

SPRING ACTIONS FOR DISARMAMENT STOP NUCLEAR WEAPONS & POWER

Rocky Flats/Barnwell - April 30

Trident - May 22

United Nations Special Session

Religious Convocation - May 25-26

Mass Rally - May 27

Sit-in U.S. Mission - June 12

Seabrook - June 24

—Details Within—



Why the Mobilization?

by Tom Cornell

Sid Lens and I were talking in a Philadelphia rectory that gave us hospitality overnight. Committees of the Mobilization for Survival were meeting that weekend. Sid commented that among Catholics there are more people who seem to understand the nature of the crises facing us, the real threat of nuclear war and its catastrophic consequences, the folly of reliance upon nuclear technology for energy and the crime of imposed poverty than in other religious groups. He also suggested that there were more Catholics who seem to understand these problems in a radical way and more willing to pay a price for acting in resistance. Not to downgrade the witness of either Dan or Phil Berrigan, he pointed out as Gordon Zahn did a few years ago in the *Saturday Review*, they tend to obscure the enormous number of Catholics who resisted the Viet Nam war, for example. Sid asked why we weren't more effective. We don't organize ourselves well, I told him. There are historical and cultural reasons for this, and they are being overcome. "You don't make enough noise," he said.

Let's organize! We don't have to set up a new organization. You who read the *Bulletin* are members or at least in touch with the Fellowship of

Reconciliation and the Catholic Peace Fellowship. Organize a local or regional chapter. If you haven't already, for Heaven's sake send a contribution to the Catholic Worker at 36 East First St. (NYC 10003) so you will receive *The Catholic Worker* monthly paper. And join Pax Christi, the official Catholic international peace movement. Pax Christi is getting the message to where it has to go at this point. Send an enquiry to Prof. Joseph Fahey, Manhattan College (Riverdale, N.Y. 10471).

The Mobilization for Survival is an excellent coalitional framework for peace activities within the Catholic community. It follows on the Continental Walk for Disarmament and Social Justice, in which CPFers around the country were conspicuous for their presence and contribution. The Mobilization is a much broader and more ambitious undertaking. It is comprised of about fifty groups including the Clamshell Alliance and other groups opposed to nuclear energy as well as anti-war groups like WRL, CALC, FOR, AFSC, CPF, the Catholic Worker and Women's International League for Peace and Freedom. The four key positions of the Mobe are *Zero Nuclear Weapons*, *Ban Nuclear Power*, *Stop the Arms Race* and *Fund Human Needs*. (continued on page 2)

A Pastoral Letter on Human Survival

-Religious Taskforce, MOBILIZATION FOR SURVIVAL

**"Therefore choose life
so that you and your
children will live..."**

Deut. XXX, 19

January 1, 1978

Sisters and Brothers; in 1978, the United Nations will take up all aspects of disarmament at a special session.

We believe that a cool look at the record will show a sorry reality: political leadership (including our own) indifferent to the arms blizzard and its fallout on our people.

Now wonder. Governments have become the instruments of corporate greed. War is their business, and business is flourishing: so what's the problem?

Consider for a moment

- Tens of thousands of nuclear weapons huddled in silos, in submarines and air bases.
- Talk, endless talk, over thirty years of talk, by political aspirants, by presidents, by secretaries of defense, here, abroad, at the UN, everywhere. Talk—and paralysis. Not one nuke destroyed, disassembled, since Hiroshima, by any nation. And even now, the cover up continues, talk, and no turn-around; suicide run as usual. An ever new, more hellish parade of weapons; Trident, Cruise Missiles, now the Neutron Bomb.
- More and more nuclear reactors. The corporations sell abroad; materiel, know-how and equipment; to build bombs. The situation is beyond control: the big buck leading to the big bang. And include meantime: threat of cancer, genetic damage, catastrophe to the earth, here and elsewhere.
- Our #1 export is—death. The arms race is a grotesque Olympia, we're running well ahead. We can now alter weather patterns, release all sorts of lethal biological and chemical pollution. The earth is becoming a time bomb.
- The planet has limits, the limit is here. 'Not enough earth for greed and need.' The mad arms race is, among other things, an assault on the poor of the earth. The bombs fall now, on neglected ghettos, on children, on the ill and aged and unemployed. (And on ourselves, if we go along with it all.)

We are convinced, in the face of this fascination with death as a social method—that a passionate cry must be raised, straight from the heart of the religious community

—if war crimes against billions of innocent people are to be averted

—if our planet is not to be destroyed

—if this human adventure is not to be canceled out.

