

After an exhausting ride up a mountainous dirt road, we stopped to meet our guides. Armed Pao soldiers stepped out from behind trees to guard the truck while we were led up another trail to an indigenous village of some 73 families. The villagers had fled from the Burmese military, who capture indigenous people and force them to serve as porters. Few people survive — porters are routinely chained and beaten, given a handful of rice per day for food and forced to carry fifty kilos or more of ammunition and weapons for the military. Some of the villagers built and then abandoned their homes seven times in one year.

Next to the village was a school where four Burmese students were teaching about forty village children. The teachers, all in their late teens or early twenties, belonged to the faction of exiled Burmese students who have joined the indigenous people in armed struggle. Another student faction, based in Bangkok, has taken up nonviolent struggle, and requested books on nonviolence and training. The students in the jungle were teaching the village children (in the children's own languages) basic hygiene, arithmetic, English and Burmese. The ethnic groups living along the Burma border believe in education. In May of 1990, with help from the Burma Project of Thailand, the Federal University was opened. It is the only institution of higher education open in Burma today, as SLORC closed all universities after the 1988 pro-democracy uprising. The Federal University can only accommodate 52 students; all of the students are ethnic minorities.

The mountains around the village were beautiful, but they are soaked in blood. War lords with private armies fight for the opium trade here, while over 11 indigenous groups fight for their way of life. The Burmese military government fights to control the rich teak forests, which they are rapidly destroying in exchange for much-needed foreign currency, and the gem mines.

Listening to the children singing their ABCs, I wondered what their future will be. The Burmese government is facing increasing censure from the international community for its human rights abuses and its policy of deforestation. But it has powerful allies. The Thai government, eager to make an agreement with SLORC authorities about exploring southern Burma for natural gas, imposes heavy fines and jail sentences on anyone from ethnic minorities who crosses the border. The Japanese are buying teak as fast as the forests can be cut down. China is supplying tanks and airplanes — airplanes which will, it is expected, be used to attack the Federal University soon.

It is encouraging to notice among many Burmese the confidence that SLORC will be forced to hand over power within two or three years. The courage of Burma's Buddhists monks, who refuse to assist funerals

or weddings of military families and even refuse food offered by soldiers during the monks' daily alms round, is helping to bring this change about. This religious boycott of the army is undermining military morale in this deeply religious country.

Yet while SLORC's end is inevitable, a question remains: when it goes down, how many innocent people will it take with them? And what will be the response of the world community? What can I do to make sure the children of Burma will have a future?

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Shelley Anderson edits *Reconciliation International*, the International Fellowship of Reconciliation magazine.

## A Better Life for Children in Bolivia

by Lee Rea

Children have been the primary concern of Serpaj-Bolivia since it began. In 1985, Serpaj studied the slum neighborhood of Villa Pedro Domingo Murillo, in El Alto, and found out that the largest age group were children under 12. Working with the Sisters of Charity, who lived there, and with the late Father Dominique Barbé, Serpaj began its Education for Peace and Human Rights program with these children. Since 1988 Serpaj-Bolivia has also worked with the 104 children in the experimental school of Colegio San Andrés, where the subject of human rights has been integrated into the formal school program. Jacqueline Butrón, a sociology student, was appointed by Serpaj for this work.

In order to raise the issue of street children, the students (all 11 and 12-years-olds) use *Teatro Popular* (sociodramas), drawings, news bulletins and other materials at a festival celebrating Children's Day. Jacqueline had given the students some material on street children previously, and the children worked three months on the sociodrama before putting it on for the whole school. Their sociodrama, "Victor Hugo and the Street," told the story of a 10-year-old motherless boy who is beaten by his alcoholic father. The boy finds a job on a bus calling out destinations (a necessity for Bolivia's many illiterates). He meets two older boys who are very kind to him and who offer him something that will make him feel good and bring in more money than he has ever had before — drugs. The students managed to give the story a happy ending — Victor reunited with his father, who now has a job and who gives him love and care.

Another subject discussed in class is Bolivia's external debt and its impact on the daily lives of children and their families. The children discuss their families: do both parents work? Do you know how much money



they make? What are some of the difficulties faced by the family? Next they learn about how much Bolivia owes, where it all began and the national budget. For example, how much does the government give towards education, health and housing in relation to paying off the interest on the debt, and on defense? The children learn that the allotment for education is considerably less and that there are one million children in Bolivia who do not go to school. Again, everything the children learn about the debt crisis is reproduced in the form of pamphlets, drawings, sociodramas and news bulletins, so they can share it with other schoolmates, their families and others in the community.

Last year Serpaj-Bolivia held its Second Annual Kite Flying Contest. This resulted from a discussion several years ago about war toys and the perpetuation of traditional games. Each child could attach a peace message to her/his kite and send it off. The contest was held in El Alto and in La Paz and drew some 300 children. We had a group of teen-age volunteers on the spot to help children make the kites. Prizes were given for the highest kite, the most attractive kite, and to children who made peace messages. Some of the messages were: "Children's Rights Mean Peace", "Say No to Drugs, Yes to Life", "Schools for All the Children of Bolivia" and, of course, Serpaj's motto: "Peace is the Fruit of Justice." The kite-flying contest is now part of Serpaj's campaign against war toys. We hope to eventually revive other traditional games.

Drawing is also used, as it is a valuable tool through which children can express themselves freely about what they feel in an atmosphere where there is no coercion or authoritarianism. In Villa Pedro Domingo Murillo, for example, when a group leader said, "Draw me your favorite human right," some children respond with "The Right to Housing" or "The House I Would Like to Have." In an area where the majority of the 400,000 inhabitants get their water from a corner spigot, children drew a house and yard exactly like the one they lived in, but with a big difference; a spigot occupied a prominent place in the yard. This was their dream of a better dwelling — not running water (unknown to many), but a spigot in their own yard!

Discussion, reading, participation, reproducing information from "research" and "studies", from theory about *educacion popular* plus knowledge of their own homes, communities, cities and country — all of these elements are being used for our overall objective — nonviolent action to bring about lasting social change and a better life for all of Bolivia's children.

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## Peace For Children at War

by Dorothea E. Woods

In the 1980s much attention was given by international organizations to strengthening the international standards for the protection of children in wartime. With the adoption of the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child in 1989, the recruitment of children under 15 by the armed forces was forbidden, as in the international protocols on humanitarian law of 1977.

In the 1990s some organizations will continue to encourage governments to ratify the international conventions and protocols. Others will concentrate on ways to raise the minimum age of recruitment to more than 15. For why should a minor who cannot vote have to bear the even heavier responsibility of going to war?

As Martin Macpherson of the Quaker Office at the United Nations in Geneva told the UN Commission on Human Rights last year, some of us believe that one of the best ways to counter the use of children in war is to speed up the peacemaking which takes away the occasion for war and the misuse of children in war. The number of child soldiers was cut in half in 1988 when the cease-fire was signed between Iran and Iraq, and the *basij* (volunteers from the disinherited) were demobilized. The negotiations which brought Namibia to independence ended one of the longest colonial wars and allowed exiled school-boy soldiers to go home. They were now free to take up the political action which had been so hampered by South Africa that the boys had resorted to arms. When the struggle between the Contras and the Sandinistas ground to a halt in Nicaragua, the child soldiers of the Contras were demobilized along with their elders; the conscription of youth ceased and with it the forced recruitment of many boys under 17, and the newly elected government re-examined measures for demilitarizing the 12- to 15-year-olds in the paramilitary defense schemes in both urban and rural areas.

