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CENTRAL AND SOUTH AMERICA  
ARTICLES

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# Peace Courier

8-9/92

## WPC Assembly and Dialogue Among Peace Movements

**Hans Stebler**  
President of the  
Swiss Peace Movement

The Standing Committee of the WPC and representatives of the national committees in CSCE countries decided in Ostend to hold the next WPC Assembly in Basel in June 1993. An international dialogue among peace movements will also be organised at the same time. The dates are: Assembly 3-4 June; Dialogue 5-6 June. The Swiss Peace Movement (SFB/MSP) has been entrusted with the organisation of these events.

The Ostend Appeal speaks of the urgent necessity of dialogue between the peace movements and calls for action for peace wherever it is endangered or does not exist. The SFB/MSP is happy and prepared to respond to this appeal as it is conscious of its responsibility to world peace. It believes that this task is a recognition of its efforts for decades during which the activists of the SFB/MSP have wholeheartedly supported the activities of the WPC. The SFB/MSP has always considered itself to be an anti-imperialist peace movement that has always stood by those in the struggle for national sovereignty, peace and justice.

When our friends from around the world come to Switzerland in 1993, they will come to a country with a strongly developed public desire for peace and disarmament where a third of the voters for the abolition of the army.

Further referenda on constitutional reforms are pending for:  
-a halt to the construction of further army training facilities;  
-a ban on the purchase of new military aircraft (over 500,000 citizens registered their support for this referendum in a record time of less than 4 weeks!);

-the reduction of military expenditure by 50% steps over 5 years; and a total ban on arms exports.

These initiatives for peace, disarmament and peaceful development as well as for the protection of mankind and the environment were supported and realised by all the Swiss peace organisations, including the SFB/MSP, either as initiator or partner. An important instrument as "collective organiser" is the SFB/MSP's newspaper "Unsere Welt" (Our World), which has regularly appeared for over 15 years. The 50,000 copy circulation is paid for solely by the donations and subscriptions of US readers.

We are looking forward to greeting our friends from around the world in Basle. It is a cosmopolitan city, the

starting point for journeys to the high seas, an international railway junction and site of Basle/Mulhouse airport. A centre for the chemical industry, for trade and banking. A city of the humanists, of humanists, of museums, art and a lively labour and peace movement. A city which hosted the peace congress of the 2nd International in 1912 and the European Ecumenical Assembly "For peace with justice" in 1989. They will be guests of a town which voted millions in a referendum in order to purchase works by Picasso for the art gallery. Picasso, the unforgettable creator of our dove of peace, responded in gratitude by donating further works.

We believe that the spirit and traditions of Basle, the love of peace and the pleasure and endurance of our

activists in working for it are good preconditions for a successful assembly in 1993.

Preparations are under way. The venues, the technical facilities and the hotels have all been reserved. A summer garden party in July raised the first tranche of \$2,000 for the "June 1993 Peace Fund". You can also help build up this fund by donating goods (handicrafts etc.) for sale in our bazaar.

We look forward to greeting our guests from abroad. We will spare no efforts in trying to ensure that the best conditions for an efficient and successful conference are available. "Auf Wiedersehen" in Basle in June 1993! **(A Spanish version of this article is on Page Nine of this issue - Ed.)**

### Stop Nuclear Tests! - A Call to World Leaders

The World Peace Council has welcomed the vote by the United States Senate to suspend US nuclear testing for nine months and to ban tests permanently by 1996. This is a significant step in the Post Cold War period, which has already seen a dramatic cut in strategic weapons on the part of USA and Russia, which helps to further strengthen universal security and stability in the world, it stressed in a statement.

It added: A historic opportunity to stop all nuclear tests by the nuclear powers has gained momentum. To transform this into a reality is a major challenge for world leaders.

We call on the President of the USA to support the Senate's vote and enforce suspension of nuclear tests. We call on the Presidents of Russia and France to prolong their nuclear-test moratoriums in order to make it universal. We call on the President of China and the British Prime

Minister to take similar steps to stop their countries testing programme.

We address ourselves to the Leaders of the 'threshold nations' not to acquire nuclear weapons. Proliferation of nuclear weapons will lead to increased insecurity and instability at a time when precious economic and material resources are needed for sustainable development.