For the year of disarmament, 1978, we propose four objectives:

Zero Nuclear Weapons.

Ban Nuclear Power.

Stop the Arms Race.

Fund Human Needs.

Dear Friends

When political leaders are blind, deaf, dumb, to the voice, agony, privations of their people the religious communities must speak up.

We believe that nothing less portentous than the survival of humankind is at stake. The communities of faith, vessels of the word of God

must announce that word in season and out of season.

Did not the prophets and Jesus proclaim at the risk of their good repute, their very lives this word to the nations, as well as to their own communities?

Shame to you who make unjust laws and publish burdensome decrees depriving the poor of justice robbing the weakest of my people of their rights despoiling the widow and plundering the orphan To whom will you flee for help What will you do when called to account when ruin from afar confronts you? (Isa. 10:1-4)

and Jesus takes up the word of Isaiah, to announce his own ministry:

The spirit of the Lord has been breathed on me He has anointed me has sent me to bring the good news to the poor to proclaim liberty to the captives to the blind, new sight to set the downtrodden free to proclaim the Lord's year of favor.

Sisters and Brothers:

We suggest with all possible urgency that in the year 1978, this word, announced with fearless truth is the heart of our message to endangered humanity

The nuked conscience of political, military and economic interests has seized on the lives of our people, with astonishing arrogance—would seize on the sovereignty of our God.

The spirit of money, the spirit of violence symbolized in the boiling frenzy of nuclear weaponry

mocks the spirit of the Lord.

blasphemously anoints

not the servants of the Lord

but the nuclear idols and their benighted adorers.

They bring bad news to the poor

They proclaim enslavement of the free

They inflict blindness on insightful people

They tread underfoot the freedoms of all

They proclaim a demonic Year of the Neutron.

Let us turn from this blindness, this folly, this fascination with death.

Let us consecrate the year 1978 as the Lord's Year of Power; a year in favor of human life.

Let us proclaim our horror at the neglect of the poor, the violation of life worked in our midst by the sinister presence of nuclear idols.

Let us work with our people, especially in areas of nuclear contamination and danger, to create root communities of resistance.

Let us declare that centers, factories, laboratories of weapons' developments are off bounds to our consciences. Let us explore with people employed in death industries, the conflict between conscience and wages of death. Let us study together the conversion of such industries to the ways of life.

enlightened by study and inspired by worship, let us drive out the noon-day demon of despair and give flesh to our hope for a habitable human future by common action.

The time is short.

The people are in dismay

The religious tradition is endangered

by silence, by equivocation, by dread.

Let us take courage

to announce the word of Isaiah and Jesus

to include ourselves in the circle

of faithful witness.

WHY THE MOBILIZATION?

Continued

A national conference of the Mobe, held in Chicago over the December 2nd weekend, proved that the Mobilization has enormous energy behind it. It was very exciting to be there. I sensed that we had come to an important turning point in the history of "the movement," that the issues are really joined; i.e., the power and the arms issues, and that their meaning for the poor in the U.S. and around the world was to be made clear.

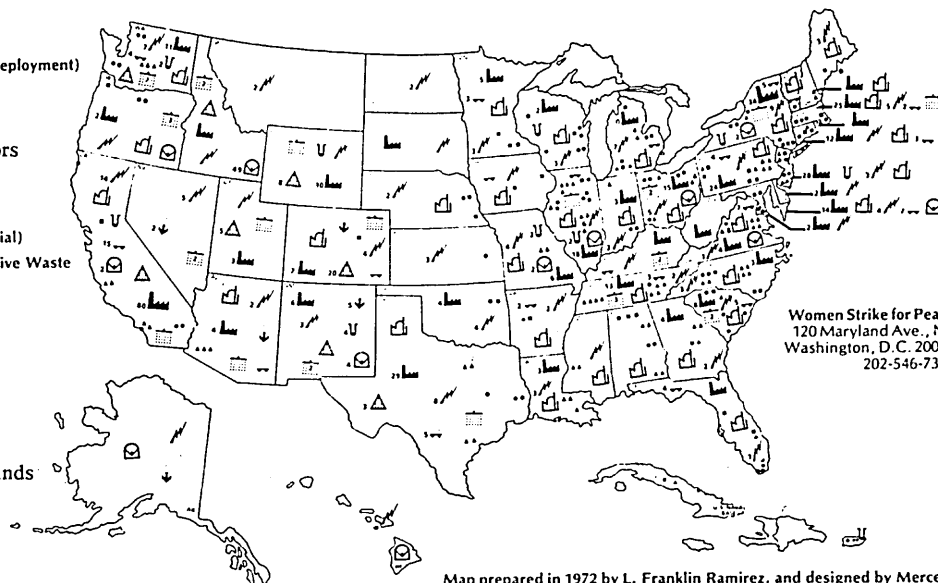
In the Spring we will mount a mass mobilization at the United Nations to strengthen the Special Session of disarmament. We will be working on both sides of the gate, with large numbers demonstrating, with public education forums, with an on-going vigil, a coffee-house, while some of us are working within the U.N. structures in Geneva and New York, through WRI, IFOR, Pax Romana, et. al., trying to get unilateral initiatives on the agenda and interpreting what is going on.

