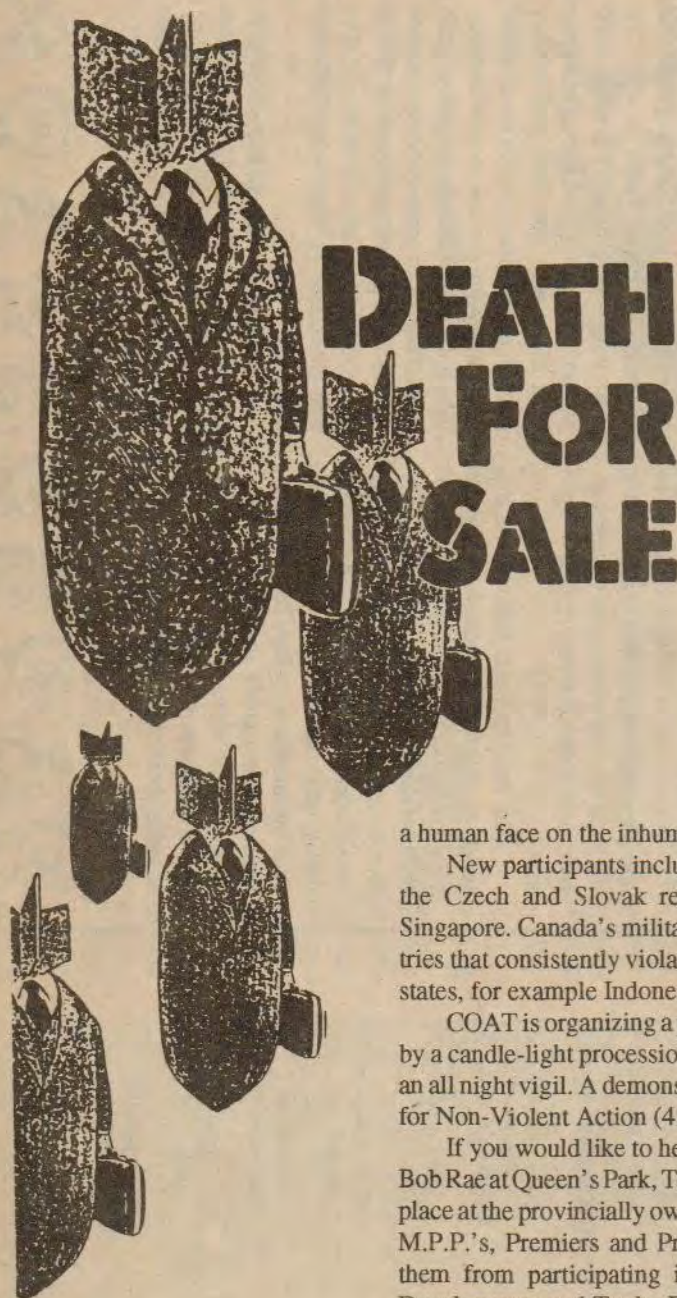


# VOICES

Canadian Voice of Women for Peace  
La voix des femmes Canadiennes pour la paix



## ARMX is back!

ARMX began in 1983 as a military exhibition organized by the Department of National Defence. A private company, Baxter Publishing, took over and in 1989 staged ARMX at publicly owned Lansdowne Park in Ottawa. A coalition of more than 160 organizations from throughout Canada came out in opposition and some 3500 people rallied in Ottawa and over 100 people took part in a civil disobedience action to protest Canada's involvement in the international arms trade.

In 1991 Baxter tried to set up an exhibition in Carp, Ontario just west of Ottawa but was met with local and Canadian opposition. Armx 91 was postponed twice. The second time the Federal government instructed Baxter Publishing to postpone because Canada was occupied with the war in Iraq.

They're back and they're organizing an exhibition and seminar called "Peacekeeping 93" at the Ottawa Congress Centre on March 16-17. Richard Sanders of the Coalition to Oppose the Arms Trade (COAT), one of the groups who organized the demonstration in 1989 said "it is obvious that changing the name and adding a peacekeeping component is simply a cynical ploy to put

a human face on the inhuman business of selling military hardware for profit".

New participants include former Warsaw Pact and Third World countries, namely the Czech and Slovak republics, Hungary, Romania, Russia, Pakistan, India, and Singapore. Canada's military industry depends on exports and customers include countries that consistently violate human rights and/or are engaged in war with neighbouring states, for example Indonesia, El Salvador and Chile.

COAT is organizing a public forum with speakers the evening of March 16 followed by a candle-light procession to the Ottawa Congress Centre, site of the arms bazaar, and an all night vigil. A demonstration is being organized for March 17 as well. The Alliance for Non-Violent Action (416 651-5930) is planning a civil disobedience action.

If you would like to help stop "Peacekeeping 93", please write to Ontario Premier Bob Rae at Queen's Park, Toronto, M7A 1A1 asking him to stop the exhibition from taking place at the provincially owned Ottawa Congress Centre. We are encouraged to write our M.P.P.'s, Premiers and Provincial "economic development" Ministers to discourage them from participating in the event. To date the Alberta Ministry of Economic Development and Trade, BC House, N.B. Department of Commerce and Technology, N.S. Dept of Industry, Trade and Technology, and the Ont. Ministry of Trade and Technology have expressed interest in exhibiting. Please send copies of your letters to the Chair of the Ottawa Congress Centre, Joe Cassey, c/o 55 Colonel By Drive Ottawa K1N 9J2 Fax 613 563-7646 and to COAT, 489 Metcalfe St., Ottawa H1S 3N7.



Canadian Voice of Women for Peace  
La Voix des Femmes Canadiennes  
pour la paix

Founded in 1960. A network of women across Canada, linked with women from many other countries, who are working for peace and justice, disarmament and development in harmony with a safer world environment.

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# Letters Letters Letters Letters

Dear VOICES

Home Managers Advocacy would like to invite you to join us in the first national conference on housework and family care. Women have a very distinctive value system that is not reflected in the prevailing ethos of our society. Valuing family care over profits is very closely tied to the Voice of Women position of valuing peace over profits. We are promoting life giving endeavours over life destroying activities.

There is a need to link active persons and organizations together to assess what progress is being made, offer mutual support, and identify future courses of action.

The need to value this work is imperative. Women at home full-time are totally dependent on the good graces of their partners or the welfare system. They live with the stigma of being defined as "not working". As a result of this dependency, large numbers of women and children are unable to escape from poverty, unhealthy or abusive situations.

A 1990 national Decima survey found that 80% of prairie women prefer to raise their children at home, but be-



cause of the high cost of raising children, and under threat of future poverty for those unable to purchase a pension plan, women are often forced to put their children in daycare and find paid labour. Governments will pay more to subsidize outside daycare for low income families than the women can earn by going out to work. In one Saskatchewan case a mother of four young children received \$1040 per month in daycare subsidies so that so that she could go out to earn \$800 at minimum wage.

The tax system penalizes those giving family care at home. Deductions are not allowed for home-care to match deductions given to those providing care

outside the home. A husband may deduct the cost of care for an ex-wife or a common law wife to raise their children, but if he is married he may not claim the care provided by his spouse. After a divorce, deductions are given to those making child support payments - mostly men - and taken away from the recipients - women and children. There is no compensation for people who care for the elderly or disabled relatives. The judicial system does not fare much better: 75% of support orders are in arrears in Ontario.

The government of Canada believes housework is so unimportant that it doesn't count it as work on the census or in labour statistics. Unpaid housework, comprising 40% of all the labour performed in this country, is not counted as part of the Gross Domestic Product.

If you would like to see changes in tax law, daycare, pension plans, and government policy that will address this issue, join us in an exploration of alternatives March 5-7th, 1993 in Saskatoon. Registration \$20.00 Accommodation and travel costs additional. Write to Carol Lees, Home Managers Advocacy 2422 Hanover Ave. Saskatoon, Sask. S7J 1E8 Tel. 306 343-9379.



## In Memoriam

### Audre Lorde

Audre Lorde, a West Indian-American, feminist, poet died in November 1992 of cancer. Her works include *Sister Outsider*, *The Cancer Journals*, *Zami: A New Spelling of My Name*, *Our Dead Behind Us*, and *A Burst of Light*. In October 1990 Lorde's life and work were celebrated with a conference in Boston entitled "I Am Your Sister: Forging Global Connections Across Differences." Of herself, Lorde said: "I am a black lesbian feminist warrior poet mother and I am still making trouble".

### Simonne Monet-Chartrand

Voice of Women was saddened to hear of the death of Simonne Monet-Chartrand, a founding member of La Voix des femmes du Quebec. She died January 18 of cancer at the age of 73. In the last couple of years she was working on a book about the peace movement. She will be remembered for her deep commitment to peace and feminist issues

## Purpose of Voice of Women

A reaffirmation of the objectives of Voice of Women is important at this time as we try to make sense of the horrible atrocities that are happening around the world in places such as the former Yugoslavia, Somalia, Sudan, East Timor, Guatemala and the occupied West Bank. In the case of former Yugoslavia, there is a real danger that some of us may be swayed by the arguments of politicians, experts, and media correspondents who urge the use of military force.

Individually and in groups we need to commit ourselves to the belief in the power of non-violence to bring about change. Voice of Women believes that unjust conditions and disputes should be addressed before they escalate into armed conflict. Voice of Women rejects all military options in the resolution of conflict, including military force sanctioned by the United Nations. Voice of Women advocates the use of the tools of peace, including negotiation, enquiry, mediation, judicial settlement, involvement of regional agencies and non-governmental organiza-

tions and appropriate use of U.N. peace-keeping troops. The presence of nonmilitary women as negotiators, observers, and rapporteurs at every level of peace-making is essential and urgent. Our purposes aim:

- To empower women in concern for themselves and for the state of the world.
- To promote the mutual respect and cooperation among nations necessary for peaceful negotiations between world powers;
- To work for peace and an end to violence or the threat of war as the decisive method of exercising power;
- To work with all national and international leaders to alleviate causes of war, to promote common action for the economic, environmental and social betterment of all;
- To provide a means for women to exercise responsibility for self and the family of humankind.

We must gather our wisdom and our strength to change the way of the world from aggressive confrontation and greed to peaceful negotiation and justice.



# War Against Women

By Carolyn Langdon

The masculine compulsion to control and subjugate women by the use of terror and violence recognizes no boundaries. Women are victimized by male domination in peace time and war time. In war time, however, male brutality is committed on a massive scale. It is implicitly if not explicitly understood that raping and sometimes even killing the woman of the enemy is a soldier's right. The soldier knows he will not be punished. In peacetime he is not so sure.

Writing about the rape of women in the former Yugoslavia, Susan Brownmiller, author of *Against Our Will: Men, Women and Rape*, says that however heart-rending the situation is, it should not be surprising. Rape happened during the 1971 Bangladesh Pakistan war, the Korean and Vietnamese war and during World War II - the recent testimonies of the Korean "comfort women" is one example. Historians have largely ignored the humiliations endured by women at the hands of men in army uniform and war crimes tribunals have focused on other torturous acts. Out of shame and longing for a normal life, women themselves hide the crime.

## Rape as Propaganda

The use of rape as propaganda does not escape the scrutiny of Brownmiller. She points out that the plight of raped women is given credence only at the emotional moment when the side in danger of annihilation cries out for world attention. She sees women as pawns in the subtle wars of international propaganda.

