

WarResisters' International XVIII Triennial Background Paper

MILITARISM AND THE DOMINATION OF WOMEN

Jo Somerset (Britain)

Women put in over two-thirds of the world's working hours, yet are an enormously untapped resource in the work to achieve a just society. Women's strength and wisdom, and ability to think and act outside the domestic sphere, have only begun to be acknowledged in the last 20 years. The peace movement has slowly been part of this, and the WRI has supported two international women's conferences since 1976 on "Women and Nonviolence" and "Women and Militarism", as well as the production of a booklet by the Feminism and Nonviolence Study Group (1).

However, there is a long way to go. No movement will be able to change the oppressive power relations that exist in the world today without using every ounce of power that it possesses in its own ranks. We do not have armies or amassed wealth or presidential palaces. We have people, and those who have had little say in the affairs of the violent society (because they are young, black, disabled and/or female, for example) must have a lot to say in the creation of its replacement.

The world that we live in is divided unequally in many ways. The North dominates the South; rich people exploit poor people; the majority of the world's resources (health, education, wealth) fall into the hands of owners, rulers and administrators at the expense of the working class; and women receive a pittance (if anything) for the enormous amount of productive labour they contribute to the economy, whilst suffering wife-battering, widow-burning and being treated as servants, or at best as second-class citizens. This is not an accident. It is the logical outcome of the world economic and political systems (including "socialist" countries) and it relies for its existence on the denial of power to many groups of people who, in turn, are then encouraged to regard each other as enemies. (For example, in Britain, the attempts to pit white working class people against black workers have so far been largely successful, despite brave efforts to stop it.)

The system is held in place by violence, or the threat of violence, and this is the basic rotten core from which militarism has grown, managing to coerce the world's population into subjection. (Not totally successfully, since resistance keeps breaking out everywhere, but I will deal with that later.) So militarism has fostered a fear of others - other countries, other skin-colours, other languages, other body-shapes - which is completely contradictory to the will for co-operation between members of the human race. It is also very dangerous. It has wreaked death and misery upon millions of our ancestors, and is now threatening to wipe out the rest of us and our planet in one fell swoop.

Unfortunately for them, men have been "chosen" to be the perpetrators of militarism on behalf of women and children, who are supposed to be weak. In fact, that is a smoke-screen, because what is actually being protected is the territory of the ruling class, and millions of working-class men have been duped into losing their lives for that cause.

(I am not referring here to wars of liberation, which are the chosen form of resistance to highly-oppressive regimes. I know that, amongst nonviolent activists, the subject is highly controversial, and I do not propose to go into it here. However, a thought of Gandhi's has always been useful in this context: "It is better to take violent action than no action at all" [paraphrased]. As such, wars of liberation are acts of resistance and not necessarily a reinforcement of the causes of militarism.)

Men are chosen because that is the way the system works: men are the decision-makers and fighters, and women are the home-makers and carers. There is no biological reason for this - it is simply a convenient way of making half the population subordinate to the other half. This stereotyping encourages militarism and reinforces the system which created it. With the arms race accelerating so rapidly, it is more crucial than ever to reverse it so that it cannot return, by changing the values which underpin it, and not just changing the leaders. This means letting strong women flourish, and men developing the co-operative and caring side of themselves (without letting go of the strength and sense of self-worth they already possess). It means not agitating in militarist, competitive ways, and men following women's lead, even if they do not fully understand the rationale for a particular action.

Over the past five years, there has been an enormous upsurge of women in the peace movement, to which the WRI's involvement with the Feminism and Nonviolence Study Group's work had contributed significantly. In the Western world at least, thousands of women who had never thought of themselves as resisters have been moved to action because of their traditional role, specifically as carers of children. They have become convinced - rightly - that an all-female government would never allow the threat of nuclear extinction to exist. Many of these women, from this standpoint,

developed an understanding of the causes of war, and became committed to nonviolently removing them.

This is how the Greenham Common women's peace camp started and developed. To be honest, the little march of women from Cardiff in Wales to Greenham Common in England, saying they would not move until they had a televised debate with a British Minister of Defence, looked ridiculous at first. But this is what I mean by following women's lead: they knew what they wanted, and by a combination of good thinking and good luck they achieved it. Not only the debate (after a year of camping), but also inspiring a whole new wing of the peace movement internationally. There are women in other movements, too, who - once they started to resist on their own ground - begin to see the inequalities throughout society, and will approach the peace movement more sympathetically. Again in Britain, women who formed groups to support their menfolk and defend their communities in the 1984-85 miners' strike make comments like "I used to think the Greenham women were mad, but now I have a lot of respect for them" (2). This is more proof that women are ready to take power into their own hands, and once they do, the possibilities of making alliances with other movements are very real.

It is interesting that both these movements were made up solely of women, which many participants said allowed them to be bold and courageous. To put it crudely, there were no men around to take once the women had got it going (a common occurrence), so they were free to run it all themselves. Equally, the women could not fall into the trap of doing what was usually expected of them, that is, looking after the men who were doing the "important" jobs. So, often, the women had to conquer their fear and appear on television, go on speaking tours, and negotiate with police. Not surprisingly, this gave them an enormous boost of confidence as they learnt to do things in their own way. So there is a case for women organising together on their own (as is true, too, for young people, gay people, older people, etc) as well as working in mixed general groups. There are plenty of us to go around!

There have always been women playing leading parts in the peace movement, often without the recognition they deserve. It is important that these women be applauded and acknowledged as the fine leaders that they are. Also, much women's work in the past has not been visible. For example, conferences are traditionally organised by women and spoken at by men. So the men get the credit. It is time this changed, time that men took a turn at being the unknown nobodies and the big names are women. (That is difficult, if you are a man who feels you have a lot to say, but it must be done.)

Equally, there are many ways of working which women have developed which are useful to mixed groups, such as: making sure everybody's views - even those of the most timid - are heard; listening carefully to each other; sharing our own personal experiences and making general deductions from them about the political situation; never denying someone's personal experience; making sure a breadth of experience is represented and consequent actions are open to all, eg Jews, black people, disabled people, parents.

The connection between militarism and the domination of women needs to be a central thread in pacifist thought. This will help in selecting priorities for action chosen by the peace movement which, in turn, will ensure lasting change. The active participation of women at all levels is essential. We believe this Triennial conference should, therefore, instruct WRI Council to:

- * start a Women's Project which shows working for peace to be clearly in the interests of women's liberation;
- * set guidelines for women's participation in WRI as a whole;
- * support women's initiatives in the peace movement internationally; and
- * sponsor an international Women's Conference on "Women's strategies for the de-militarisation of society", bringing together women activists and theoreticians from all over the world.

These initiatives will build and strengthen the work which the WRI has already begun.

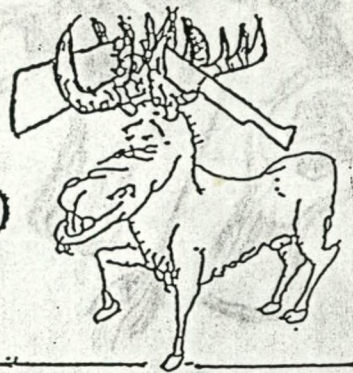
Jo Somerset
Feminism and Nonviolence Study Group, England
26 July, 1985

Notes:

1. Piecing It Together: Feminism and Nonviolence by the Feminism and Nonviolence Study Group, 1983
2. Coverage of women's role in the miners' strike, see the British women's liberation magazine, Spare Rib.