Since you, presumably, are already a member of at least one of the Catholic peace organizations, you are

aware and a conscious member of "the network." But you have friends, relatives, members of your communities who were once active or at least conscious. Get them back. Get more, new people. Organize a conference of your own if you and your people can't get to one already scheduled. Tune in with the teach-ins and other projects of the Mobilization. Get that enormous Catholic constituency that Sid Lens talks about out of the woodwork. Now that we have caught our breath from the resistance to the Viet Nam war, let's get about the real business of building a Catholic constituency that will holler like hell, that will build, that will stay in motion, that will give the Church its new posture as a real and powerful defender of peace and humanity. We have sufficient mandate already "from the top." What we lack, and this is for those old cultural and historical reasons, is the experience of building "from the bottom." We have official Church teaching. It is the strongest given, even including the classic peace churches, in the area of peace and disarmament. Don't complain if the Pope and bishops don't bury the weapons. That's up to us. So, let's do it.

Nuclear Threats to Human Survival

- ✈ Nuclear Weapons
(Design, Testing, Production, Storage, Deployment)
- ↓ Underground Experiments
- U University Reactors
- ⊠ Military and ERDA ('72) Reactors
and Research Facilities
Accounting for 50% (appr.) of All
Radioactive Waste
- ⊠ Nuclear Power Plants (Commercial)
Accounting for 50% (appr.) All Radioactive Waste
 - Under Construction
 - Operable
 - Planned
- ⊠ Nuclear Industries
- Δ Uranium Mill Tailings
- ~ Transportation/Storage of
Radioactive Materials
- ⊠ Radioactive Waste Burial Grounds



Women Strike for Peace
120 Maryland Ave., NE
Washington, D.C. 20002
202-546-7397

Map prepared in 1972 by L. Franklin Ramirez, and designed by Mercedes Naveiro. Information from Another Mother for Peace.

A new map of the nuclear "hot spots" throughout the United States is being prepared by the War Resisters League. It has the latest data in three colors on both sides of a 17x22 poster. Available from either CPF or WRL for only 75¢. Reduced prices for quantities (eg. 25¢ each per 100).

Action Calendar

1. *Write the President.* Tell Mr. Carter you want him to address the United Nations Special Session on Disarmament personally, and that you want him to announce at that time unilateral initiatives for disarmament, such as a moratorium on the production and deployment of nuclear weapons and delivery systems.
2. Plan to participate in *Mobilization for Survival activities.* A resource packet is available from the MFS office at 1213 Race Street, Philadelphia, PA 19107, for \$4.
3. The *UN Special Session on Disarmament* is scheduled for May 23 to June 26. A limited number of tickets will be available to FOR members to observe the proceedings.
4. Pick them up at the *FOR coffee house and discussion center*, PLOWSHARE, which will be open every day of the Special Session until 7 p.m. at 777 UN Plaza. Volunteers are needed.
5. The Non-Governmental Organizations' Disarmament Committee is sponsoring a *store-front disarmament information center* just north of the Isaiah Stairway, UN Plaza, seven days a week. Volunteers are needed.
6. The Mobilization for Survival is organizing three events of special significance at the beginning of the Special Session. On Thursday, May 25, there will be an *Inter-religious, multi-media Celebration of Life*, 8:00 p.m. at the Stephen Wise Free Synagogue, 30 West 68th St., New York, NY. On Friday, May 26 the Religious Task Force is holding a *worship service* at 1 p.m. at St. Paul the Apostle Church, 59th