Now with children participating in at least 22 regional wars (Afghanistan, Angola, Burma, Cambodia, Chad, Columbia, El Salvador, Eritrea, Guatemala, Kurdistan, Kuwait, Lebanon, Liberia, Mozambique, Palestine, Peru, Philippines, Somalia, Sri Lanka, Sudan, Uganda and the Western Sahara), it is worthwhile to look at the peacemaking process in countries like Cambodia, El Salvador and Eritrea, to see how peacemakers might intervene to change the child soldiers' destiny.

Children have been fighting in the Cambodian wars since 1970. In Lon Nol's republican army, they were better fighters than the "phantom soldiers" who appeared on payroll lists to increase salary payments and



food allotments to certain units. But when one contingent was shipped to Vietnam for training, the Australian commander refused to prepare such small children for war, thus setting an example of how foreign military advisers can play a role in the enforcing of international humanitarian standards. When the Khmer Rouge entered Phnom Penh in 1975, child soldiers were used to police Pol Pot's revolution. The orders they executed were cruel ones, as all who have seen the film *The Killing Fields* can testify. From 1979 to 1989 in the war against the Vietnamese occupation, all three Resistance movements accepted children in their ranks. The Khmer Rouge often took them forcibly from refugee border camps and made them serve as porters on the trek inland. Son Sann had trained war orphans as pre-cadets and when they grew a little older, they became part of his army. The Vietnamese army included some under-aged boys of mixed blood (boys of Vietnamese mothers and fathers from the foreign troops in Vietnam) who had been rejected by their families and had to depend on charitable institutions or to fend for survival in different street occupations. The Cambodian government rounded up boys from the orphanages and sometimes from schools and work places, usually outside the showplace capital. In the last phase of the war after the Vietnamese retreat, the Resistance armies have all taken boys from the conquered villages; and as shown in Gilles de Maistre's film, *I am Twelve and I am at War* (1990), many of the boys do not even know why they are fighting. The government continues to train boys under 15.

None of the belligerents have respected international protocols; indeed, the governments involved have never ratified them. The Resistance forces are not given international recognition along the lines accorded to the PLO and so do not feel bound by international norms. Therefore, the most promising way to end the use of children in Cambodian wars would seem to be to speed up the peacemaking machinery. The great powers have come to agreements in principle in the UN Security Council; the Chinese and the USA are stopping the flow of arms to the Khmer Rouge and the other resistance movements. The Southeast Asia Treaty Organization has held a series of negotiating meetings. The French government has hosted peace talks. The Australians have championed a political solution through the UN. Those who want to call attention to the fate of several generations of child soldiers in Cambodia have a host of the peace-minded to influence.

The civil war in El Salvador has been going on all during the 1980s. The US government has poured economic and military aid into the country, both during the Christian Democrat administration and during the administrations of the more right-wing parties. The rebel movements have received arms through the Nicaraguans from Cuba and the USSR. From the be-

ginning political and Christian youth have been attracted to the various liberation movements which make up the Farabundo Marti Liberation Front (FMLF). While they have been trained to defend the liberated areas, in general they have not served at the military front until they were 15. In 1983-1984 one of the movements kidnapped village youth but soon discovered that captives do not make good liberators, though they may be all right as porters. Again in 1989, reports indicated that the liberation movements were impressing village boys, perhaps in preparation for their attack on the capital.

It has been the Salvadorean government which has taken boys under the conscription age of 18. In what amounts to a "poverty draft", army recruiters pick up youths in the streets and send them for army duty. Usually their training is sufficient and they are well armed and clothed. El Salvador has ratified the 1977 protocol and the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child, so it is not living up to its obligations. A Christian Youth Center has been set up to try to get legislative protection for youth and a better system of conscription. Friends (Quakers) have supplied the UN Human Rights Center with fact sheets on the use of child soldiers in El Salvador, but unlike the case of Iran, the UN has not chosen to condemn the use of child soldiers in El Salvador. Numerous peace groups have attempted to change the course of US foreign policy. Other peace groups have supported the Central American peace process, sent medical aid to the war zones, and sent study teams to visit El Salvador.

The Eritrean-Ethiopian war is still going on. In general the Eritrean Liberation movements have trained youth under 18 but have not sent those under 15 to the battle front. In the last three years the Ethiopian government's misuse of children in war has been scandalous. There is no draft system as in Europe and the USA: rural associations and urban dwellers' associations are given quotas to fill for the military. With wars on all fronts, this system has not satisfied manpower needs, and Colonel Mengistu's army recruiters have taken boys from soccer fields, cinema queues, school doors and work places. They have been shipped off with barely any training and often with no modern guns. At the front in Eritrea, they have been taken prisoner by the thousands. Because the Ethiopian government did not want to admit its failures in Eritrea, these prisoners officially did not exist, and the Red Cross could not provide schooling, only food and blankets. As a result of peace talks in 1989, all of the prisoners were allowed to go home, except the officers, but the boys risked being forced into military service again. The USSR has told the Ethiopians that shipments of arms and advisers will diminish; Cuba has refused to intervene in a war of liberation. Iraq is expected to cut arms shipments to the Eritreans. The Geneva Friends (Quakers) have written to Jimmy Carter, one of the negotiators, to alert him to



the fate of the child soldiers and the child prisoners of war. Others may wish to get in touch with Daniel Arap Moi, another of the peacemaking team.

These three examples illustrate what is happening to children at war. They also indicate a resolve by peacemaking forces not to overlook the world's child soldiers. The anxieties of the world may now be tied up in the Gulf Crisis, but a will to intervene in ending some two dozen regional wars will not only spare the child warriors but build up experience in conflict resolution, a worthwhile goal for the rest of the century.

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## FOR Medical Aid for Iraq Seized by US Customs

The attempt by the Fellowship of Reconciliation/USA to send medical supplies to Iraq via Jordan failed when US Customs officers at Kennedy Airport, New York, seized an estimated \$180,000 of aid packages, including vaccines packed in ice. Beth Stevens, a lawyer for the Center for Constitutional Rights in New York, commented, "The US government is taking a hard and not just illegal but immoral position on medical supplies." The UN embargo on food aid to Iraq was lifted on 24 March; there was never a medicine embargo.

## Gulf Peace Team Relief Convoys Getting Through

Since the end of the war, the Gulf Peace Team has sent four convoys of medical supplies from Amman to Baghdad. UN food sanctions against Iraq may have been lifted but, asks London coordinator Ginnie Landon, "who will pay for the food to get into Iraq?" As warmer weather approaches, the risk of epidemics increases while civilians injured during the war still require urgent medical care. Gulf Team support groups around the world are therefore raising funds and collecting medical supplies to take into Iraq. They hope to send a regular convoy from Amman every week or 10 days. In May, an overland British-Dutch-German convoy is planned.

On Good Friday, March 29, 30-40 Gulf Peace Team volunteers plus local supporters plan to begin a peace walk from Amman, Jordan, to occupied East Jerusalem. The peace walk reflects the Gulf Team's belief that "genuine and lasting peace in this region cannot be

achieved without a just solution to the Palestinian question." It will call for "a concerted effort by the international community to achieve peace and justice in the Middle East through nonviolent means." Planned activities include singing, planting trees, fasting, holding vigils. "Our passage through military occupied zones will be silent." On arrival in East Jerusalem, the plan is to found an international peace community.