WRI XIX TRIENNIAL MARIEHAMN, ÅLAND

18.-22.6.1988



PROGRAMME FOR WRI TRIENNIAL

Saturday 18 June

- 13.00 - Participants register
- 14.00 - WRI Council meeting <Kongress>
- 17.00 - opening plenary <Kongress>
Welcome: Gunnar Jansson (Åland Peace Association) and David McReynolds (outgoing WRI chair)
Speakers: Fernando Aliaga Rojas (SERPAJ-Chile) and Anna Niedzwiecka (Wolnosc i Pokoj, Poland)
- 19.30 - Reception from Mayor <City Hall, near Kongress>
- 21.00 - Dinner and welcome party <Ungdomsgarden>

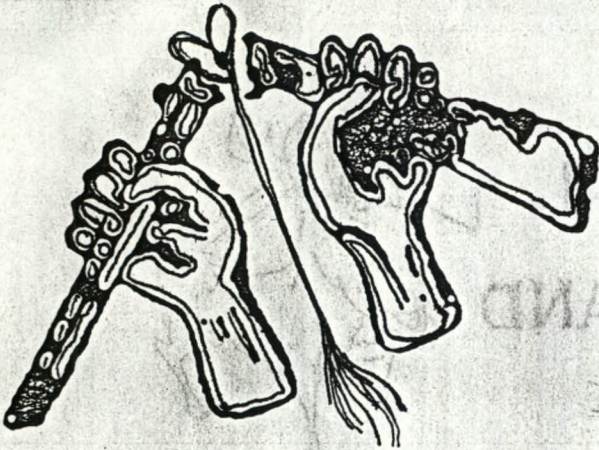
Monday 20 June

- 8.00 - Breakfast <Boarding School>
- 9.00 - Commissions <Meeting School>
- 12.30 - Lunch <Boarding School>
- 14.00 - Theme meeting: Demilitarisation
Speakers: Ingrid Bakse (People for Peace Culture, Yugoslavia); Vanessa Griffen (Fiji Anti-Nuclear Group), Peggy Moore (National Guard Clearing House, USA), Laddawan Tantivitayapitak (Coalition for Peace and Development, Thailand). <Kongress>
- 16.30 - Workshops <Meeting School, Kongress and Ungdomsgarden>
- 19.00 - Dinner <Boarding School>

Sunday 19 June

- 8.00 - Breakfast <Boarding School>
- 9.00 - Theme meeting: Organising nonviolent action <Kongress>
Speakers: Nafez Assaily (Palestine Centre for the Study of Nonviolence), Jose Blanco (AKKAPKA, the Philippines), Ana-Odalia Sena (SERPAJ-Brazil), Adele Kirsten (ECC - South Africa), plus panel discussion
- 12.30 - Lunch
- 14.00 - Workshops on nonviolence training in different cultures (including Peace Brigades International) <Meeting school>
- 18.00 - preliminary meeting of Commissions <Meeting School and Ungdomsgarden>
- 19.00 - Dinner <Boarding School>
- 21.00 - Concert <Club "Bastun">





Tuesday 21 June

- 8.00 - Breakfast <Boarding School>
- 9.00 - Commissions
- 12.30 - Lunch <Boarding School>
- 14.00 - Theme meeting: Building a Civil Society
Speakers: Tomas Mastnak (Ljubljana Peace Movement Working Group, Yugoslavia); Christine Merkel (Green Alternative European Link), Reinoud Doeschot (Netherlands) <Kongress>
- 16.30 - Workshops
- 19.00 - Dinner <Boarding School>

Wednesday 22 June

- 8.00 - Breakfast
- 9.00 - Theme meeting: Building a trans-national peace movement / the pacifist movement as a peace movement
Speakers: Ulli Beer-Bercher (FRG), Ellen Elster (Norway), Peter Jones (Australia)
- 11.15 - Commissions <Meeting School>
- 12.30 - Lunch
- 14.00 - Closing plenary of open conference
Speakers: Julio Quan (Guatemala), Narayan Desai (incoming WRI chair)
- 17.00 - Rally for Prisoners for Peace <by the bus station>
- 19.00 - Dinner
- 20.00 - Closing party

Thursday 23 June

- 8.00 - Breakfast, non-business meeting participants depart
- 9.00 - WRI business meeting <Kongress>
- 12.30 - Lunch
- 14.30 - WRI business meeting (until 18.00)

Friday 24 June - Midsummer's eve

- 8.00 - Breakfast
- 9.00 - WRI business meeting
- 12.30 - Lunch, Non-Council members depart
- 14.00 - WRI Council meeting (until 17.00)
- Midsummer's eve celebrations

Note on places:

All meals are in the Boarding School <3 on map>
Plenaries/theme meetings in the Kongress <2>

*Latin America, Sri Lanka
Pacific; Sth Africa*

*Third world definition: Economic & geographic need,
First world issue,
Who we are?*



WRI

war resisters' international



NEWSLETTER

No 210 April/May 1986 ISSN: 0085 7882

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Libya:

TERROR AND SUPER-TERROR

The Reagan administration has been spoiling for a fight with Colonel Qaddafi. It now presents its bombing raid as a "surgical strike" - a term designed to take the flesh and blood out of war, and in this case to obscure the death of people whose only "crime" was to live in Tripoli. The raid is presented as a reprisal against an international outlaw: in fact, it has benefitted Qaddafi by gaining him greater sympathy in the Arab world.

If there is conclusive evidence that Libya was behind the Berlin nightclub bombing, then the appropriate use of that evidence was to present it in West Germany and at the United Nations. Instead, the US has itself resorted to terrorist tactics. And, like other acts of terrorism, the bombing raid will breed further terror.

Any form of terrorism is horrific. Superpower terrorism carries its own appalling dangers - risks which the world will continue to run as long as the US casts itself in the role of global policeman. This time, the Soviet Union will not seek to counter the US action militarily - instead it will make propaganda out of it. But what if the US next directs its forces against Iraq, Syria or another state which supports terrorists?

It is not just peace activists who are now outraged by the arrogance of power displayed by the Reagan administration, and alarmed by the psychotic and racist irresponsibility of its actions. Despite intense US pressure, and despite the European experience of Libyan-backed terrorism, most West European states have refused

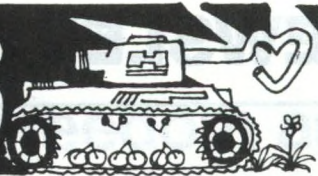
to back the US military action. Britain, indebted to the US for its support during the Falklands War, was the exception. Yet international opinion and international law have seemed helpless in the face of this escalation.

Aware that our protests have failed to restrain the drive towards war, we peace activists still protest after the event, for our work is to try to confront the criminal madness that brings the world repeatedly to the edge of crisis. Already - within a day of the bombing raid - WRI Sections have taken part in protests in Berlin, Brussels, Britain, the USA and maybe other places. Our actions may have little immediate influence. But, looking to the future, we have to change the conditions where political leaders - who, like Reagan, Thatcher and Qaddafi, gain domestic support by inflaming nationalism and hatred - treat war as an adventure.

Concretely, we have to combat the strategies of superpower militarism to project naked power around the globe. In the West, this means seeking to deny the US military facilities, such as - the ports which entertain US Navy ships and carriers; - the US airbases, notably those in Britain from which the F1-11s set flight to Libya; - the Comiso and Greenham missile bases, from which cruise missiles were dispersed in the days before the attack; - the communications facilities around the world through which the US co-ordinates its global strategy.