- Street and 9th Avenue. At 2:15, participants will form a procession across town to the UN. At 3:30 a delegation will deliver disarmament petitions to the President of the Special Session and report back. On Saturday, May 27, a *mass rally* is to be held at Dag Hammarskjold Plaza. Feeder marches from New York neighborhoods will start at 9 a.m., converging at Bryant Park (42nd Street and 6th Avenue) at noon, then marching to Dag Hammarskjold Plaza, to rally from 1 to 4 p.m.
7. On June 12, the Mobilization is sponsoring a *Sit-In for Survival* at the US Mission to the UN. Contact War Resisters League, 339 Lafayette Street, New York City 10012.
8. "For the first time in history Congress can transfer funds in one step from the military budget into jobs and social programs." So states the *Transfer Amendment Organizer's Memo*, available from the Coalition for a New Foreign and Military Policy, 120 Maryland Ave N.E., Washington, DC 20002. This is a most significant and exciting campaign that you can support on a variety of levels.
9. The *World Peace Tax Fund Act* would permit conscientious objectors to the payment of war taxes to have that part of their federal income, estate and gift taxes destined for military programs to be allocated instead to a federal trust fund to support projects designed to prevent war and to promote peace. Urge congressional support. Contact the National Council for a World Peace Tax Fund, 2111 Florida Ave N.W., Washington, DC 20008.
10. Located 16 miles north of Denver, the *Rocky Flats Nuclear Weapons Plant* is the nuclear crossroads of the

nation. There the plutonium triggers for all US hydrogen bombs are manufactured. On April 29-30, FOR, AFSC and the Rocky Flats Action Group are sponsoring a national demonstration on the plant site and a symbolic blockade of the railroad spur into the plant. Demands are for national initiatives toward nuclear disarmament: the closing of Rocky Flats as a nuclear weapons facility, a shift in national priorities toward meeting human needs and a commitment to the development of clean energy sources and a nuclear free future. Contact Mike Jendrzejczyk at FOR headquarters or Rocky Flats National Action, 1428 Lafayette, Denver, CO 80218. Telephone (303) 832-1676. Make Rocky Flats a crossroads in the struggle for survival.

11. FOR will sponsor a *daily noon-time vigil* at the Isaiah Stairway each day of the UN Special Session. Come stand with us.

12. Plan to participate in the *FOR Biennial National Conference*, May 25-29, at Manhattan College in New York City. See notice elsewhere in this issue for details.

May 22 BANGOR-TRIDENT ACTION

The May 22 Coalition
1305 Northeast 45th Street, #210
Seattle, Washington 98105
*Protest against the construction of the Trident
nuclear submarine base at Bangor.*

EAST COAST TRIDENT SUPPORT ACTION - MAY 22

c/o CNVA, RFD 1, Box 430
Voluntown, CT 06384



photo by Grace Hedemann

Scene of the April-May 1977 nonviolent occupation of the nuclear power plant site in Seabrook, N.H. 1,414 people were arrested and many spent two weeks in detention in various armories around the state.

Joanne Sheehan, formerly of the CPF staff and now at CNVA in Voluntown, CT, was one of those arrested and has recently completed another twenty day sentence for refusing to pay a \$100 fine.

Despite several occupations and a growing anti-nuclear movement, the construction of the Seabrook "Nuke" continues. All legal appeals appear to have been exhausted. Another occupation is scheduled for June 24. For information write: Clamshell Alliance, 62 Congress St., Portsmouth, NH 03801.

The National Mobilization for Survival office at 1213 Race St., Philadelphia, PA 19107, has good information on the nuclear arms and nuclear power issues. An excellent packet is available for \$4.

International Nonviolence

by Joanne Sheehan

The movement would have no deep vitality if it took the same form in Brazil as in France, in the Indies as in the United States, in the Cameroons as in Australia. Each race, each language, each religion, must leave its own mark on the movement.

Dom Helder Camara

This past July, seventy-six justice and peace activists from 30 countries had a rare chance to experience that diverse vitality, to understand better our common concerns and to create international networks to enhance our working together.

We came together for the International Seminar of Training for Nonviolent Action (ISTNA) held outside of Cuernavaca, Mexico, July 6-27. The purpose of ISTNA was broadly stated as "a new initiative of the international movement meant to strengthen the worldwide network of nonviolent action groups and to make further advances in the field of training." Of special significance was that the seminar was held in a Third World country with many participants coming from Latin America and the Caribbean, Africa and Third World countries in Asia.

Each of us came with our own expectations and goals which filled several sheets of newsprint covering an entire wall in the plenary room. Although we had difficulty deciding whether the basic emphasis of the seminar should be training and/or organizing, a schedule was worked out by a rotating

coordinating committee (made up of regional representatives), evaluated and changed as we went along. We began with discussion groups on issues: peace keeping, community conflict, group dynamics and evaluation, alternative education, economics and the spiritual aspects of nonviolence.

