Why Bother About NORAD?

Every VOW member should be aware that: (1) NORAD is an admittedly obsolete programme for the defence of U.S. nuclear retaliatory power; (2) NORAD cost us \$140 millions in 1970 - 71, and with the advent of more expensive military hardware is likely to cost us a good deal more in future; (3) without NORAD the disgraceful defence-production sharing agreements are invalidated; (4) during the Cuban missile crisis NORAD provided the framework within which all Canadian forces went on full alert for 48 hours under an American Commander-in-Chief against the wishes of the Diefenbaker government.

Not a single acceptable reason for the continuation of NORAD can be offered. NORAD is not an essential component in U.S. strategy. NORAD is only useful because it binds Canada to a subservient position in military partnership with the U.S. Canada's best defence strategy is not synonymous with U.S. strategy and there is no reason Canada's defence budget would not be better spent on a more neutralist strategy unless we are ready to submerge our national identity in a single North American nation. But our government cannot openly admit that we are nothing more than a "sub-contractor to the Pentagon", and so we will again be subjected to a series of pitifully spineless and illogical arguments favouring this humiliating treaty. Maybe this time we can have some effect, if only in exposing the situation.

The I.C.C.S. Double Shuffle.

So how come we've always said Canada has no right to get into truce supervision, and now we're saying stay while Mitchell Sharp and the NDP talk of getting out? Well, we don't have to expect Mr. Sharp to do what's best for the people of Vietnam and the NDP position is maybe not as simple as it looks. The answer is contained in the conditions upon which we must press our government to do its plain, humanitarian duty now that it's again embroiled in Vietnam. Canada, as a member of the ICCS, is now in a position to insist that political prisoners be released and farmers allowed to return to their farms. If Canada will not perform this simple task on behalf of an enduring peace in Vietnam, then, yes, Canada must pull out and tacitly admit that our only purpose in participating in another foreordained 'farce' was to facilitate the withdrawal of U.S. prisoners.

Marjorie Stewart

A decorative border at the bottom of the page, featuring a repeating pattern of small circles or beads.

→ ARROWS FOR ACTION on every page →

Save an Innocent Political Prisoner in South Vietnam

Immediate intervention is necessary to save lives, and AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL has proved it effective for at least those prisoners whose names are available

LETTER IN BEHALF OF VIETNAMESE POLITICAL PRISONER

Date:

Re: (Name of a political prisoner*)

"Dear Sir:

In view of the urgency of the situation I am sending carbon copies of this letter to a number of important, concerned persons. Please excuse my use of the carbon copy.

Reports from many reliable sources have made me acutely aware of the large numbers of detainees, possibly as many as 200,000, in the prisons of the Thieu regime. The condition of the prisons, many built and supported by U.S. funds, is generally appalling, and torture, starvation and killing of prisoners is commonplace.

The Agreements signed by all four nations on January 27th, 1973, state that the two South Vietnamese parties will "prohibit all acts of reprisal and discrimination against individuals or organizations that have collaborated with one side or the other ... ensure the democratic liberties of the people, personal freedom..."

The names of thousands of prisoners in Chi Hoa, Thu Duc, Tan Hiep, Poulo-Condor (Con Son), the central police station in Saigon, and many other prisons in South Vietnam are known, and details of torture, starvation, tiger cages and the killing of women, children, students, Buddhists, Catholics and citizens who have opposed the Thieu regime have been well documented.

I am writing to appeal to you to do everything possible to secure the release of these prisoners. In particular I urge that you ascertain the following about: a) Where is he? b) What is the condition of his health? c) Why is he being held? d) When will he be released? e) If he is said to have been released, where is he now?

In the name of our common humanity, I beg you to act.

Sincerely yours,"

cc Hon. Mitchell Sharp, Sec. of State for External Affairs (no stamp needed)
David Lewis, M.P. " " "
Robert L. Stanfield, M.P. " " "
Michel Gauvin, Canadian Commissioner, International Commission of Control and Supervision, Saigon, Vietnam (airmail 15¢ per ounce) "
The President of the Senate, Republic of Vietnam, Saigon "
Kurt Waldheim, Sec. General, United Nations, New York, N.Y.