Reacting at a time of crisis, we can at least sound a warning about where militarism is leading.

NEWS



Belau: threats to nuclear-free constitution

On February 21, in the sixth referendum in seven years, the voters of the tiny Pacific islands of Belau went to the polls to decide whether to admit US nuclear bases. Those who favoured a "Compact of Free Association" with the US, which would admit US military bases, narrowly failed to obtain the 75% majority required to overturn Belau's nuclear-free constitution.

Lazarus Salii, the President of Belau and formerly the chief negotiator of the Compact, signed it on January 10. He argues that the Compact would not breach the Constitution's nuclear-free provisions which prohibit the "use, testing, storage, or disposal of harmful substances such as nuclear, chemical gas, or biological weapons, nuclear power plants, or waste materials therefrom". Salii envisages a Japan-style arrangement - that is, a self-deceiving "non-nuclear" policy which allows the US to "operate" warships and planes in Belau without confirming or denying the presence of nuclear weapons.

The Compact also provides for US air and naval bases and a jungle warfare training area. In addition, the US could appropriate any Belauan land it desired and prohibit Belauan actions which it deemed incompatible with US defence policy. In return, Belau would get domestic self-government and \$312 million over the first 15 years of the 50-year agreement.

The February referendum was held in a great hurry. American officials, alarmed by the uncertain future for their Philippine bases, concerned about the loss of their Panama jungle warfare training facility, and looking for bases for Trident submarines and other expansions of the Navy, wanted their Belauan options secure. The Belauan government then conducted a "public education campaign", paid for with \$325,000 from the US (\$50 per vote). Yet still the vote against the agreement was only 146 fewer than in 1984.

Questions about the validity of the 72% "ratification" and the legality of the biased "public education campaign" will now be raised in the US congress, Belauan and US courts and even at the United Nations.

Belau Pacific Centre, Box 58, Koror, Republic of Belau, 96940, Western Caroline Islands.

Pledge campaigners resist Contra-aid package

Pledge of Resistance groups are lobbying, marching and taking civil disobedience in a running battle with the Reagan administration over aid to the Nicaraguan Contras. The House of Representatives rejected the administration's \$100 million aid package on March 20, but - following the March 27 vote in the Senate in favour of the package - was due to reconsider the issue in April.

Building to a climax on April 14, Pledge organisers were hoping that there would be nonviolent actions in all 400 communities linked to the network. Calling for legal pickets and, where appropriate, civil disobedience, they urged groups not to sit in at the offices of undecided Representatives - potential "swing votes".

In Washington DC, a demonstration on April 13 was to be followed by an act of civil disobedience inside the Capitol building on April 14, where protesters planned to gather at the bust of Martin Luther King and read his "Declaration of Independence from the Vietnam War".



The Committee for Creative Nonviolence in front of the White House, March 28

Photo: Ray Pinkson/
US Guardian

On March 31, over 1500 protesters rallied at Boston's Federal Building, while inside 150 people blocked the doors of the Internal Revenue Service offices. Police arrested just three people - they were unfurling a "No Aid to the Contras" banner at on top of the City Hall nearby.

On March 28, 36 members of the Committee for Creative Nonviolence were arrested in front of the White House as 150 protesters called for more aid to the nation's poor, not to the contras.

COFFEE EMBARGO DEFIED

Three members of the Nicaraguan Friendship Project successfully defied the US embargo on Nicaraguan goods by openly carrying five cases of coffee into the US. They were arrested on March 24 for smuggling, but later released as the Nicaraguan coffee had been processed in the Netherlands.

NZ reviews non-nuclear defence

Last year the New Zealand Government set up a Defence Review Committee of Enquiry to consider the Future of New Zealand Strategic and Security Policies. Its chair was a former diplomat and secretary of Foreign Affairs, and the other three committee members were a former General, a Quaker, and an academic. The committee is holding public hearings in March and April.

Preliminary findings show that New Zealanders strongly endorse the anti-nuclear policies of the Labour Government. About 500 people responded to the enquiry. People were more inclined to

see New Zealand's place as an independent nation of the South Pacific - the idea of "collective security" and association with powerful friends was not strongly expressed, the chair said. He added it was not a matter of age either - "it is spread right across the spectrum"..

The government earlier issued a discussion on the Defence Question - copies can be obtained from the Defence Committee of Enquiry, Private Bag, Wellington. A group of peace activists from Peace Movement New Zealand also submitted a paper to the Enquiry - copies can be obtained from Peace Movement New Zealand, PO Box 9314, Wellington.

Peter D. Jones



Poland: Freedom and Peace on trial

Jacek Czaputowicz and Piotr Niemczyk, members of the Warsaw Freedom and Peace Group, were arrested on February 19. They have been charged with belonging to an illegal organisation and risk three years in jail. Both are in Radowiecka Prison, Warsaw, awaiting trial. Undeterred, on March 16, six women members of Freedom and Peace began a week-long public fast in support of the right to conscientious objection. The fast was held in Podkowa Lesna, a village outside Warsaw. A year ago this was the scene of the fast in support of jailed military oath refuser Marek Adamkiewicz which stimulated the foundation of Freedom and Peace.

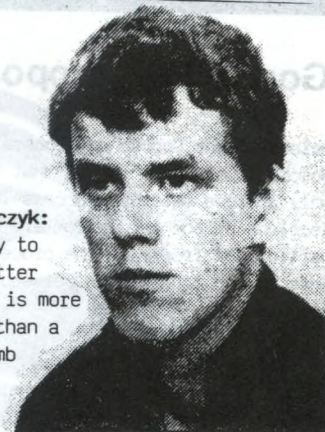
Freedom and Peace Groups now exist in 10 cities, and function openly despite this attempt to criminalise the movement. In October, 28 members publicly returned their military papers in solidarity with Adamkiewicz. Ten of the 28 have since been fined. In November, on the anniversary of the execution of Otto Schimek - a German soldier executed for refusing to fight in the Second World War - they held a commemoration at his tomb and issued their programme.

Jacek Czaputowicz, who was interned for a year after martial law, has been particularly prominent. He was interviewed at the 1985 hunger strike (see WRI Newsletter, May/June 1985) and wrote a letter to the 1985 END Convention. As well as returning his military papers in October, he was one of the first Poles to sign the Campaign for Peace and Democracy/East-West's statement condemning US intervention in Nicaragua and Soviet intervention in Afghanistan.

Piotr Niemczyk was arrested following his visit to the West, where he had been mandated to represent Freedom and Peace at the WRI Triennial - unfortunately he was defeated by visa problems (British and Indian). Interviewed for Le Journal des Objecteurs (MOC-Paris), Piotr confessed that he did not understand why the authorities had let him leave Poland as he is one of those who had returned his military papers. On his arrest, he was charged with "spreading false information in Poland and abroad", a charge which carries a maximum sentence of 5 years. (This charge has now been dropped without mention.)

Piotr Niemczyk:

A man ready to obey no matter what order is more dangerous than a neutron bomb



Send letters of protest to:
 Jozef Zyta, Prokuratura Generalna,
 ul Krkowskie Przedmiescie 25, 00-071
 Warsaw;
 Lech Domaracki, Ministerstwo Sprawiedli-
 wosci, Aleje Ujazdowskie 11, 00-950
 Warsaw;
 Jozef Cyrankiewicz, Ogolnopolski Komitet
 Pokoju (Polish Peace Committee), ul
 Rajcow 10, 00-220 Warsaw;
 the Polish embassy in your country, with
 copies to Jan Minkiewicz,
 Reguliersgracht 46", 1017 LS Amsterdam,
 Netherlands (Freedom and Peace's rep-
 resentative in the West).