We then moved on to more specific skills sharing in the use of strategy tools. During our third and final week we used our training techniques to formulate plans around our main concerns—nuclear power, human rights, community conflict and liberation movements.

Special presentations were made on the situations in Northern Ireland, South Africa and several countries in South America. A women's group met and organized a plenary session where women from several countries spoke on the women's struggle and how that related to the broader struggle for liberation. Several participants brought slide shows and film to share with us about the work in their countries.

A major thrust of ISTNA was not simply the three weeks together, but what follow-up would result. Many of the working groups formulated specific plans and have already begun to set those plans in motion.

Human rights was a major concern of all participants. The human rights workshop developed plans for a communication network to be organized to facilitate the exchange of information. The contact persons will also mobilize pressure in cases of emergency. In some instances participants made a commitment to establish a center on human rights, while others will strengthen existing networks.

INTERNATIONAL NONVIOLENCE

(continued)

Special emphasis is being placed on assemblies for human rights to take place in 1978, the 30th Anniversary of the Universal Declaration on Human Rights.

Anti-nuclear power activists from nine countries met often, sharing strategy and planning for future communications and action. There are plans for a transnational newsletter to be published for those working against nuclear power and in favor of the sensible use of energy. A questionnaire will be sent to anti-nuclear groups asking for responses to the possibilities of cooperative actions for a regional strategy. A transnational strategy planning meeting is being organized to bring about worldwide anti-nuclear coordination.

Participants in the *alternative economics* workshop will distribute a statement on communitarian economic systems for discussion among various national and transnational nonviolent movements and networks. They will also develop a study guide on communitarian based efforts in various countries.

An international committee of correspondence will be initiated to collect and publish *case studies* for training and organizing. Initial topics will be: toppling governments through nonviolent action, special nonviolent actions, nonviolent campaigns, training in nonviolence, and organization for nonviolent action.

A transnational "data bank" for *training materials* will be established. Trainer exchanges and development of transnational teams are encouraged and will be facilitated.

An information network for the sharing of resources and materials on *education and training* for nonviolence and on alternative education approaches will be established. It will be concerned with the education of both children and adults.

For copies of reports or further information write to Joanne c/o CNVA, RFD #1 Box 430, Voluntown, CT. 06384.

WE HOPE YOU NOTICED THAT THERE WAS NO FALL APPEAL. SEVERAL FACTORS CONTRIBUTED TO THAT DECISION. BUT THE ONE OVERWHELMING RESULT IS THAT WE ARE VERY SHORT OF MONEY. IF YOU CAN HELP PLEASE DO.

The Catholic Peace Fellowship, as you know, has the double focus of education about and activist participation in the non-violent movement for radical social change. Through the *Bulletin* we try to acquaint you with various aspects of this movement. This particular issue was put together by Ned Murphy, S.J., Bill Ofenloch and Sr. Mary Lou Steele. We are very grateful to those who contributed to this *Bulletin*. We are also grateful to WIN who did the typeset. Articles and comments are welcomed at our office—339 Lafayette St., N.Y.C. 10012. Our telephone number is (212) 673-8990.

MIDDLE EAST PEACE PROJECT

On the heels of the historic visit of President Sadat to Israel, the Middle East Peace Project has undertaken a major initiative among peacemakers to try to sustain interest in a peaceful settlement including both Israelis and the Palestinian people. The Middle East Peace Project will be coordinating a nationwide speaking program and publishing a monthly newsletter on the Middle East (\$10/year). Those interested should write to MEPP, 339 Lafayette Street, NYC, NY 10012. If the address seems familiar it is because they are sharing space in our office! The project is being coordinated by Allan Solomonow who has run the FOR program for the last three years.

* * *

For those who have shied away from the Middle East, not knowing what to say, or fearing to speak out, *WHERE WE STAND: American Church Statements on the Middle East Conflict*, will be a refreshing and useful contribution. Including the statement of the National Conference of Catholic Bishops and those of other leading churches, the book suggests important convergences of sentiment both on the part of religious thinking and in the recent initiatives of President Carter. Father Charles Angell's introduction will help to focus the thoughts of those new to or still puzzled by the conflict. The booklet is available from the Middle East Peace Project: (address above), \$1 each or 60¢ for 10 or more. Rush postage is 20% more.

WOMEN'S COUNTER RECRUITING CAMPAIGN

A nonviolent direction action campaign to counter the military recruiting of women is beginning in San Francisco. Free brochure and literature list are available by sending a stamped, self-addressed envelope to:

Mandy Carter, WCRC
944 Market St., Room 509
San Francisco, CA 94102.