*FOR NAMES OF PRISONERS FROM A LIST OF OVER 1,000 and for FURTHER INFORMATION:

Write to

INTERNATIONAL COMMITTEE TO FREE SOUTH VIETNAMESE POLITICAL PRISONERS FROM DETENTION, TORTURE AND DEATH,

c/o George Hermanson, Lutheran Campus Centre, 5885 University Blvd.,
Vancouver 8, B.C. Telephone 224-1614

Annual General Meeting

*****June 15-16-17*****

COME !

A weekend in June, at the

COME !

Timberline Lodge, R.R. 2, Maple Ridge

(in the foothills of Golden Ears Park, near Haney)

Accommodation & Meals \$14.00 Registration Fee \$3.00

- * Two nice big meeting rooms with fireplaces
- * Dormitory type rooms with 2, 3, and 4 single beds
- * BRING YOUR OWN BEDDING AND PILLOW PLEASE
(Burnaby VOW will supply a few)
- * Mountains, lakes and streams! Horseback riding!
- * Agenda will be prepared by Burnaby VOW

REGISTRATION FORM & DETAILS to follow* in separate mailing, soon.

HIGHLIGHTS from the MINUTES
(Exec. meeting Mar. 18)

* Kay Macpherson was present, on her way home from Australia.

* Provincial Annual Meeting: PLEASE NOTE place and time have been CHANGED since minutes sent out - see Page 3 (top of this page!)

* Fund-raiser: the proposed Peace Calendar would be too costly. How about a recipe book? Telephone pad? SEND IDEAS PLEASE! ←

* Resolutions wanted at National Office NOW, for A.G.M. in May.

* B.C. VOW is opposed to the extraction of Arctic oil.

* Letter to go to Premier Barrett protesting B.C. Gov't. buying into BrasCan and in effect becoming a junior partner in this imperialist multinational corporation (which has heavy Canadian investments in Brazil, exploiting that country).

* Bank Balance: \$271.77

* Payment of \$30 rent to Nanaimo Credit Union for meeting accommodation; and a collection taken which raised over \$20 towards this.

* NORAD: good response reported to the appeal to write B.C. MP's urging debate in the House. James Eayrs' article (Lit. Dept., p.9) to be sent to the same MP's.

* Ecology: "Salute to the NDP" (B.C. VOW statement) sent to 57 people including BC Cabinet; several replies received.

* Literature: 38 copies of Lille d'Easum's Energy Alternatives (see p.9) to be sent to provincial NDP Caucus.

* Newsletter: Nonmember subscription list now 23 and mounting steadily.

* Membership: fees paid in by 64 members in Jan., 58 in Feb., 32 in March.

* Next Meeting: Tues. April 17th, 10.45 a.m., Nanaimo Credit Union.

SILENT SPRING - a tribute by Eve Smith

It is now ten years since Rachel Carson gave us "Silent Spring" and rocked the world (well, the Western world, anyway), presenting in her own inimitable way the hazards of pesticides, with their devastating environmental consequences. Many people had written of these things before, but Rachel Carson tied them all up in one beautiful tragic book.

We pay loving homage to a remarkable woman. She will be remembered long after her traducers are forgotten.

ARCTIC OIL

"LEAVE THE STUFF IN THE GROUND!"

B.C. Environmental Council (supported by B.C. VOW) sent the following wire to Premier Dave Barrett from their Annual Meeting on March 10th:

WE ARE CONCERNED ABOUT ANY PROPOSALS FROM BRITISH COLUMBIA THAT COULD ENDORSE AND FACILITATE THE MASSIVE EXTRACTION OF ARCTIC OIL AND ITS TRANSPORTATION TO THE U.S.A.

SUCH PROPOSALS WILL LOCK BRITISH COLUMBIA INTO THE U.S.A.'S INCREASING SPIRAL OF CONSUMPTION, WASTAGE, AND MISUSE OF NON-RENEWABLE ENERGY SOURCES. THIS PROVINCE SHOULD IN NO WAY AID THE U.S.A. TO DESTROY THE FRAGILE ARCTIC ECOLOGY AND TO CONTINUE THE EXPONENTIALLY INCREASING THREAT TO HEALTH, LIFE, AND HUMAN EXISTENCE ITSELF.