MOC-Paris has produced a petition in
 solidarity with Freedom and Peace: 24
 rue Cremieux, 75012 Paris, France.



Some points from the programme of Freedom and Peace

The struggle for civil rights, for religious freedom and for national independence is the first foundation on which the movement's activities are based...

The threat of nuclear war, of militarism and militaristic education, goes unnoticed [among the people of Poland]. This we want to change, and this is the second foundation of our movement...

We want to foster knowledge that would enable people to find meaning in life and their place in the world, a knowledge based on Christian ethics, humanistic psychology, the philosophy of the East, and other trends in human thought which treat the person as a subject...

The basic tool in our struggle against evil is nonviolence. This is the most difficult but also the most just way for society to secure its rights...

[One section of the programme is devoted

to "the danger of war and the international peace movement"]

... An end must be put to the militaristic mentality, fostered both at home and in schools. Since governments are plainly ineffective in this respect, the time has come for the peoples of East and West, destined to face each other in a possible war, to act for dialogue and mutual understanding. Of particular importance for us is a rapprochement with the German people...

The Freedom and Peace movement is for the demilitarisation of Central Europe and for declaring it a nuclear-free zone. This would reduce the danger of war; in hand with this, however, should go the democratisation of countries of Eastern Europe.

In present conditions of divergence between the interests of the State and

of the nation, legally enforced military service is contrary to the demands of the people's consciences. The military oath in force in the Polish People's Army, demanding loyalty not only to the government but also to so-called 'fraternal' armies, is a matter of conscientious objection to many soldiers. The Freedom and Peace movement will demand a change to the oath...

We shall demand for every conscript the right to opt for a civilian type of national service, which does not envisage the taking of life...

We wish to co-operate with the international peace movement. Of great importance in this co-operation is a recognition of the fundamental truth that no action against war can be effective as long as there are political systems which survive by practising internal violence against their own citizens.



'Gorbachev proposals depend on people'-Moscow Trust Group

Welcoming the Gorbachev proposals, the Moscow Trust Group argues that "they can only achieve material success if all sections of the population are able to participate freely in the process of detente and in dialogue between the blocks".

In letters sent to Secretary-General Gorbachev and delegates to the Congress of the Communist Party of the Soviet Union at the beginning of February, the Group urge concrete measures "aimed at the development of trust between the ordinary citizens of different countries and blocks". These include:

- * the creation of a joint Soviet-American "Fund for Trust" deducted from the military budgets of the two countries;
- * access by people in both blocks to each other's mass media;
- * reciprocal agreements for a large-scale exchange plan for college and school students.

Finally, they call for an end to harassment of grass-roots peace activists, and in the USSR the release of two Trust group members in labour camps - Alexander Shatravka and Vladimir Brodsky.

On the very day these letters were drafted, however, the Trust Group

meeting was violently broken up and soon afterwards leading members were ordered to leave the country (see WRI Newsletter February/March). In a subsequent letter about the suppression of citizens' peace initiatives, Yuri Medvedkov suggested this allegory:

"Imagine that the authorities have promised to remove the threat of rain on a festival day by dispersing the clouds. While commending the efforts being made above them in the skies, some people, however, prefer to take no chances and bring out raincoats and umbrellas, whereupon the secret police and militia move in and take away these items - harassment of the Trust Group is equally absurd".

Latest information on members of the Trust Group:

Alexei and Olga Lusnikov, deported in February, are now living in Boston, Mass, USA;

Nikolai Khramov, told to leave the USSR, remains there;

Viktor Smirnoff was released from psychiatric hospital on March 4;

Nina Kovalenko and Irina Pankratova were released from psychiatric hospital on March 26. Nina was sent home very heavily drugged, and 17-year-old Irina had signed a statement promising to leave the group;

Annetta Fadeyeva, also 17 years old, is receiving intensive treatment which is

making her hysterical in Mental Hospital 3, Udelnaya ul. Kvorezov-Stepanov; Larissa Chukayeva has been deprived of her parental rights - her child is with her mother-in-law who is hostile to the Trust Group;



Yuri Popov: Photo Return Address Moscow

Yuri Popov was tried and sentenced to indefinite detention in Psychiatric Hospital, 215820 Smolenskaya oblast, Gorod Sychovka, uchr Ya 0-100-5; there is no further news of Dimitri Argunov, the CO who was seized in November.

Contact: Sergei Batovrin, 1793 Riverside Drive, 5B, New York NY 10034; or UK Trustbuilders, 14 Regent Square, London WC1H 8HZ.

WRL NUCLEAR TEST PROTEST



March 24 - War Resisters League sat in at the US Mission to the UN, calling on the US to reciprocate the Soviet nuclear testing moratorium. Photo: US Guardian

Norwegians found guilty of incitement

Five Norwegians were found guilty in December of inciting troops to disaffection. Two of them - both serving soldiers - were given suspended sentences of 30 days; the others were discharged. In addition, a soldier spent 20 days in military detention for possession of the leaflet.

The five had been arrested last April after distributing leaflets at a military base near Trondheim. They are revolutionary socialists who urge people to join the army and change it from within by questioning their orders, demanding greater democracy and less hierarchy within the army, and challenging Norway's membership of NATO.

The leaflet was headed Haer-werk, which can be translated as either "War-work" or "Vandalism".

One of the "fathers of the Norwegian nation", Einar Gerhardsen - who was prime minister of Norway for 20 years after the Second World War - and two other Labour leaders had been jailed under the same law back in 1924.

BROKEN RIFLE BADGES



WEAR THE SYMBOL OF RADICAL ANTI-MILITARISM

One badge - 55p plus postage
100 badges - £35 plus postage

Cash, cheques to:
WRI, 55 Dawes St, London SE17.

These badges sell well at demonstrations.



Servicio Paz y Justicia

NONVIOLENT NETWORK

The Latin American network of nonviolent groups - Servicio Paz y Justicia de America Latina (SERPAJ) - met in Lima, Peru on February 22-28. These "Continental Meetings" are held every four years. Bjorn Lindgren, from SPAAS (Sweden), who attended on behalf of WRI, reports:

Peru was chosen for the Continental Meeting because, apart from Central America, it is one of the most violent zones in Latin America. In Ayacucho, the guerilla movement - Sendero Luminoso - has been operating for some years. The disappearances and the repression from the military has been amply documented by Amnesty International. The state of emergency was first imposed in the remote province of Ayacucho but has since spread to other provinces and now to Lima.

ORGANISATIONAL CHANGES

The most important decision of the meeting was to elect a new co-ordinator. Adolfo Perez Esquivel, the Nobel Peace Prize winner, has resigned after 14 years as co-ordinator - a long and decisive period in the history of the non-violent movement in Latin America. During the repression in Argentina at the end of the '70s, he was jailed and tortured for over a year. Now, when he comes to Peru, the papers have long interviews about his position at the Continental Meeting and his views on the problem of the debt crisis. The groups connected to SERPAJ now exist in nearly every country in Latin America.

SERPAJ is quite a new organisation and is still experimenting with different models of organisation. The structure of a Co-ordinator and an Executive Secretary has been changed to a Co-ordinator and two Advisers. The decisions on the continental level between the annual meeting are taken by the Co-ordinator and the two Advisers. Creuza Maciel from Brazil has been chosen as the new Co-ordinator, having worked for four years as Executive Secretary first in Buenos Aires and now in Rio de Janeiro. Before that, she spent a year in Europe getting to know the nonviolent movement there. Her Advisers will be Luis Perez Aguirre from Uruguay and Fernando Aliaga from Chile.

