

VOICE

The B.C. VOW Newsletter: approx. 6 issues yearly, by B.C. Voice of Women
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REPORTS

to the B.C. VOW Executive Meeting, Mar. 14/79

CANADIAN COALITION for NUCLEAR RESPONSIBILITY (CCNR)I. Nuclear Power: Federal

Both federal & provincial governments are now engaged in a series of nuclear inquiries. The CCNR, formed in Montreal June/75, initiated a petition asking for an Inquiry into all facets of the nuclear industry in Canada. They collected thousands of names to take to Ottawa (25,000 from BC) May 27 1977 which we presented to Energy Minister Alastair Gillespie in person.

The pro-nuclear Canadian Nuclear Assn. had asked the Behavioral Research Institute of York University (Nov. '76) to do a survey on what Canadians knew and felt about nuclear power. They interviewed 203 business men, academics, politicians, civil servants & environmentalists. Only 21 of the 40 environmentalists would take part in the survey, which made the results uneven - too bad.

Results showed the environmentalists to be by far the best informed, academics a poor second, the others abysmally ignorant. 71% favored nuclear power - their reason: "It's cheap."

The government decided to act. Co-sponsored by the Royal Society and Science Council, the Dept. of Energy, Mines & Resources gave \$200,000 to set up the Committee on Nuclear Issues in the Community (CONIC) to educate the public and allay their fears about nuclear power. After the first meeting of the Committee, Pierre Dansereau, co-chairman, resigned, saying the Committee was a whitewash. It was certainly top heavy with pro-nuclears, AECL, AECB, etc.

They hold hearings in Thunder Bay and Castlegar, but in spite of the pro-nuclear bias of most of the panel members, the "antis" seemed to come out on top of the arguments. The Committee then decided to spend the last half of their time and money on an all-out meeting in Vancouver, Mar. 7, 8 & 9/79. There were 5 sessions, not including uranium mining (the priority in B.C.), and the 31 panellists were changed so often, we couldn't keep track of them.

We had a Nuclear ad hoc Coalition which held meetings every Sunday night; a working supper Mar. 5 to discuss strategy. This was interrupted on Mar. 6, by an all-day meeting with Dr. David Bates' Royal Commission on uranium mining in B.C. Then 3 days of meetings with CONIC, with our own meetings in the evenings. On Mar. 8 we had the Open Conference on Nuclear Issues at the Holiday Inn Hotel, with Gordon Edwards, Walt Patterson, Rosalie Bortoll and Dr. Bob Woollard as speakers.

After the CONIC sessions were finished on Mar. 9, about 300 citizens from many parts of Canada held an Open Conference and passed the following resolutions:

1. That the government of Canada immediately initiate a National Public Inquiry

- on energy policy;
- 2. That this Inquiry examine:
 - (a) all aspects of the nuclear process, including the mining and milling of uranium,
 - (b) the export of nuclear reactors, particularly as this leads to the diversion of plutonium to nuclear reactors;
 - (c) energy conservation and all Alternative Renewable Energy Sources; and,
- 3. That the government of Canada legislate an immediate moratorium on further licensing for exploration, mining, milling, transportation or any other utilizations of uranium or thorium.

II. Nuclear Power: Provincial

This concerns the introduction of uranium mining into B.C. Under authority of the Public Inquiries Act of B.C., a Royal Commission on Uranium Mining was set up with Dr. David Bates as chairman and Dr. James Murray and Valter Raudsepp as commissioners to hold Inquiries throughout B.C.

On Feb. 12 ten delegates from throughout B.C. met with Robert Howitt, Minister of Energy, Mines & Petroleum Resources and Rafe Mair, Minister of Environment, Conservation & Land Use, to discuss the form of the Inquiries. The main issues discussed included a moratorium on exploration until the Inquiries were finished, and the widening of the scope of the Inquiry to include whether or not uranium mining be allowed in B.C. at all; disposal of high and low radioactive wastes; end uses; and transportation.

The first meeting with the Commission was held in Vancouver Mar. 6 to discuss the terms of the Inquiries. A similar meeting will be held in the Interior on Mar. 16. Further meetings will be held in communities which request them.

One argument which can be used to oppose mining in B.C. comes from the "Ham Report" of the Royal Commission on the Health and Safety of Workers in Mines (p.95): "One reality is that current gross risks for uranium miners greatly exceed those for nuclear reactors."