CANADIAN SURVIVAL AS WELL AS U.S.A. SURVIVAL WILL BE FAR BETTER SERVED BY YOUR GOVERNMENT'S MAINTAINING A FIRM POSITION AGAINST ACCELERATED DEPLETION OF NON-RENEWABLE RESOURCES, AND IN AFFIRMING THAT BRITISH COLUMBIA IS COMMITTED TO STARTING TO LIVE WITHIN OUR ENVIRONMENTAL LIMITS.

JEFF MOONEY, CHAIRMAN

Irving Stowe, a B.C. Environmental Council Director, made a presentation on behalf of the Council to the NDP Caucus in Victoria, Mar. 8, declaring the Council's commitment to two priority goals:

***NO supertankers off the B.C. coast or through the Juan de Fuca Strait.

***NO Mackenzie Valley Pipeline.

The presentation included detailed recommendations for Federal and Provincial government actions in this context.

→ (For copies of the presentation, and further information, write to Irving Stowe, 2775 Courtenay St., Vancouver 8, B.C.)

Our own Lille d'Easum says:

"Why all the panic to extract oil and gas from the Canadian North? There's an excellent case for leaving the stuff in the ground. Canadians - Indians, Eskimos, ecologists, archaeologists, wildlife people, nationalists, socialists, and ordinary citizens - must form a coalition to work for this end.

"In a cool, scientific appraisal, Prof. Tuzo Wilson, one of the world's leading geophysicists, whose experience in the Arctic goes back to 1946, estimated that Canada's total petroleum reserves represent, at best, 1.8 per cent of the world's reserves.

"The Canadian Arctic Resources Committee, a non-partisan group of scientists who are studying the effects of exploration and development on the fragile environment of the North, said (Northern Perspectives, Feb. 1973):

If Canada could make the US a gift of her total proven oil reserves - simply turn over to them every producing well in every field in Canada - we could extend the Americans' reserve life for oil by about 20 months.

"...If we let them dig up our Northland, disinherit our native peoples, destroy our wildlife, we may help to meet US energy demands for a few years. For make no mistake, the natural gas and hot oil will flow right across the border. It will fuel American industry, American bombers, American space rockets, and the dollars will go into the pockets of Wall Street giants. We'll be left with ugly gashes in our permafrost, miles of empty pipelines, mounds of garbage, a few more extinct species of wildlife, and natives with neither land nor jobs.

"The real struggle for power today goes on in a war among the great petroleum companies for control of energy sources. Whoever controls energy sources controls the world. If we allow the new merger of corporate giants - the consortium of Canadian Arctic Gas which now includes 25 companies, mostly

American - to build their pipelines through Canada, especially if they demand controlling interest, we'll have sold our country out completely to the 'most powerful array of corporate and state power' ever assembled to do a country in. The temporary boom will affect our exchange rate, detract from our export industries, and the real profits will go to the petroleum companies... Why should we allow the destruction of our Northland so that a few oil magnates can become as rich as Croesus?

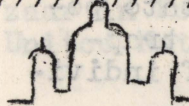
"The gas and oil under our Northlands have been there for millions of years. Let them remain there undisturbed. At least they are not causing pollution there. Rather, let us preserve this last great natural undisturbed area. Let's preserve its unique beauty, its archaeological treasures, its aborigines in their natural habitat, its caribou and polar bears.

"Agreed, we don't want tankers and oil spills on our coast. Neither do we want roads and pipelines in the Mackenzie valley."

(excerpted from Lille's oral submission to the Provincial Oil Spills Committee, Victoria, March 8, 1973.)

Non-members may SUBSCRIBE to the B.C. Voice - \$1.00 per year

→ TELL A FRIEND! ←



B.C. VOW IN VICTORIA

- by Elisabeth Minifie

B.C. VOW has presented a resolution* on secondary industry to the provincial government. President Marjorie Stewart, Victoria members Sharon Playter and Elisabeth Minifie handed the resolution to a meeting of the NDP caucus, chaired by Karen Sanford, MLA (Comox) at a 10-minute meeting in Victoria, February 13.