## Pope Wants to Visit Jerusalem to Promote Mid East Peace

Pope John Paul II said in Rome March 6 that he hopes to visit Jerusalem, when circumstances permit, to join with Jews and Moslems to launching a drive for peace. The Pope urged all the religious communities of the Middle East to overcome their divisions, exacerbated in recent months by the war in the Gulf. His appeal was announced in the presence of the seven Patriarchs of the Oriental Christian community and bishops from western countries directly involved in the Gulf crisis who were in Rome for a special three-day conference on the Middle East. "I very much hope that circumstances will allow me to one day go on a pilgrimage to Jerusalem to launch a message of peace along with Jewish, Christian and Moslem believers," the Pope declared.

Pilgrims present at the weekly public audience at the Vatican heard the Pope speak of the "injustice reigning" in Lebanon, tensions in divided Cyprus, the plight of the Kurds and the "antagonism between Palestinians and Israelis" which he said appeared to be "irreducible". "The injustice of which the Palestinian people has become a victim demands a commitment by all, and above all by leaders of all countries," he said. He said the Vatican intended to step up diplomatic efforts to promote peace and justice in the region.

The Pope, the Patriarchs, bishops and the pilgrims then joined in prayers for the thousands of civilians and soldiers killed in the Gulf War. Turning to the "death, destruction and extremely serious damages done to the economy and the environment" by the Gulf War, Pope John Paul voiced the hope that Kuwait, Iraq and neighboring countries will not only rebuild their countries but also strive for loyal cooperation among themselves and with the international community.

## Geneva Convention to Protect Environment in War?

Following the devastating use of the environment as a weapon of war in the Gulf, Greenpeace is calling for a



new Geneva Convention to ensure the environment is accorded international legal protection.

As a first step, Greenpeace is organizing a round table conference, likely to be held in London June 3, which will include international law and war studies experts from the London School of Economics and the Center for Defence Studies, University of London.

A "Fifth Geneva Convention" would apply to all types of armed conflicts; outlaw the use of the environment as a weapon; severely curtail incidental environmental damage through military force; and outlaw environmental impacts on third party states, on international waters and the atmosphere.

According to Dr. Gerd Leipold of Greenpeace, international law provides little protection for the environment in times of war. While the four current Geneva Conventions aimed to secure a minimum of human values in war time, the environment was accorded minimal protection, he said. International lawyer Dr. Glen Plant of the London School of Economics said although some legal provisions existed which purported to protect the environment in war time, these frequently put the threshold of environmental protection too high or allowed for broad exceptions.

"They are further weakened by the fact that some major military powers have not adhered to them all," he said. "The Gulf War has highlighted the totally unacceptable environmental consequences of war. A fifth Geneva Convention would at least go some way to outlawing deliberate acts of military aggression against the environment in future."

## Arab and Jewish Children Build Bridges in Israel

Due to segregated schools, there are few opportunities for Jewish and Arab youth in Israel to meet each other, but Children Teaching Children (CTC) is working to bridge the gap by bringing together Arab and Jewish children to learn about each others' language and culture.

Now in its fourth year, Children Teaching Children is the only cross-cultural project operating within the Israeli school system. Supported by specially trained teachers and field supervisors, seventh, eighth and ninth graders meet in pairs or groups of four every other week for two hours, with Jewish children teaching Arab students Hebrew and Arab children teaching Jewish students Arabic. The children also meet to discuss their experiences, anxieties, cultural stereotypes, and emerging feeling of empathy and friendship. CTC now in-

volves 1,440 students in 36 classes in 18 Jewish and Arab schools around the country.

The Givat Haviva Institute, founded in 1949, is the largest and oldest organization working for Jewish-Arab rapprochement in Israel. Over 40,000 Jews and Arabs visit the Institute each year for classes, workshops and conflict-resolution sessions on anti-racism and cultural pluralism in Israel. The work of the Givat Haviva Institute is supported in the US by Givat Haviva Educational Foundation (27 W. 20 St, Suite 902, New York, NY, USA; tel: +1.212: 255.2992; fax 627.1287).

## Release of Nusseibeh Sought

Sari Nusseibeh, a Palestinian intellectual who has a record as a "man of peace" in the Israeli Occupied Territories, was arrested and placed under administrative detention without trial on January 30, 1991. He was accused of transmitting sensitive information to the Iraqis, which he denies.

A professor of philosophy at Bir Zeit University on the West Bank and a believer in nonviolence, he was one of the first Palestinians to enter into dialogue with Israeli authorities to find a peaceful solution to the Palestinian-Israeli conflict.

An International Committee for the Release of Sari Nusseibeh is urging that peace and human rights groups appeal on Nusseibeh's behalf to the Government of Israel, the US State Department and White House, and the international media. (ICRSN, Box 39127, Friendship Station NW, Washington, DC 20016 USA)

## Five Monks Arrested in Tibet

Five monks were arrested in Lhasa, Tibet, after staging a pro-independence demonstration despite elaborate attempts by the authorities to prevent protests, according to a tourist who reached Hong Kong from Lhasa March 20. The monks, all said to be in their twenties, were detained by People's Armed Police at 3 pm on Sunday, March 17, after they had managed to walk around the Barkor, the circular pilgrimage route that runs around the central Cathedral in Lhasa and the scene of almost all political demonstrations in the Tibetan capital. Reports from Lhasa say that by the time the police arrived to arrest the monks crowds had begun to gather around the monks and were shouting slogans in praise of the exiled Tibetan leader, the Dalai Lama, who was in London at the time.

The three main monasteries near Lhasa were sealed off by the People's Armed Police for the first ten days of



March in order to prevent monks from reaching the city center. One monk, shot in the groin March 2 during an apparent attempt to run away, has now been named by Tibetan sources in Lhasa as Ngawang Thubten, aged 19, from Drepung Monastery.

The demonstration suggests that extensive Chinese attempts to weed out all nationalist sympathizers from the monasteries have failed. A protracted re-education campaign was launched by the regional authorities in October 1989 to identify politically active monks and nuns, and in April 1990 up to 300 were expelled from their monasteries and either imprisoned or confined to their home villages.

The Barkor, a series of alleyways, has been completely dug up after the Chinese authorities ordered it to be excavated by bulldozers on March 2nd. The large-scale road-works are seen by Tibetans as an attempt to deter Tibetans from staging demonstrations during March, an especially sensitive period which includes the anniversaries of major demonstrations in March 1988 and 1989, as well as the anniversary of a national uprising on March 10th 1959.

There have been no reports of demonstrations in the city since the beginning of this year, although major poster campaigns by pro-independence groups have increased in frequency. Hundreds of posters are said to have appeared on walls or stones inside monasteries near Lhasa since the Tibetan New Year on February 15th, and at least two monks were arrested by police for putting them up.

The authorities announced in October last year that "stability had been achieved" in Lhasa, because there had been no major demonstrations during the autumn, and they will be relieved that Sunday's protest did not escalate into a major incident. But in an important revelation in London yesterday, the Dalai Lama announced for the first time that he has been advising Tibetans inside Tibet not to stage any public demonstrations.

The Lama said that he considered it too dangerous for them to hold even peaceful protests, noting that the Chinese are liable to shoot protestors.

"Under such circumstances I am compelled to advise Tibetans that now public demonstration in groups is very dangerous. Now for us if one single Tibetan is killed it is a big loss," the Tibetan leader told journalists in London.

His statement suggests that the recent absence of street protests may not reflect any change of heart by Tibetans but a response to the Lama's advice and their own fears of police retaliation.

## Buddhist Peace Meeting in Bangkok

The third annual conference of the International Network of Engaged Buddhists (INEB) took place near Bangkok, Thailand, February 21-28. Over 50 activists from Sri Lanka, Indonesia, Japan, Singapore, India, Bangladesh and many other parts of the world attended. The nonviolent activists proved with their own lives that neither Buddhism nor nonviolence equal passivity.