We ask the Leaders of all UN Member States to resume efforts towards a Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty and make the Non-Proliferation Treaty permanent.

The World Peace Council is joining all peace movements and NGOs in continued efforts to stop nuclear testing for ever. This latest historic opportunity should be grasped in order to free Planet Earth from all nuclear weapons.

**Evangelos Maheras**

**Ray Stewart**

## Letters

### Save Iraq's Children

Fadhil M Gharib, President of General Federation of Trade Unions of Iraq, in a letter to the World Peace Council has again drawn attention to the tragic conditions of children in Iraq. He says the situation has reached "unprecedented level that no human conscience could ever tolerate".

He adds: The economic embargo has become meaningless indeed is rather no more than a means to hurt Iraq's people. The UN Charter has stipulated that man's right to live should be secured.

Hence the Security Council should now allow Iraq to export its oil in order to buy, import commodities, needed food and medicine, far from any doubtful formulas set up by UN representatives to abusing the independence of Iraq and interfering in Iraq's domestic affairs.

We appeal to your humanitarianism to raise high your voice to join the cries of our children and patients who desperately await the sympathy of the leaders of the "new world order".

### Lets Enhance Global Partnership

We are writing to you as a member of NGOs club accredited with UNCED. We were present at Rio to attend UNCED and '92 Global Forum. Earth Summit is over and NGOs are back to their respective stations. Irrespective of the outcome of the UNCED, I believe that we have returned with a new energy, courage and reinforced commitment to carry out our endeavours for a sustainable future for our planet Earth and fellow human beings.

We are writing to you to express our strong will to share our mutual experiences, views, cooperation and skills to promote global understanding and partnership among NGO community.

We request you to send details about your NGO, your present projects and future programmes. We also like to know about training programmes, conferences, events, publications and overall activities of your NGO in past, present and future. We would like to extend our full cooperation to your organisation in order to promote your thoughts, ideas, work and objectives, in our region if they match with our mandate.

We look forward to a longlasting working relationship with you.

Tanveer Arif, President  
Society for Conservation and Protection of Environment (SCOPE)  
511 Al-Amin Tower, University Road,  
Gulshan-e-Iqbal, Karachi, Pakistan

## Asia-Pacific Consultation Meetings

A consultative meeting of peace committees from Asia and the Pacific was held in Kathmandu on 8-9 August 1992, hosted by the Nepal World Peace Committee on the occasion of a seminar it had organised on "Peace, Development and Environment." The seminar was opened by the Nepalese Prime Minister G P Koirala and attended by a number of eminent scholars, peace activists and leaders of political parties.

The Kathmandu consultative meeting was preceded by another round of consultations held at the time of the International Conference on Comprehensive Global Security organised by the All India Peace and Solidarity Organisation (AIPSO) in New Delhi on 1-3 August 1992.

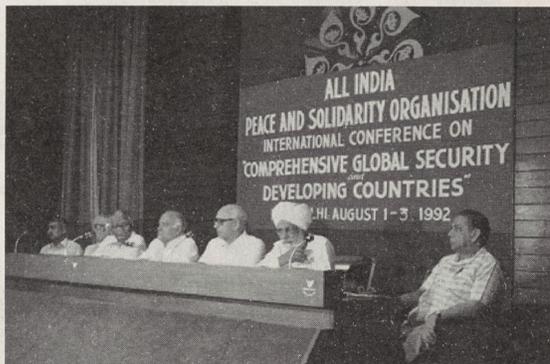
That international conference was a



major work of the AIPSO following the election of its new leadership this year. It was a very well attended conference with a large number of scholars, peace activists, government and political leaders taking part in it. Among those who attended it were Governor of Tripura Raghunath Reddy, Minister of Human Resources Arjun Singh, External Affairs Minister R.L. Bhatia, Environment Minister Kamalnath, Congress-I leader N K Sharma, general secretaries of two communist parties - Indrajit Gupta and H S Surjeet, Bishop Paulos Mar Gregorios, former External Affairs Minister I K Gujral.

