ACT for Disarmament 736 Bathurst Street (south entrance) Toronto, M5S 2R4

Peace ACTion '92

Native rights

- Join Native Rights events in the 500th anniversary of Columbus' "discovery" of America
- Support the Innu people of Nitassinan (Labrador-Québec) in their resistance to low-level military flight tests over their land and other threats to their way of life

Local wars

- Help end the dozens of "Third World" wars still going on in the world today
- Work to end Canada's support for genocide in Indonesian-occupied East Timor, including a ban on weapons sales to Indonesia

Prisoners for peace

 Work to free those imprisoned solely for working for peace, especially conscientious objectors who refuse to serve in the armed forces of the United States and Russia

Conversion/Ecology

- Support conversion of military and environmentally destructive industries to peaceful production
- Boycott General Electric until it ends its leading role in the nuclear industry

East-West

 Help heal the divisions left by the Cold War by supporting citizen initiatives for peace from Vancouver to Vladivostok

Violence against women

 Raise the issue of violence against women and children as an issue for the peace movement

Media and peace

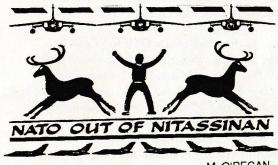
• Explore the links between mass media, culture, violence and militarism

A project of ACT for Disarmament Get Involved! Call 531-6154



Peace for the Innu

Stop low-level flight testing



M. O'REGAN

Peace ACTion '92

A project of ACT for Disarmament

LOW-LEVEL FLYING

During World War II, a Canadian Forces Base was built at Goose Bay, Labrador, within the territory of the Innu native people and near the Innu town of Sheshatshit. In the 1980s, Nato countries began flight training there, and it became a major site for "low-level flight" testing, in which pilots practise avoiding enemy radar by flying as low as 100 feet off the ground.

Planes from Germany, Britain and the Netherlands, taking off from Goose Bay, fly over Innu hunting territories, screaming above the heads of the Innu, burning the tops off trees, polluting the water, frightening and weakening the animals, especially the caribou that the Innu depend on for subsistence. There are now about 8,000 flights a year conducted during the six month period when flights are allowed, starting each April 1. The planes also drop "dummy" bombs, huge chunks of concrete, onto the land.

In 1990, Canada lost its bid to build a Nato Tactical Fighter Weapons Training Centre in Goose Bay, which would have increased flights to 40,000 a year and added such features as the use of live bombs and simulated nuclear bombs. The number of flights, however, continues to increase, despite the removal of any possible threat from the former Soviet Union and the continuing investigations of the Federal Environmental Assessment Review Office.

THE INNU OF NITASSINAN

There are about 10,000 Innu (formerly known as Naskapi and Montagnais). They have lived in the area they call Nitassinan (Our Land) for many thousands of years. (They should not be confused with the Inuit of the coastal Arctic.) Non-native settlers were rare in the area until very recently, and the Innu have preserved much of their traditional way of life. They are the last hunter-gatherer culture intact in Canada, and most children still speak Innu-eimun as

their first language, not English or French.

The Innu have never given up title to the land, never signed a treaty with Canada, never ceded, in any way, any part of Nitassinan. It has simply been taken from them.

The Innu still spend half of every year in the country, hunting and teaching their children traditional ways. Unlike the government-built towns, the country is free from alcoholism and other problems caused by non-native colonization. But the country is now threatened by militarization and by "development" of other sorts: the Churchill Falls dam project, which has flooded Innu burial grounds and hunting lands; logging of forests without the permission of the rightful stewards of the land; and plans to construct a "skidoo highway" that would cut directly through the range of a caribou herd.

INNU PROTEST

The Innu have undertaken a campaign of mass non-violent civil disobedience, occupying the Goose Bay base many times, blocking the runways, being arrested in the hundreds. The Innu continue to resist, and have asked for the help of non-native and overseas peace and justice organizations.

At times, it is overwhelming: the military uses our land as a playground, there are plans to clear cut the fragile northern forest, plans to flood our land for Hydro power, plans for a highway to carve through our territory. But the Innu are committed to the land, the land gives us the strength to carry on. There is something else that gives our people strength. We know that we are not alone in our opposition to the military's attempts to turn our homeland into a war zone. I would like to thank our friends in Toronto for organizing ACT for Disarmament's days of solidarity with the Innu Nation."

- Peter Penashue, President of Innu Nation

Get Involved in PEACE ACTION 92!

Call me about volunteering with ACT for Disarmament
Send me information about the following ACT working groups: Native Rights Local Wars Prisoners for Peace Conversion/Ecology East-West Violence against women Media and peace
U would like to help by donating:\$200\$100\$50\$25\$10other
I can't help out, but please keep me informed by sending me <i>The ACTivist</i> peace newspaper. My \$10 subscription is enclosed.
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