Feminists and pacifists from Belgrade (Serbia) and Zagreb (Croatia), representing such groups as Women in Black Against War, are concerned about the propaganda war. They are encouraged that rape is becoming an issue at the highest international political levels but believe that the motive of those leading the discussion is to use the rape of women to intensify ethnic and nationalist hatred and to justify an escalation of military force. The well-being and rights of the women is not the substance of discussion. They would like to see it become so, and call for the global feminisation of the current international public campaign.

There have been immediate and feverish calls from many peace and women's groups to stop the rape of women and children and close the camps. Just beginning is a serious discussion of the historical complexities of the Baltic region and more generally of war-rape as a global feminist issue. There is agree-



ment that acts of violence are occurring on all sides but that Bosnian Muslim women are suffering the most.

For feminist pacifists the need to do something is clear, but the effective course of action is not.

With many countries like the U.S., France and Canada willing to commit troops to a more offensive role under the auspices of the United Nations, discussion within the peace movement is vital.

Some governments and analysts are advocating "humanitarian military intervention" - that is, a military intervention with a specific humanitarian objective, such as the release of prisoners from detainment camps. Critics claim that intervention is not impartial and will lead to full-scale military intervention. U.N. Peacekeepers could quickly find themselves viewed as foreign occupiers. In light of all this, Voice of Women groups are reaffirming their commitment to non-violent solutions.

Our response as a peace group should be nonpartisan. It may be important to identify the aggressor but it is also important to remember the historical realities and the complexities of the region. The sides are unequally armed and while the atrocities are committed disproportionately, they are perpetrated by all sides. Good and evil abide on all sides of the conflict and taking sides will not de-escalate the conflict.

## War Crimes Tribunal

Some groups are calling for a War Crimes Tribunal to deal with the rape and murder of women. Rape is not explicitly mentioned as a war crime under the Geneva Conventions but it clearly falls within the definition. Many argue that justice must be done, that wrong doers must be punished for their criminal actions which will deter others in the future.

Is it possible to set up an

impartial war tribunal? One in which the leaders, the military and the arms suppliers from all sides are tried for their insane belief that armed conflict, including the rape and murder of women and children will further their political goals. The message that emerges must be that the use of violence is senseless, egocentric and catastrophic in its effects on people and civil society. There can be no winners among those that choose the gun over dialogue.

## Changes to refugee laws demanded

The International Red Cross has been successful in getting prisoners released from camps but are hampered in their efforts by the seeming resistance of countries to offer refuge. Women's groups are demanding that the Canadian government immediately take in all women who claim refugee status as survivors of rape and other forms of violence. The government is in fact being pushed by the National Action Committee (NAC) and others to allow women to claim refugee status as victims of gender persecution which would recognize psychological as well as physical abuse.

## Humanitarian Efforts

As a peace group we actively encourage support of humanitarian efforts. Apart from material needs, women need access to safe abortions. In the last 18 months, many governments in the region have enacted restrictive abortion laws. In Croatia, women who have been raped have no access to abortion after 12 weeks.

Women's centres in the republics need the assistance of female gynaecologists and psychologists to aid them in responding to the needs of raped women.

Numerous Canadian and international organizations like the Red Cross are accepting donations or material goods for use

in the Baltic republics. In making donations of money know the organization you are giving to. In the case of former Yugoslavia, some communities in Canada have been known to collect money through their churches for example, for the purpose of buying arms. Instead donate clothing and supplies. For example, the Bosnian-Canadian Relief Association at 4174 Dundas Street W., Suite 209, Etobicoke, ON M8X 1X3 is collecting winter clothing, and non-perishable food products such as baby formula to distribute to refugees in Bosnia.

## Raped women helped by local women's shelters

Serbian and Croatian Non-governmental (NGO) groups such as the Autonomous Women's House Zagreb and the S.O.S. Line for Battered Women and Children in Belgrade are working in the field with women and children victims of the war. They have close links with the independent anti-war groups in Serbia and Croatia and their efforts demand our support.

They insist that women need appropriate help, not instant solutions like the Ad Hoc Rape Crisis Centres being advocated by the media. They caution that hasty actions could be harmful and bring relief only to the conscience of otherwise well-intentioned people.

Workers at the Autonomous Women's House are engaged in building trust with victims of violence in the refugee camps and establishing culturally sensitive, woman-directed programmes to address the psychological and long-term needs of raped women. They believe services should be delivered in all regions to all women by non-partisan NGOs, in a decentralized network of rape crisis centres. Apparently a great deal of aid money is being directed to Bosnian and Croatian government agencies. The \$250,000 given by the Canadian government to help victims of rape has gone to the UN High Commission for Refugees, but it is not known where the money is being used.

## Actions

In Canada and elsewhere, individuals and groups are condemning the atrocities and demanding action from governments, the media and the UN. Vigils and memorials have been organized. Events are organized for Valentine's Day, Feb. 14, in Montreal and Toronto; and in Toronto, a vigil for all women raped in war will be held Feb. 17, at Philosopher's Walk, University of Toronto. A speaking

## List of feminist and peace groups:

### Serbia

Women in Black Against War, c/o Stasa Zajovic, Dragoslava Popovica 9/10, 11000 Belgrade, Serbia  
Lepa Mladjenovic, S.O.S. Telephone, tel. 011-38-11-624-701

Centre for Antiwar Action, Kralja Petra 46, 11000 Beograd, Serbia Tel/Fax 011-38-11-635-813

### Croatia

Autonomous Women's House and Anti-War Campaign Croatia, Tralciceva 38, 41000 Zagreb, Croatia Tel. 011-38-41-422-495, fax 011-38-41-271-143

### Other

Sian Jones, Women's Aid to Former Yugoslavia, c/o 20 Tennyson Road, Portswood, Southampton SO2 1GW U.K. This group, including former Greenham Common Women, has visited refugee camps in Ljubljana and Zagreb and are working directly with women's groups there. They are accepting donations.

Doric Wilsnack, War Resisters League, 339 Lafayette St., New York, N.Y. Tel 212-228-0450.

tour is planned for March by the U.S. group MADRE to highlight women's rights as human rights. The tour will include women from the former Yugoslavia. The MADRE tour may come to Canadian cities where there is interest.

For further information, including the MADRE tour, contact Voice of Women, 736 Bathurst St., Toronto, tel 537-9343, fax 531-6214.

Women's and anti-war groups in Croatia and Serbia have been opposing the nationalist and anti-woman policies of their governments since the outbreak of hostilities. In Belgrade, Serbia, thousands of people have taken to the streets to protest the armed actions of their government. These groups and individuals need our support and the attention of the international media. We need to make links with the peace movements in all the regions of former Yugoslavia.

Sources: Women's groups in Croatia and Serbia, Peace Magazine, Newsweek, Friends Committee on National Legislation, The Activist





## Returning to Guatemala

By Joanne Young

There are said to be approximately 200,000 Guatemalan refugees in Mexico. An agreement was reached in early October between the government of Guatemala and the refugees, recognizing certain rights for the refugees upon their return. Many people are attempting to help the refugees recognize that the government will not always honour this agreement.

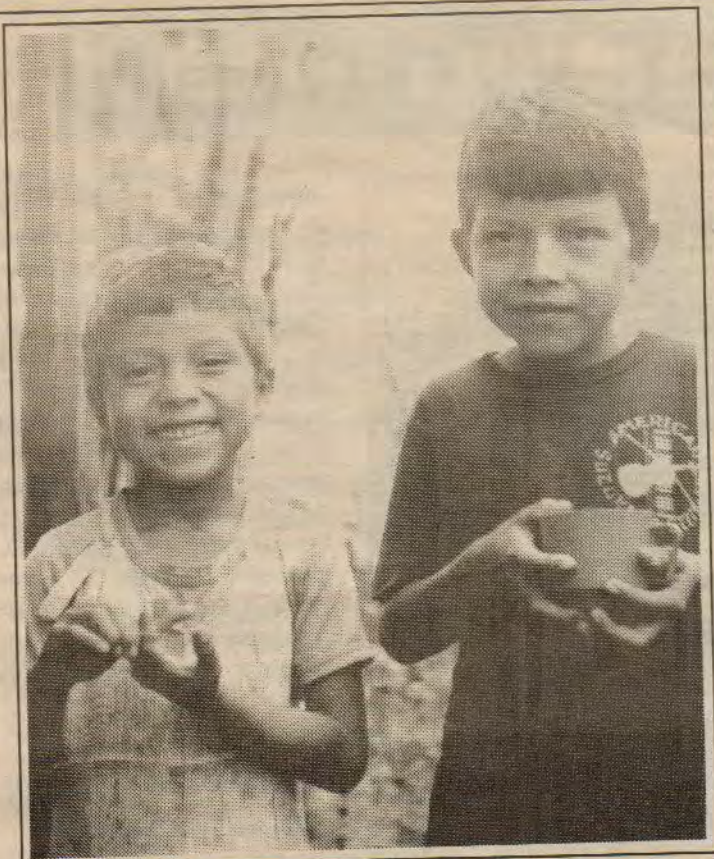
The present regime is unable to offer a decent life to returning refugees. In spite of this, the refugees are being forced to return to Guatemala.

The Guatemalan refugees are an "embarrassment" to Guatemala, the country that forced their own people to flee for their lives, to Mexico, because of the less than optimal living conditions there, and, mostly to the U.S.A. The United States invaded Guatemala in the mid-1950s to overthrow a democratically-elected government that attempted to buy back unused land "belonging" to American fruit companies for distribution to landless peasants. In response, the Americans set up a puppet government in Guatemala, and ever since, conditions have steadily deteriorated for the people of Guatemala.

There is very little place for these refugees in Guatemala. Two percent of Guatemalans own 72% of the arable land. Although there are said to be plans to give everyone land, not all the land is suitable for agriculture, or sufficient to support a family. As well, some of this land is deep in the mountains, accessible only by mule.

On Friday October 9, a group of volunteers left Toronto for Guatemala, interested in the problems of Guatemalan refugees now living in Mexico. We had originally hoped to accompany Guatemalans who planned to return on the anniversary of Columbus's arrival in America. Their return was delayed because the refugees encountered difficulty with the Guatemalan government in reaching an agreement recognizing their human rights.

We met a young woman from Australia who had been in Guatemala for months. She told us she had been marketing in a small town when the army arrived and herded all the young men into trucks. They would be forced to join the army, and indoctrinated until they would be willing to kill their own people. Although it had been a very grim scene as the young men were forced into the truck, no one dared to interfere.



Luciano and Audencio Martinez Ramirez, San José El Tesoro, Yalpemech, October 1992

We had heard a great deal about disappearances, torture and murder in Guatemala - a country said to have the worst human rights record in all of Central America.

We visited some Mexican human rights organizations which were attempting to work with refugees in planning their return to Guatemala. Some of the staff of these organizations were Guatemalans who had themselves left their native country. As people interested in establishing labour unions or agricultural cooperatives, their lives were in danger as long as they stayed in Guatemala.

We decided to go to Guatemala on our own, to find out about the conditions of refugees who had returned one or two years earlier from Honduras, who had been given land in Yalpemech in the mountains to the north of Guatemala City.

Yalpemech was formerly a *finca*, a large agricultural estate owned by General Garcia, one of the worst Guatemalan dictators in the second half of this century. The land had been sold to the Guatemalan government as land to be used to resettle refugees.