Supporting in principle the NDP government's policy encouraging secondary industry in the province, the resolution also warned that such industry may foster or be fostered by the international armaments trade. Caucus members expressed interest in the resolution, which was prepared by Martin Rossander, Powell River; and several MLAs asked for further information giving names of Canadian companies supplying goods on US defense Department contracts.

The three VOW representatives felt that the meeting, first of its kind for the B.C. branch, was useful, and that it laid the foundation for regular meetings with the government caucus in future.

*B.C. VOW's resolution on secondary industry was quoted in full in our Feb. 1973 issue, page 4. - Ed.

- o - o - o - o - o - o -



No Growth or No Life?

- by Eve Smith, Ecology Chairman

In the B.C. Voice, December 1972, I wrote a short commentary on "Radical Environmentalism", an article by Assistant Prof. Willard Miller presenting arguments in favour of democratic socialism and no growth. As he said, "we can use less, more wisely" - and, I might add, also more equitably distributed.

cont. on p. 6

The Central Anti Pollution Council of Tokyo now urges "deceleration of economic growth" with government regulatory measures for industry "to save rather than destroy resources".

During the Second World War there was some gas and food rationing; a few clothing items were scarce. People accepted these restrictions to aid and abet destruction, so now why cannot we promote and practise restrictions for the sake of preservation and construction?

But it's up to us, the man in the street (and woman, I bow to Women's Lib!) to force governments to restrict industry or better still, take over industry, as Prof. Miller suggests in his article "put government into the hands of the people where it belongs."

The entrenched bureaucracy does not give way to the needs of the people, nor to protecting the total environment, easily! But people are learning. For instance, in the spring of 1971 four men left the Senate Committee on Poverty, saying that it was censoring facts. These four issued an 80,000 word report on their own, which "describes in detail how Canada's Establishment - monopolies, corporations, politicians and bureaucrats - creates and sustains poverty in Canada" (Vancouver Sun, Nov. 19, 1971). "The mass media got 70% of advertising from 100 major companies, more than half U.S. owned." (ibid). So the sooner we got ownership of "our" natural resources, the better.

Many of us realize that "1984" is here now, with police state policies. The state as we know it will cease to exist, with all its trappings of police, subjugation, inequalities, injustices - and lack of individual liberty.

The NDP Farm Bill is a step in the right direction. It is better than one had expected.

AAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAA
!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!

Coffee for You - Blood for Angola



11% of Canada's coffee imports come from Angola. By using Angolan coffee in our instant coffee blends, we are supporting forced labour and a Portuguese colonial war. Coffee is Angola's number one export but production is characterized by both forced labour and child labour conditions.

The UN has continually condemned Portugal's rule of its African territories. In Nov. 1972, UN Resolution 2918 called upon all member nations: "...to take forthwith all possible measures to put an end to any activities that help to exploit the Territories under Portuguese domination... to discourage their nationals and bodies corporate under their jurisdiction from entering into any transactions or arrangements that contribute to Portugal's domination over those territories."

Canada was one among 98 countries who signed the Resolution, yet we are still one of Angola's best customers for coffee.

The 3 main Canadian companies which import Angolan coffee are General Foods, Nestles and Standard Brands. They have been approached to stop importing this coffee but they have refused. You can help Angolans by SWITCHING to other brands than the following:

General Foods: MAXIM, MAXWELL HOUSE, BRIM, SANKA, YUBAN

Nestles: TASTER'S CHOICE, NESCAFE

Standard Brands: CHASE & SANBORN

For more information: Southern Africa Information Group, Box 4443-E, Ottawa.

News from the Groups

PARKSVILLE - QUALICUM BEACH

- by Janet Cousins, knitting co-ordinator

Members and friends are knitting madly all kinds of children's garments which are sent to Mrs. Sheila Young of Canadian Aid for Vietnam Civilians (Children's) in Vancouver. In Parksville various store owners have been most generous in lending a part of their premises for a stall showing samples of the various knitted items as well as patterns and leaflets. During the past months our stall has attracted interest in three different stores, usually for two days at a time, with kind friends and members attending. On a recent weekend, a jar on our table marked Fund for Artificial Limbs collected \$30 in behalf of this urgent need; and several new knitters added their names to our list and were supplied with patterns and wool.