Another important point of discussion was the new declaration of principles that was sent to the national groups for consideration. The final draft will be decided the next Colegiado (the annual meeting of SERPAJ).



A meeting like this leaves a lot of impressions. Daniel Ortega, President of Nicaragua, has said that "Solidarity is our first line of defence". This is true, but solidarity has to be given faces to care about.

SERPAJ-NICARAGUA

One of these faces was Isolina Romero, co-ordinator of SERPAJ-Nicaragua. She is a sociologist who has worked for SERPAJ since last year. They work very practically to reconcile the Miskito Indians and the Sandinista Government. Conscription for military service has met with hostility from parts of the population, including many Miskitos. They can have friends or relatives who are members of the Contras or who have been killed by the Sandinistas. By doing military service in Nicaragua, the Miskitos can be forced to fight their own people. Together with Quakers from Costa Rica and Peace Brigades International, SERPAJ has written a proposal for alternative service in Nicaragua that is now under discussion with the Government.

Miguel d'Escoto, the Nicaraguan Foreign Minister, is seen by people in SERPAJ as an interesting individual. He held a fast last year and now, in February 1986, a march for peace in Nicaragua. He tries to raise the consciousness of the Nicaraguan population and to appeal to the peoples of America (including the USA) and Europe. A nonviolent example.

AYACUCHO

Another face: 11.30 on the night before I go home - just two hours before the curfew began - Janneke Postma (Secretary

of SERPAJ-Europe) succeeds in arranging an interview with Leonora Zamora. She has been the mayor of Ayacucho. She told us of the struggle, and the disappearances. How the authorities are harassing them and how she was accused of fraud. She lost her position as mayor and was imprisoned for 60 days, during which time she received hundreds of cards in solidarity from Europe and the USA. "How can I permit that they take away the father of my girls, to leave me without my husband? How can I permit that, without education and food, my girls will die? How can I permit that, without work my girls, will prostitute themselves? We have to fight, that is our guideline."

In many of the countries of Latin America, the dictatorships have been replaced by fragile democracies. When the everyday struggle is not against an ever-threatening repression, there is a wakening interest in "European peace movement issues". But also in Chile, SERPAJ makes a clear connection with questions such as arms exports, nuclear power, nuclear arms and conscientious objection. In the dialogue with Latin America, Westerners have a lot to learn, not forgetting our own liberation from the oppressive structures of domination.

BJORN LINDGREN

A special edition SERPAJ-Europa's Carta Informativa in English has been dedicated to the Continental Meeting. It is available from SERPAJ, Van Imhoffplein 3, 2595 SH Den Haag, Netherlands. Please send a donation (Bank account number 542025620).



Apartheid resister faces jail

Phillip Wilkinson - a Port Elizabeth butcher - is likely to become the first political objector to be jailed in South Africa since the change of law in 1983. On February 26, the Board for Religious Objection accepted that he is a universal pacifist, but ruled that this was not on religious grounds. Although a sincere Christian, Phillip did not have adequate detailed knowledge of the Bible to satisfy the Board. Now he has been called up for April 29.

As a working-class objector, without higher education, Wilkinson does not have the options for deferment open to resisters from a more privileged background.

From the age of 16, when he had to register as a conscript, his relationship with his mother became strained. Rather than being disowned by her, he served his initial two years as a conscript.

Back in civilian life, Phillip then came into conflict with his boss for befriending his fellow storespeople, who were Black, demanding an increase in their wages and provision of safety gear. Eventually, he was forced to resign.

During this time, he also discovered the United Democratic Front (UDF). Nevertheless, when he was called up for his second "camp", he agreed to go - "under protest and feeling really bad" - as he had reached a compromise with his mother that he would obey her until he was 21.

"My experience of the army, and the racist attitude within it, backed up the validity of the feelings of the township residents. As a nonviolent person, I



felt I could not go into an institution based on violence. I believed the role of the army was to legitimise the use of

violence and to dehumanise the 'enemy'. Essentially it is a killing-machine."

As too many people had been called up to the camp, many - including Phillip - were sent home after just three days. But three months before his 21st birthday, he was called up again and reported; he served as a cook.

Phillip's next civilian job was as a butcher, again working alongside blacks who had more experience than him but were paid less. When his employer asked him to watch his colleagues and report on anything "irregular", Phillip refused and after nine months was fired.

When he was called up in June 1985 for a further camp, he appealed for exemption. "By now I knew exactly what these camps were. They meant I was being called upon by the SADF to fight in the townships against people who I had grown to know and trust." As the Religious Board has turned down his application to be considered a CO, he now faces a possible 2 years 9 months in jail (it would have been 6 years, if he had not already served in the SADF).

The End Conscription Campaign is rallying support for Phillip. Send messages of support to:
ECC, 227 Khotso House, 42 De Villiers Street, Johannesburg 2000;
and letters expressing support for Phillip and calling for a change in the law to:
General M. Malan, Ministry of Defence, Pretoria 0001.

ECC working for a just peace

On April 2, the End Conscription Campaign launched a month-long project to demonstrate alternatives to military service. In five centres around South Africa, volunteers are joining the "Working for a Just Peace" campaign in schemes which are both constructive in themselves and a protest against conscription.

The work projects aim to serve real community needs and are non-racial.

In Cape Town, volunteers are clearing the ground at two township children's homes, painting a pre-school children's centre, and building a cycle track.

White and "Coloured" schoolchildren are involved in this work and, as Paula Hathorn of Cape Town ECC says, "are being brought together for the first time in constructive work rather than over the barrel of a gun". Volunteers are also renovating Cowley House, the place where families often stay when visiting political prisoners on Robben Island.

In Durban, volunteers are clearing the site for a playground, fencing a black creche, and repainting paediatric wards.

In Johannesburg, as well as helping in a children's holiday programme and plant-

ing a garden for mentally handicapped children in two "Coloured" townships, there is a "Peace Ribbon" project initiated by a group called Concerned Women. The ribbon, which has been growing for several months, is already over 500 metres long and is made of pieces of cloth on the theme of peace in South Africa.

In Pietermaritzburg, the ECC is organising tree-planting in a project run by "resettlement" area residents (victims of forced removals). Volunteers are also engaged in renovation work at a children's home and a township toy-making workshop.



In Port Elizabeth, black creches in the townships and a home for mentally handicapped children in Uitenhage township are being renovated.

The projects have been set up in consultation with community-based organisation. "This is how a national service should be conducted", says National ECC Secretary David Shandler. "Service in the South African Defence Force or in apartheid government departments is anything but a service to the people. We are demonstrating our demand for a national service that is based on the real material needs of the South Africans".

Around the country, the ECC is organising non-racial picnics and a number of media events such as tree-planting and publicly beating a sword into a ploughshare. The campaign is to end on April 30 with rallies in Cape Town and Johannesburg, and picnics and church services elsewhere.

The South African press has given little publicity to the campaign so far, but the success of the campaign does not depend on that. The ECC has distributed its own information about activities which, by any criteria, are worthwhile in their own right.

The End Conscription Campaign, 227/9 Khotso House, 42 De Villiers St, Johannesburg 2000. Tel: 337-6796. Telex: 4-86519 SA.

(Note: ECC volunteers were not required for the construction of a maternity wing at the clinic at Crossroads, Cape Town, as enough money was raised to employ people in this area of massive unemployment.)