In the consultations among peace movements of Asia and the Pacific

were representatives of the peace committees from India, Nepal, Bangladesh, Russia, New Zealand and Australia apart from WPC President



Evangelos Maheras, WPC Executive Secretary Ray Stewart, President of Honour Romesh Chandra, Peace Courier Chief Editor Sadhan Mukherjee and WPC Asian Regional Centre Secretary Sitaram Yechury. Regional Coordinator Chandrajit Yadav attended the New Delhi meeting but could not attend the Nepal meet.

These consultations took place after a gap of many months and during that period, the centre could not function effectively due to a variety of reasons. The uncertain world political climate, and the rapid developments of profound significance that were taking place all over

the world had their natural impact on the Asian region as a whole.

The Kathmandu consultative meeting, while reviewing the past, underlined that the present circumstances demanded strengthening of the peace movements. Not only does the threat to peace exist, but the countries of this region are facing grave problems of underdevelopment, poverty, disarmament, environment and related issues.

Only a vision of a comprehensive global security which embraces all aspects of the present complex reality can form the basis for a coordinated movement that can be devel-

oped in the region through joint endeavour of various peace forces. Towards this end, the consultative meeting also decided on the need to reach out to various organisations and groups in the region who are active, with reference to one aspect or the other concerning comprehensive global security, and cooperate with them in joint actions.

The discussions revealed that the peace committees in the region have been active but there remains vast scope and urgent need to coordinate their activities in order to make

sufficient impact on the peoples of the region. It was also considered that such coordination need not necessarily be in the form of conferences, which of course are an important aspect, but newer forms of coordinated actions on specific issues simultaneously in various countries of the region by synchronized demonstrative activities should be considered. For this purpose an information network of rapid communication should be established.

The meeting heard a report by the WPC Executive Secretary on the opinion of Pakistan Peace Council on the related issues. The meeting also

### Photo captions

Page 2 top: External Affairs Minister R L Bhatia addressing the New Delhi conference; bottom: delegates from Yemen and Australia. Page 3 right bottom: Arjun Singh speaking the concluding session.

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heard a report on the proposed visit of AIPSO delegation to the People's Republic of China in August end and decided that such bilateral exchanges will help the strengthening of coordinated activities in Asia.

The discussions at the Delhi and Kathmandu meetings also revealed a number of issues on which immediate joint activities could be organised in cooperation with various NGOs. Given the growing hiatus in the economic status of the peoples in the developed and developing countries, both meetings highlighted the urgency to strengthen South-South cooperation and build North-South understanding. The discussions underlined the necessity to strengthen activities for the protection of Earth's environment together with a strategy of balanced development and to induce the North to cut its consumption pattern and to earmark necessary resources for cleansing the environment.

The movement for democratising the UN and thus strengthening the world body for the common good was also sharply underlined. Apart from the issues of disarmament and develop-

ment which are of vital significance to the South, the meetings stressed the need to embrace all these related issues within the framework of a comprehensive global security.

In order to carry forward these ideas and to prepare for the next WAC assembly to be held in June 1993, the following proposals were made:

1. To circulate the ideas generated in this consultation to the WAC member organisations in Asia and elicit their

Two views of the Kathmandu meeting. On the left, Ray Stewart is addressing the consultative meeting and on the right, the dais of the opening session of the Kathmandu conference; at the centre is the Nepal Prime Minister.



opinion on the various issues that were discussed;

2. On the basis of these suggestions,

3. To consider at the above meeting the proposal to hold the Asian Regional Conference before the WAC



which ideally, should reach the centre by the end of September, to convene a meeting of the members of the Asian Regional Centre to further discuss these aspects and concretise them for a tentative agenda for a regional conference.

Session in early 1993. It was reported by the WPC Executive Secretary that Vietnam has indicated its readiness to host such a conference. The decision however would be finally taken at the above mentioned meeting when final logistics are available.

## 500 Years of...

### Sadhan Mukherjee

Next month, on 12 October, the Pope and the King of Spain will sail into the harbour of Santo Domingo (Dominican Republic). It will be a high point of the celebrations of the 500th anniversary of Christopher Columbus's "discovery" of the new world. There sure will be a lot to think about. But will there be a real assessment?

Columbus's entry into the Hispaniola island (now forming two countries - Haiti and Dominican Republic) was indeed the meeting of the two worlds which already existed but was not known to each other. It also marked the beginning of colonisation, one of the darkest facets of human history.