There were three groups of people in Yalpemech:

- people who have always lived there, but these are few since the land was privately owned;

- landless people, often driven from their own lands, who have not left the country, and have come to Yalpemech because of the hope of obtaining free land there; and

- refugees who were given the land by the government.

Efforts are being made to help the three groups work together. A two-day workshop was held during our stay to identify problems, and to work towards finding solutions. We were not

surprised when the workshop participants concluded that their problems were bad water, insufficient arable land, poor medical care, poor roads, poor prices for their agricultural produce, and an overcrowded school and inadequate teaching staff.

And Guatemalan refugees who remain in Mexico may be forced to accept factory work in unhealthy and unsafe conditions, at very low rates of pay in sweatshops supplying cheap manufactured goods to more affluent Americans under a continent-wide free-trade agreement.

If the ambitions of a powerful neighbouring country have doomed you to a life of misery, does it matter that your government may kill you before bad water, bad roads, insufficient food, or lack of medical care has had a chance to kill you?

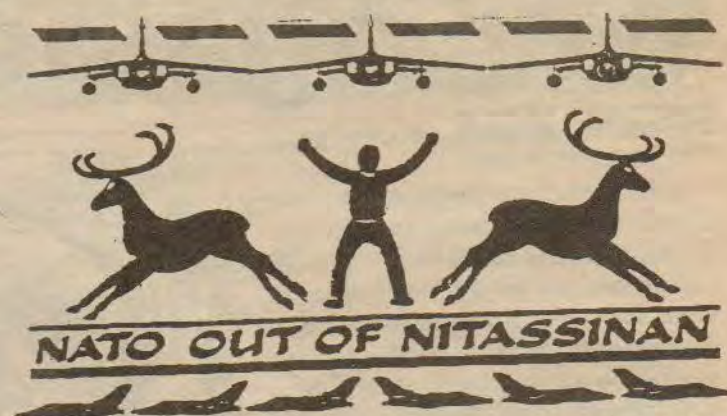
Joanne Young is a Toronto VOW member and author of "Nuclear Family: One Woman's Confrontation With Atomic Power".

## Salt Spring Island Voice of Women

By Marg Simons

One of Salt Spring Island Voice of Women's current community challenges is the creation of a Peace Park. As part of the Canada 125 celebrations, the International Institute for Peace through Tourism organized this program which it is hoped will reach every Canadian community by the year 2000, and eventually reaching out to the global community. Over 250 communities in Canada have already dedicated Peace Parks. For more information about this project, contact the Institute at (514) 281-9956.

In our proposed grove of



M. O'REGAN

## Campaign in support of the Innu launched internationally

As part of its contribution to the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO), Canada permits Germany, Britain and the Netherlands to train over large areas of Canada our government considers suitable for military training. The Innu homeland of Nitassinan is considered one of those areas although the 10,000 member Innu Nation has never been consulted and for over 10 years has engaged in non-violent civil disobedience to stop the flights.

The campaign to stop low level military flight training and other incursions onto Innu land such as dams and logging is being organized by ACT for Disarmament, HANDS, the International Peace Bureau, Ontario Voice of Women and the Innu.

Groups across Canada and internationally are encouraged to plan an event for Saturday, April 3 to coincide with other events being planned in places as far away as New Delhi, India. Suggested events include organizing a demonstration at a military or Federal government building, promoting the 100,000 signature

petition, organizing a letter-writing group, staging of public forums and film screenings of the NFB's **Hunters and Bombers**, playing a tape recording of jets taking off to simulate the real thing.

The objective of the campaign is to raise awareness of the issue and to send a clear message to the Canadian government and political parties in this election year that there is worldwide opposition to military flight testing and the destruction of an indigenous people and their land.

The campaign seeks the endorsement of 501 organizations to symbolically represent 501 years of Indigenous peoples' resistance to injustice. Coincidentally, the U.N. has declared 1993 the Year of the Indigenous Peoples.

An 11 page campaign kit including background information is available from the Planning Group of the International Campaign for the Innu c/o ACT For Disarmament, 736 Bathurst St. Toronto M5S 2R4 416 531-6154.

12 trees we plan to incorporate three existing Japanese maples that were planted in memory of the early Japanese settlers on our Island.

Internationally, the Salt Spring Island VOW are helping women start a sewing school on Ometape Island in Nicaragua. For the past five years, we have been helping to provide potable water to this community of 30,000. Every year someone from Canada visits Ometape Island, and it was upon her return that VOW Betty Gibson reported that the women on Ometape expressed a need for a sewing school: children had inadequate clothing to attend school;

smaller children were picking up parasites for lack of protection from underwear. We started to raise money through vegetarian dinners. And - a fine example of international networking - our friends in Chile whose arpilleras we had sold through the years themselves made a donation.

My husband and I visited Ometape Island and had the pleasure of meeting our friends. We received a letter the following spring, and from it we learned that 30 women had signed up for the sewing school. The letter was "from the Voice of Women Ometape Island".



## Newsflash! Newsflash! Newsflash!

## GE is getting out of the nuclear weapons industry

Bowing to overwhelming public pressure, General Electric Co. (GE) has decided to take the final step out of the nuclear weapons industry. On November 23, 1992 GE announced that it will get rid of its aerospace division, ending almost 50 years of influential leadership in the nuclear weapons business. GE's aerospace division includes work on the Trident II missile, Star Wars, nuclear submarines, and military satellites. GE sold to Martin Marietta of the U.S. and retains a 10% interest. This could be seen as a partial victory but it is certainly a crucial one. By targeting GE in a consumer boycott, a clear signal was sent to every nuclear weapons maker that this is a business no company can afford to be in.

INFACT, the international corporate accountability group that won significant reforms in the marketing of infant formula through the Nestle Boycott in 1984, began organizing an international Boycott of General Electric in 1986 to remove GE as the driving force behind the corporate production and promotion of nuclear weapons.

GE's recent step caps the company's steady decline in nuclear weapons work, which has been dropping consistently since the consumer boycott was launched. In 1990, the company met INFACT's first demand by announcing its plan to terminate a 34 year contract manufacturing the neutron trigger to every U.S. hydrogen bomb. In addition, by 1991, GE's revenues from nuclear-weapons related work had dropped by 46% since 1986. Finally, the company's most recent announcement signals an end to GE's remaining involvement in nuclear weapons work.

"GE's departure from the nuclear weapons industry will remove one of the most powerful corporations in the United States from its influential hold on nuclear weapons policy decisions," stated Elaine Lamy, the Executive Director of INFACT. "With the largest Washington lobby of any nuclear weapons contractor, and with its influential ties to the White House, GE has been a real driving force for nuclear weapons. It took a major grassroots effort to force that power player out, and now the nuclear weapons industry won't



wield the kind of influence in Washington that it has for the past 50 years."

Through the GE Boycott, millions of people mobilized to successfully challenge this powerful corporate weaponmaker. Over 500 endorsing organizations lent their support to the GE Boycott and worked to activate their supporters.

In 1992, INFACT won an Academy Award for its hard hitting film **Deadly Deception: General Electric, Nuclear weapons, and our Environment**. The campaign also secured the support of the United Methodist Church, increased financial losses to GE's medical equipment division to over \$50 million, and mobilized hundreds of students to challenge GE recruiters on campuses across North America.

For years GE has been killing workers and residents through radioactive and toxic contamination in and around its nuclear weapons facilities. In Ontario, GE Canada will continue to produce nuclear fuel bundles for CANDU reactors at Pickering and Darlington. GE's Toronto plant leaked radioactive material into the soil of a residential neighbourhood and neglected to detect these high level readings for 24 years. At least 11 former workers at the old GE lamp plant have developed cancer related to the use of thorium in the plant. GE Canada allows tonnes of CFCs to escape into the atmosphere while draining the freon coolant from refrigerators - even though the technology exists to recycle it. And the list continues.

INFACT will keep the pressure on GE until the company's withdrawal from nuclear weapons production is completed. This is expected to happen in early 1993. After that time, INFACT will move on to challenge other corporate abuses.

## Congratulations!

Warmest congratulations to Ursula Franklin, VOW's long-time member and mentor who has been named by the Governor General a Companion of the Order of Canada, a promotion from her 1981 award as Officer of the Order. VOW is very proud indeed to have such a distinguished, brilliant and humorous friend.



## First International Minoan Celebration of Partnership

By Lydia Sayle

For me, the conference in Crete was the culmination of a three-week tour of the Greek mainland and the Cyclades, going backwards in time from the Classic Greek to the Mycenaean and the Minoan. It was thrilling to stand on the ground and to see the ruins where so much ancient European history and mythology had originated. With **Riane Eisler's** historic book **The Chalice and the Blade** fresh in my mind, my impression of a male-centred and male-dominant culture was overwhelming. Looking at a 5th Century B.C. pediment depicting the battle of the Olympic Gods against the Gaea earth goddess and her children, I thought how relevant this struggle was to our own time in the late 20th Century.

It all came together at the general session on social change, when **Peggy Antrobus**, a brilliant economist from the Caribbean, stated that the centralization of global economic power is the final manifestation of a male dominator model which now controls and threatens our global existence. She described the last 500 years of European colonialism as a culture of male domination and violence, maintained through the legacy of the sword and the cross. The vast economic power acquired by colonialism is now consolidated in the hands of a small number of

corporations (and their international institutions) so powerful that they control governments, armies, trade and culture, as well as social and environmental standards. This system separates production from reproduction and marginalises women, excluding them from economic and social resources and ignoring the contribution of their labour.

Peggy reminded us that we must have no illusions, that to challenge the existing paradigm is very difficult and may be dangerous; and that before we go about changing the system, we must understand the structure of the dominator system. She stressed the need to understand the diversity of regional issues, security in Africa; nuclear testing in the South Pacific; and the resurgence of fundamentalist religion in the Middle East; and the importance to see the connection between these issues and link them to the global system.

"Unless we understand the connections between the practical grassroots level and the global dominator system," she said, "we are just chipping at the surface. Work at the micro level must go hand-in-hand with global macro analysis."

In typical northern idiom, **Hilkka Pietila** of Finland described the dominator pyramid as an iceberg which cannot be removed by merely chipping the top, but must be heated and dislodged from all sides underneath.

She spoke about the erosion of one superstate in East Europe and the creation of another in the West. It is no accident that nine of the twelve nations in the E.E.C. are former colonial powers, who, having lost their power after the second World War, are trying to regain it through economic union.

She warned of a strong possibility of a trade war between the three economic giants - Europe, Japan and America. This would be the worst kind of global war. Already, it is said that the extraction of debt interest from the third world has caused more deaths than the nuclear bomb. Since the 80's the disparity between rich and poor countries has increased faster than ever before. Global economic competition is killing more people all over the world, consuming more resources and destroying nature and the environment at an ever-increasing rate.

Those of us concerned about equality, justice, ecology and peace must understand this situation, particularly as it affects women and children, who are most vulnerable. The latest positive indicator in Europe is that people are responding and turning against economic integration.

Hilkka ended with a strong challenge to the women of the Northern Hemisphere to do their utmost to change the paradigm in their countries. "If we seriously mean that we want equality, peace and justice, and a different kind of politics and culture," she said, "then we must accept our responsibility to re-activate our democracy and put it to new use. That way, we can start to melt the iceberg and then float it to the south, where our sisters will finish the job."