Dutch youth refuses SADF

Eric van Hoekelen is a Dutch national who, while living in South Africa, was conscripted into the Defence Force. He deserted when he realised the brutal and repressive nature of the SADF and, after much legal argument, was permitted to leave South Africa for the Netherlands. Here he revealed that the Dutch consulate in South Africa had been hostile and unwilling to help.

Despite its claims to be in the front rank of western countries opposed to apartheid, the Netherlands has been slow in taking active steps to discourage its nationals from serving in the apartheid armed forces.

This case provided the impetus for a conference "Dutch youth out of the South African army", organised by the Committee of South African War Resisters (COSAWR, Netherlands) and AABN (the Dutch Anti-Apartheid Movement).

A Dutch MP, Jacques Wallage, argued that it was inadequate for the Dutch Government to reduce the issue of participation in the SADF to a matter of individual choice and conscience. Instead, the government should seek positively to dissuade Dutch conscripts from serving in the SADF and SAP, and to inform them of and help them to choose alternatives. It should also take action against Dutch nationals who performed military service, often voluntarily, in defence of the racist regime.

Speaking for the African National Congress, Masipula Mbongwa opposed the manner in which Dutch nationals were permitted to hold dual nationality and so join the SADF. Dutch law has only recently been changed to permit dual nationality.

The conference noted that the Dutch Government is sending a letter to Dutch citizens in South Africa about Dutch anti-apartheid policy, and that in April and May there will be parliamentary discussions on this topic. At the same time it resolved to press the Dutch

Government to prevent Dutch citizens entering the SADF and SAP, and to work for a specific law ensuring that Dutch nationals who serve in the SADF or SAP, lose either their Dutch nationality or rights associated with it.

Contact: COSAWR UK, BM Box 2190, London WC1N 3XX, or COSAWR Netherlands, Postbus 543, Amsterdam.

South Africa CO figures up

The South African Ministry of Defence has refused to release figures on the number of men not reporting for service or refusing to do township duty. Last year, 7,589 did not report, and the Ministry claims that the ECC has "misused" this figure.

The ECC believes "it is not unlikely that there has been a great increase in the number of conscriptions not reporting for service this year. Clearly it would embarrass the SADF and the government to release figures of such a nature".



Since the inception of the Board for Religious Objectors in 1983, more than 800 men have applied. Of these, 521 have been granted full religious objector status. They are required to do service in a government department for a punitive period 50% longer than their remaining military service.

BUDDHIST DENIED CO STATUS

Dave Hartman is seeking a court order to set aside the Board's refusal to classify him as an objector. A Buddhist, they turned him down in November 1984 because his religion is not based on a belief in a Supreme Being.

The Orange Free State Supreme Court reserved judgement after hearing his application early in April. A favourable decision will not affect ethical and political objectors.

HARALD WINKLER DEFERRED

Harald Winkler, refused CO status in December, has registered as a student, thus having his call-up deferred.

Filipino fiesta of people's power

After a decade and a half of dictatorship, finally "people's power" unseated the Marcos dictatorship in the Philippines - and without a bloodbath. The US Government, which had kept Marcos in power for so long, played its part in its downfall - offering him somewhere to retreat, and apparently helping rebel forces with military information, fuel and ammunition.

Marcos has left; but the social and economic problems that blight the island remain - poverty, unemployment, inflation, landlessness. The corruption that characterised life under Marcos will not disappear overnight. Neither democracy nor a durable peace between the government and the New People's Army will be easily established. The US, with important air and naval bases in the Philippines, and the multi-national corporations show no signs of relinquishing their hold.

"People's power" now has new tasks to accomplish. But in these pages, we celebrate a remarkable experience of popular nonviolent struggle.

Civilians defend the armed forces

- two reports from the Filipino press, Monday, February 24

The weary troops manning the ramparts of revolt in Camp Crame are an extraordinary lot. Their insignia tell you they are a mixture of Marines, Rangers, Air-



A sea of unarmed people prevent Marcos loyalist troops proceeding to Camp Aguinaldo

force, Navy and Army. Most are young, between their early 20s and early 40s.

They have vowed, with their leaders Defence Minister Juan Ponce Enrile and Constabulary Chief Lt Gen Fidel Ramos, not to fire a shot until they are fired on. They do not want bloodshed, they say.

But as darkness fell yesterday, their main weapon seemed to be hope - hope that as they await response from fellow officers about the country, their stand against President Ferdinand Marcos will bring massive support from the people.

These rebels have their own personal weapons and some machine guns. But they have "no artillery" and at Camp Crame, where the rebels concentrated yesterday, there were no armoured vehicles or tanks to be seen.

And 1.5 km from the camp, about 3,000 people crushed in on two Marine tanks, whose troops were loyal to Mr Marcos, trying to move out of a sports stadium.

The crowds had blocked entrances to the camp at dusk yesterday, at dawn and through the heat of the day.

"It is", Johnny Enrile said, "probably the first time in history the civilians have defended us - the Armed Forces of the Philippines".

Marcos loyalist troops on board 80 trucks and several armoured personnel carriers tried to lay Camp Crame under

siege shortly before daybreak this morning, but only succeeded in dispersing a portion of the thousands of unarmed civilians who have been guarding the camp since Saturday.

The siege was a dismal flop, as the loyalists merely managed to throw some teargas canisters at the civilians, many of whom were led by priests and nuns who stayed put to fend off attacks by truncheon-wielding riot police.

Some 200 riot police began attacking the civilians at a little past 5am, and dispersed hundreds with tear gas as they tried to block a road leading to Camp Aguinaldo, site of the defence ministry. Aguinaldo is adjacent to Camp Crame where the Enrile-Ramos troops have been concentrated since yesterday morning.

The first line of protesters under attack were mostly priests, nuns and seminarians in their religious vestments, who bravely stayed on and barely covered their faces with handkerchiefs.

Three tanks were parked about a kilometer from the two camps. One was surrounded by about 20 young people praying, while five armed soldiers on top of the tank remained stony-faced.

At 6am, however, the tide appeared to turn, as news of more defections from the field came in. 30 members of the elite Presidential Security Command left their posts and announced they were going to join Ramos' group.

Ramos, relying on the might of some 80,000 unarmed civilians who had earlier successfully prevented several armoured personnel carriers from proceeding to Crame, said General Fabian Ver's forces will be met not with anti-tank weapons "but with the sheer and mighty strength of the people's conviction that these troops are merely obeying an illegal order of a discredited and now illegal regime".

Relief and rejoicing

Sr Maria-Aida Velasquez, of the Philippine Federation for Environmental Concern who attended the WRI Triennial in India, has written: "Alleluia! Mahubay! With Cory Aquino, there is so much hope for our people. I wish you were here to share with us the anguish and joy, especially of the past days."

From the preparations to monitor the elections, the intimidation and even



AKKAPKA - nonviolence in the long term

Jean and Hildegard Goss, of the International Fellowship of Reconciliation, arrived in the Philippines on February 5, two days before the election. Here we print extracts from their report in Reconciliation International (formerly IFoR Report). It concentrates on the contribution of AKKAPKA to the popular nonviolent struggle.

AKKAPKA was founded in July 1984 in response to the search for a third way, an alternative in the struggle against the corrupt regime of President Marcos. With the help of Mgr Claver, 30 bishops took part in a special nonviolence course that we organised for them; student leaders, intellectuals, union leaders, social workers, leaders of local movements and religious people took part in other seminars. At the end of the seminars, AKKAPKA was formed.