NATIONAL SERVICE?

Another step towards national youth service is being taken in Syracuse, NY this year. \$10 million from the Youth Employment and Demonstration Projects will be used for 1,800 positions for young people aged 16-21 to engage in full time community service. This test under the direction of the federal ACTION will pay a stipend of \$78 per week along with other benefits to get around the minimum wage law. However, there are major questions about the value of such training and its relation to the military.

This and several other projects around the country bear careful watching as the fore-runners of compulsory national service. There is increasing talk and study in the government of "civilian" national service as an accompaniment to a reactivation of the military draft.

B-1 VICTORY

by Terry Provance

President Carter's decision on June, 1977, to terminate the production of the B-1 Bomber marked an extremely significant victory for the American peace movement. Never before in the history of the United States has a primary weapons system been defeated against the wishes of the Pentagon, military corporations and conservative politicians. Due to the efforts of thousands of people and numerous organizations was the cancellation of the B-1 possible. Hopefully the sense of confidence and momentum reaped from this victory will propel all of us to even greater campaigns.

The Stop the B-1 Bomber: National Peace Conversion Campaign coordinated by the American Friends Service Committee and Clergy and Laity Concerned began in the fall of 1973. Over the course of practically four years it was joined by more than 40 national peace, religious, environmental, labor, women's and public interest groups. The goals of the Campaign were to: 1) stop production of the B-1; 2) expose and challenge the power of the military-industrial-government complex; and 3) promote action interest in and support for conversion: the redistribution of power so that our country's resources are used for human need and not for the accumulation of profit. Through various and coordinated tactics the Campaign was able to make the B-1 the most controversial military project in Pentagon history and create the public pressure necessary to stop it. In 1973, only 94 Representatives and 27 Senators opposed the B-1 while by 1977 195 Representatives and 54 Senators were on record in opposition.

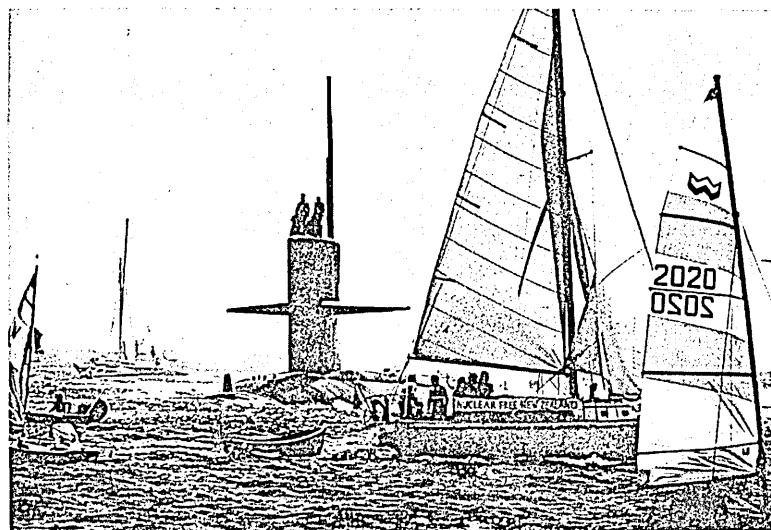
The Campaign not only influenced Congressional decision making, it educated many American people about the role of private corporations and the nature of weapons systems. With conferences, direct actions, radio public service announcements, mass leafletting and living room meetings we were able to present our arguments and inform people about our country's national priorities, the impact of military spending on the economy and the environment and our unfortunate nuclear arsenal and overkill capacity. Recent public opinion polls reveal that when the American people are presented the facts they can make progressive opinions. In August, 1976, a Pat Caddell poll indicated the American people opposed the B-1 by a 44-27% margin and in January, 1977, a Lou Harris survey showed public opinion preferred an end to the B-1 by a 42-33% difference with 25% undecided. President Carter read and calculated public opinion correctly when he made the final production decision.

The pressure to build the B-1 was tremendous. Rockwell International, the prime contractor and consistently among the top 10 defense contractors, would have earned guaranteed profits on \$14 billion worth of business and therefore conducted a very aggressive campaign to secure the B-1 decision. With 40 lobbyists in Washington, hundreds of newspaper advertisements, placement of subcontractors in key

Congressional districts, company time for employees to write members of Congress and vacations to Pentagon officials, Rockwell tried to buy the go-ahead for the B-1. However, the debate around the B-1 was too hot and the arguments against it too sensible for Rockwell to get its way. Fortunately, Carter resisted this pressure and honored his 1976 campaign position critical of the B-1. This is not to say that corporations no longer have their influence. They still dominate American life. However, the defeat of the B-1 does show that their power can be resisted.