**In Burma**, many Buddhists — monks, women, students and workers — are struggling for an end to the military regime in Rangoon. In this deeply religious country, where every male is expected at least once in his life to study as a monk, monks are conducting a rapidly growing boycott. They are refusing to accept food during their daily alms round from soldiers or to attend weddings, funerals and other traditional ceremonies of military members and their families.

**In Sri Lanka**, Buddhist monks are helping 2,500 women factory workers in Moratuwa who have been locked out by management because of their fight for better working conditions, in addition to working for reconciliation between Sinhalese and Tamils.

**In Nepal**, peace activists are pushing for an amendment to the new constitution which would make Nepal a secular state, and not a Hindu state.

**In Japan**, Buddhists are pressuring their government to stop aid to the Burmese military regime, and are helping Thai women who are shipped to Japan and forced to work as prostitutes.

Participants stressed the need for educational materials and nonviolence training. These are particularly needed by Cambodian Buddhists, who face increasing violence in refugee camps and the challenge of reconstructing their country. (International Network of Engaged Buddhists, Santi Pracha Dhamma Institute, 117 Fuangnakohn Road, opposite Wat Rajabopit, Bangkok 10200, Thailand; fax: +66.2: 222.5188 or 222.7783.)

## Violent Films Banned in Bangladesh

Violent films produced both outside and within Bangladesh have been banned as of January, 1991, according to a report in *Bichitra*, a weekly magazine. Especially targeted are martial arts "kung-fu" films which are mass-produced in Far Eastern cities and have flooded the video market in Bangladesh. The *Bichitra* report claims that these films not only excite violence among young people but also influence the content of films made within the country.



## PBI Arrests in Guatemala

On March 11-12, Guatemalan police killed a woman as they threw tear gas grenades and opened fire to expel 200 peasants who occupying the Olga Maria farm in Tiquisate, Escuintla. Three members of Peace Brigades International, who were observing the occupation, were arrested and released to their respective embassies. They have since left the country, although the PBI team maintains its presence in Guatemala City.

## Greenpeace Launches Solo

Greenpeace has added a new ship to its fleet: the "Solo," to be assigned to the North Sea. Launched March 5, the Solo is 67 meters long, 14 meters wide, and is powered by two 4,000 horsepower engines. A former Dutch tugboat, Solo was modified and equipped with a helicopter deck, an animal hospital, a laboratory, a darkroom and an exhibition room. The Solo's first assignment will be in Dunkerque, France, to protest the transport of nuclear waste on ships not built for that purpose. Containers of spent nuclear fuel from European power stations are loaded on roll-on, roll-off ferries in Dunkerque, sent to Dover, England, and from Dover to the Sellafield reprocessing plant in Cumbria.

## Plowshares Action in Sweden

On March 1, three Plowshares activists entered the Swedish Ordnance armaments factory in Eskilstuna where they disarmed with hammers two Carl-Gustaf grenade-throwers and one AK5 automatic rifle. Swedish Ordnance is a major producer of Swedish weapons, the largest part of its production being for export. The Carl-Gustaf grenade-thrower is distributed world-wide and was extensively used in the Gulf War. The three activists, Stefan Falk, Anders Grip and Per Hengren, call themselves Arms Factory Plowshares. They walked directly into the factory with the morning shift's workers. Their act of disarmament was met by workers, guards and later the police, calmly and without violence. The three were put under arrest, charged with unlawful entry and property damage, and later released, pending trial. (Arms Factory Plowshares, c/o Stefan Falk, Katarina Bang 19, S-11625 Stockholm, Sweden)

On March 2, to the accompaniment of song, theater, and a ground-breaking ceremony at the factory fence, four more activists climbed over the fences and were seized by guards.

The next day, others of the group were stopped by police while attempting to climb the fences.

## German Plowshares Activist Jailed

Heike Huschauer of Neuß, Germany, coordinator of the *Initiative Frieden am Golf* (Initiative for Peace in the Gulf) which sent peace groups to Baghdad and cooperated with the Gulf Peace Team, was sentenced to 101 days in prison beginning March 4 for her earlier participation in German Plowshares actions. She pleaded for postponement of the sentence in order to continue her coordination efforts but was refused. Supporters claim that this refusal is in line with current German government policy, which is blaming the peace movement for Germany's image as a critic of the Allied involvement in the war with Iraq.

## First Nuclear Test of 1991

The first nuclear explosion of 1991, an underground test in Nevada, occurred March 8 at 1:03 pm PST. It was the 708th nuclear test since 1945 and the 503th since the 1963 Partial Test Ban Treaty.

## US Government Concedes to Sanctuary Movement

Settling a five-year-old lawsuit, the US government has agreed to stop deporting undocumented Salvadoreans and Guatemalans, halt reprisals against sanctuary churches, and adopt new procedures for political asylum. The agreement ends a decade of action against the refugees and the sanctuaries that sheltered them. The government agreed to set new hearings for some 150,000 asylum requests that had been denied or are pending and will also provide \$200,000 to work with some eighty religious and refugee groups to help locate refugees who may be eligible for asylum. The government had been charged with violating the Refugee Act of 1980, barring political considerations in granting political asylum. The suit maintained that the refugees had a "well-founded fear of prosecution" in their countries but that the "federal government was unwilling to admit this was the case because such an admission would suggest that the US was aiding governments that violate human rights." [*Fellowship*]

## Soldiers Who Said No

During the Gulf War, the Pentagon claimed that only 214 applications for conscientious objector discharges were filed during 1990. The Pentagon now admits that over 2500 US soldiers filed for conscientious objector discharges.



## Methodist CO Facing Trial in South Africa

While South Africa's apartheid legislation is being dismantled, "whites only" conscription remains in force. The latest objector to be charged with refusing to serve in South African Defence Force is Alan Story, a 22-year-old Methodist probationer minister.

As a Christian pacifist, Story would easily qualify as a "religious objector," but he refuses to recognize the Board for Religious Objection as it will not grant CO status to those who have not religious but moral and political objections. He is due to appear before Johannesburg Magistrates April 15. (End Conscription Campaign, PO Box 537, Kengray 2100, South Africa; tel: +27.11: 836.8423, fax: 834.3189)

## Greek War Objectors

During the Gulf War, 40 Greek soldiers plus seven others who had completed their military service returned all their military documents and announced a position of non-cooperation with the military.

Greece has no legal provision for objectors — instead there is an offer which nobody has accepted for religious objectors to do four years unarmed military service instead of the normal two years armed military service. Greek COs are pressing the government to fulfil the promise made under the previous PASOK government to legalize conscientious objection. (Greek Committee for Conscientious Objectors, Solomou 27, 10682 Athens, Greece; tel: Spiros Psichas, +30.1: 360.2773)

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## The West's Forgotten Arab Roots