Lydia Sayle is a VOW member living in Vancouver. She is a Board member of Women for Mutual Security, the international network of women activists, who were responsible for the conference.



(1 to r) Simon Dick, Margarita Papandreou, Vera Martin, Dessima Williams of Grenada, Mrs. Dick



# National General Meeting: Who Owns Women's Work

It is difficult to hold together as a national organization in these fractious and desperate times. And our National General Meeting was not without its troubling moments. A women's peace group like ours is thought not to have differences, but we do. Conflict is inevitable and when addressed in open and thoughtful ways it often results in creative growth for individual members and the organization as a whole. The challenge now for all VOW members is to focus on nurturing the relationships within the organization while addressing different styles of doing things and different visions for the work of Voice of Women. Different does not mean incompatible, but it does mean articulating clearly one's needs and concerns and acknowledging those of others.

Our relationship with Calgary Voices is not well. They have decided to withdraw from Voice of Women and while they are not a large part of our membership — 28 members — they are an active feminist oriented group of women. No one from their group was able to attend the Vancouver Conference but our Board member from Edmonton has met with them in an attempt at reconciliation.

Despite some uneasy moments, the conference was productive. Indeed participants came together, for example, in their commitment to actively oppose the North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA), in their support for the inclusion of women's unpaid work in the census and in their condemnation of the world debt and structural adjustment policies that hurt women and children most.

Under the theme "Who Owns Women's Work", the BC Planning Committee brought in superb speakers and resource women.

**Marjorie Cohen**, an economist and free trade critic took on the global economic order. She had nothing good to say about the transnational corporations, viewing them as major shapers of the new economic order. She told us that:

- 600 corporations own 25% of the world's production but employ only 3% of the world's people.

- these large corporations control 80-90% of Canadian trade.

She urged us to challenge the assumptions used by the business community and conservative politicians: that global restructuring is inevitable, that deficits are bad, that public spending is out of hand, and that we need to focus on inspiring the business community with tax breaks.



**Lesley Anderson** of the YWCA spoke about development work in the 3rd world specifically the struggles of women. She spoke of the need for new global arrangements which among other things will be based on 'equality between nations'.

Ecofeminist **Elizabeth Anderson** was a most passionate speaker. She presented a well prepared feast of feminist gleanings. **Dorothy Goldin Rosenberg**, the Voice of Women member on the panel, spoke of her participation at the UN Conference on Environment and Development (UNCED) in Rio de Janeiro and gave some crucial information on the military's role in the destruction of the environment. Panel Moderator **Barbara Little** reminded us of the tragic death of **Petra Kelly**, Founder of the German Green Party, allegedly at the hands of her lover.

On the Friday evening **Lydia Sayle** and **Robyn Smith** regaled us with their experiences poking about archaeological sites in Greece and their perceptions of the **First Minoan Conference on Partnership held on the island of Crete**. A full account of Lydia's presentation appears elsewhere in this issue.

**Lou Rumsey** gave us a stirring, first hand account of the walk across America campaign that culminated in a powerful demonstration at the Nevada nuclear test site. In speaking for native people, a native elder stated that they would stand aside to allow their non-native friends to go over the fence and be imprisoned as they have been for the last 500 years. The nuclear tests are conducted on native land. Lou was one of more than 500 people to go over the fence that day.

On the Saturday evening, **Shelagh Day**, Vice-President of NAC spoke on the theme of "Who Owns Women's Work?", tying in her analysis of the Charlottetown Accord. The possible repercussions for Canada's social programmes and national standards for new and existing programmes were outlined.

Workshops were well orga-

nized. Resources and facilitation were provided by **Beth Hill**, **Barbara Little**, **Maria Abbott**, **Dorothy Goldin Rosenberg**, **Anet Henrikson**, and **Marg Simons**. The recommendations that came out of workshops were well thought out and are listed on this page.

#### The following crucial resolutions were passed at the General Meeting:

- VOW declares that the production, possession, trade and use of nuclear weapons constitute crimes against humanity and the planet.

- VOW adopts a policy which explicitly denies Canadian Forces a combat capability, confining them to surveillance and policing type actions.

VOW supports the pursuit of a legal prohibition on Canadian Armed Forces operating beyond Canadian borders and sea territories except in support of non-violent U.N. peacekeeping operations.

#### Work of the Board

A revised set of by-laws prepared by the Board were pre-

#### Women and Unpaid Work/Women and Pension Reform Workshop Recommendations

1. Endorse unpaid housework in census petition.
2. Endorse Rome Managers Advocacy, Saskatoon, Sask contract proposal to Secretary of State for a research grant on census and unpaid work.
3. Endorse boycott of the "work" section of Canadian census, 1996, and all subsequent censuses, until unpaid housework, family care and volunteer labour is included in the census form.
4. Support and lobby for a national bill on pensions for women's unpaid work in the household.
5. Recommend VOW lobby all parties for pension reform to recognize women's unpaid work.

sented and approved by the membership. The by-law document represents a 6 year-struggle by numerous structure committees.

One of the revised by-laws dealt with quorum and decision-making process for general meetings. Our by-laws which are filed with our incorporation papers represent a legal document submitted to the government. The government, however, does not recognize consensus decision-making so we had to state that we would determine every question by 75% of the vote. Voice of Women, nevertheless, endeavours to make decisions by consensus and this will be reflected in our handbook. When completed, the VOW handbook will be used to interpret the by-laws and will cover policy areas not relevant to incorporation.

Another change to the by-laws makes Administrative Committee members full members of the Board. The Administrative Committee, which currently meets at the national office in Toronto, acts as an executive. The Administrative Committee members all come from one area which is currently Toronto. Ideally this wouldn't be the case, but we don't have

the financial resources to bring members from across Canada together for frequent meetings. Indeed time and travel restraints limit full Board meetings to once a year. Early attempts to use electronic mail were unsuccessful and costly but we will consider this approach again when there is a better chance of success. In recognition of the regional imbalance on the Board, the revised by-law pairs Administrative Committee members with one or more provinces. Administrative Committee members working with the Board member(s) directly elected from the paired province(s) are to address the concerns of that province(s) at the national level.

(For a copy of the revised by-laws please contact the national office.)

#### Work of the Board for the next 2 years

Among the many issues on the agenda for the Board meeting in April 1993, fundraising tops the list.

Another task includes coming up with a formula for travel subsidy for participants to National General meetings. The membership agreed that as a national organization, it is essential that general meetings be well attended by all VOW groups from 311 regions.

In April the Board will discuss the next General Meeting set for the Fall of 1994 in Toronto. This meeting precedes the 1995 U.N. Forward Looking Strategies Action Conference in Beijing, China and will be organized under the same theme as the U.N. conference - "Equality, Development and Peace" with the view to raising awareness of government's efforts to address women's status. VOW groups/provincial sections are encouraged to organize local events under the same theme and to culminate at the National VOW General Meeting.

In addition to the workshop recommendations directed to National VOW and listed elsewhere, the Board came up with an ambitious programme at an all day meeting. The presentation to the membership reads as

#### Some Recommendations from the Environment Group

1. Avoid disposable utensils and plates at VOW functions and in personal lives.
2. Support the Stop the Whitewash Campaign and stop the use of chlorine bleach.
3. Work to stop uranium mining. Support the native blockades in Saskatchewan. Members urged to write Saskatchewan Premier Roy Romanov applauding him for rejecting the nuclear power option but urge him to stop uranium mining in his province.
4. Support Campaign for Nuclear Phaseout
5. Put militarization, arms reduction and conversion on the agenda on any post-UNCED activities. Lobby government on this issue.
6. VOW urged to take action against world debt and structural adjustment policies through VOW, community and individual action.
7. Organize bank boycott whereby everyone withdraws funds on same day in favour of alternatives such as credit unions.
8. Send letter to Mulroney opposing French shipments of plutonium to Japan.

There were some recommendations in support of INFAC's GE Boycott Campaign but recent actions on the part of GE change everything. Please see newsflash elsewhere.



# owns Women's Work?

## North American Free Trade Agreement Workshop Recommendations

For National VOW:

1. Send a letter to the Canadian Center for Policy Alternatives to ask if there has been a study of NAFTA and militarization of the economy, including space research (SDI) etc. If not, VOW National to request such an analysis.
2. Send a letter to NAC requesting their analysis of how NAFTA will effect women.
3. Produce an educational flyer about NAFTA, militarization and women, to be distributed by local groups. Include "what people can do" in flyer i.e. lobby MP's, demand that candidates in the upcoming elections abrogate the FTA and not sign NAFTA.
4. National to be a clearing house for information on NAFTA.
5. VOW Newsletter to inform us about the Nestle's boycott.

For VOW local groups:

1. to join or form an Action Canada Network Group.
2. lobby MP's.
3. ask candidates in upcoming elections to abrogate FTA and not sign NAFTA.
4. develop a speakers bureau on NAFTA.
5. organize workshops for members and other members of the community about NAFTA.
6. Contact municipalities.

follows:

In light of the changed world circumstances the Board feels that our focus on peace issues should be re-defined and re-affirmed.

In the post cold war world, questions and answers are no longer as obvious. We now need a re-defined purpose to take into consideration: alternative economic views, the relationship between haves and have nots, civil conflicts, as well as the struggle for our resources, racial tensions, and the domination of the military ethos. This would offer guidelines for Voice of Women which would continue to be rooted in a firm commitment to nonviolent conflict resolution.

We therefore propose to place an emphasis on research: self-education and information exchange to establish a VOW perspective on the contemporary world, with a view to creating an integrated VOW position as a basis for action on our issues of concern.

The Board intends to develop a process for achieving this goal in the coming years.

The Board organized issues into 3 sectors:

1) Effect of the military on the environment/NAFTA/Conversion.

2) Non-violent Strategies for peace-making.

3) Put women's voices on the peace and justice agenda.

Strategies for addressing these issues:

1) VOW National Action Network Groups.

2) Link with women's studies departments for research.

3) Expand the VOW newsletter

4) Women's Peace Resource and Education Centre — to include databank of VOW member profiles.

## Membership fees to increase for 1993

Only after considerable discussion did the membership vote to accept the Board recommendation to increase membership fees from \$25.00 to \$35.00 with a pay what you can scale of \$5 to \$35. (To renew your membership for 1993 please see membership form on back page.)