The Pentagon was ready with champagne, a news conference and fresh pro-B-1 brochures after the favorable decision. But it never came. Instead, the Air Force will try to cheer themselves with remodified B-52's and more deadly cruise missiles, weaponry which was already in production. Today even without the B-1 the United States has the capacity to kill every Soviet citizen 36 times over. More neutron bombs, MX missiles, and Mark 12 A warheads will only add to this redundancy, perpetuate the insane arms and rob from us a quality of life we all should be able to experience.

The lessons of the Campaign to Stop the B-1 are many. But perhaps the most significant is the fact that if the American people organize themselves they can influence and effect public policy. Though stopping the B-1 has left us no more secure, it does demonstrate our power and ability and has saved our country from wasting billions of dollars, oceans of fuel and limited raw materials which could be better used for health care, transportation, education, environmental cleanup and other unmet social programs here at home and abroad. To all of you who marched, wrote letters, signed petitions, came to meetings and conferences, we thank you and hope that you will continue to do all you can in the future.



Nuclear Blockade—During the recent visit of the nuclear-powered, nuclear-armed submarine U.S.S. *Pintado* to Auckland New Zealand, a massive fleet of protest vessels blocked the harbor entrance bringing the warship to a halt and compelling it to go astern until the authorities cleared a path. In 1973 New Zealand sponsored a resolution adopted by the United Nations, for the South Pacific to be a Nuclear Free Zone, yet the present government appears to be contradicting this position.

Adolfo Perez Esquivel

by Tom Cornell

Adolfo Perez Esquivel is on prison leave from Servicio Paz y Justicia in Buenos Aires, which he has served for the past seven years as coordinator. Servicio is central to the network of nonviolent action groups throughout Latin America. It organized the International Seminar for Training in Nonviolent Action (ISTNA) held in Cuernavaca last July, for instance. It is an affiliate of the International Fellowship of Reconciliation. As Adolfo prepared to tour Latin America to recruit for the ISTNA program, he went to the Central Police Headquarters to pick up his passport on April 4 and was ushered into a cell, to be held under "Executive Authority" as a "subversive." No specific charges were placed against him. Thousands more are in similar straits.

The International Fellowship of Reconciliation immediately set in motion a campaign to free Adolfo. Petitions in the thousands, public demonstrations in major European cities, demonstrations in New York in the spring and fall, inquiries by the U.S. State Department, interventions by several Catholic bishops in Latin America, including Ernesto Cardinal Arns of Sao Paulo, even the intervention of the Papal Nuncio did not bring about Adolfo's release. His wife Amanada is able to see him once a week, and his eldest son Leonardo is working in the Servicio office and keeps his father's friends and co-workers around the world apprised of developments.

Adolfo is a sculptor, in his early forties, handsome, slight of build, the father of three sons. He has taught fine arts at the University of Buenos Aires. He has always been an active Catholic layman. Through IFOR secretaries Jean and Hildegard Goss-Mayr of Vienna, Adolfo was drawn into the burgeoning circle of those who see in the struggles of M.K. Gandhi and Martin Luther King means more apt to bring about social justice in Latin America than violence, means congruent with the Gospel of the Prince of Peace. Adolfo left his post at the University to work for Servicio for little more than subsistence pay as it attempted to pull together already existing groups studying and applying the principles of nonviolence and stimulating the growth of others. Building upon foundations laid by Earl Smith and Glenn Smiley of the American FOR and the Goss-Mayrs of IFOR the work has had stunning success, at least on the level of conscientization, and it is part of the reason why the Church in some areas of Latin America has broken ranks with the oligarchs and stands with the poor and oppressed against the tyrants.

Argentine President Jorge Videla told Rabbi Morton Rosenthal of the Anti-Defamation League last fall, during a visit to New York City, that there are no "political prisoners" in Argentina, must less "prisoners of conscience." There are only "subversive delinquents." Senor Juan Carlos Arlia, a senior minister of the government in Buenos Aires told me at the Argentine Mission to the United Nations last October that no one is arrested or detained in Argentina without sufficient cause. He failed to supply any reason in Adolfo's case, although he had reference to a file on Adolfo on his desk as we talked for ninety minutes.