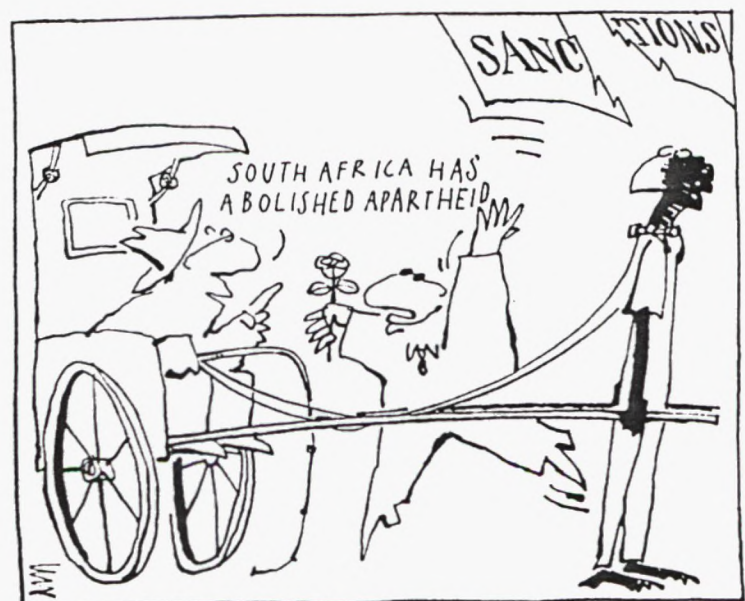
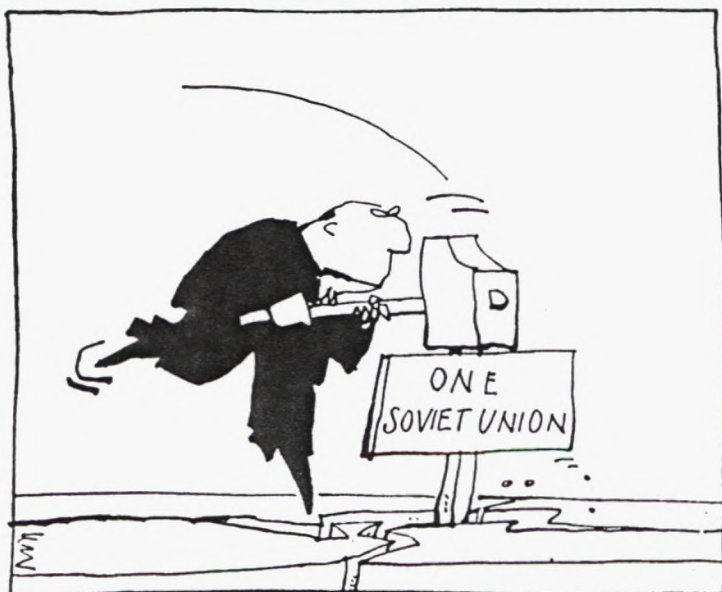
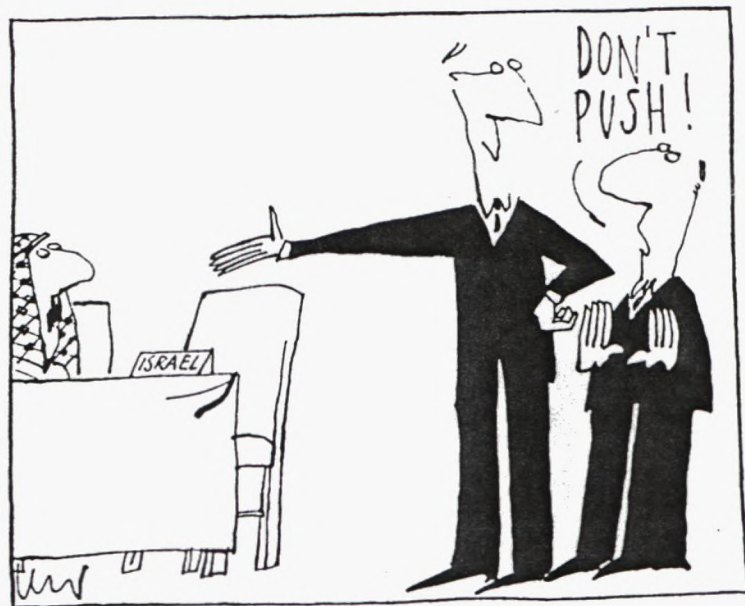
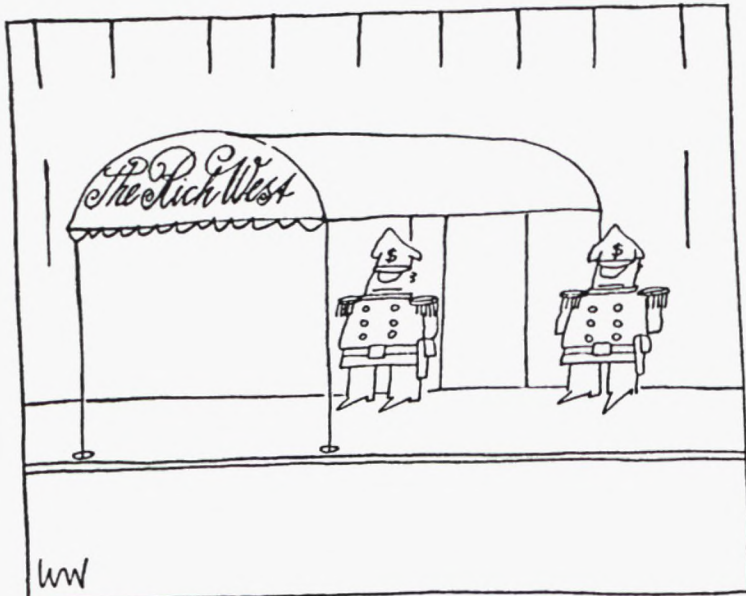
I often wish to make a TV film about the Arabs in Britain standing in Trafalgar Square. I think it would shock any Western audience to its foundations. I would point out that the name of the square was Arab; that the checks passing through the banks around the square were named from an Arabic word and from Arab commercial innovation, and the numbers on them Arabic; that the drains running under the square had been developed in Baghdad and Cordova at a time when every city in Europe were squelching nightmares of refuse; that the key stars in the heavens above Trafalgar Square are still called by the names given to them by Arab astronomers who discovered them at Arab observatories; that the techniques of navigation used by Nelson to reach the place called Trafalgar were first refined and codified by Arab navigators; that Nelson's very title, Admiral, is an Arabic word; that the water flowing out of the fountains beneath his statue is pure because of a science of chemistry and chemical analysis first properly organized by Arabs; that every time some learned lecturer in nearby museums or university halls refers to "our Greek heritage," he means "our Greek heritage as preserved, codified, interpreted, enriched and then handed on to us by the Arabs;" that the very disciplines of arithmetic, algebra and trigonometry with which it was possible for Englishmen to construct a square called Trafalgar were acquired by their ancestors from the Arabs; and that the very health of the citizens of London who today walk through this square that is a symbol of Western civilization owes its origin to Arab medical scientists like al-Razi who died in 923, and Ibn Sina, the author of the medical bible of the West for centuries. Finally, when Englishmen think of the very concept of organized history, when students buy texts of sociology in bookshops just beyond this famous square with an Arabic name, they are unknowingly bearing witness to the work of one Arab historian, Ibn Khaldun.

— Erskine Childers, writing in the jubilee volume of the Netherlands-Arabia Association 1955-1966, E.J. Brill, Leiden 1966



LEN MUNNIK

*Free & Easy*, a collection of Len Munnik's drawings, is issued by Marshall Pickering in Britain. His drawings are published by the Dutch daily, *Trouw*. Use of his drawings is free to non-commercial subscribers. Credit: *Len Munnik/Peace Media Service*.