## VOW Board of Directors

Directors from each province are nominated and elected at provincial meetings and ratified at the National General Meeting. Board members are responsible for implementing national organizational procedures, policies and priorities established by the membership at general meetings. They are in regular contact with the national office and from time to time coordinate special projects or take on additional tasks in committee. If

you have questions or concerns as a member, you are encouraged to contact the Board member in your area. The members of the Board are:

- Deirdre McKay, 10439-140 St. Edmonton AB T4N 2L8
- Carol Boggis, R.R. #2 Lower Rd.S.40, C.14 Gibsons BC V0N 1V0
- Marjorie Stewart, 3544 Jinglepot Rd. Nanaimo, BC V9R 5K3
- Brigid Grant, 824 George St. Fredericton NB B3K 1G9
- Marie Hammond, 2085 Bauer St. Halifax, NS B3K 3W4
- Akidi Abe, 252 Evelyn Ave. Toronto ON M6P 2Z9
- Grace Hartman - Chair, 7 Kenton Drive Willowdale, ON M2R 2H6
- Joy Warner, 44 Paisley Ave. S. Hamilton, ON L8S 1V1
- Arpie Hamalian, 4635 St. Ignatius Ave. Montreal, QC H3N 2J7
- Mildred Ryerson, 3519 Lorne Ave. Montreal, QC H2X 2A4
- Janis Alton, 1279 Stavebank Road N. Mississauga, ON L5G 2V1
- Madeleine Gilchrist, 425 Davisville Ave. Toronto, ON M4S 1H7
- Judith Phalen, 25 Elvin Ave. Toronto, ON M6N 4J1
- Diana Kuprel, 912-57 Charles St. W. Toronto, ON M5S 2X1

## VOW Representatives

Janis Alton continues as VOW's U.N. Programme Coordinator, Mady Gilchrist continues as VOW's Representative to Women for Mutual Security. After a few months as our representative to the Canadian Peace Alliance, Paulette Stroo has had to resign for personal reasons. Members interested in attending approximately 2 CPA Steering Committee meetings a year on VOW's behalf please contact the national office. Generous travel subsidy is available.

VOW is also looking for a member interested in preparing for and attending the National Action Committee on the Status of Women (NAC) Annual General Meeting in June 4-5-6, 1993 at the University of Saskatchewan in Saskatoon. Please contact the national office.

## Some Recommendations from the International Workshop

1. Work toward the U.N. Conference to Review the Progress of the Forward Looking Strategies, to be held in Beijing, China, in 1995.
2. Explore the issue of women's rights as human rights leading up to the UN Human Rights Conference in 1993. (Study the 1948 UN document on Human Rights.)
3. Work with Women's Commission of the Helsinki Citizens' Assembly.
4. Work with NGO women of the Conference on Security and Cooperation in Europe (CSCE).
5. Build international alliances with women's groups or groups which have a women's section.



## In Memoriam Petra Kelly

scribed as "perhaps the world's best known environmentalist" and "the personification of the German environmental and peace movements."

In the 1960's and 70's, German Greens were influenced by the ecology, peace, feminist and social justice movements in the U.S. In the 1980's, Kelly delivered to America — through the media and in lecture halls — the phenomenon of "Green politics."

Many women around the world were deeply saddened and shocked by the sudden and tragic death of Petra Kelly, allegedly at the hands of her lover. Over 500 women at the First Minoan Conference in Crete were expecting to hear Petra Kelly speak and instead were given the news of her death. Kelly was a feminist and peace and environmental activist. She was a strong woman and successful in what she did. As confident as she was, she could not escape male violence.

Charlene Spretnak, co-author of "Green Politics: The Global promise" writes of Kelly:

At age 13, Petra Kelly determined that she would become either a nun or a new kind of politician. When she died recently at age 44, she was de-

termined to see politics as a cynical game of tactics, maneuvering and power plays. Her style was to decry violations of the Earth community; her politics questioned the ideology of the nuclearized nation-state and a society without a conscience when it came to environmental issues.

The activism of Petra Kelly will continue to influence our future. She wrote a book, Fighting for Hope, in 1984, which should be available in libraries.



## Planning for the 1995 World Conference on Women in China

The Fourth World Conference on Women, entitled "Action for Equality, Development & Peace" will be held September 4-15, 1995 in Beijing, China. The conference is expected to focus on these topics and on action to overcome the slow pace of progress in the advancement of women, measured by the "Forward Looking Strategies ..." adopted at the 1985 World Conference on Women in Nairobi.

As at previous conferences on women, a parallel NGO meeting will be held. Planning for the NGO Forum '95 is being done under the auspices of a planning committee composed presently of more than 50 international NGO's, established by the Conference of NGOs in consultative status with the UN Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC). The Chinese government has agreed that the Forum will be

open to all who are concerned with the status of women.

The '95 event is so important that VOW's next general meeting in 1994 will adopt a similar theme around the FLS. In preparation, VOW members throughout the country are encouraged to:

1. undertake local programmes to permit the widest possible exchange of ideas, resources and perspectives on FLS action strategies. A "starter" kit which includes the FLS document, a workshop guide, a resource list of actions underway and other material is available from the national office for \$7.00.

2. help shape the programme for the VOW '94 General Meeting by participating in the planning process directly or through their Board member.

3. indicate their interest in attending the '95 NGO Forum. (Funding sources to be explored.)



## Impressions of my journey back to Israel

By Madeleine Gilchrist

When I left Israel in 1966, I promised my friends in the kibbutz that I would be back. 26 years later after the Crete Celebration, I returned for four days with four great friends and four wishes. Return to my kibbutz in Galilee and to the French Missionary Hospital in Nazareth, hug my friend Michal Schwarz, Israeli journalist jailed for 18 months in 1988, and meet Palestinian women. Anna Lou Paul, Dorothy Peebles, Ann Davies and Sheila Brown were my supports. So my journey became part pilgrimage and part activism. My four wishes were met with feelings ranging from excitement, joy, disappointment to despair, sadness, hope and anger. Thanks to our Israeli friends Michal and Roni who acted for us as guides, translators, so we could meet their Palestinian friends.

We left by taxi early in the morning to go to the West Bank. We met three representatives from the Palestinian Federation of Women's Action Committee in the Occupied Territories. While pouring us strong coffee they explained their Siha Baby Food Project and the Copper enamel one. The Siha baby food project was developed in response to the community's demand for an inexpensive high protein baby food. Siha is primarily distributed through clinics located in villages and refugee camps. The copper enamel project is the most unique because it encourages women to learn non-traditional skills.



Mady Gilchrist on right with Jewish and Palestinian women in the West Bank.

The results are beautiful pieces of artwork depicting scenes of Palestinian life and national heritage. It also gives women their financial independence. Their next project is to teach women maths, sciences and languages so they can in turn teach it to their children at home since schools in the Occupied Territories are sporadically open. I certainly was not prepared to see the sight of our late afternoon visit. Palestinian women on hunger strike gathered in the garden of the International Red Cross in East Jerusalem. We sat in a circle in front of the erected tents and listened. We had no words but felt great respect for these courageous and determined women. They told us about their detained husbands, sons, brothers who were on hunger strike to protest against inhumane and worsening conditions in Israeli prisons. They felt abandoned by the world. Older women spoke, the younger one only to translate when Michal was

looking for a word. We made a pledge to let as many people as possible know about their struggle but also to make sure their projects continue along with the Israeli women such as Michal, Roni and others.

While checking through for our trip back to Canada Anna Lou and I were interrogated by four Israeli security for over one hour about our whereabouts in Israel and Greece. I can only ask: What is happening to the Israel I left 26 years ago?

A good source of information is **Challenge**, a bi-monthly English-language magazine written by Jews and Arabs for the international community concerned with peace in the Middle East. To subscribe send \$35.00 U.S. to P.O. Box 14338 Tel Aviv 61142, Israel.

If you would like to support the Palestinian women in their projects such as the Siha baby food project you can send a donation to Roni c/o **Challenge**.

## Attack on Islam

By Josie Wallenius

All over the world Western Peace activists are xeroxing and faxing the "leaks" from the Pentagon about new war scenarios that justify more military spending.

The Gulf. The Korean Peninsula. The Baltic Nations. Panama. The Philippines.

In the emergent New World (Corporate and Fascist) Order it's imperative that we get a handle on how the Western leaders are going to justify the new imperialism, because, sadly, our innocent pleas for a peace dividend on behalf of our own fractured economies have failed.

In 1990, while researching the phenomenon of the "Satanic Verses", Karen Armstrong in her book "Holy War" writes: "...since my first visit to Israel in 1983, I have come to feel very passionate about the relationship among the Christian West, Ju-

daism and Islam, which have been locked into a murderous triangle of hatred ever since the Crusades... The greatest tragedies and atrocities have occurred when one tradition considers itself so preeminent that it seeks to eliminate the other two, or when two of the traditions have joined forces, and have completely ignored the third."

Another writer, the young Syrian, Rana Kabbani poses the question: "Is the Western conscience not selective? It feels sympathy for the Afghan Mujahedin, propped up by the American intelligence just as the Nicaraguan contras, but feels no sympathy for militant Muslims who are not fighting its (the West's) cold war battles but have political concerns of their own... outrages against Palestinians... yet Israel remains a democracy in Western eyes, an output of Western civilisation... not surprising that a political Islam has

taken root, fuelled by an overriding sense of powerlessness."

These words were written in 1989. It is now 1993. While somebody was keeping the mainstream left's eyes on Latin America and South Africa, the world changed.

By now all of the western world is perfectly aware that Islam is an "extreme" and "fundamental" religion, just as at the height of the former Cold War, all the West knew that communists ate babies for breakfast.

India, once believed to be one of the greatest non-aligned countries, has been taken up by the West in its new global alliance shift and become a theocratic state. Pakistan, a Muslim State, has been dumped. There has been a rise in the electoral success of Hindu fundamentalist parties which use Hindu unity against minorities, specifically Muslims, who comprise 11% of the population as their rallying



point. Though Hindi pogroms against Muslims have been going on since 1981, they were only taken up by Amnesty International in 1987. That is within India but India too has a foreign policy to meet the new world orders.

On November 7, 1991 India refused a nine member team from the European Parliament permission to visit Kashmir. There was a near total news blackout on the intifada in Kashmir, where estimates of civilian Muslim victims of the Indian military over the last two years range from 10,000-22,000. The Hazrat Bal Shrine, the most important religious shrine and institution in Kashmir, now lies in ruins. Thousands of priceless manuscripts have been destroyed by the Indian army.

In former Yugoslavia, nationalists have called for the expulsion of Kosovo's two million Albanians, who are largely Muslim and the absorption of neighbouring Bosnia-Herzegovina. Racist phobias about refugees from Algeria, Morocco and Tunisia, (all former colonies), abound in France; in Italy it is Albanian and Yugoslav Muslims who are "feared". No such phobias exist for Aryan refugees from Hungary, Czechoslovakia or Poland.

Burma is at war with its Muslim population. The population of Sudan is approximately 60-65% Muslim. There have been massive civilian casualties in the Sudan with hardly a whimper from the West. The SPLM (Sudanese People's Liberation Movement) demanded in 1989 that Islamic law be suspended as a precondition for its participation in a Peace Conference.

The world media blamed Islamic fundamentalists in Nigeria for violence that erupted during a peaceful Muslim demonstration against the evangelization crusade of a German missionary, Rev. Reinhard Bonnke, although the violence was actually sparked by the Christian Association of Nigeria.

Human rights groups in the West trying to go public about the atrocities of the Indonesian military against East Timor have managed to slip into the Western mainstream press, but there is a virtual silence about similar pogroms in Aceh, known as the "Veranda of Islam", and the bedrock of Islam in the Malay peninsula. New York-based Asia Watch estimated 5,000 people

were killed or have disappeared since 1989.

In China too the persecution of Muslims is overlooked. When James Baker, former Secretary of State, talked to Chinese leaders about human right violations, he confined his concern to the Tianmen square massacres in Peking, overlooking 1990 bloodbath of Chinese Muslims in Xinjiang only months later.

Due to Baker's efforts, China is abiding by the international agreement barring exports of missile technology, known as Missile Technology Control Regime (MTRC); this treaty is aimed primarily at Muslim states, since their principal enemies, Israel and India, have already acquired this technology.

