

CAMPAIGNING FOR PEACE

There have been innumerable peace demonstrations, marches, vigils and other forms of campaigning against the war all around the world (51 countries are listed alphabetically, from Argentina to USSR). In general, the demands and aims are similar, the main demands being:

- *withdrawal of foreign troops: Iraq from Kuwait, USA and allies from the region, Israel from the occupied territories;
 - *conflict resolution only by peaceful means, i.e. negotiations...;
 - *call for an international Middle East conference to deal with all Middle East problems, including all Arab countries;
 - *immediate ceasefire;
 - *call for a session of the UN Security Council to revise Resolution 678;
 - *call for an UN Emergency General Assembly to deal with Middle East problems.
- (Source: Peace News Bulletin, 10 February 1991)

WAR RESISTANCE IN IRAQ

Soldiers deserting to Turkey: About 100 soldiers and some 30 civilians escaping from Iraq across the mountains arrived in Turkey in mid-November. The soldiers said they did not want to go to war, and complained about deteriorating conditions in the army. One captain said he was unhappy about the invasion of Kuwait because "the soldiers are attacking the people and raping the women, and recently I was ordered to kill civilians." Turkish officials have been reluctant to say how many Iraqis have crossed since the crisis began, but one source put the number at around 500.

(Source: The Guardian 14 Nov 1990 - quoted in Peace News Bulletin)

Resisting officers executed: According to a report from the press agency Reuter, the Cairo-based newspaper Al-Ahram said that Iraq had executed 120 military officers for refusing to take part in the invasion of Kuwait. All of them were executed on Friday, August 3, after Iraqi President Saddam Hussein signed their death warrants following a summary court martial....The officers reportedly said the operation against a brotherly Arab state made no sense and had no justification. The paper did not say if the officers acted together in defiance of the invasion order or separately. (Source: Athens News 5-6 August 1990, quoted in Peace News Bulletin)

Doodstraf: Egiptiese en Soedanese werkers in Irak is tereggestel nadat hulle geweier het om in die Irakiese weermag te dien, sê 'n internasionale vakbondfederasie. Aan die anderkant van die front, in Saoedi-Arabië, word buitelandse werkers met "Islamitiese geregtigheid" gedreig indien hulle die land probeer verlaat. (Source: Vrye Weekblad 8 February 1991)

ANTI-WAR DEMONSTRATIONS IN ISRAEL

Several hundred people took part in anti-war demonstrations in front of the US Embassy in Tel Aviv, in Haifa and in Jerusalem, sponsored by the Women and Peace Coalition, on January 14 ... That night, at a public meeting in Tel Aviv, a petition was signed by prominent Israelis which stated, "We call upon the government of Israel to declare its willingness to accept a comprehensive peace agreement including: making the Middle

East a zone free of atomic, chemical and bacterial weapons; a peace agreement between Israel and Jordan, Syria and Iraq; and an Israeli-Palestinian peace; all based upon the recognition of the right of all peoples - including the Israeli, Palestinian and Kuwaiti people - to a state, to security and to peace.

(Source: International Fellowship of Reconciliation, Holland)

WAR RESISTERS IN GERMANY

In Germany, 13000 conscripts registered as Conscientious Objectors last month (January), most of them claiming objection to the Gulf War. (Source: Radio Today 8 February 1991, Alfred Schroeder reporting from Bonn)

N.B. In the first half of 1990, there were 37558 West German applications for CO status, according to Peace News Bulletin.

IN THE UNITED STATES...

Amnesty International has declared an American soldier who has refused to serve in the Gulf to be a prisoner of conscience. Sergeant George Morse ... was sentenced in December last year to five months' imprisonment for refusing to obey an order to help prepare supplies for troops in Saudi Arabia. (Source: South, February 14-21 1991)

About 1000 Americans have filed for CO status, there are some 60 public resisters known to WRL, and they say that many more have gone AWOL. (Information from War Resisters League New York, 8 February 1991)

Also from WRL: There's an army medic aged 52 who's been in the military for 21 years who's decided now he's a conscientious objector to all war. There's a military police officer posted 27 miles from the border with Kuwait, refusing to carry a weapon and refusing to fight this war... Incomplete reports from Berlin say 12 more US service people were taken from there to Saudi in chains. Forty refuseniks still in the US are willing to talk to the press ... San Francisco City Council has declared the city a sanctuary for war resisters. Riverside Church in New York looks likely to do the same ... The Army and the Navy are now shipping reservists to the Gulf regardless of whether they've applied for CO status: they say they'll deal with the paperwork after the war.