As many Church figures point out, it was not even a missionary enterprise to bring up the heathens to civilization. Contrary to popular beliefs, there

were no clergy in Columbus's first trip. The first missionaries arrived in 1493. What began with the search for spices and riches of India grew into a wanton lust for gold plundering human resources and nature in the Americas.

This writer crossed the Atlantic flying through the night from Madrid to Santo Domingo some days ago. What took more than a month for Columbus was crossed in barely 7½ hours. That is what the world has come to in five centuries. The results of the meeting of the two worlds and inter-mixture of culture have been mixed.

Dominican Republic appears to be present a very diverse attitude towards the celebrations. There are a whole lot of plans and projects at the official level to observe the event. A gigantic lighthouse has been built on

a hillock overlooking the port of Santo Domingo. It is supposed to light up the whole of the Caribbean, symbolic of the age of discovery and bringing enlightenment those who lived in obscurity and ignorance.

The rich and landholding gentry of Spanish ancestry in the island will obviously enjoy the celebrations. So will many others the world over. The original inhabitants of the island are few and can hardly be found. There were almost one million native inhabitants (called wrongly Indians) at the time of discovery of Hispaniola. But by 1510, according to the census carried out by governor Diego Columbus, brother of Christopher, there were less than 14,000 natives left.

The dire shortage of labour and the edict by the Cardinal of Castile against forcible conversion of the natives to Christianity necessitated the import of Negro slaves from Africa who were deemed as "animals" without "souls". They stood the rigours, produced the

wealth for the Spaniards. They today form bulk of the population in the Dominican Republic. Of course, they are a mixed lot with a good deal of inter-marriages; not pure Africans. They retain many of the Afro heritage and developed some of their own through long settlements in plantations and mines. They will have little or nothing to celebrate, for, their lot has not really changed.

Dominican Republic still wallows in poverty though it is better off than some of the neighbouring countries. Whatever efforts have been made of industrialisation were ill-planned and dependent on western priorities. The growth in manufacturing has been 0.8 per cent during 1980-90. One of the ambitious projects is the Juguey-Aguacate hydroelectric scheme. It has not only caused massive deforestation and environmental damage, many inhabitants were also forced to leave their lands. Workers rights were flagrantly violated.

On Page 10

# STOP NUCLEAR TESTS!

## French Test Halt Only First Step

Marie-Pierre Bovy  
"Stop Essais"  
and  
Claire-Lise Ott  
Solidarite Europe Pacifique

How can one not welcome and be happy about the decision announced at the French Assemblée Nationale on 8 April? More than 30,000 signatures that came from France and elsewhere within a few months show how much the decision was expected: the support of the Churches and certain movements like Pax Christie, Justice and Paix, DEFAP, CIMADE, etc., has given the campaign a stronger impact on the public. Even if the suspension of nuclear testing is a concession to the voters for the ecological party, it is not the only explanation. The remarks of the Head of State on 12 April, even if they were in some way contradic-

## Healing Global Wounds

The Western Shoshone Nation and the Global Anti-nuclear Alliance are sponsoring 10 days of events titled Healing Global Wounds. The events are scheduled to coincide with the Columbus Quincentennial to focus attention on the continuing assault on indigenous people through radiation poisoning world-wide.

The Western Shoshone Nation is inviting concerned people from around the world to join in their struggle against 500 years of injustice and the continued testing of nuclear weapons on indigenous lands.

On 3-4 October, an Indigenous Peoples Forum will be held in Las Vegas at the University of Nevada featuring direct testimony by indigenous people addressing the effect nuclear arms race has on their communities. This will be supplemented with medical information on the impact of nuclear tests on people and the environment.

On 5 October there will be a press conference and the kickoff for the final 65 mile leg of two walks across America that began in February.

On 9-12 October at the Nevada test site, there will be workshops, ceremonies and actions for four days.

tory, do make a breach in the thinking on defence policies in France. The calling into question of the purpose of defence is a difficult balancing act. But there is a growing number of specialists who think that nuclear deterrence is no longer commensurate with the risk of nuclear proliferation. A lot of political courage is needed to question the myth of France as a great independent nuclear power, which the French hold on to.