A world-wide cultural war against Islam is underway. It's a dreadful thing that the Western Peace Movement hasn't yet denounced the propaganda of the "Islamic bomb." The concern with the nuclear capability of countries like Algeria seems particularly strange given the Western silence over Israel's nuclear capability.

The New World Order with Islam as the enemy has already been overtly declared. President Bush, in his State of the Union address, hailed changes in the world of "almost biblical proportions" and in reviving the cold war, says he has "a simple mission". One of the US military thrusts during the Gulf massacre was called "Hail Mary". The cover of Time Magazine on Dec. 9th 1992, showed a map of Europe entitled of all things, "America's Struggle to Bring Back God".

Footnote.

At a conference in Africa, I was amazed by the analysis I heard. I mentioned to a native American that we never seemed to get that kind of news from our Western journals. She replied: "The oppressors never want the analysis of the oppressed." I began subscribing to the "Crescent International", an international Islamic paper, published in the west. If you would like to subscribe, please write to "Crescent International", 300 Steelcase Rd. West #8, Markham, Ontario, L3R 2W2

Josie Wallenius is a VOW member, writer and activist living in Thunder Bay, Ontario.



# Resisting injustice in the Occupied Territories

By Maxine Nunn

July 1992

Beit Sahour, a mainly Christian Palestinian town of 12,500, bordering on Bethlehem some of whose inhabitants made the daring step, early in the Intifada, of searching out Israelis with whom to carry on a dialogue. The Groups begun in 1988 continue to this day, and to the "Center for Rapprochement between People" regularly come members of its Israeli sister-organization "Rapprochement", often bringing with them other Israelis and foreign visitors to the stimulating discussions and occasional panel presentation held there. Visits in the opposite direction are less frequent, for reasons anyone who has followed developments in this region will understand.

It is in the courageous stand of the Beit Sahourians in their tax strike - an act of classical non-violent resistance to perceived injustice - that the affinity of **Yesh Gvul** for the town has its origin. Israeli refuser, Amos Gvirtz, explains: "The tax refusal of the people of Beit Sahour and the military refusal of **Yesh Gvul** are the best examples in this region of the two basic forms of nonviolence: active non-violent resistance and what I call 'preventative non-violence' - the non-violence practised by members of the oppressor nation with the objective of preventing or halting the oppression. The Beit Sahour people are resisting the oppression by withholding the taxes imposed upon them and used to finance their oppression, and the **Yesh Gvul** people are refusing to take an active role in the oppression as reserve soldiers in the occupied territories." The **Yesh Gvul** movement is an organization of Israeli soldiers who refuse to serve in the occupied territories of the West Bank and Gaza Strip, and face imprisonment for their stand.

Amos of is one of Israel's rare total refusers (there is no such thing as 'conscientious objector' for Israeli - only women, which means that exemption requires one to persuade the army that he is not worth their trouble - and usually results in a psychiatric discharge and the accompanying stigma.

My last visit to Beit Sahour had been at the time of the **Walk for a Peaceful Future in the Middle East** early in June. The foreign walkers were ensconced at the Lutheran School in Beit Sahour and the plan was that several Israelis would join them in an evening orientation for those who would be facilitating a mini-non-violence-training for walk participants. The curfew experience (complete with armed soldiers on the



neighbouring rooftops as well as in the street) had given the walkers a fright, a taste of life under occupation, and a chance to try their consensus decisionmaking skills under pressure.

One family I visited in Beit Sahour currently has a son in prison in the Negev; he was sentenced to two years for being outside during curfew.

I did most of the organizing for the August 1st, **Haifa non-violence training** put on by the **Coalition for Non-Violent Action**. For me, the most exciting part of this workshop was that although only two people of the seven-person "training team" were Israeli-born, of the nine other participants, only one wasn't (an ex-American veteran of the sixties!).

I was also in **Ramyah** in September for a wedding: one of the **Ramyah Solidarity Committee's** main contact persons was marrying a young woman from **Husseiniya**, an unrecognized village of 400 people. **Ramyah** is in an extremely vulnerable position; it may be uprooted at the whim of the Israel Lands Authority. Please write **Prime Minister Rabin** stating your opposition to this village being uprooted.

I keep telling myself that I must get down to actually writing my non-violence pamphlet but there's always one more interview that needs to be made, or some other complication (excuse?) that delays that stage. A couple of months ago it was hearing about the **Ethiopians' hunger strike** and now it's the discovery that my interview with **Ghalib Saif** of the **Druse Initiative Committee** will need to be redone, due to a faulty microphone. When I called **Ghalib** to set up a re-take, I asked him about the latest of the monthly visits by another group he is active in, **Red Line**, to the West bank. **Red Line - Jews and Arabs against the Occupation** played a big part in my decision to come here to live. It

was while participating in the first day of its inaugural activity - a four-day walk from **Rosh Hnikra** to **Jerusalem** in March '88 that I first met **Nabiha Murkus**, activist in the **Democratic Women's Movement** and first woman member of an Arab village council, sang peace songs with the 500 or so Jews and Arabs who turned out for the march that got me thinking seriously that there was something here for me to be part of. Like **Women in Black**, the **Democratic Women's Movement** has shown tremendous tenacity, making its visits regularly to **Qabatya** in the **Jenin** area, taking donations of clothing and medicine, as well as food.

On the one hand, it feels like the intensity of women-only peace activities has wound down, but on the other, the connection forged between **Women and Peace** in **Jerusalem**, and especially **Tel Aviv**, and all six politically-identified **Women's Committees** in **Gaza** and the **Women's** dialogue with **Nablus** activists offer reason for hope.

**New Year's Day.** As of yesterday morning, I wasn't planning to attend synagogue services. I'd found it increasingly hard to find satisfaction in attending the synagogue I'd been associated with. However, yesterday morning I called my friend **Danielle** to wish her **Happy New Year**, and she remarked that she and friends were going to attend services at **Har El**, Israel's oldest reform synagogue, about a 5-minute walk from my door. I

decided it was probably safe by now to show my face there again. I had acted "unacceptably" the one time I had previously attended services there, during the war.

An influential rabbi from the states was the guest sermon-giver, and in the course of his sermon he asked a rhetorical question referring to criticism of Israel's behaviour regarding the blanket curfew in the territories I think), and asking if anything Israel was doing could possibly compare with the Iraqis' (subsequently found out to be untrue) unplugging of the incubators of innocent Kuwaiti babies. I felt I had to speak out. "Yes," I said, "Israel's refusal to distribute gas masks to children in the Occupied Territories is exactly equivalent." I sat, trembling, while he went on - apparently unfazed - with his sermon. I felt sick to my stomach the rest of the evening, and hadn't darkened their door since.

I found the services surprisingly satisfying - not just because the cantor has a beautiful voice and the rabbi dotes on the children in a most charming way - but most of all because he tends to toss impersonal comments with his sermon which make his political and humanitarian leanings quite clear. For example this morning, during a prayer referring to the "ingathering of the exiles", he slipped in, "and may we learn to absorb them without examining their origins too much", a clear reference to the establishment's reluctance to recognize and treat

the Ethiopian immigrants as full Jews.

On **Sept. 29th** around 70 of us climbed the hill facing **Atlit prison** (Military prison 6), armed with an electric megaphone, ram's horn (for the New Year), and a huge banner reading "Happy New Year Yonatan". We could see **Yonatan** waving a towel from the prison bars, as we chanted "Yesh Gvul", "1, 2, 3, 4, we don't want any more war" (it rhymes in Hebrew, too!), and "We don't shoot, we don't go to the territories! - referring to **Yesh Gvul's** position of refusal to serve, as opposed to that of many of its opponents who go and "shoot" and then "cry" about having been forced to shoot.

**Sept. 30** Busy day chasing around taking pictures of demos, getting them developed and over to the "Jerusalem Post" to try to sell them. Today marked the sixth anniversary of the kidnapping of **Mordechai Vanunu**, the Israeli nuclear technician who astounded the world with his revelation of Israel's huge nuclear capability, and received 18 years for his pains. He's been held in solitary ever since and the **Committee for Mordechai Vanunu and for a Nuclear, Biological, and Chemical weapon-free Middle East** demonstrated this morning demanding his freedom. Then off to the **East Jerusalem Red Cross**, where hundreds of Palestinian women are staging a sitdown strike in solidarity with their hunger-striking prisoner husbands and sons.

## Canadian Aid for Vietnam Civilians folds

In July, 1992, Canadian Aid for Vietnam Civilians held its last meeting. Formed in 1966, the organization raised over \$870,000 for Vietnam. In Toronto, **Lil Greene** organized a knitting project through **Ontario Voice of Women**. From 1965-1975, 30,000 knitted garments and blankets were made for the babies and children of Vietnam and Laos. Forty-eight shipments of children's clothing and medical supplies were sent on Soviet grain boats via **Vancouver** and **Vladivostok** to **Haiphong** in the north of Vietnam.

In August, 1992, **Lil** met with the Ambassador of Vietnam, **Pang Nghiem Bai**, in **Ottawa**. She brought greetings from **CVAC** and **VOW**, and presented two copies of the book "Canada Knits", which documents the knitting project, and a copy of the video, **Voice of Women, The First Thirty Years**. The Ambassador will keep one copy of the book for the Embassy Library, and promised to send the other



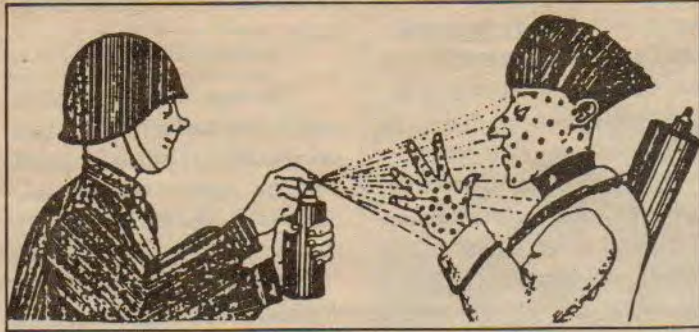
copy, with the video, to the **Union of Vietnamese Women in Hanoi**. **VOW** members **Kay Macpherson** and **Nancy Pocock** had visited this women's organization in Vietnam. Upon their return, **VOW** invited women of the North and South to visit Canada. Many American women came up to meet them during their cross-Canada tour in 1971, as they were consid-

ered "enemies" by the United States and were not allowed to enter.

The Vietnamese Ambassador writes: "The Vietnamese Government and people will always treasure **CAVC's** friendship and solidarity and wish that all **CAVC** members will forever keep on that spirit as symbol of friendship and solidarity between the Canadian and Vietnamese peoples."



# Suffield Update: Chemical weapons convention in 1993



By Diana Chown

After more than 20 years of negotiations, a **Chemical Weapons Convention (CWC)** is expected to be signed in early 1993. The text was submitted for consideration to the **UN General Assembly** in September. The following are 2 excerpts from articles on the CWC which seem to sum up the situation. First, **David Maggs**, Quaker UN Office, Geneva, in **Disarmament Times** (October 8, 1992):

"The Convention is far from perfect. [It] is the most detailed multilateral disarmament treaty ever negotiated and it is therefore clearly a breakthrough. Unlike the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty, it is non-discriminatory and applies equally to all parties. But at the same time those who are concerned about the future of disarmament will question the process and the result. The document produced shows the very divergent approaches to international disarmament treaties and the limits of what can be achieved by consensus. It also shows the re-

sources the industrialized states are prepared to commit to disarmament, and what the developing states really expect from multilateral disarmament when they are allowed to be fully involved in the process.