(Source: Peace News, London, 15 February 1991)

...AND IN AUSTRALIA

Of some 630 sailors in the three-ship force sent to the Gulf in September, over a dozen seamen "failed to sail". One of these, Leading Seaman Terry Jones (23) went public, saying "I am prepared to die for my country, but not to protect United States oil lines...I am not a coward...I am taking a political stand because this is not our war." At his trial (on an AWOL charge) Jones maintained his principled anti-war position, repeating that he felt "morally right" in refusing to go to the Gulf. The Court Martial handed down a suspended 21-days detention and reduction in rank by one grade. An interesting sequel was the introduction in the Australian Senate of a Bill "Relating to conscientious objection to certain Defence service", i.e. selective objection in a volunteer Defence Force. And in Sydney an organisation called "Bring the frigates home" has been set up. (Source: Max Watts)

Meanwhile,
at home...

"Some things are better suited to the desert than others!"

... Undisclosed numbers of South Africa's 155mm G5 and G6 motorised gun howitzers have been sold by Armscor to clients in the Gulf. Armscor, however, refuses to confirm this, saying it is not its policy to identify its clients. But according to international military experts up to 200 G5's were allegedly sold to Iraq in exchange for billions of rands worth of crude oil ... (Source: Faratus, February 1991)

2812. APP

Appeal to the R.A.N. Personnel
on H.M.A.S. SYDNEY OR H.M.A.S. BRISBANE

DO NOT GO TO THE GULF ON NOV. 12th

The TERRY JONES CASE proved that you only have to make a formal approach to your Captain. State your objections to service in the gulf, he has to let you off! The Defence Minister said there was no compulsion for R.A.N. personnel to go to the Gulf.

DECIDE NOW! Do not go!

If you have problems get in touch with us:
BRING THE FRIGATES HOME
P.O. Box A. 899
Sydney South N.S.W. 2000.

Phn: 281.8390.

Remember:

1. It is one thing to kill, die or get maimed for a worthy cause. But once the hype dies down history will show we once again we should not have been there!
2. When you are choking in a poisoned atmosphere remember that you are facing chemical and other weapons sold to Iraq by Western Powers only too happy to make money out of other misery.

A message from U.S. Vietnam Vets. to their troops in SAUDI ARABIA:

You should know that while you are carrying out your orders there are veterans from previous wars and military actions leading demonstrations against your presence in the Middle East. We will welcome you back to join our ranks. Like you, we were ordered to do our duty. Take Vietnam (which some of us tried to do). Fooled at first, we began to question the lies and the hypocrisy that put us there. Many of us were sickened by what we were ordered to do. Others were inspired by the heroic resistance of the Vietnamese. We began to resist. Thousands of us in Vietnam (and in the U.S.) refused to carry out orders. Many went to prison rather than bear arms against our so-called enemy. Whole companies and naval units mutinied and refused to fight. A half million US troops deserted. GI resistance took every form, from the fragging of officers, to a number of troops that actually joined and fought for the other side. Out of all that we learned to question what the hell is going on. All the government learned was to tell bigger lies. Welcome to Fort Saudi Arabia.

Bozen, 23. Dezember 1989

INTERNATIONALE KOMMUNISTISCHE PARTEI
"Die Kommunistische Partei"

P r o m e t h e u s i n K e t t e n

WENN DAS ZENTRUM EUROPA WEINT - DAS ZENTRUM AMERIKA LACHT NICHT !
FALSCHER SOZIALISMEN, FASCHISMEN, ODER DEMOKRATIEN UNTERSCHIEDLICH
CHER STUFE UND FARBE GEHÖREN ZUM SELBEN IMPERIALISTISCHEN KOMPLEX,
DER TAG FÜR TAG DIE GESAMTE ERDKUGEL DOMINIERT UND ZERRÜTTET, DA=
BEI DIE "MEINUNGEN" DER GROSSEN MASSES ZWISCHEN OST UND WEST IN
EIN GEWIRR VERSETZT; DAS MEIST GROTESK IST, UND MANCHMAL AUCH
LÄCHERLICH !

Die jüngsten Vorfälle Panamas und Rumäniens sind weiter nichts als die Fortsetzung jener Politik, die der internationale Kapitalismus und Imperialismus nicht mehr unter Kontrolle halten kann, da sich alles innerhalb des immer frecheren Konkurrenzsystems abwickelt, in einer kontinuierlichen Verfolgung des entmachtenden und unmenschlichen Profites.