PARLIAMENT OF AUSTRALIA · THE SENATE

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1990

THE PARLIAMENT OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF AUSTRALIA

THE SENATE

(Presented and read a first time, 7 November 1990)

(SENATOR VALLENTINE)

## A BILL

for  
An Act relating to conscientious objection to  
certain Defence service

BE IT ENACTED by the Queen, and the Senate and the House of Representatives of the Commonwealth of Australia, as follows:

### Short title

1. This Act may be cited as the *Defence (Conscientious Objection) Act 1990*.

### 5 Commencement

2. This Act commences on the day on which it receives the Royal Assent.

### Member of Defence Force not to be guilty of offence in certain cases

3. (1) If:

- 10
- (a) a member of the Defence Force is or is to be assigned to active service in a particular armed conflict; and
  - (b) the member's conscientious beliefs do not allow the member to serve in that conflict;





the member is not to be required to serve in that conflict, and the member is not guilty of an offence or of a breach of discipline merely because the member refuses to serve in that conflict.

(2) A decision by a person as to whether or not subsection (1) applies to a member of the Defence Force is not a decision to which paragraph (a) or (b) of Schedule 2 to the *Administrative Decisions (Judicial Review) Act 1977* applies.

5



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**DEFENCE (CONSCIENTIOUS  
OBJECTION) BILL 1990**

Motion (by Senator Vallentine) agreed to:

That the following Bill be introduced: a Bill for an Act relating to conscientious objection to certain Defence service.

Motion (by Senator Vallentine) agreed to:

That the Bill may proceed without formalities and be now read a first time.

Bill read a first time.

**Second Reading**

Senator VALLENTINE (Western Australia) (10.52)—I move:

That this Bill be now read a second time.

I seek leave to have the second reading speech incorporated in *Hansard*.

Leave granted.

*The speech read as follows—*

An earlier version of this Bill was drawn up by Senator Michael Tate—An Act to amend the Defence Act 1982—relating to conscientious objector status for conscripts to the Australian Defence Force. It was considered by the Senate Standing Committee on Conscientious and Legal Affairs in 1985, since when it has apparently dropped into a legislative black hole.

However the Bill I am presenting today is an entirely new piece of legislation and not an attempt to amend any other Act.

Following the experience of the Vietnam War, there was an urgent need to clarify the status of conscientious objectors to conscripted military service and to put into legislation some ruling on their rights for future reference.

I doubt if many honourable senators will object to this procedure apart from those who believe that no-one should be exempt from compulsory military service as with young men in Israel, Iraq or China, for example.

However, since the time of Vietnam there has been an increasing tendency for young men who have joined the military as volunteers to feel that while they are prepared to fight and die to defend their country, they are not prepared to go and fight in some other country's war.

Recent examples include resisters to the Vietnam War, who included conscripts in Australia's case, the British resisters in Northern Ireland, white resisters in South Africa sent to Angola, Namibia and the Black townships in South Africa itself, and now resisters to the Gulf deployment.

We should also remember the 120 Iraqi officers who were shot on 3 August for refusing to take part in the invasion of Kuwait.

There are those senators who would argue that sending troops to the Gulf involves the defence of Australia in a wider sense but I want to question this for a couple of reasons.

First of all, it was the Prime Minister who volunteered to send ships to join the US blockade. The UN certainly did not invite us to join and there was obviously no direct threat to Australia.

In fact it was a very selective choice because there have been other examples of invasion and occupation in the last decade which the world, including Australia, chose to ignore.

I refer, for example, to Soviet interventionism during the Brezhnev era, to French intervention in Africa to prop up discredited dictators, to US interventionism in Grenada and Panama, and the Indonesian invasion of East Timor.

The hypocrisy of this selective choice for national outrage, extending even to a military response, is staggering.

Secondly, if you consider the Dibb Report and the 1987 Defence White Paper which outlined Australia's area of defence interest, the Gulf falls clearly outside the region delineated.

It is therefore not surprising that Terry Jones and other sailors chose to question their orders to go to the Gulf, just as a number of US military personnel have chosen to ask the same questions.

The Navy might say that this is a matter of discipline but I would rather commend such individuals for making considered decisions rather than for blind obedience to orders.

If we are to have a volunteer army, the military will have to face increasing numbers of young men and young women who will say that while they are prepared to defend their country, they are not prepared to go off to the Gulf or other parts of the world because of some foreign policy dictate that is dangerously reminiscent of the days of the Boer War, Gallipoli and Vietnam.

It was only this April, on the occasion of the 75th commemoration of the ANZAC sacrifice, that Mr Hawke said that this country would not be sending any more young Australians off to die on a foreign shore but that is what might happen in the Gulf, if war breaks out.

We may choose to support the US blockade for what some Australians would consider very good reasons, but those who agree with the decision to send the ships must ask themselves why the Australian Government, with the support of the Opposition, chose to support this military action and did not intervene, say, when Iraq invaded Iran in 1980?

And why, in 1975, did the Australian Government remain silent when Indonesia invaded East Timor? This omission, in our region, was, and



remains, unpardonable. We refused to lift even a diplomatic finger to challenge the Indonesian occupation of sovereign territory.

This Bill seeks to take note of this changing situation and thus ensure that military personnel who have a selective objection to a particular war beyond our shores, have the right to opt out of a particular operation.

The Bill applies to volunteers as well as conscripts, should the question of conscription arise again in future.

The nature of the military has changed markedly in the last generation.

In Europe, where there are still largely conscript armies, there are now trade unions for soldiers.

Alternative service for conscientious objectors is now widely recognised, at least in most of Europe.

In the United States, conscientious objector status has been available to military service volunteers and not just conscripts since 1962 but only if they became absolute pacifists after entry to military service.

An average of about 1,000 men and women per year have a change of heart after enlistment and apply for conscientious objector status. Conscientious objectors discharged from the military are not permitted to re-enlist, but retain their rights to any post-service benefits to which they would otherwise be entitled. They are granted honourable discharges, and no penalty is attached to their stand.

The nature of war has also changed in recent times. Only 15 per cent of the 130 or so wars fought since 1945 have consisted of one country invading another.

It is therefore hardly surprising that there are service personnel who, while prepared to defend their country from attack, are not prepared to participate in operations that are an extension of foreign policy rather than to counter an attack on national sovereignty.

Obviously for the sake of army morale, it is preferable to have troops who accept what they are told to do, rather than to face internal resentment, as the United States military did in Vietnam or the Soviet Union faced in Afghanistan from 1979 or in Czechoslovakia in 1968. Another unacceptable alternative is open dissent within the ranks during operations.

From the military point of view surely it is better to have a clear-cut way of dealing with dissenters, rather than having discontent festering within the ranks and infecting other service personnel.

It is for these reasons that I choose to introduce this Bill, because I feel that we must recognise the conscientious right of thoughtful individuals who question military operations which do not involve a direct threat to their country.

It is not a question of lack of discipline. It is an issue of selective objection. It will not undermine the Australian Defence Force because I doubt if many serving military personnel will feel the need to avail themselves of it, but we should recognise the right of those who choose to do so.

A hypothetical example from our multi-racial society might include a young Moslem heading for the Gulf who decides that he cannot in all conscience take part in a war against his co-religionists.

This Bill would give the RAN and other branches of the ADF the opportunity to clarify their positions regarding objectors. It was particularly odious to former Leading Seaman Terry Jones to hear the Minister for Defence, Senator Ray, claim that deployment to the Gulf was voluntary. This was not the case in his experience.

As his defence lawyer, Michael Adams QC, pointed out, the Navy had some responsibility for Jones's decision to go AWOL as there had been a flaw in Navy leadership.

The Navy should have made it clear that he could apply to be transferred out of the Gulf task force.

Had the Commanding Officer of HMAS *Adelaide* been aware of what Leading Seaman Jones had said, it would have been sensible for him to have arranged a transfer.

The Australian Defence Force has a responsibility to make it clear to ADF personnel whether a particular task force is for volunteers or not and to tell those personnel the criteria on which they could be transferred.

