

# VOICE

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

We hope that VOICES all over B.C. will find ways to publicize this statement - in your local press, on radio and TV.

References re. Uranium Mining:

- "Uranium" - article by Lille d'Easum, Vancouver Sun, Thurs, July 14/77  
"A Crossroad in Time - Will we Survive Nuclear Power? - article by  
Dr. Helen Caldecott, Australian physician, staff member of the  
Cystic Fibrosis Clinic, Children's Hospital Medical Centre,  
Harvard University.

Both available from B.C. Vow Lit. Convenor Mary Cox, RR 1, Fanny Bay VOR 1W0

BOOKS:

WINNERS AND LOSERS - by Gloria Emerson - Random House Publishers, \$12.95

"My God! What a book Gloria Emerson has wrought! It is sheer agony to read, the kind of agony which grips your mind and heart and does not let you stop no matter how you try. You go on and on and on, and before you are through you know that Vietnam will never be over for this generation of Americans and should never be over .. This is not a book; it is a candle which she has lighted and its shadow touches us all; its flame burns our minds and our souls."

- Harrison Salisbury

(Watch for the paper-back)

FOOD FIRST - Frances Moore Lappe/Joseph Collins. Houghton Mufflin \$10.95\*

Why hunger in a world of plenty? It need not be so. Drawing upon a world-spanning network of research, some never before released because it contradicts the conventional wisdom, the authors prove that there is no such thing as absolute scarcity. - Food as "weaponry".

\* (If ordered from Institute for Food & Development Policy  
2588 Mission Street, San Francisco, USA CA94110)

WORLD HUNGER:-TEN MYTHS: - Frances Moore Lappe/Joseph Collins. An excellent exposure of the lies we are meant to believe. Fifty page booklet, available B.C.V.O.W. Lit. Committee. . . . \$1.00

THE POVERTY OF POWER - Barry Commoner, Pub'd by Alfred A Knopf .. \$11.50  
(Now available in paper-back)

PLOUGHSHARES MONITOR - This is the bi-monthly newsletter of "Project Ploughshares" - a working group on Canadian Military Policy, sponsored by Canadian religious and civic organizations. It is published at the School for Peace and Conflict Studies, Conrad Grebel College, the University of Waterloo, Waterloo, Ontario, N2L 3G6. The subscription fee of \$10 for six issues includes membership in "Project Ploughshares". Vol. 1, No. 1, published in April gives details of the Canadian government military shopping spree - \$8 Billion Procurement Plans for Canadian Forces.

WASHINGTON WATCH - a weekly bulletin published by Washington Watch Inc. (a non-profit organization), "dedicated to the Survival of Humanity". Yearly subscription \$15 in Canada or \$20 air mail.

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SUBSCRIPTION FOR NON-MEMBERS IS \$2.00 A YEAR FOR "B.C. VOICE"-

WRITE TO BOX 235, NANAIMO, B.C., V9R 5K9

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CRABSHELL ALLIANCE is a group of concerned persons throughout Washington State and the Pacific Northwest, committed to an immediate halt to the construction and operation of nuclear power plants in Washington, the Pacific Northwest, the nation, and throughout the world. They oppose the proposed construction of nuclear plants at Satsop and the Skagit Valley in Washington, and the proposed Pebble Springs Plant, in Oregon. They call for the immediate cessation of operation of the Trojan Plant in Oregon, and the N-Reactor at Hanford, Washington. (All these plants are uncomfortably close to southern B.C.) They also oppose plans to designate the federal Hanford Atomic Reservation as the nation's major nuclear wastes depository. This is the same HANFORD mentioned by Dr. Helen Caldecott (see book page) - referring to atomic wastes. "They have big vats of it and a couple of years ago they lost 115,000 gallons. It's several hundred feet from the Columbia River." The salmon being caught in great numbers around Victoria right now are said to be coming up from this same Columbia River. Therefore, apart from the many possibilities of disaster from the nuclear plant itself, there is the added danger of gallons of liquid waste getting into rivers. Then we have radioactive iodine concentrated hundreds of times in fish, also plutonium, and strontium. These radioactive elements are taken up from the water by the grass and then there is a gradual progression of concentration up through the food chain, - all of this should be reason enough for the inhabitants of B.C. to give their full support to the CRABSHELL ALLIANCE.