Reported by Lille d'Easum, 104 - 2127 W. 40th Av., Van., V6M 1W4

VIETNAM APPEAL to the GOVERNMENT OF B.C.

Research on history of the \$2 1/4 million Gift of medical aid to the children of Vietnam has been recorded in a 'Data Shoot', available on request. PETITIONS have been sent to all B.C. members of VOW and to possible other friends of this IYC Project. They will be distributed as widely and intensively as can be. Names and addresses are wanted; all possible suggestions are welcome and will be carefully noted. Presently in preparation is a personal letter to the Premier of B.C. and to MLAs requesting their support of any positive measures he may contemplate to deal with this long-overdue matter, delayed now for SIX YEARS 'twixt intention and action.

→ Address completed petitions (20 names) and correspondence to me:

(Reported by) Dorcas Blair, Bowsor P.O., BC, VOR 1G0 Tel. 757-9216

"PEOPLE TALKING BACK" - CBC TV Programmes

Remaining two broadcasts in an interesting series of six:-

Sun. April 8, 1:00 - 1:30 pm "Exploring Canadian Alternatives to the dearly-held but elusive 'full employment for everyone' concept".

Sun. April 22, 4:30 - 5:00 pm "Where do we go from here?" - "More and more the public is more informed of national issues, and they want to decide directly," says a note in the pre-broadcast booklet, not grammatically but accurately. Rene Dubos' dictum to "Think globally, act locally," further sets the stage for this final broadcast.

VOWs have participated in previous sessions and will do so again. PHONE IN:

Reported by Irene McAllister, 202 - 5600 Dalhousie, Van., V6T 1W4

TAXES FOR PEACE

appears to be an idea whose time has come. 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.

- 1. Include a statement to that effect with your Income Tax Return, or
- 2. Withhold a part of your payment, explaining why.

There are other alternatives and very good precedents for them.

"To implement a Peace Tax program in Canada, taxpayers should write to their MPs, urging them to introduce legislation to this effect. When taxpayers submit their tax returns, a statement of support for a Peace Tax program could be included. Candidates in the forthcoming federal elections can be asked if they would favour such legislation."

For more information: Society of Friends (Quaker Fellowship), 1831 Fern St., Victoria, B.C., V8R 4K4

Reported by Pasha Marymoon

The B.C. CONFERENCE on the EMERGING INTERNATIONAL ECONOMIC ORDER,

in Vancouver, Feb. 23-25, brought together 200 delegates and resource people from NGOs, churches, universities, labour, Native People and local community organizations, and passed the following statement:

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 THE 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.

Full Reports of Conference Plenary Session, as presented or as amended, are available on request.

Reported by Mary Thomson, 4107 W. 13th, Van., V6R 2T5

B.C. ENERGY COALITION

plans a Mass Meeting in Victoria on the last of April to confront the government with its lack of planning and control over the actions of B.C. Hydro. This will be a follow-up to initial formulation of B.C. Energy Coalition

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All Our **ARROWS** Point to Things You Can DO !!! →

AN OPEN LETTER TO RAFE MAIR

- by William James

After listening to your interview on the early morning CBC program, Feb. 13th, I felt compelled to write to you to clear up a few matters that seemed unclear in your mind.

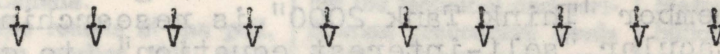
Although I am happy to hear that you are approaching the upcoming Inquiry into Uranium Mining with an open mind, I fear that your Government's position on the matter is already decided. This fear stems from the Premier's statement in a speech to the Chamber of Mines following the announcement of the Inquiry. He asked for support of the Inquiry by the Chamber, then informed them that two mines were ready to go ahead once the Inquiry is finished. With the exploration having already taken place and with two mines ready to begin, it would seem that uranium mining is a foregone conclusion for B.C. regardless of the Inquiry's findings.

You also stated that if the export of uranium to other countries increased their capability to make nuclear weapons, then the Federal Government's policy was one of lunacy. I'll not argue with your description of the Federal export policies, however I would like to show you the direct significance that those policies have had on the world arms race.