Even before Adolfo's arrest the staff of Servicio had examined the possibility of relocating in another Latin American country that would allow greater freedom of operation. Developments have made relocation more desirable. Adolfo's health has begun to deteriorate in prison. Senor Arlia insisted to me that nutritional supplements, vitamins, fruit juice are unnecessary in Argentine jails since prisoners eat the best of meats and vegetables. No reading matter is supplied, not even a Bible. Adolfo is confined to his cell most of the time, with an hour a week out of doors to exercise. So Adolfo, his family and the Servicio staff agreed to apply for the constitutionally guaranteed right to emigrate. That right had been suspended after the March 1976 coup, then recently reinstated by President Videla. Applications to exercise "the option" take three months to process and evaluate. Senor Arlia told me we might have good news at the end of November, by which time Adolfo's appeal would be decided. In mid-December his family was informed that the application had been denied and that they might apply again in six months, and then wait at least another three months for a second decision.

Senor Fernando Petrella at the U.N. Mission is a very helpful, gentle seeming person. He held out the hope to me that a Christmas amnesty might free Adolfo. The family just learned that there were several lists prepared of candidates for amnesty, that Adolfo's name was on one of them, but alas, it was not on the final list of 365 who would spend the holidays at home. Among those were some "common criminals" who, because they used military weapons similar to those used by guerrilleros were thought to be "political," and two who were "desparacidos," "disappeared ones." These are people who supposedly have been seized by para-military right wing terrorist groups, people of whom the government knows nothing and for whom it has responsibility, and there are thousands of them. But two, whose whereabouts were said to be unknown, who had not had access to their families or to legal representation for extended periods of time were acknowledge to exist and freed. Strange the ways of authoritarian governments!

Thousands of petitions for further Vatican intervention were hand-delivered to the Paper Secretariat of State before Christmas by the Goss-Mayrs. Letters of concern are ever more urgently needed. Address them to Ambassador Jorge Aja Espil at the Argentine Embassy to the United Nations, 1600 New Hampshire Ave., N.W., Washington, D.C. 20009, and if you will, send me a copy at Box 271, Nyack, N.Y. 10960.

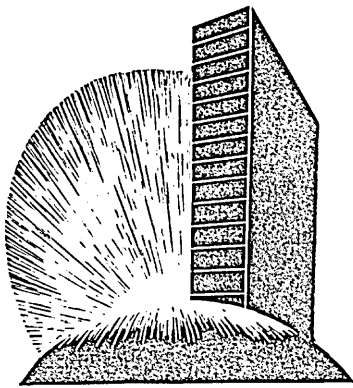


Telephone Tax

We would like to share with you this very hopeful note we received.

Instead of paying the tax on my monthly phone bill I wish to turn that amount over to the CPF each month. The actual amount is, I suppose, insignificant, but is my way of saying "no" to war and "yes" to life in Christ.

What could be less "insignificant?"



F.O.R. NATIONAL CONFERENCE

May 25-30, 1978

New York City

The Biennial National Conference of the American Fellowship of Reconciliation is planned to coincide with the United Nations Special Session on Disarmament and with the related actions planned by the Mobilization for Survival. In addition to participation in MFS programs, the FOR will sponsor an ongoing Disarmament Vigil in front of the UN and a coffee house at the Church Center for the United Nations. The National Conference is timed to give participants from around the country—as well as from other nations—an opportunity to be a part of this historical global event.

Partial Schedule for the Conference

- May 25: Open House at FOR National Headquarters, Nyack, NY
Supper/Registration/Orientation at Manhattan College
- May 26: Religious Convocation and Procession to the UN
Coffee House and Vigil
- May 27: Mobilization for Survival
March/Rally/Demonstration,
UN Plaza
- May 28: Worship/free time/briefings
- May 29: All day workshops
Church Center for the UN
- May 30: Meeting of FOR local leaders
and potential leaders
Manhattan College

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED AT CPF

There is a lot of work to be done at the CPF office, but not enough people to do it. Can we call you when we need help getting out a mailing? Can you come into the office a few hours a week to help with regular office work? Are you interested in helping with the BULLETIN, updating peace education materials or working on a special project? Help is needed for all these things and more.

THE CATHOLIC PEACE FELLOWSHIP
339 LAFAYETTE STREET
NEW YORK, N.Y. 10012

ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED

FOR Summer Work Project



REDWIND

Native
American
Community

San Luis Obispo,
California

July 8-29

Volunteers needed

Ages: 17 and up

Room and Board: plain & simple

Opportunities for: work & reflection
nonviolent living
service
social change

For details and application contact:

Fellowship of Reconciliation
Youth Action
Box 271, Nyack, NY 10960
[212] LO8-8200

Resource Center for Nonviolence
Box 2324
Santa Cruz, CA 95063
[408] 423-1626

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