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#### WEST COAST OIL PORTS INQUIRY

The recent announcement of the formal hearings of the Inquiry was followed by criticism by David Anderson who represented the B.C. Wildlife Federation in earlier hearings. The Inquiry was started in March by federal Justice Minister Ron Basford, to study the impact of an oil port at Kitimat and had a budget of \$1.4 million. A request for a further \$2.3 million and an extension of time was refused. Mr Anderson described the Inquiry as "just one glorious con game" with the Canadian taxpayer as the victim.

An interesting publication which arose as a result of the inquiry was "West Coast" - "a digest of evidence presented to the West Coast Oil Ports Inquiry, which was sent free of charge to anyone interested. It was to have been produced bi-monthly when the hearings resumed in September but its future seems doubtful under the circumstances. Anyone wishing to receive copies of the three issues published could enquire by writing to 549 Howe St., Vancouver B.C., V6C 2C6, or phone Vancouver 666-2251.

This inquiry could probably be described as "another safety valve on the pressure cooker" and at \$1.4 million could be said to contradict the old adage that "talk is cheap".

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HAN SU-YIN will be speaking in Victoria and Vancouver. Many will remember Han Su-Yin from her appearance on CBC National Television as one of the principal speakers, with Margaret Mead and Barbara Ward Jackson, at the Habitat Conference, but she is best known for her work as an author. She is coming to North America as a guest of the American Cancer Society to address its annual meeting in New York, then on to Victoria to visit friends.

IN VICTORIA: Saturday, Nov. 19, 8:00 p.m., Oak Bay Junior High

IN VANCOUVER: Sunday, Nov. 20, 8:00 p.m. Orpheum Theatre

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The 5th annual conference sponsored by Victoria and UVic Status of Women action groups was held Oct. 28 and 29 at U.Vic. Victoria VOW participated and had a table of literature.



Latest news releases concerning NATO and the Soviet threat, and whether or not this will influence President Carter to agree to the manufacture of the Neutron bomb, would indicate that members of the Committee on the Present Danger are hard at work. A report on this Committee appeared on page 3 of the "B.C. Voice", July/77. A recent program on TV dealing with NATO could well have been among the TV specials, magazine articles and newspaper columns designed to create fear and a bigger military budget.

Since the corporations included in the Committee on the Present Danger are practically identical with those represented in the Tri-lateral Commission, of which President Carter is a member, there certainly is cause for raised eyebrows when President Carter promises to cut the military budget and to work to reverse the arms race.

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An interesting report from the "Washington Post":

- CIA testified last fall that "the USSR has not a single weapons system demonstrating technical superiority over the US. Moscow spends more on defense than the US ... because the Soviet system is weaker and less efficient."
- A Library of Congress study shows the US leading the USSR "in strategic warheads by almost 2:1, in MIRVed ICBMs (multiple-warhead long-range missiles) by 5:1, in MIRVed submarine missiles by 4:0, and in heavy bombers by almost 3:1. Russia trails ... not only in number of warheads but in the most crucial factor today, accuracy."
- U.S. and NATO military manpower equals the total Warsaw Pact manpower. (By some estimates, the Soviet Union has up to a million troops along the long and disputed Chinese frontier.)
- America leads the USSR by many years in the technology of cruise missiles, warhead accuracy and guidance, submarine detection and computers. The highly touted MIG-25, for example, turns out to lag US performance by 10 years and is designed against a threat long superseded by our low-flying bombers. The MIG-25 has long been known to carry a payload only one-fifth that of an F-4, and with a much shorter range."
- "The Kremlin faces strategic problems far more severe than Washington's. It must prepare against a nuclear threat not only from the US, but from China, France, Britain and NATO countries with 'two-key' systems controlled by Washington.... Russia's geography locks the Soviet waterways dominated by Turkey, Norway and Japan." (Walter C. Clemens Jr. of the Kennan Institute in the "Washington Post", and reprinted in the "Washington Spectator")

The "Spectator" points out the choice before Carter and America: - whether to drift on with the military public works program, or to invest in basic social capital: people, land and water..... The voices the President must listen to are those who recognize that we are living in a world of the absurd and the damned, a world in which weapons of mass destruction are being manufactured while millions starve and a nuclear exchange, with its fallout, could destroy us all.

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AN APOLOGY IS IN ORDER for the delay in this issue of THE VOICE.