(EDITOR'S NOTE: omission in line 3 of above report. Words in brackets should read "Children's Committee". D.B.)

BURNABY

- by Hazel Hyde

The happy results of our Book Sale at the Brentwood Annual Bazaar in February: we cleared \$239.20, which money will be used to sponsor United Nations Seminar students in the summer.

NORTH SHORE and BURNABY combined

- by Robyn Smith and Hazel Hyde

The Burnaby and North Shore VOW groups co-sponsored another successful dinner meeting on March 16th in the Vancouver Cruising Club in North Vancouver. Our members cooked a delicious buffet meal which we served to 100 guests. We charged \$2.50 per person for dinner and a glass of wine, reimbursed VOW members for cost of ingredients in the various dishes, and cleared \$97.00, which we divided between our two groups. This money will, of course, be used for a worthwhile cause, not yet decided.

Our speakers were Dr. Sheila Thompson, counsellor at Douglas College; Ben Metcalfe of Greenpeace fame, freelance journalist; and Frank Mazco, lawyer with the B.C. Legal Aid Society and commentator on the CBC. The topic was "Liberation: Cause or Cliche (or How do Men See Women's Role in a Changing World?)." Good-natured controversy followed.

It was a thoroughly enjoyable evening, a very good formula for educating husbands and friends, and perhaps could be a suggestion for other VOW groups who wish to do something stimulating and earn a little money at the same time. We would be glad to send a copy of our costs, and menus, etc. - write to Mrs. Robyn Smith, 1010 Braeside West Vancouver.

COURTENAY VOW held a Tag Day for Canadian Aid to Vietnam Civilians Feb. 24. Lillian Williams writes:

"We feel that the Tag Day was a success. We received \$382.40 and donations since have increased that amount to.... \$400.00."

NANAIMO, with other groups, notably Nanaimo & Duncan District Labour Council, co-sponsored a Tag Day for Medical Aid for Vietnam on April 14, and raised

\$799.00

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR



...I got involved in organizing some sewing for the Vietnamese children. As I cut out most of the garments besides sewing "samples" for the other ladies I was really hopping for a while. There were 15 women who helped... I wish I could form a VOW group... I see there is a lady in Oyama who is a member; I am going to try to contact her.

Mildred Moor, Lumby (near Vernon).

(LONE VOICES TAKE NOTE: please feel free to write Editor, B.C. Voice, Box 235, Nanaimo, B.C., for names of VOW members in your area. D.B.)



I was heartened to see the note from Marie Coventry in the Feb. B.C. Voice - there are still a few of us old VOW members around Nelson, and we SHOULD get together again. We all seem to have got swept up into other activities - either work or SPEC or Women's Lib, or Credit Unions or Co-ops, and as energy declines with age, we spread ourselves too thinly, or reluctantly drop something that is still meaningful to us. ...The steadfast devotion of the B.C. VOW Executive is an inspiration to those of us in the interior who only 'stand and wait.' Best wishes to you all,

Betty Drew, Nelson.



Sheila Young of CAVC Children's Committee, who has had difficulty recently tracking down the donors of some knitted items, writes:

"I would be grateful if you would ask those sending goods by anyone to write my name and address on the outside, and PLEASE let me know the donors. We do like to keep a close record for our own benefit as well as those who so kindly knit and sew for the children.

"The 40th shipment of the Children's Committee of Canadian Aid for Vietnam Civilians (CAVC) contained 3,334 items of clothing and blankets, collected in 2 months. This brings the total of goods knitted and sewn by wonderful women all over the North American Continent to 78,000. Lil Greene of the Ontario Knitting Project has sent 21,514 - bless her. VOW groups all over Canada are generous contributors to goods as well as cash to make possible the shipments of surgical and medical supplies clothing, fabrics, milk etc.

"Our gratitude to all B.C. members of VOW for their kind co-operation.