One and a half years later, the movement has five paid employees and 30 volunteers, who share the work of running nonviolent seminars (40 seminars were held in one year), follow-up work after the seminars, and publishing literature in English and Tagalog. Grass-roots groups of AKKAPKA are established in 30 provinces and the members of 27 base-communities meet each week in Manila.

After the national election was called, AKKAPKA established three focuses for action: the election process, civil disobedience and Tent Cities. To support the election process, AKKAPKA encouraged citizens not only to vote, but to participate in NAMFREL (the citizens' organisation to supervise the election and count the votes) and to train for non-violent behaviour in guarding the ballot boxes. Because so many predicted a "victory" for Marcos through massive fraud, AKKAPKA discussed scenarios and possible forms of nonviolent resistance.

A Tent City for fasting, prayer and training in nonviolent resistance was set up in the heart of the financial district in Manila, as well as in 10 other locations. "Our resistance is not directed against flesh and blood, but against the power of evil, the suppression, the violence, the lies, the fear, the terror. These must be cast out through prayer and fasting." The Tent cities were active from January 15 until the definite fall of Marcos on February 25.

murder of NAMFEL volunteers, the walk-out from the electoral count of some of the government's computer-operators, through the 2 million-strong march proclaiming a "victory to the country" to the climax of people's power, when civilians massed in front of the troops to prevent bloodshed, Aida reports that "this part of Philippine history is truly a religious experience for many people. Statues of the Blessed Virgin and rosaries, and Holy Masses were the weapons of the people against the tanks and fully-armed combat-ready troops".

Between February 22 and 25, "thousands of people took turns in staying in the middle of Edsa and Camps Crame and Aguinaldo, trying to prevent a blood-bath between the forces of Enrile and Ramos and those of Marcos. When Marcos issued the arrest of Enrile and Ramos, Cardinal Sin appealed to Manilans to go and show their support for the two. People power intensified and was dramatically displayed Saturday evening, Sunday, Monday and Tuesday. People came to

sit under the sun and form human barricades, to bring food, to offer water and sandwiches. One could not go hungry - there was a continuous stream of food. All of a sudden, we felt close to each other in a common desperate undertaking. Then on Tuesday evening came the news Marcos had finally left the country. What a sigh of relief! What rejoicing!"

The Church-run radio station, Radio Veritas, "kept the people together and announced where people are needed when, and what is needed" even though Marcos saboteurs destroyed its more powerful transmitter, forcing it to use weaker equipment.

"Now we face the period of rebuilding with plenty of hope and more confidence. I'm glad for our young - after all there is a better future to look forward to. And people are willing to work. It won't be easy but the resolve of our people is there. They have shown loud and clear that they want a peaceful change".



Personal peace treaties - East/West

Following the July/August WRI Newsletter's report on personal peace treaties, we at the Peaceshop Groningen received a flood of letters from all over the world. This article gives more details about the campaign and outlines its political perspectives.

Origin

We picked up the idea of personal peace treaties a few years ago in the GDR. The East Germans we spoke with found the mutual contact between people from Eastern and Western Europe very important as a beginning of detente between both parts. We agreed that both groups would strive for a real peace politics in their own countries. This agreement could be recorded in a treaty which should include an element of responsibility towards each other.

The idea of a ready-printed form, merely requiring a signature on a dotted line, was rejected all round for the issue at stake is what each personally wants to do. This is how the concept of the Personal Peace Treaty became a fact.

The framework

The Peaceshop Groningen tries to spread the idea of Personal Peace Treaties by writing and publishing folders and pamphlets, writing articles in magazines, talking about it with people, taking part in a workshop at the END Convention and organising discussion evenings. These activities have resulted in a great number of names and addresses of people who are interested. Also, it turned out that we aren't the only ones who have taken up this kind of idea. Groups in several countries are engaged in this. We try to exchange thoughts about the framework with these groups, and keep each other informed. We connect the names we have collected with people in Eastern Europe. It is a pity that it doesn't work that way over there. The authorities over there aren't as flexible in handling critical minds as we would like. This can mean that people in East European countries may be enthusiastic about the idea but are too cautious to join in. Yet there are several who do join in.

Perspective

The Peace Treaty is not a goal in itself; the personal contact is much more important. With this contact, it is a good thing to reflect on one's own role (as an individual) in reaching peace. What is the responsibility of each citizen? The governments seem to fail in their security policy, so we look for a personal basis. Are the people in Eastern Europe our enemies? Personal contact shows the opposite. There are differences in the interests of governments and citizens.

We think of two levels on which a peace treaty may have influence: the personal level and the group level.

The personal level

A peace treaty can have consequences for the individual's life and behaviour. This is evident from all the peace treaties so far concluded. They contain intentions regarding military service, attitudes towards one's own armaments

and the education of children. Because of the treaty-form, one wants to identify certain obligations and responsibilities - in the first place to one's partner.

The group level

The fact that many people do not trust government policies about peace and security should be a sign to these governments. The treaty-makers want to make this known to their governments through combined actions. One example is the combined declaration of Dutch people and East Germans against the stationing of cruise missiles in the Netherlands. Similar activities may be unfolded more often. Although governments do not yet take these treaties seriously, one (small) political party has included personal peace treaties in its platform - in the first place committing its ministers and members of parliament themselves to conclude treaties.

Concluding peace treaties on a large scale and making it public has the effect that many people announce that they want to take responsibility for peace. Detente clearly has to come from that basis.

Johan Koops, Vredeswinkel Groningen, PO Box 1667, 9701 BR Groningen.

GENEVA MONITOR

Geneva Monitor is a new publication which reports on developments at the United Nations Conference on Disarmament in Geneva. The introductory edition reports on events in March. Several issues a year will be produced. It is available on subscription from the International Peace Bureau, Rue de Zurich 41, CH-1201 Geneva.

The IPB has appointed Rainer Santi, formerly international secretary of the Swedish Peace and Arbitration Society, as its new General Secretary.



WRI WOODEN BADGES

Orders for the WRI toy soldier badge (he is breaking a rifle) are exceeding all expectations. People campaigning against war toys seem especially keen.

WRI also has another new wooden badge - a flower growing out of a helmet.

For orders of 10 or more, these wooden badges cost 70p each (plus post). We do not charge post on orders of 50 or more.

TAX RESISTANCE



Our war tax resistance is based on several facts and beliefs.

First, we don't want to support war and the ever-increasing military budget with our taxes. We wouldn't go to war or serve in the army, and we don't want to pay others to do it for us. 240 billion DM are being set aside for the military between now and 1995. The USA and FRG have signed contracts agreeing to an offensive military strategy. The military is being strengthened in order to be able to wage a war.

War tax resistance is also a basic right. Our constitution guarantees freedom of belief and conscience, along with the right to life and physical security. The use of taxes for life-threatening arms production causes the death of thousands of people from hunger and disease, every day. This is a daily violation of this human right.



FORMS OF WTR

Several different methods of wtr are practised in the FRG. They are:

a) 5.72 DM boycott action - 5.72 DM is a symbolic amount: each pfennig stands for one of the 572 cruise and Pershing II missiles deployed in or planned for Europe. 5.72 DM can be resisted from every kind of tax - motor vehicle, income, recreational, property, some sales taxes, etc.

This action can be a first step for many people who want to risk the consequences of resistance, which also means being willing to deal with the penalties and other collection measures taken by the Revenue Office.