Der Kampf um die Herrschaft über den Panamakanal, der Bananenstraße, der Rauschgiftstraße etc. ist sicher aktueller, als die Kämpfe ethnischen und nationalen Hintergrunds des Zentraleuropas (und Umgebung), aber deshalb nicht minder verwirrend und nicht jüngsten Ruhms.

Bis zu welchem Punkt wir in der unmittelbaren Zukunft all diesen unkonsequenten "Bewegungen" beiwohnen werden müssen, ihren widersprüchlichen Erfolgen und Mißerfolgen, oder ob sich explosive Revolutionen bewahrheiten werden können, wird sicher nicht vom Grad der Unterdrückung der imperialistischen Maschine abhängen, als vielmehr vom Andauern oder weniger der unangefochtenen Herrschaft des Opportunismus, der, so wie er die Nadel des Revolutionskompasses der großen Metropolen wie verrückt drehen ließ, so den Kurs der großen peripherischen Massen hat ändern lassen.

In jedem Fall können wir uns auf das grundsätzliche Prinzip berufen, daß die objektive Begegnung der materiellen Bewegungen des Proletariats in einer einzigen revolutionären Kraft, nur mit dem Wiedererscheinen und der Wiedergenehmigung im Innersten der vielfältigen Klassenkämpfe des gesamten kommunistischen Programms eintreten können wird. Die Inangangsetzung einer revolutionären Entwicklung, sei es im Zentrum oder in der Peripherie, die Auflösung der umfassenden Probleme des einen und der anderen wird sich nicht Kraft pietistischer "entgegengestreckter Hände" verwirklichen können, noch aus Umarmungen zwischen demokratietrunkenen Arbeitern und Politisierern der "zweiten", "dritten" oder "vierten" Welt, allen Lasten der Diplomatie ergeben, und umso weniger mit Guerillaabenteuer der "vergoldeten" Jugend auf den großen Plätzen, in den Savannen oder in den Dschungeln, aber nur mittels der Wiedergeburt einer Partei, die die "Besonderheiten" der verschiedenen Situationen zu überwinden versteht, den unwandelbaren Weg des revolutionären Marxismus verfolgend, starrköpfig bis zum Unwahrscheinlichen wiederholend:

PROLETARIER DER GANZEN WELT - VEREINIGT EUCH !

(selbst vervielfältigt; Beilage zur Nr. 178 von "Die Kommunistische Partei")

Bolzano, 23 dicembre 1989

PARTITO COMUNISTA INTERNAZIONALE
"Il partito comunista"

P r o m e t e o i n c a t e n a t o

SE IL CENTRO EUROPA PIANGE - IL CENTRO AMERICA NON RIDE !
FALSI SOCIALISMI, FASCISMI, O DEMOCRAZIE DI VARIO LIVELLO E
COLORE FANNO TUTTI PARTE DEL MEDESIMO COMPLESSO IMPERIALISTICO
CHE DOMINA E SCONVOLGE GIORNO PER GIORNO L'INTERO GLOBO TERRE=
STRE SPOSTANDO LE "OPINIONI" DELLE GRANDI MASSE FRA L'EST E
L'OVEST IN UN MARASMA CHE HA QUANTO MENO DEL GROTTESCO,
E A VOLTE ANCHE DEL RIDICOLO !

I recenti fatti di Panama e di Romania non sono altro che il proseguimento di quella politica che il capitalismo e l'imperialismo internazionale non può più tenere sotto controllo svolgendosi il tutto entro il sistema sempre più sfacciatamente concorrenziale in un continuo inseguimento all'esautorante e disumano profitto.

La lotta per il dominio del Canale di Panama, della via delle banane, della via della droga ecc. è certo più attuale che le lotte a sfondo etnico e nazionale dell'Europa Centrale (e dintorni) ma per questo non meno sconvolgenti né di fama recente.

Fino a che punto dovremo assistere, nell'immediato futuro a tutti questi "movimenti" inconseguenti, ai loro contraddittori successi e insuccessi oppure se potranno avverarsi rivoluzioni esplosive non dipenderà comunque dal grado di oppressione della macchina imperialistica, quanto piuttosto dal perdurare o meno del dominio incontrastato dell'opportunismo, che, come ha fatto impazzire l'ago della bussola rivoluzionaria delle grandi metropoli così ha deviato la rotta delle grandi masse periferiche.