"The Convention's importance goes far beyond the elimination of chemical weapons that it will initiate. It may set a precedent for the future, particularly for verification and the intrusiveness of a new international agency other than the UN for control of similar ingredients."

Second, explaining some of the above, **Parliamentarians for Global Action**, (October 1992) call the CWC:

"the most comprehensive and intrusive verification system of any global treaty in history. It includes challenge inspections, anytime, anywhere, without the right of refusal. To implement the treaty, it establishes the **Organization for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons (OPCW)**. The OPCW would be responsible for overseeing and verifying both the prohibition against producing chemical weapons and the destruction of

existing stocks.

"The implementation of the CWC will require more parliamentary action than any other arms control treaty in history. Parliaments must 1) ratify the convention, 2) enact penal legislation, 3) provide funds for a new international authority (OPCW), 4) establish a National Authority to communicate with the OPCW and 5) review relevant export controls. MPs must appropriate funds for the destruction of the stockpiles and production facilities in those states possessing chemical weapons."

How will the CWC affect

Suffield? Does it bring us closer to our dream of seeing the Suffield base used for life-enhancing, rather than military, purposes? Perhaps other concerned people besides myself would like to take that up.

Meanwhile, as far as we know, Suffield's functions continue to include secret and non-secret chemical and biological weapons research (for which it conducts periodic recruiting operations at the Chemistry Department of the University of Alberta), demonstrations of arms systems to Saudi, Kuwaiti and other weapons buyers, storage

of radioactive wastes and manoeuvres of British troops.

(If you feel outraged about the use of Suffield for weapons demonstrations, please write your MP and the Minister of Defence and ask: Why is the Canadian Department of National Defence helping and encouraging private weapons manufacturers to sell arms to the Middle East?)

*Diana Chown, a long time Edmonton VOW member, has been concerned for many years with Suffield and defence-funded research at Canadian universities.*



# Scott towels are made of this ...

By Claire Fuller

The 10,000 mostly native and Metis people of Northern Saskatchewan do not only have to struggle against Atomic Energy Canada, Ltd., uranium mining and its adverse health and environment effects. Deforestation has also moved the tree line 200 miles north of its original location and clearcutting continues to change forests into barren earth, killing wildlife habitats and plant life. Northern Saskatchewan people are resisting uranium mining and deforestation; they are also struggling against an economic system which undermines the people and a government which supports it.

Protectors of Mother Earth (P.O.M.E.), a local group of Cree women, men and children led by community elders, has built a blockade to resist further clearcutting of Crown land in their area. Last February, the people of the Canoe Lake/Meadow Lake region met with government representatives and were promised that they would be consulted before any further

cutting took place in the area. This did not happen and logging commenced in March. The elders who witnessed the devastation of clearcutting elsewhere spoke with the people. In May, unable to tolerate this violence against Mother Earth any longer, P.O.M.E. set up their blockade.

The protest has been peaceful on the part of P.O.M.E., but on June 30, the RCMP arrested 30 people, including elders and 2 pregnant women, for obstruction of a highway and intimidation. The people remained passive during the arrest. At their court appearance in October, all charges were stayed.

Local logging operations controlled by two mills, Norsask and Millar Western, have full cutting rights in the area. While the Native Tribal Council is 40% owner of Norsask, it does not have much say in logging practices. The Council bought into the mill with the support of the people and the promise of jobs. Very few jobs have resulted and, due to the clearcutting methods used, the Council no longer has community support.

P.O.M.E. has taken legal

action against the provincial government, saying that they do not follow their own laws (1) to provide the native peoples with their inherent right to hunt and fish on Crown land and (2) to conduct an Environmental Impact Assessment (E.I.A.) before logging.

The group feels that they are dealing with global issues on a local level and are in sympathy with others in Northern Saskatchewan and elsewhere who have similar struggles to protect the land and themselves from industry and government strategies. P.O.M.E. has made several demands of the government which, if met, could mean success for others. These include the cessation of all clearcutting in Northern Saskatchewan, the inclusion of local people in the decision-making process about the land, the compensation for damages to their homes and the first rights given to local people for selective logging and other traditional uses of land, such as the harvesting of wild rice. They also demand an independent E.I.A. into further forest management and wood supply prac-

tices, and a public inquiry into forestry practices.

Recently, the NDP voted by a narrow margin to end a moratorium on uranium mining in Northern Saskatchewan. Some of the people associated with P.O.M.E. believe that the clearcutting of their land is a method of laying the way for roads to the north for easier access to uranium, which is currently air-lifted out.

Because all the issues are entwined, we must support P.O.M.E. in their efforts to resist. Several local and national organizations are giving support, as are other First Nations (Ojibway, Dene and Metis). Funding is needed to provide food, clothing and supplies for the 20 to 30 people living behind the blockade and to help pay for legal fees. Because they remain non-violent in their struggle, media coverage is poor. Any publicity will also help.

Funds or supplies can be sent to the P.O.M.E., c/o Jackie at the Saskatchewan Indigenous Coalition, 824 Broadway Ave., Saskatoon, Sask., S7N 1B6. Moral support can be sent to

P.O.M.E., c/o Ruth Iron, General Delivery, Canoe Narrows, Sask., S0M 1C0, or FAX:

306-829-4294. Inform politicians that you support P.O.M.E.'s demands. The following names and numbers will help:

The Honourable Eldon Lautermilch, Sask. Minister of Natural Resources, FAX: 306-787-8747

Saskatchewan Premier Roy Romanov, FAX: 306-787-0885

The Honourable Carol Carson, Sask. Minister of the Environment, FAX: 306-787-0630

The Honourable Robert Mitchell, Minister of Indian and Metis Affairs, FAX: 306-787-0885

The Honourable Tom Siddon, Federal Minister of Indian Affairs, FAX: 819-995-1686

The Honourable Jean Charest, Federal Minister of the Environment, FAX: 819-953-3457

*Claire Fuller is a member of Women for a Just and Healthy Planet in Toronto.*



## Peace cannot exist without economic and social justice

By Linda Marcotte

Some people define peace as living without fear of a bomb exploding over their house. Others consider peace to be opening a newspaper and not seeing a word about violence, war or revolution. That **would** be great. But this kind of peace will never exist if we don't have social and economic justice.

End Legislated Poverty (ELP) is a coalition working to change laws and improve life for low income people. It defines economic justice as: full employment; a decent minimum wage; welfare rates at the poverty line; childcare services, true medicare and more public housing; and a fairer tax system to decrease the gap between the rich and the poor. Peace does not exist for homeless people living in cars who call ELP for assistance or for women working on the street because they can't live on a welfare cheque.

Peace does not exist for people refused an apartment because they're on welfare or for women who can't get jobs because they don't have access to childcare. ELP gets many calls every week from people desperate for a job, for education, for a place to live, for food. These people's lives aren't peaceful.

Poverty is a form of violence. Poor people get sick more and die younger than others. This violence against

the poor takes place in Canada. For many poor people here and in the US, joining the military is the only way to get a college education and a steady pay cheque.

In places where democracy is just a word and politicians and wealthy people refuse to share food, education and health care, poor people are forced to respond to their oppression with desperate measures.

Some people working for justice have state violence imposed on them. An anti-poverty worker from the Philippines told ELP: "We always put the priests and middle-class people in the front of our demonstrations so not too many of us get shot."

The cost of two machine gun bullets could provide a hot meal to a hungry child. One Canadian guided missile would buy lunch for a schoolful of hungry kids for five years.

**To End Legislated Poverty**, the group which began the campaign to provide school meals for hungry kids, peace is about politicians having priorities which will bring about economic justice.

*Linda Marcotte is a full-time worker with End Legislated Poverty. This article first appeared in "Peacetimes", and is re-printed here with the author's permission. If you're interested in contacting ELP, they can be reached at (604) 879-1209.*

## Book review

# Boys will be boys

By Lyn Adamson

**BOYS WILL BE BOYS: Breaking the Link between Masculinity and Violence** by Myriam Miedzian Anchor Books, 1992 \$13

This book is excellent, and so thorough that it could almost serve as a manual for the cultural transition to nonviolence. It is incredibly well written, thoroughly researched, and readable. Miedzian not only presents clearly and in detail the problems of violence in our society today, she goes much deeper, and explores the root causes of this violence, and practical, workable solutions.

This is a deeply moving book, as well. Written without agonizing self-examination, Miedzian nevertheless explains her personal reasons for interest in this area, arising from her family's experience of the irrational and tragic deaths of the Holocaust.

Miedzian presents many examples of role models - highly ordinary people who have been deeply affected by war, in particular many Vietnam Vets, who have

chosen to come back and to teach what they have learned, so that the next generation does not unthinkingly make the same mistakes.

What is harder to come to terms with is violence in the media. It is incredibly pervasive, and for reasons which Miedzian explores, most people do not question the exposure of young children to it. While we do not let children watch pornographic movies, drink liquor, or drive cars, we do routinely permit them to be exposed to massive doses of TV and video violence. Evidence shows that exposure to violence desensitizes those who watch, and makes them more prone to act violently themselves. But Miedzian does not throw up her hands. She advocates a clear, level-headed approach to the classification of violent movies, and a campaign to gain laws restricting youthful access to such movies. She shows that such laws are possible and enforceable: when the majority of citizens want them, they will be enacted.

Miedzian also advocates another level of prevention: direct involvement of children and teenagers in the care of

babies and children younger than themselves. Such programs, operational from kindergarten through high school, have proven enormously successful in the settings where they have been implemented. Miedzian argues very convincingly for their widespread adoption as quickly as possible. Benefits are felt in every part of the older children's experience: learning, self-esteem, sharing, and caring.

**Boys Will Be Boys** looks at our socialization of children as visitors from another culture would, and makes some fascinating observations. Cultural myths are systematically taken apart. Violence in sports is given a close examination. And Miedzian takes a new look at that old challenge: what to do about toys of violence.

All in all, a very important book, one that I highly recommend. It is not often that such a serious book leaves one feeling hopeful, but I, for one, feel hope, not least of which is because of the clear thinking, and courage, shown to us by Myriam Miedzian.

*Lyn Adamson is a VOW member living in Toronto*



## U.S. blockade continues

# Why Cuba needs medical aid now

It is ironic that a country with a national healthcare system so successful that the World Health Organization promoted it as a model for other countries should now be asking for medical aid. Health statistics in Cuba far surpass the rest of Latin America and rival those of highly industrialized countries. Health care is free, and accessible to all Cubans; medicine is free or very lowcost. Fully 15% of Cuba's gross national product goes to health care.

But the changes in eastern Europe and what was the USSR have had devastating repercussions for Cuba; because of the US-imposed blockade, the island nation formerly conducted 85% of its trade with eastern Europe and the Soviet Union, trade that is now gone. The suddenness of the economic changes have brought shortages in many

areas, most critically medicines. The world's largest producer of pharmaceuticals is only 90 miles away — but it won't sell Cuba even life-saving medicine.

It's clear that the U.S.'s attitude toward Cuba is unlikely to change. Earlier this year, former president Bush took steps to tighten the trade embargo against Cuba by banning third-country ships that visit Cuba from docking at U.S. ports for six months.