ENTWAFFNET EURE STEUERN!

in W Germany:

Disarm your taxes !

b) Taxes and Ploughshares. Basing itself on the premise that Christianity expresses itself through following Jesus independently of human-made laws, the "Taxes to Ploughshares" movement addresses Church employees and officials and Church organisations. Up to now the Church, as an employer, has paid taxes without any resistance, and has therefore paid for arms. This shows the discrepancy between what the Church says and does on this issue. Individuals have asked their bishop or Church administration to withhold the portion of their taxes that goes to the military. But generally the question is pushed aside for "official" reasons. "Taxes to Ploughshares" wants to organise all dioceses and free Churches with 30-40 employees to bring their wishes publicly to the Church.

We believe that the Church as well as the individual must follow Christ's example if it is to remain true to its mission and not be tied to human-made laws.

c) a symbolic form of protest, and risk-free, is to file a form along with your income taxes requesting that the portion allocated to the military be used for other purposes instead. No official form for this exists yet, but revenue officials are required to read and reply to every tax return.

d) Taxpayers who pay their own income tax can resist directly the percentage allocated to the military (in 1986 this will be 28%). This amount can be deposited in the national Peace Tax Fund, and in case of seizure by the Revenue Office the money will be refunded (without interest).

e) A bill to set up a legally recognised Peace Fund has been drafted. This would demonstrate that a legal alternative to paying war taxes can exist, analogous to civilian service instead of military service. Tax resisters would then be able to pay the full amount of the taxes they owe. The Green Party wants to bring this bill before the Bundestag (Parliament) in 1986. People are supporting them by sending letters and petitions to members of the Bundestag.

f) There are also other ways of decreasing individual participation in funding armaments. These include:

- * decreasing the amount of your taxable income through tax-free donations (donate to peace organisations!);
- * using part of your time for peace work instead of earning money - this reduces your income and therefore your taxes. This also promotes a responsible life-style.
- * Banks are often involved in the arms business, and money in savings accounts is at their disposal. Examine your bank's connections and consider alternatives, such as the Okobank (ecological bank).



BIG BAGS OF RICE

A group in Essen did an action to get the media to take the Peace Tax Campaign seriously. First they bought five hundredweight of brown rice with money from withheld taxes. They put the rice into bags and labelled it with the names and addresses of war tax resisters throughout the country, and the amounts they had resisted. Then they delivered it to the Revenue Office, where it was immediately rejected with the message that the office is "only administrative" and "not responsible for political judgments".

That afternoon they performed street theatre with music in the city centre, and handed out information on the "Boycott-Aktion 5.72 DM". This provoked lively discussion and some encouragement. A representative of the Green Party/Alternative List was at the closing rally. As expected, none of the 11 elected officials who had been invited showed up (two had excused themselves).

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TAX RESISTANCE

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The group now tried to give the rice to their elected representative. But the janitor was the only person there, and he was surly: "Get out of here with that rice or I'll throw it into the incinerator!" But in the end things didn't turn out so badly: in January Essen City Council decided to give the rice to the Oberhausen Peace Village.

MARY-LOU BOELCKE
of Ohne Rüstung Leben

For further information:

Ohne Rüstung Leben, Kornbergstr. 32,
7000 Stuttgart 1. Tel: (0711) 22 18 91
or 29 33 88.

Kriegssteuerboykottkampagne, c/o Hans-
Jürgen Mosbach, Gellertstr. 14, 5000
Köln 60.

WTR CONFERENCE

Ohne Rüstung Leben ("Living without weapons"), an ecumenical action group for peace and justice, is organising an international conference on wtr together with the West German Peace Initiative. It will be in Tübingen from 18 to 21 September 1986. Groups from over 20 countries have already registered. Contact: Ohne Rüstung Leben (above).

BRITISH TAX RESISTER JAILED

Arthur Windsor, a retired librarian, was jailed for 3 weeks in March for refusing to pay £100 tax after the Inland Revenue had refused to send the money to the national health service or a development organisation. He is the first CO to be imprisoned in Britain since the end of conscription in the 1960s. Two other members of the Peace Tax Campaign have been threatened with prison unless they pay all their taxes.

Nonviolent warriors

DIDERICH LUND

Diderich Lund, one-time President of FMK - the Norwegian Section of the WRI - died earlier this year at the age of 90. An activist in the nonviolent resistance to the German occupation of Norway, he wrote a WRI pamphlet on the subject. He argued that military resistance in Norway had strengthened Hitler's hand, whereas engaging from the outset in nonviolent struggle would have increased the effectiveness of the resistance.

US NON-CO-OPERATION

In a new move to bring people already involved in the struggle to stop and reverse the nuclear arms race into the wtr movement, four war tax resisters in the US have launched a "Declaration of Non-co-operation with the nuclear arms race". People are being asked to sign, saying that they agree to: "refuse to pay that portion of my federal income taxes" which is used for testing, producing and deploying nuclear weapons and related systems.

Contact: Declaration, PO Box 1014,
Northampton, MA 01061, USA.

COMPUTER GAME PAYS PEACE TAX

Keith Ollett in Britain has devised a computer game called "Holdfast" in which, using the many and varied techniques of nonviolence, you have to try to persuade the government to build a school and a clinic in your village. The game has been given a "three-star" rating by Britain's best-selling computer magazine. Keith is giving the Peace Tax Campaign a share in the profits.

As well as being a good game to play at home, "Holdfast" is an attractive crowd-puller (and fund-raiser) at events where you have a peace tax stall and electricity. All you need then is a copy of the game, a home computer and a monitor. Versions of the game exist for the Spectrum 48K, Amstrad CPC64, Sharp MZ700 and MSX series.

Game available from: Kuma Computers
Ltd., Unit 12, Horseshoe Road,
Pangbourne, Berks, Britain. Cost: £5.95.

JACQUES DE BOLLARDIERE

Jacques de Bollardiere, the French general who became a nonviolent activist, died on February 22 at the age of 78.

An advocate of nonviolent defence, Bollardiere helped launch the Mouvement pour une Alternative Nonviolente. As well as supporting the Larzac struggle against the expansion of the military camp, Bollardiere was one of the French group who sailed to Mururoa against the 1973 French tests.

MEETING INTERNATIONAL NEEDS

As war resisters, we seek to pay attention to the real needs of the Third World. We condemn the arms exports to nations where millions of people are dying from lack of basic necessities. We have learnt it is more important to send tools for growth than money or even direct material aid.

But why don't members and Sections approach the WRI's under-development with the same understanding of our need? In our case we need money. Our tools are our members, our objectives vast, but our projects realistic.

The WRI has a large circle of members and friends throughout the world, yet we rely on the generosity of a few to sustain us. The gap between basic necessities and income is widening dangerously. We have to double our income this year or curtail our international programme.

When an increasing number of war resisters are relying on our work, this is not the time to cut down on our programme. We want to fulfil the expectations of our older members as well as the new friends gained at the Triennial.

Next month an Appeal will be sent to several thousand individuals throughout the world and hopefully will then be circulated by Sections to all their own members. If all our members allocated even a small proportion of their income to international work, we could meet our budget.

So... please be ready next month to respond enthusiastically.

Myrtle Solomon

New WRI news-sheet

THE BROKEN RIFLE - LE FUSIL BRISE - DAS ZERBROCHENE GEWEHR

is a new news-sheet being produced by the WRI in English, French and German. It will be produced in the months between the WRI Newsletter and will contain urgent information.

Individuals are invited to subscribe for £2 (or the equivalent) a year. Cheques to WRI, 55 Dawes Street, London SE17 or to WRI Giro Account No 582520.4004.



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