Regarding the Pacific, everything that has been said about the harm caused to the population by the tests remains valid. The people of Polynesia have for a long time been asking for an independent and multidisciplinary committee to carry out an investigation regarding the health and ecological consequences of the tests. Now is the time to bring up that request again. There are questions of economic and social future of Polynesia as well.

Would it not be wise to already start now a process of considering the future by opening up a dialogue between the churches and all the social forces of the territory?

We cannot stop half way, not only out of solidarity with the Polynesian people but also with all the people of the world who suffer from the same con-

## Free Vanunu

Mordechai Vanunu, the Israeli nuclear technician at Israel's Dimona nuclear installation is in solitary confinement at a prison in Israel. He had revealed the secret facts about the extensive Israeli nuclear programme, hiding it both from the Israeli people and parliament. His disclosure was published by the London Sunday Times and his evidence indicated that Israel had stockpiled up to 200 nuclear warheads, as the world's sixth biggest nuclear power.

A few days before his information was published, Vanunu was kidnapped, drugged and taken away from Rome on 30 September 1986. Tried in total secrecy, he was sentenced to 18 years of jail. His appeal to the Supreme Court was rejected in December 1991. His physical condition is rapidly deteriorating.

The legal avenues for securing Vanunu's release are exhausted. Only the world public opinion can now induce Israel to set him free.

sequences. Not all the aims of the campaign has been achieved. France is yet to sign the partial test ban treaty and join international negotiations for the total ban on test.

The Solidarite Europe Pacifique (European churches movement) and Stop Essais (international coalition of about 50 organisations) have decided to:

- present the petitions (new and old ones) again to the President of France in October when the European Colloquium of Solidarite Europe-Pacifique takes place in Strasbourg (16-18 October);
- present the cards to the ministers of defence and foreign affairs; and
- at the beginning of 1993 invite everybody to meet his deputy and the candidates for the elections of the area so that they can take up the requests.

## For European Nuclear Test Ban Coalition

Nuclear proliferation has become a reality not only due to the emergence of four nuclear republics in the former USSR but also because Israel's nuclear stockpile strongly influences Arab world to secure such a weapon.

The NPT will not be renewed in 1995 if nuclear testing does not stop and if Israel does not decide to accept a denuclearise zone in the Middle East together with the Arab countries.

A comprehensive test ban will not happen before 1994. Public opinion and NGOs must act very strongly upon governments and international bodies as the WHO to put the long nightmare of the threat of nuclear war behind us. The World Court project, for example, provides the appropriate means to act in this way.

It is time to join our efforts and create a European Nuclear Test Ban Coalition to facilitate the adoption of an international treaty prohibiting the manufacture, testing, possession, deployment, use and threat of use of nuclear weapons.

We hope to organise a meeting before the end of this year with the collaboration of NGOs from Belgium, France, Britain, the Netherlands, Germany and Luxembourg.

**P. Pierart**  
Association of Students for the Prevention of Nuclear War

## Halt N Test Conference

An International Conference will be held on 10 October at the Congress Hall of Nanterre (near Paris) in which a large number of French and International organisations and personalities will take part. It aims at continuing and amplifying the successes of 1992 to ensure a definite halt to nuclear testing. The present moratoria will be ending this autumn. There will either be a renewed nuclear testing or its real finale. For details of participation, contact: Mouvement de la Paix, Jacques le Dauphin, Ph.40 12 09 12; Fax 40 11 57 8

## Canard on Korean Nuke

Korean National Peace Committee Vice-President Pang Dae Ok who was in Helsinki to attend the IPB conference visited the WPC Liaison Office on 1 September and had a very useful discussion with Secretary Georgi Kuznetsov and Peace Courier Editor in Chief Sadhan Mukherjee. Besides discussing the general issues and the work of the WPC and the Korean Peace Committee in the context of the forthcoming WPC assembly, the discussions centred on the nuclear question and the recent campaign against the DPR Korea which allegedly is trying to develop nuclear weapons.

Pang Dae Ok explained that the DPRK has got only an experimental nuclear facility for power generation and radio isotope programme for medical purposes. There is no possibility of manufacturing any bomb grade uranium or plutonium. He pointed out that the IAEA team which visited the DPRK facilities has unambiguously stated that these facilities were for the peaceful use of nuclear energy. But South Korea and USA do not seem to give any credence this finding and continue to carry on their campaign against DPRK.