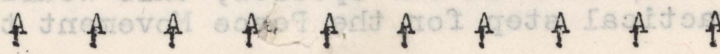
Canada's regulations for supplying nuclear know-how stiffened considerably after India's tests in 1974, to the point of becoming the most stringent safeguards of any nuclear supplier country. However, as stated by William Epstein in his book "The Last Chance: Nuclear Proliferation and Arms Control", "even these (Canada's) strict regulations can be evaded. A country, such as India or Argentina, that is not party to the Non-Proliferation Treaty, ...subject to the Canadian safeguards and abiding strictly by them can still manufacture its own nuclear explosive devices." Mr. Epstein is a distinguished Canadian who has served as Secretary of the United Nations Disarmament Commission since 1952.

The implications of the Canadian Government's policies are clearer when examined alongside the countries our Government has chosen to deal with. Pakistan, supplied with both reactor and natural uranium from Canada, is described by Mr. Epstein as the "most obvious candidate to join the club of nuclear powers... which has expressed its intention to keep abreast of India". Argentina, a country which seemingly complied with Canadian regulations, since Ottawa sold them a reactor in 1976 is negotiating with West Germany for a reprocessing plant from which they will be able to produce bomb-grade plutonium. Last May, the External Affairs Department met with Philippine negotiators to discuss the export of Canadian uranium to fuel a reactor that is alleged to have over 200 safety defects. Notwithstanding the obvious danger of the reactor, supplying the means by which a totalitarian state could develop nuclear capabilities is morally reprehensible.

Your analogy that linking uranium export to arms proliferation is like blaming rubber-producing countries for auto accidents shows a lack of understanding of the dangers inherent in the nuclear fuel cycle. In view of the Federal export policies, the mining of uranium in B.C., and its subsequent export, would no doubt contribute to the spread of arms. I hope that your Government will consider these points before placing B.C. in the position of contributing to the over-increasing instability in our global community.



WRITE A LETTER to Premier Bennet against Uranium exploration - which is still continuing at an accelerated pace.



SWEDEN: TOTAL RENEWABLE ENERGY ECONOMY FEASIBLE...

A recent study in Sweden has concluded that an economy based completely on renewable energy is possible by the year 2015. According to the report (titled Sol Sverige), hydropower, windpower, solar cells, biomass (energy from organic matter), solar heating and aquatic energy can provide all of Sweden's energy needs. The report assumes that Sweden's economy will have doubled by 2015. The level of production on which the report is based would allow all Swedes to live at the level now enjoyed by the richest ten per cent of people in the country. Sweden is a highly industrialized country and already has one of the highest standards of living in the world; higher, for example, than Canada.

The full study is available from the Secretariat for Future Studies, Fach, S-103 10, Stockholm, Sweden.

(Taken from Nuclear Newsletter (Feb. 14, '79) Saskatoon Environmental Soc., P.O. Box 1872, Saskatoon, Sask.)

RECONTANTATION, REPUDIATION, RENUNCIATION

On Jan. 19, 1979, the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission repudiated a study it has used for five years to show that nuclear power plants are safe - and ordered its staff to review past and pending nuclear licenses to see whether they were tainted by reliance on the 1974 Rasmussen report. Rep. Morris Udall hailed the action: "Nuclear proponents have for years used the Rasmussen Reactor Safety Study to assure the public that nuclear power is safe. The commission has now made clear that the report is useless for that purpose."

From the outset, the calculation that nuclear power plant accidents had very low statistical probability had been questioned by other scientists and antinuclear groups. In its 4-page policy statement, the NRC accepted the Sep. 7 conclusions of a review group, headed by Dr. Harold Lewis of UC Santa Barbara, that had sharply criticized the conclusions of the Rasmussen report. The commission said it "withdraws any explicit or implicit past endorsement of the executive summary," which expressed the Rasmussen report's strongest statements that nuclear power plants are safe.

(reprinted from Los Angeles Times, Jan. 20, 1979, by La Wisp, Feb. 1979)

OPERATION DISMANTLE

Remember the Global Referendum on Disarmament? Contrary to the gloomy predictions of many in the peace movement at its outset, the Referendum is underway and really going places. Read all about it on Page 7. And whether or not you are familiar with Operation Dismantle send for a copy of the Feb./79 issue of The Dismantler right away - \$6.50 for 12 issues. Donations are tax-deductable if cheques are made out to their trustee, the World Law Foundation.

Operation Dismantle, Box 426, Stn. "L", Toronto, M6E 4Z3

Reach the "What's in it for Me?" crowd.