In ogni caso, possiamo rifarci al principio fondamentale che l'incontro oggettivo dei movimenti materiali del proletariato in un'unica forza rivoluzionaria potrà verificarsi solo con la riapparizione e la riappropriazione, nel vivo dei molteplici scontri di classe, DELL'INTEGRALE PROGRAMMA COMUNISTA. La messa in moto di un processo rivoluzionario sia al centro che alla periferia, la risoluzione dei complessi problemi dell'uno e dell'altra, non potrà avverarsi in forza di pietistiche "mani tese", né di abbracci tra operai ubriachi di democratismo e politicanti del "secondo", "terzo" o "quarto" mondo, rotti a tutti i vizi della diplomazia, né tanto meno con avventure guerrigliere della gioventù "dorata" nelle grandi piazze, nelle savane o nelle giungle, ma solo mediante la rinascita di un Partito che sappia superare le "particolarità" delle varie situazioni perseguendo l'immutabile via del marxismo rivoluzionario ripetendo caparbiamente fino all'inverosimile:

PROLETARI DI TUTTO IL MONDO : UNITEVI !

(f.c.in pr.; supp. al n. 178 de "Il Partito Comunista"

"IL PARTITO COMUNISTA"
(Partito Comunista Internazionale)
cas. post. n. 15 — 39100 Bolzano

« Il Partito Comunista » - Casella postale
1157 - Firenze - C/C post. n. 30944508.
Reg. Tribunale Firenze n. 2648 - 28-5-1974
~~Partito Comunista - Casella postale~~

**Dans toutes les armées,
DES SOLDATS DISENT NON !
De San Francisco à Madrid,
de Moscou à Paris, d'Amsterdam à Vienne
LES MILITAIRES VEULENT ÊTRE DES
CITOYENS À PART ENTIÈRE**

En septembre dernier, à Madrid, des soldats de divers pays se sont rencontrés ailleurs que sur un champ de bataille. Les syndicalistes en uniforme, réaffirmant qu'ils ne voulaient pas être utilisés comme outils d'agression, que ce soit contre leur propre population ou dans des guerres coloniales, se sont prononcés pour qu'une solution pacifique soit trouvée afin qu'une guerre ne vienne pas gâcher l'espérance de paix et de démocratie qui s'était levée.

***RITA est de retour ! Mais qui est RITA ?
RITA, c'est Resisters inside the army !***

Annonçant leur décision devant le Mémorial des Vétérans où sont inscrits les noms des 57 000 américains tués au Vietnam, Matthew Brown et Patrick Colclough ont refusé leur appel en service actif. Ils estiment que les Etats-Unis mettent en place dans le Golfe un dispositif illégal et menaçant pour la paix dans le monde : «Espérons que notre action aidera à empêcher un nouveau Vietnam. Nous ne voulons pas d'un autre mémorial pour honorer les victimes d'un nouveau désastre».

Matthew, 20 ans, s'est engagé en juin dernier devant la promesse d'une formation professionnelle: «Quand j'ai signé, le Mur de Berlin était détruit. Depuis le Président Bush, de sa propre autorité, a envoyé 150 000 hommes dans le Golfe et semble déterminé à déclencher une guerre contre l'Irak mais je pense que ni la famille royale koweïti ni l'essence bon marché ne sont de bonnes raisons pour envoyer à la mort des milliers de GI's».

Il n'a pas rejoint son unité !

Patrick, 21 ans, étudiant, s'est engagé en 1987 comme cadet dans la réserve.

Il a demandé à démissionner pour «objection de conscience» !

Stéphanie Atkinson, 23 ans, engagée depuis l'âge de 17 ans pour financer ses études, elle est absente sans permission depuis la mi-octobre.

Elle risque un an de prison !

Jeffrey Patterson, caporal des Marines, engagé en 1986 est enfermé dans la prison de la base de Pearl Harbour et attend de passer en Cour martiale. Il est accusé d'absence sans permission et de désobéissance.

Il risque 5 années de prison !

Eric Larsen, réserviste du corps des Marines a annoncé au cours d'une manifestation qu'il n'irait pas servir dans le Golfe.

Il effectue ses périodes de réserve chaque week end !

Terry Jones, 23 ans, sous-officier dans la Marine australienne a refusé d'embarquer sur l'HMS Adelaïde.

***Il a été condamné à 21 jours de prison,
à une amende équivalent à 4 jours de solde et dégradé !***

Pascal Bidaux et Frédéric Poncet, deux appelés français, agissant en libres citoyens, ont manifesté en uniforme pour la paix dans le Golfe.

Ils ont été punis de 20 jours d'arrêt !

En Espagne, des pères de marins appelés ont constitué un Collectif pour s'opposer à l'envoi de leurs enfants dans le Golfe.