And the U.S. Congress also tried to restrict trade between Cuba and U.S.-owned subsidiaries based in Canada. The attempt failed; Canada blocked it, stating that the measure would infringe on Canadian sovereignty. Had it succeeded, this "New World Order" policy would also have caused further shortages for Cuban people, especially in medicine and medical supplies. It is the very old,

the very young and the sick who are most hurt by this shortage.

Cuba has responded many times to appeals for help. When Nicaragua made an international appeal for health care assistance, only Cuba responded, sending 500 additional health workers. Despite its limited resources, Cuba accepted 10,000 child victims of the Chernobyl nuclear disaster for treatment, far more than any other country. If you'd like to volunteer your time, or organizational skills and/or money to help Cuba, the Canadian Council of Churches and Friends of Cuba are raising money to buy supplies needed by Cubans. Contact Cuba Solidarity Coordinating Committee Box 407, Stn P Toronto, Ont. M5S 2S9. In the U.S. contact Peace for Cuba 2489 Mission St., #28, San Francisco, CA 94110, 415-821-7575.





# Conferences and events

**U.N. - New York NGO Special Session & Study Tour.** Plans are underway for VOW's 9th study/consultation tour to the United Nations - New York, 17-24 April, 1993. The project will have 3 components: 1) observation of the Disarmament Commission 2) participation in the NGO hosted special session (see below) 3) discussions and briefings with select U.N. Missions, Secretariat, and NGO personnel. VOW has applied for travel assistance for 10 participants from the new Cooperative Security Competition Program. Members and non-members are eligible and should apply by March 1. Please contact Janis Alton at the VOW National Office, 736 Bathurst St. Toronto M5S 2R4 for further details and an application. Final selection will involve local groups.

NGO Committee on Disarmament announces a conference tentatively titled, **New Realities: Disarmament, Peacebuilding and Global security**, to take place at the UN in April/May 1993 during the first week of the UN Disarmament Commission Meeting. For more information, write to the Committee at 777 UN Plaza, Ste. 3B, New York, N.Y., 10017 and contact your Board member. **If you are interested in going to this conference as part of the programme of a voice of Women group trip to the U.N. please contact Janis Alton at Voice of Women, 736 Bathurst St. Toronto, ON M5S 2R4 for more information.**

**International Day of Action** to stop low level military flight testing in Nitassinan on April 3, 1993. To organize an event

contact ACT for Disarmament, 736 Bathurst St. Toronto M5S 2R4.

**Anti-Nuclear Fast** on August 6-9, 1993. Focus on nuclear testing or the need for a Nuclear Weapons Convention.

**Global NGO Forum** proposed for 1993 in Britain.

**Jewish Women's Voices Past and present.** A weekend of culture, scholarship and celebration, Feb. 19-21, 1993 at the Ontario Institute for Studies in Education, 252 Bloor St. W, Toronto. Registration: \$75.00 includes Shabbat dinner & other meals, billets available. For information write to Women's Educational Resource Centre, OISE 252 Bloor St. West Toronto Ont. M5S 1V6 or call Freida Forman at 416 923-6641 Ext 2244.

**\*\*VOW Representative** and alternate needed to attend the **National Action Committee on the Status of Women (NAC) Conference and AGM, Taking Our Places: Feminism in the 90's.** Panel discussions will focus on building an inclusive, anti-racist women's movement and taking our places politically and economically. June 4-5-6, 1993, University of Saskatchewan, Saskatoon. Travel subsidy offered. Contact VOW National Office for more information. \*\*

Every year the **Manitoba End of the Decade Committee for the Forward Looking Strategies** organizes a conference under a different theme. On March 11 & 12, 1993, women will come together to discuss the issues of **Women and Poverty.** For more information call

Stella Le John at 204 989-5808 or 204 489-3531 or write to her at 879 Beaverbrook, Winnipeg, MA R3N 1P2.

**Housework and Family Care: What if it Counted? A national conference organized by the Home Managers Advocacy for March 5-7, 1993** at the University of Saskatchewan, Saskatoon, Registration: \$20 Accommodation and travel extra, billeting available. To register contact Carol Lees, Home Managers Advocacy, 2422 Hanover Ave. Saskatoon, Saskatchewan S7J1E8 Tel. 306 343-9379.

**European University Centre for Peace Studies** offers studies in peace, security, development and Conflict Resolution, March 20-June 20, 1993 and Sept. 4-Nov. 20, 1993. For more information writeto A-7461, Stadtschlaining, Austria.

The **War Resisters International** organized an International Conference in Thailand in November under the theme **"Women Overcoming Violence"**. Maggie Helwig attended from Canada and Rose Gregoire of Shesashit, Nitassinan who was to have facilitated a workshop was at the last moment unable to attend. Maggie reports that there were 170 participants with lots of women from Asia, the Pacific and Germany. There was a number of women from Africa and a handful, including herself, from the Americas. The women came up with a number of common strategies including: 1) to encourage women around the world to organize an event on November 25, the International Day against Violence against Women. 2) A statement protesting the sexual abuse of women during wartime. 3) a letter to the Thai government request-

ing changes in the prostitution law. The current situation is that it is legal for men to pay for sex but not legal for women to get paid for sex.

The conference received coverage from CNN and the Bangkok Post. War Resisters International (WRI) will carry a report of the conference in their newspaper **Peace News** and in the **WRI Women** newsletter. Subscriptions to both are available for 9 pounds by writing to WRI, 55 Dawes St. London SE17 1EL U.K.. ACT for Disarmament has recently become the Canadian Section of WRI and a fuller report of the conference appears in the current issue of the **ACTIVIST**. A yearly subscription to this monthly publication is available for \$10. They can be reached at 736 Bathurst St. Toronto, Ont. M5S 2R4.

Call for papers for the 17th annual **CRIAW** conference: **Expanding the Healing Circle**, November 12-14, 1993 St. John's Nfld. For more info. write to CRIAW Conference '93 c/o 131 LeMarchant Road, St. John's, NF A1C 2H3

**WILPF Canadian Women's Budget Project:** In honour of WILPF's 75th anniversary, they have decided to produce a document called the **Canadian Women's Budget**. The document proposes a cut in Canada's military expenditures and a redistribution of those funds into social programs that benefit women and their families. It will be a vital and valuable resource in that it will illustrate what the military really costs us. The cost of the study is projected at \$30,000 and financial contributions are encouraged. To keep in touch write to Nina Edson, WILPF Canadian Section P.O. Box 4781, Stn E, Ottawa Ont K1S 5H9.

## Peaceful Presents

Toronto Voices organized a successful alternative toy fair held at Harbourfront on December 6th. A wide variety of stalls offered everything from co-op games, to music tapes, to puppets. Mariposa performers contributed their music, and Parents for Peace provided a display for children's art for peace. CIUT aired an interview with VOW on children's toys and male violence. Thanks to Miriam May, and the other Toronto VOW members for working so hard to make this happen!

# Resources

**The Earth Chronicles** - a series of 40 radio and resource booklets about the Earth and the Canadian Environment. For more information, write: The Earth Chronicles Radio Project, P.O. Box 15, McMaster University, Hamilton, Ontario, L8S 1C0; Phone 416-628-3168 or FAX 416-570-1167.

**Transcripts of UN Forums available:** "What should Be the Disarmament and Peacemaking Agenda of the UN in a World No Longer Bi-polar?"; "The UN role in the Gulf War: Lessons Learned and a Look to the Future." For more information contact the NGO Committee on Disarmament, 777 UN Plaza, Ste. 3B, New York, N.Y., 10017.

**Guidebook for the 90s: Resources for Effecting Personal and Social Change.** This catalogue put out by Knowledge Systems of Indianapolis, IN carries some hard to get books by Hazel Henderson and others. Call 1-800-999-8517 or FAX 317-248-1503.

Another progressive publisher is **Zed Books** of 57 Caledonian Road, London N1 9BU U.K.. They publish books on the environment, development, women's studies, current affairs and economics.

**The Ethical Shopper's Guide to Canadian Supermarket Products** (\$14.95) available from Broadview Press, P.O. Box 1243, Peterborough, Ontario, K9J 7H5. Phone 705-743-8357 or FAX 705-743-8353.

**Disarmament Times**, published by the NGO Committee on Disarmament, offers consistent, comprehensive and professional coverage of disarmament matters at the United Nations. To subscribe send \$15.00 U.S. to Disarmament Times, 777 United Nations Plaza, New York, N.Y. 10017, Tel. 212 687-5340.

**Making A World of Difference:** A directory of women in Canada specializing in global issues. This directory is now available at the VOW office, 736 Bathurst St. Toronto M5S 2R4. Please add \$2.00 for postage.

**Raging Grannies Songbook** contains over 100 of the Grannies' beloved peace, environmental and anti-war songs. Also an activists' manual, this songbook includes a short history of the Grannies, as well as a guide to successful street the-

atre. \$14.95pb; \$47.95 hc. Purchase at your local bookstore.

**Women's Healthy Planet Community Report Cards.** This is an information and organizing tool for evaluating the REAL environmental and social justice health status of our Communities! Developed by The Women's Environment & Development Organization (WEDO), 845 Third Avenue, 15th Fl. New York, N.Y. 10022, USA. Tel. 212 759-7982 Fax 212 759-8647. This resource consists of a "how-to-do-it" guide and 4 report cards under the headings: Natural Environment, Political System, Social Priorities System and Human Development System. Your community group decides what areas of concern you will look at e.g. storage of nuclear and/or toxic chemical waste, use of agricultural pesticides. Then your group JUDGES how your community is dealing with the area of concern, and it decides on a score, using the grading scale given. When each area of concern has been graded, please send copies of the final report cards to use in the global women's campaign to restore Mother Earth to health.





## Canadian Branches

### National Office

736 Bathurst St.  
Toronto, Ont. M5S 2R4

### BC Voice of Women

2079 Viewlyn Dr.  
N. Vancouver, BC V7J 2W7

### Calgary Voice of Women

1717 2nd Ave. NW  
Calgary AB T2N 0G3

### Edmonton Voice of Women

10439-140th St.  
Edmonton, AB T5N 2L8

### New Brunswick Voice of Women

PO Box 24  
Fredericton NB E3B 4Y2

### Nova Scotia Voice of Women

PO Box 3231  
Halifax South PO  
Halifax, NS B3J 3H5

### Ontario Voice of Women

736 Bathurst St.  
Toronto, Ont. M5S 2R4

### Québec Voice of Women/VDF

Box 935, Station B  
Montréal, PQ H3B 3K5

## Canadian Voice of Women for Peace Voix Des Femmes Canadiennes Pour La Paix

Please renew my membership for 1993.  I would like to join.

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Tel. \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_ Postal Code \_\_\_\_\_

### New Suggested Membership: \$35, or

(\$5 to \$35)  \$30,  \$25,  \$15,  \$5,  other \_\_\_\_\_

### I want to do more!

Please contact me about how I can help in the work of Voice of Women.

I want to make an additional contribution to help further the goals of Voice of Women.

\$10     \$30     \$50     \$75     \$100     \$200  
 Other \_\_\_\_\_

Make your cheque payable to Voice of Women and send to your provincial/local VOW group. If there isn't one, send it to the VOW National Office, 736 Bathurst St. Toronto, ON M5S 2R4.