There seem to have been a terrific number of obstacles along the road in spite of the assistance given by Mary Cox and Deeno Birmingham, but we hope that you will excuse the shortcomings this time and that we will improve with practice. Each subscription is for 6 issues which will be duly sent - even though we may not get them out within the year. Many thanks to those who so kindly sent in material for THE VOICE.

# THE NEUTRON BOMB - (THE "CLEAN" BOMB)

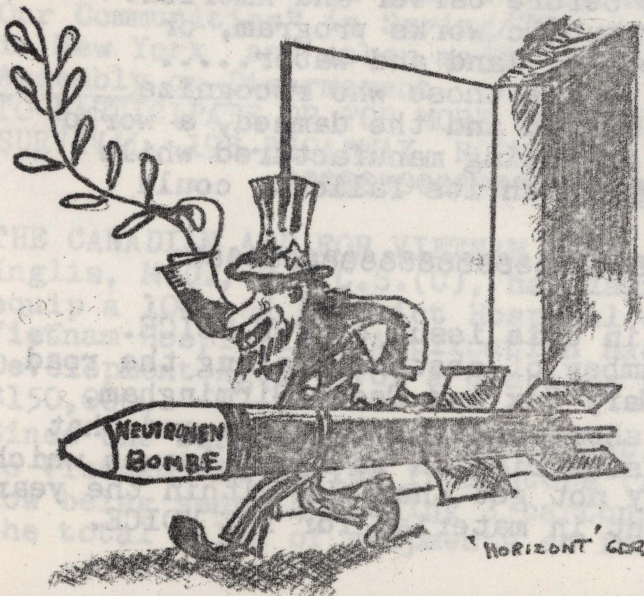
Excerpts from Robert Ellsberg's article in the July-Aug issue of "The Catholic Worker".

"The neutron bomb is a small, simple form of nuclear weapon, in essence, the trigger for the Hiroshima bomb. It can be fired from artillery or attached to a short-range missile. The neutron bomb does not kill primarily by blast or heat, but by an intense burst of lethal neutron and gamma rays, something like what you might receive under the dentist's X-ray (only 8000 times more powerful). It creates almost no damage to buildings and other real estate. It kills only living creatures - every one of them within a mile radius.

The clean bomb leaves the battlefield, town or village clean and sanitized, no lingering fall-out, no blood. Enemy personnel will be 'incapacitated immediately by agonizing convulsions, intermittant stupor and loss of muscular co-ordination'. Death will come slowly, anywhere from a few hours to several days later.

The Pentagon has long desired a weapon like this . . . For it is all very well to have 50 megaton bombs in one's arsenal, but in reality when are you going to use a weapon like that? .. The neutron bomb, in contrast, is eminently practical. . . It is small, it is 'precise', it doesn't put an area off-limits for months. In other words it serves to further blur the distinction between nuclear and "conventional" weapons; it tempts the president with the possibility of using "tactical nuclear weapons" without precipitating a general holocaust. It invites use . . . Virtually all discussion of the neutron bomb has agreed with the premise that this weapon is designated for our NATO allies, and indeed one news story had several European statesmen nodding their assent to the clean bomb . . . Every year since Hiroshima, either the United States, or one of our allies, has been fighting a small - one must say Imperialistic - 'limited' war, in some distant corner of the globe. Lately we have been losing these wars. Only the fact that it is being developed several years too late makes the use of the neutron bomb one crime which this country has spared the people of Indochina... The development of the neutron bomb is only a rather startling indication of the progress we have made in completing the subjection of human beings to their own material creations. In the same process by which the lesser of two evils comes to be seen as no longer evil but a positive good, a device which inflicts indiscriminate death within a prescribed radius while sparing property, is actually described as being relatively "humane". That this is possible suggests a pathological insensitivity, the roots of which go far deeper than a simple perversity of language... When a civilization elects to celebrate not moral but technical achievements, it is inevitable that the final unsolved problem left to technology will be how to remove the corpses when the battle is over .."

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In a later statement, Ellsberg said that while on field trips in Korea he learned that authority to give a nuclear "go ahead" had been delegated to field commanders, down to the rank of major.

This negates the belief held by many that only a president (sane or mad) could have this power.

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The only thing necessary for the triumph of evil, is for good men to do nothing.

Edmund Burke.