**LA DEMOCRATIE AUX ARMEES ET LA PAIX
SONT LES DEUX FACES DE LA MEME MEDAILLE**

PARTOUT DES VOIX SE FONT ENTENDRE SOUS L'UNIFORME

**Construisons le droit d'association et imposons le droit de manifester
notre opinion en uniforme !**

**Luttant pour la paix, le droit d'association et les libertés démocratiques
aux armées, nous ne voulons ni guerre ni soldat inconnu !**

**Le Ministère de la défense doit rendre public les noms de l'ensemble des
hommes envoyés dans cette région du monde !**

SOUTENEZ LES RITA, ECRIVEZ LEUR !

**Information pour les Droits du Soldat
Confédération européenne des organisations d'appelés
boite postale 23 - 75622 Paris cédex 13**

Information pour les Droits du Soldat

Confédération européenne des organisations d'appelés

**boite postale 23
75622 Paris cédex 13**

Patrick Le Tréhondat 43 96 44 83
Patrick Silberstein 42 49 10 78
Jean-Jacques Ughetto 42 38 27 52

destinataire:

Madame, Monsieur,

Par un canal qui nous est propre, nous avons reçu la déclaration suivante.

Ces personnes sont liées personnellement à des militaires français engagés dans le Golfe. Elles entendent pour le moment garder l'anonymat afin, disent-elles, de «préserver les intérêts professionnels» et de «sauvegarder la liberté de mouvement et d'opinion», de ceux qui «interdits de parole» leur ont donné mission de parler en leur nom.

En espérant que cette information retiendra votre attention, recevez nos salutations.

le 2 janvier 1991
P. Silberstein



DECLARATION

Nos maris et nos frères sont des militaires français, hommes du rang et sous-officiers, qui appartiennent à des unités engagées dans le Golfe dans le cadre de l'opération Daguet.

C'est en accord avec eux que nous prenons aujourd'hui la parole et que nous parlerons en leur nom.

Citoyennes de ce pays, nous parlerons au nom de ceux qui le servent sous l'uniforme et à qui est refusé le simple droit d'expression.

En leur nom, et comme l'a dit Monseigneur Chabert, Evêque de Perpignan, à l'occasion des fêtes de Noël, nous disons «non à une guerre inéluctable», non à cette guerre «aux relents de pétrole».

En leur nom, nous demandons la relève immédiate des troupes présentes sur le terrain depuis 4 mois car le moral est au plus bas et le sentiment d'isolement croissant.

En leur nom, et à l'image de certains militaires israéliens qui revendiquent à la fois leur qualité de soldat et leur refus de servir dans les territoires occupés, nous demandons le droit à l'objection pour cette mission.

En leur nom, nous demandons au Chef de l'Etat, Chef des armées, le retour des soldats et le désengagement de la France.

En leur nom, nous saluons leurs collègues qui sous tous les uniformes refusent cette logique infernale de guerre.

En leur nom, nous souhaitons que les diverses associations et comités de famille de militaires qui se sont manifestés dans divers pays engagés dans le conflit puissent se rencontrer pour affirmer l'aspiration commune à la paix et à la vie.

En leur nom, nous appelons aux manifestations du 12 janvier pour la paix dans le Golfe.

Collection Number: AG1977

END CONSCRIPTION CAMPAIGN (ECC)

PUBLISHER:

Publisher:- Historical Papers Research Archive

Location:- Johannesburg

©2013

LEGAL NOTICES:

Copyright Notice: All materials on the Historical Papers website are protected by South African copyright law and may not be reproduced, distributed, transmitted, displayed, or otherwise published in any format, without the prior written permission of the copyright owner.

Disclaimer and Terms of Use: Provided that you maintain all copyright and other notices contained therein, you may download material (one machine readable copy and one print copy per page) for your personal and/or educational non-commercial use only.

People using these records relating to the archives of Historical Papers, The Library, University of the Witwatersrand, Johannesburg, are reminded that such records sometimes contain material which is uncorroborated, inaccurate, distorted or untrue. While these digital records are true facsimiles of paper documents and the information contained herein is obtained from sources believed to be accurate and reliable, Historical Papers, University of the Witwatersrand has not independently verified their content. Consequently, the University is not responsible for any errors or omissions and excludes any and all liability for any errors in or omissions from the information on the website or any related information on third party websites accessible from this website.

This document is part of a collection held at the Historical Papers Research Archive at The University of the Witwatersrand, Johannesburg, South Africa.