"When one makes the assumption that disarmament is achieved in 1990, one derives a picture of what the world will be like in the year 2000 that is so spectacular that it is almost too good to be believed." Op. Dismantle's 20-member "Think Tank 2000" is researching a solid, well-documented and spectacular "self-interest equation", to give non-altruistic citizens (a crowd indeed, alas) motivation for vocal support of the twin goals of disarmament and world order. In view of the prevalence of self-interest and the rarity of altruism in our species, this would seem to be a very realistic and practical step for the Peace Movement to take.

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Group seeks arms vote

By JOHN BRUCE

Jim Stark of Toronto says nuclear disarmament should no longer be the private preserve of presidents, prime ministers and four-star generals.

Stark is the founder and director of Operation Dismantle, a Canadian organization which trying to set up a global referendum on nuclear disarmament under United Nations auspices.

If the referendum is successful, and Stark is sure it will be, the United Nations will be empowered to supervise the disposal of all nuclear arsenals in the world.

Sounds impossible? The military-industrial complex of the super powers is too-well-entrenched to be done away with at the whim of the people, skeptics say.

But many things which sounded impossible last week are realities this week, Stark told a forum on disarmament Monday at the downtown YMCA.

Last week, most people would have thought free speech would never be tolerated in Communist China.

This week, thousands of Chinese people have gathered at the Hsi Tan poster wall in Peking to talk freely and openly with journalists from western countries.

"What was unthinkable last week is reality today", Stark said.

Skeptics also say authoritarian governments will never allow the referendum to go ahead in their countries.

To this, Stark says there may be cases where a government doesn't want the referendum but the people do.

There may be a "few internal problems" along the way to getting the global referendum set up, Stark says, and a few

This girl is dying of multiple sclerosis. But before Hubby Stapper's time is up, she plans to tell as many people as possible to get behind Operation Dismantle's campaign for a world-wide vote on nuclear disarmament. Miss Stapper, 28, is from Toronto. [Journal Photo by John Bruce]



governments may be change in the process.

All governments, democratic or authoritarian, stay in power only with the approval, tacit or otherwise, of the people they govern, he added.

Experts predict there will probably be a third world war by the late 1980s or early 1990s, he said.

The gulf between the rich and poor countries of the world will be a contributing factor, he suggested, plus the psychological theory that if humanity keeps preparing for a "suicidal nuclear war", we'll get it.

Stark feels he will be able to get to the right people in time to prevent the holocaust.

And Operation Dismantle has established a 10-point program designed to make nuclear disarmament a reality instead of an attractive idea that will be vaporized along with the rest of the world.

The first step was to prepare a tentative ballot, the second was to take ballots to people door-to-door and through schools and organizations.

The third step, already accomplished, was to ask the Gallup Poll organization to conduct a nationwide poll on disarmament in Canada.

The results of the poll, taken earlier this year, showed that 70 per cent of Canadians favor a UN-sponsored global referen-



(note)
dum on disarmament: 67 per cent said they would for disarmament; 78 per cent said they support setting an effective UN peace-keeping force and using it when necessary and 76 per cent favored reorganization of the UN to give it the muscle it needs to maintain world peace.

The fourth step in the program is to hold a similar survey in the 87 countries in which the Gallup organization operates.

Step Five is to get the Canadian government involved in the program and step six would be to have a resolution on the referendum brought up at the UN.

If the resolution passes, and Stark thinks it would receive unanimous support, the seventh step is to formulate the wording of the ballot and step eight is to get it run in all the countries of the world.

If that referendum succeeds, step nine is to work out the technical and verification procedures needs in the disarmament process and set up a new infrastructure to handle international disputes.

Step 10 is implementation of the new world system.

Stark said the federal government is aware of what Operation Dismantle proposes. But he stressed that he does not know if the program is under official consideration in Ottawa.

Most of the support for the referendum should come from the Third World member countries at the UN, Stark said.

"They're angry at us and they're right and we're wrong", he said.

Canada is spending \$2 billion (in 1977 dollars) on new fighter aircraft while people continue to starve to death in the third world, he said.

All the polluted water in the world could be cleaned up if two and a half hours' worth of the world's total annual spending on arms could be devoted to the clean-up, he said.

Meanwhile the United States continues to spend billions on developing new weapons when it has the capacity to wipe out the Soviet Union 30 times over, he added.