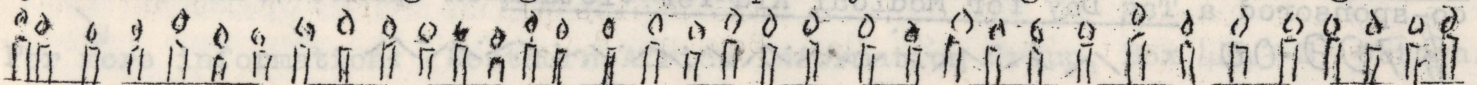
Sincerely, SHEILA YOUNG"

Note for Knitters: Colours may be BRIGHT now! - but not pale shades.

GOOD NEWS

WAR RESISTERS LEAGUE (WRL) celebrate their Fiftieth Anniversary this month. Think of that! Congratulations, WRL! While they might be excused for doing a little looking back just now, they are looking at the present and future in a most realistic and practical way, as witness their new statement Vietnam: beyond the ceasefire (a MUST for all peace workers - see p.9. Ed.).

WRL staff member David McReynolds writes: "People may feel encouraged to know that peace groups not only are not going out of business with the ceasefire in Vietnam but that some of us have been around for fifty years now and we're getting our roots pretty well dug in for the long haul."



Welcome To
B.C. LITERATURE

Lille d'Easum

James Eayrs

Kay Macpherson

Roslyn Kunin

Felix Groene

Mrs. T.M. Cox

BOWSER

BC

*** In view of recent unequivocal statements by Mr. Cass-Beggs in favor of nuclear power in B.C., it seems essential that we press forward with the education of our provincial leaders -

while there's still time! We've excellent packets of information to offer, both thick and thin, regarding this particularly insistent and insidious hazard to ourselves and our environment. Lille d'Easum, Marjorie Stewart and Mary Cox can supply them.

Perhaps an effective approach - itself an alternative to the muchness of protest - could be the lavishing about, among students, teachers, librarians, community organizations and political types, of Lille d'Easum's excellent pamphlet ENERGY ALTERNATIVES. (When do we begin to insist that these other, better, saner, safer methods of supplying such power as we need must be explored??) With this in mind, a new batch of the pamphlet has mushroomed at Bowser, and is available from Mary Cox, at 10¢, or 2 for 15¢

*** New handout shoots now in print:

- 1) James Eayrs' LET'S GET OUT OF NORAD, reprinted from the Van. Sun, Feb. 13, '73. A sure antidote to any uncertainty on this immediate issue.
- 2) Kay Macpherson's THEY LEARNED ON THE JOB, from the Toronto Star, Jan. 27, '73. This tidy summary of VOW's peace-making over the years includes a news-photo glimpse of a recent peace-march on behalf of Indochina, presumably in Toronto.

*** Upcoming articles of interest:

1) Dr. Roslyn Kunin's THE MULTINATIONAL CORPORATION AS SUPERPOWER. First presented to a discussion group at our annual general meeting last spring, and recently written up at the request of B.C. executive members, this paper presents a concise idea of the nature and performance of the multinational corporation, its immunity to national political or social pressure, its manipulation of our material needs - and a hint as to what will be necessary to free ourselves.

2) FREE TO BE HUMAN, an address by Felix Groene, reprinted from China Now, a publication of the Society for Anglo-Chinese Understanding. Groene presents most compellingly his conviction that the essential and extraordinary strength of the "new China" lies within us all, and is the source of hope for our continuance - providing we can meet the challenge for change.

*** Word comes from Irving Stowe that the Spring issue of Canadian Conservationist is a must. John Moelart is editor, his wife a VOW member.

*** Ads by firms such as ITT have been appearing recently in U.S. papers and magazines, for Fighter Pilot Instructors, Helicopter Pilots, Aircraft Maintenance Personnel, etc., in Vietnam. See for yourself: a sheet of examples assembled by NARMIC may be obtained from Inglis, 3751 Selkirk St Vancouver 9.

*** The War Resisters League statement "Vietnam: beyond the ceasefire" is now available from Bowser - an excellent pamphlet including enlightening and useful info. on the Future US Role in Indochina, as well as on Thieu's Political Prisoners. For one or more copies please send stamped and addressed envelope to Mrs. T.M. Cox, Bowser, B.C.

Box 235, Nanaimo, B.C.