In his testament to the military tribunal Michael Adams QC claimed that none of this occurred.

It is also important to understand that such a decision would not be taken lightly. It was an emotionally expensive exercise as Terry Jones found.

Neither was it a matter of cowardice, but clearly one of conscience, as he stated at the time:

I am prepared to die to defend my country but not to protect United States oil lines. The largest insult I felt personally in the whole affair was turning on the television last Tuesday night and seeing Mr Bush on the international media refusing to discuss what negotiations were going on (over Iraq) while he was on holidays.

Up until this point I had no intention of jumping ship but after seeing one of the parties responsible for it all on holidays playing golf while committing thousands of young lives, including those of Australians—it was enough for me to decide not to be part of the killing, knowing that I might have killed innocent people for nothing.

I am not a coward and I would be prepared to die for my country but I am taking a political stand because this is not our war—we are just following the Americans.

I believe that most would not choose to in a situation where which they had never British going to the who went to Vietnam

But I am concerned who do have a conscientive objection and it you to support this B

Debate (on mo adjourned.

## EUROPE RECONSTRUCTION DEVELOPMENT

Bill received from representatives.

Motion (by Sen That this Bill may and be now read a f

Bill read a first

Seco

Senator COO Minister for (10.53)—I move:

That this Bill be I seek leave to speech incorpora

Leave granted.

The speech rea

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This momentous cl mous potential be ment of Europe, improvements in t countries involved encourage further r around the world autocratic political tems.

At a meeting of European Commu ember last year, principle to establ Bank to assist in opment of Centra



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I believe that most serving military personnel would not choose to question their orders, even in a situation where they are going to a place which they had never heard of before, like the British going to the Falklands or the Americans who went to Vietnam.

But I am concerned about the small minority who do have a conscientious objection or a selective objection and it is for their sake that I ask you to support this Bill.

Debate (on motion by Senator Cook) adjourned.

### EUROPEAN BANK FOR RECONSTRUCTION AND DEVELOPMENT BILL 1990

Bill received from the House of Representatives.

Motion (by Senator Cook) agreed to:

That this Bill may proceed without formalities and be now read a first time.

Bill read a first time.

#### Second Reading

Senator COOK (Western Australia—Minister for Industrial Relations) (10.53)—I move:

That this Bill be now read a second time.

I seek leave to have the second reading speech incorporated in *Hansard*.

Leave granted.

*The speech read as follows—*

One of the most dramatic developments in the history of the second half of the twentieth century has been the recent rejection by the countries of Central and Eastern Europe of the communist political and economic system. In rapid succession, and within an astonishingly short period, the countries of this region have set off on a new course based on the adoption of parliamentary democracy, political pluralism and more market oriented economies.

This momentous change in direction brings enormous potential benefits for the future development of Europe, for global peace and for improvements in the lives of the citizens of the countries involved. By its example it should also encourage further reform in many other countries around the world that are currently subject to autocratic political and centralised economic systems.

At a meeting of heads of Government of the European Community held in Strasbourg in December last year, an agreement was reached in principle to establish, as soon as possible, a new Bank to assist in the reconstruction and development of Central and Eastern Europe.

Preparatory work began immediately, with participation by not only European countries, but also a number of others from outside the region, including the United States, Japan, Canada, the republic of Korea, Australia and New Zealand. After intensive effort, on the twenty-ninth of May last, forty-two prospective members, including Australia, signed the articles of agreement to found a new European Bank for Reconstruction and Development to be located in London.

Under the agreement, the purpose of the Bank is to foster the transition towards open market oriented economies and to promote private and entrepreneurial initiative in Central and Eastern European countries committed to and applying the principles of multiparty democracy, pluralism and market economics. The Bank will assist recipient member countries to implement structural and sectoral economic reforms, including demonopolisation, decentralisation and privatisation, to help their economies become fully integrated into the international economy. The bulk of the Bank's activities will be directed to the private sector and to assist the privatisation of state-owned enterprises: the articles provide that not more than 40per cent of the Bank's financing shall be provided to the State sector.

Membership of the Bank is open to European countries, other countries that are members of the International Monetary Fund, the European Community and the European Investment Bank. In recognition of its European character, a majority of the capital will be held by the European Community members and institutions as a financial institution, the Bank will be able to invest in recipient countries in a variety of ways. It will be able to take a direct equity stake in private enterprises and in state-owned enterprises that are operating competitively or in transition to private ownership and control. It will also facilitate access by such enterprises to domestic and international capital markets and, where other means of financing are not appropriate, underwrite the issue of securities. This sort of operation carries greater risk than straightforward lending: careful assessment and management of operations will therefore be essential.

The Bank will also make loans to enterprises either on its own account or through cofinancing with multilateral institutions, commercial Banks and other sources. It will also provide technical assistance for the reconstruction and development of infrastructure, including environmental programs necessary for private sector development.

The Bank will not lend to Governments to support programs of economic adjustment, such as to finance balance of payments deficits. This will remain the preserve of the International Monetary Fund and the World Bank, both of which are of course already very active in assistance for Central and Eastern European Countries. An-



World Peace Council's  
**PEACE NEWS  
BULLETIN**

No. 14/90

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**Dateline: 20 August 1990**

**Editor's note to all who have suggested an exchange of their publications with PNB:** in order to cut out mailing costs for extra letters, let me reply through this PNB issue that your request to exchange your publication with the PNB is most welcome. We shall keep you on our mailing list while in turn receiving your publication. Thank you in advance!  
Tobias Damjanov, editor, PNB

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## Campaigns & actions

### WPC Appeal concerning the Iraqi invasion of Kuwait

Own source

On August 3, the WPC President and the WPC Executive Secretary issued the following Appeal:

The World Peace Council appeals to Iraq and all other military forces in the Middle East and Gulf regions to immediately observe the international norms of conduct between nations, as outlined in the United Nations Charter, and halt all further military escalation and withdraw all Iraqi troops from Kuwait.

Only dialogue and negotiations and not confrontation and violence can pave the way for the resolution of disputes in the interest of the Arab peoples, their cooperation, solidarity and unity; in the interest of peace and security in the region and the world.

We call on the peace movements in Iraq and Kuwait, on the peace movements in the Arab region and around the world to exercise their influence to secure the conditions for a peaceful resolution of the conflict, for restoring and reinforcing peace and security in the area.

Please note that various WPC member organizations, including the Iraqi Organization of Friendship, Peace & Solidarity, have adopted statements concerning the current situation in Middle East. These statements are available from the WPC Liaison Office in Helsinki.

\* \* \* \* \*

### The Peace Curtain - a proposal to help peace

Source: Open Letter by Nuclear Free America to the people of Europe and their elected representatives, July 19, 1990

Nuclear Free America, the US-based clearinghouse and resource centre for nuclear free zones, has launched a proposal for building a Peace Curtain based on the following appeal:

Inspired by the revolutions for peace and freedom of 1989, and a subsequent reduction in European military tension, humanity has a unique opportunity to build a better world in this decade to 2000. Working together let us build a "Peace Curtain" to reconcile the long, sad memory of the Iron Curtain.

Nine European nations: Austria, Denmark, the Faroe Islands, Finland, Iceland, Malta, Spain, Sweden, and Switzerland, as well as thirteen other world nations, have already declared themselves free of nuclear weapons for all time.

As all nuclear and chemical weapons are removed from the former Iron Curtain countries by the Soviet Union, America and NATO should remove all nuclear and chemical weapons from West Germany.