### TRIDENT AND NUREMBERG

(from "Judgement after Nuremberg"--Ben Metcalfe, B C Today, Aug. 15)

.....The issue of the Trident protest is not the location of a nuclear submarine base. It is the imminence of the nuclear holocaust, and that issue transcends every national, ideological and political consideration, for it confronts us not as Canadians, Americans, Russians or Chinese, but as a species, and as a species we must act.

Our first law of nature is the survival of our species and we consequently must obey that law first. Just as Nuremberg rendered the courts and laws of the land inferior to the laws of humanity, so does the imminence of the nuclear holocaust and the extinction of our species render our laws of any kind inferior to the laws of humanity.

What is the practical implication of that principle? For the people merely to petition the state to disarm is delusive; but for the people actually to cause the state to disarm is revolutionary; and yet clearly it must be done.

While it is probably already true that in this techtronic age the combined national elites of Canada, the United States, Japan, France, West Germany and Italy could conduct a total and instant nuclear war without the general populations being involved at all--except as incinerated and/or irradiated corpses--a great deal of elitist power still derives from the people, directly and indirectly.

It is therefore the people who are both directly and indirectly responsible for disarmament inasmuch as they are capable of bringing it about by taking back from their leaders the power they give them in the form of money, labour skills, votes, obedience, etcetera.

Not on a mass scale, of course, but only on an individual basis at first can such action be initiated. Only when masses of people become aware of the imminence of their nuclear destruction will masses of people act. The Trident protest and others must create that awareness.

Political assistance would be helpful, of course, but, as history demonstrates, not necessary. Which is just as well because there is no political help available in any of the political parties of Canada, the United States, Britain or elsewhere. All of these parties are committed overtly or covertly to our nuclear policies.

Indeed, the traditional social groupings and institutions are notoriously short-sighted, including "socialists". The anti-war movement is essentially, and must remain, totally non-partisan.

Finally, if it is to achieve consensus and ever-increasing support, it must be predicated upon such incontrovertible truths as the Nuremberg principles, for even the 'enemy' once subscribed to those.

(A B.C. Voice of Women Literature Committee reprint)

## A MESSAGE FROM YOUR MEMBERSHIP CONVENOR AND COMMITTEE

We are all reviewing the cards for the purpose of printing an up-to-date list of members.

There are 3 reasons why we would welcome a letter from you:

1. Especially from members who are outside Greater Vancouver and Victoria and therefore not easy to reach by phone, we would appreciate having your postal code before the Christmas rush.
2. Because our fees are due in January, would it be a conservation measure (stamps and effort) to send your 1978 fee along with the code No.?
3. A more important reason for writing is to let us know what you are thinking about and what you are doing to move us closer to disarmament and peace. This takes us beyond my function as Membership Convenor and to the work of our Executive. The B.C. Executive will continue its efforts to stop nuclear power and Uranium mining (see statement this issue page 1) and will concentrate on NUCLEAR DISARMAMENT for the next 7 months. These months precede the Special Session of the U.N. General Assembly on Disarmament - perhaps the last chance for our governments to really halt the arms race.

If you want to know what you can do - we will undertake to reply to your letter with some information and guide lines.

Back to Membership. This may be an appropriate time to enlist others (even one) to renew their membership or join with us in taking effective action at this crucial time.

Sincerely yours for peace...Mary Thomson.

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### TIME TO RENEW MEMBERSHIPS ! ! !

<b>FEES:</b>	<b>REGULAR</b>	<b>\$ 5.00</b>	<b>YOUTH (under 25).....</b>	<b>\$1.00</b>	<b>FAMILY..\$7.50</b>
	<b>SUSTAINING...</b>	<b>12.00</b>	<b>SENIOR (over 65).....</b>	<b>\$1.00</b>	

Cheques, payable to VOICE OF WOMEN, may be sent direct to M'ship Convenor:

Mary Thomson, 4107 West 13th Ave., Vancouver, V6R 2T5, phone 224-0468

or to Committee Members:

Vancouver: Margaret Hewett, 3548 W. 26th, V6S 1N7, phone 733-1857

Northshore: Jean Craig, 3714 Dollarton H'way, Nth. Van, V7G 1A2, ph 929-1377

Burnaby: Elin Ross, 7980 Hunter St., Burnaby, V5A 2B9, phone 299-7890

Coquitlam: Chilliwack: 46307 Velma Ave., Chilliwack, V2P 6H3, ph 792-7569

Victoria: Madge Clarke, #6, 1955 Oak Bay Avenue, Vict, V8R 1E3, ph 598-5078

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