These simultaneous withdrawals will:

- 1) Create a curtain of peace



and freedom which is 3,800 km long and 1,500 km wide, and spans the continent of Europe. As Bulgaria, Czechoslovakia, Germany, Hungary, Poland and Romania rebuild for the future, each new government can help create this nuclear weapon-free zone between the military superpowers.

2) Allow all fifteen countries to join in creating the world's first biological and chemical weapon-free zone, helping to prevent these weapons from becoming tomorrow's terror.

3) Speed the arrival of a true Peace Dividend. This buffer zone will encourage further reduction of nuclear and conventional forces in Europe. It will allow our resources to be used for human and environmental priorities.

4) Help peaceful collective security arrangements to evolve in Europe as the nuclear and military threats subside. Political, social and economic cooperation will be based on peace and trust.

**\* ADDRESSES:**

- a) Nuclear Free America, 325 East 25th St., Baltimore MD 21218, USA; Tel.: (1-301) 235 3575, Fax: (1-301) 235 5457, e-mail: PeaceNet: nfa
- b) Copies of the appeal to be signed can be obtained from: Frank Rasler MD, 1122 Capital Club, Atlanta, GA 30319, USA; Tel.: (1-404) 237 6916

\* \* \* \* \*

**International Week of Science and Peace**

Source: Arzte ./. Atomkrieg (magazine of the IPPNW FRG section) No. 32/June 1990

The International Week of Science and Peace (IWOSP) is a world-wide annual action week which takes place during the week (Monday-Sunday) within which November 11 falls, i.e. this year from 5-11 November. Modelled on a privately organized peace week which took place in the years 1986-1988, IWOSP was established in 1988 by UN General Assembly Resolution 43/61 "Science and Peace".

The International Coordinating Committee (ICC) of IWOSP, a voluntary group, aims at assisting the UN in organizing the action week. Individuals and organizations from all walks of life are invited to participate in the IWOSP.

**\* ADDRESS:** Dr. Tibor Varga, Chairman, IWOSP-ICC 1990, Varasanyi ut. 17, 1027 Budapest, Hungary; Tel.: (36-1) 112 6807 or 115 6840, Fax: (36-1) 166 6016 att: Dr. Varga, Tlx: 224283 ousz h c/o Prof. Susan Hollan.

\* \* \* \* \*



## Arms & disarmament

### Some background information related to the Iraqi invasion of Kuwait

Sources: The Times (British daily), 7 August 1990; SIPRI Fact Sheet on Military Expenditure and Iraqi Arms Imports; Der Spiegel (FRG weekly), 13 and 20 August 1990

#### **(1) MILITARY STRENGTH OF IRAQI'S NEIGHBOURING COUNTRIES AND IRAQ**

##### Iraq:

Military forces: 1,000,000 men; 5,500 tanks; 3,700 artillery pieces and multiple rocket launchers; 513 combat aircraft; 160 armed helicopters; 5 frigates; 66 missile launchers. Worldwide, the Iraqi armed forces are the fourth strongest.

Diplomatic links: Member of ACC (Arab Cooperation Council)

Bilateral defence cooperation: Jordan 1981, to form joint military units 1990

Non-aggression pacts: Saudi Arabia 1989, Bahrain 1990

##### Bahrain:

Military forces: 3,350 men; 54 tanks; 20 artillery pieces; 12 combat aircraft; 12 armed helicopters.

Diplomatic links: Member of GCC (Gulf Cooperation Council)

Bilateral defence cooperation: Saudi Arabia 1981

Non-aggression pacts: Iraq 1990

##### Egypt:

Military forces: 448,000 men; 2,425 tanks; 1,560 artillery pieces and multiple rocket launchers; 517 combat aircraft; 72 armed helicopters; 1 destroyer; 5 frigates; 21 missile launchers.

Diplomatic links: Member of ACC

##### Iran:

Military forces: 604,500 men; 500 tanks; 865 artillery pieces and multiple rocket launchers; 121 combat aircraft; 3 destroyers; 5 frigates; 50 missile launchers.

##### Israel:

Military forces: 141,000 men (504,000 reserves on 48hr mobilization); 3,794 tanks; 1,360 artillery pieces; 574 combat aircraft (100 stored); 77 armed helicopters; 12 missile launchers; 100 estimated nuclear warheads.

##### Jordan:

Military forces: 85,250 men; 1,131 tanks; 247 artillery pieces; 111 combat aircraft; 24 armed helicopters.

Diplomatic links: Member of ACC  
Bilateral defence cooperation: Iraq 1981, to form joint military units 1990.

##### Kuwait:

Military forces: 20,300 men; 275 tanks; 92 artillery pieces; 36 combat aircraft; 18 armed helicopters; 12 missile launchers.

Diplomatic links: Member of GCC.

##### Oman:

Military forces: 25,500 men; 39 tanks; 138 artillery pieces; 63 combat aircraft.

Diplomatic links: Member of GCC.

##### Qatar:

Military forces: 7,000 men; 24 tanks; 14 artillery pieces; 13



combat aircraft; 20 armed helicopters.

Diplomatic links: Member of GCC.

Saudi Arabia:

Military forces: 65,700 men; 550 tanks; 450 artillery pieces and multiple rocket launchers; 180 combat aircraft; 9 missile launchers.

Diplomatic links: Member of GCC.

Non-aggression pacts: Iraq 1989.

Bilateral defence cooperation: Bahrain 1981.

Syria:

Military forces: 404,000 men; 4,050 tanks; 2,400 artillery pieces and multiple rocket launchers; 499 combat aircraft; 110 armed helicopters; 2 frigates; 54 missile launchers.

Turkey:

Military forces: 650,900 men; 3,727 tanks; 2,179 artillery pieces and multiple rocket launchers; 366 combat aircraft; 50 armed helicopters; 12 destroyers; 10 frigates.

Diplomatic links: Member of NATO.

United Arab Emirates:

Military forces: 43,000 men; 131 tanks; 232 artillery pieces and multiple rocket launchers; 61 combat aircraft.

Diplomatic links: Member of GCC.

Yemen:

Military forces: 64,000 men; 1,144 tanks; 777 artillery pieces and multiple rocket launchers; 197 combat aircraft; 12 armed helicopters; 18 missile launchers.

Diplomatic links: Member of

ACC.

(2) FOREIGN MILITARY FORCES IN OR ON THE WAY TO THE REGION

Deadline: 17 August 1990

(2a) USA:

Already stationed

in Saudi Arabia: 25,000 men (45,000 more to come); 200 fighter aircraft;

in the Gulf of Oman: 1 aircraft carrier; 2 cruisers, 5 other warships

in the Gulf: 1 commanding warship; 2 cruisers; 6 destroyers and frigates

in the Red Sea: 1 aircraft carrier; 1 cruiser; 1 submarine; 5 other warships

in Egypt: 1,350 men

in Diego Garcia (US military base): some 17,500 men

On the way to the Mediterranean: 2 aircraft carriers; 1 battleship; 2 cruisers; 6 destroyers and frigates; 7 other naval units

(2b) Military contributions of other countries:

Australia: 2 frigates; 1 supply ship

Belgium: 3 warships

Canada: 2 destroyers; 1 other warship

Egypt: 5,000 men

France: 3,200 men; 1 aircraft carrier; 6 other warships

FRG: 5 mine-sweepers; 2 supply ships; 10 tanks for tracking down chemical weapons

Morocco: troops

Netherlands: 2 frigates

Pakistan: 5,000 men

Syria: 1,000 men

UK: 1,000 men; 24 fighter aircraft; 3 radar aircraft; 3 warships

USSR: naval unit



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