He also pointed out that though USA claims that US nuclear weapons have been withdrawn from South Korea, it does not agree to an inspection by DPRK. If nuclear weapons have indeed been taken away, USA should not have any problem to open up these stations. USA wants any nuclear inspection to be restricted to the facilities run by the two Koreas.

Pang Dae Ok also said that South Korea has been running nuclear facilities for quite some time and generating considerable nuclear power. But he was not aware what South Korea was doing its spent nuclear fuel.

He also felt that there is still considerable obstruction from South Korea to the question of reunification of the two parts of Korea though there is wide public support for the cause.

## WORLD CONFERENCE AGAINST A & H BOMBS

The 1992 World Conference against A & H Bombs in Hiroshima and Nagasaki on 2-9 August was attended by 50 overseas delegates from 24 countries and 7 international organizations, as well as 13,000 delegates of grassroots groups from all over Japan. Specialists of many fields, Hibakusha and the victims of nuclear tests took part in fruitful discussions, and the "Hiroshima Declaration" was adopted unanimously. WPC President Evangelos Maheras sent a message to the conference.

The Hiroshima Declaration underlined: "Changes in the rivalry between the two military blocs have now led the world into an era of turbulence and opportunities"; nuclear weapons are "still threatening the very survival of humankind". The Declaration expressed determination "to move forward both public opinion and movements for the prevention of nuclear war and the abolition of all nuclear weapons".

The Declaration made a critical analysis of the pro-nuclear forces, who have set out a "new form of theory on nuclear deterrence" under the pretext of "the danger of revitalization of a global threat" while announcing plans for a certain amount of cutbacks in their nuclear arsenals, and are trying to restructure the world order based on "nuclear terror", in which "the US would stand as the sole leader". Building overwhelming public opinion and movements for a complete ban and elimination of nuclear arms is what is called for.

For this, the Declaration appealed to the people to join in actions. These include overthrowing the "nuclear deterrence" theory, conclusion of an "international treaty for a complete ban and elimination of nuclear arms", promotion of systematic and steady development of the anti-nuclear movement such as a billion signatures for the "Appeal from Hiroshima and Nagasaki", reinforcement of the movement in each country to build a system that rejects nuclear arms, solidarity with the victims of Hiroshima, Nagasaki and nuclear test sites, and dissemination of the facts about their sufferings.

Another feature of the World Conference was that the representatives of the nuclear test victims of the world, i.e., downwinders of the Nevada test site, the Marshall Islanders, Mururoa, Semipalatinsk, Altaiski (Russia), and the victims of the Chernobyl nuclear power plant accident, joined the Hibakusha of Hiroshima and Nagasaki at this conference. They re-



vealed the damages and sufferings of people and appealed to the world for the total elimination of nuclear weapons and solidarity with the victims.

Simultaneously with the World Conference, Hiroshima-Nagasaki Days

## Medact Programme

Last June MEDACT sent out a plea to selected parliamentarians calling for a halt to nuclear testing. It included a special briefing on "The Hazards of Underground Nuclear Tests"

The response was abysmal and confined mainly to a few Labour MPs already committed for nuclear disarmament. Their party, which has vacillated on the question of a Comprehensive Test Ban (CTB), has slipped cautiously off the fence before the election in favour of a CTB but kept so quiet about it that the issue was not effectively put to the electorate. Now, with the opposition in disarray, it is left to NGOs to educate public opinion on the testing, possession and proliferation of nuclear weapons. Without a "peace dividend", and "enemy" or a rational purpose for its pursuit of nuclearism, the government remains vulnerable to persistent pressure.

MEDACT argued that the only way to slow down and eventually halt the nuclear arms race was to conclude a CTB. Without a CTB it seems probable that the nuclear non-proliferation treaty (NPT), scheduled for review in 1995, will expire.

The British government is choosing to ignore the spirit of all its treaty commitments. Verification is no longer an obstacle. The tests are unnecessary and can be put down, in Britain's case, to the ill-advised bravado of an insignificant member of the nuclear club.

All in all it does seem rather extraordinary, in health terms alone, that we should be party to dumping large quantities of radioactive material underground without any of the elaborate containment measures being planned

International Joint Actions were organized in more than 30 countries all over the world. On 5-6 August, anti-nuclear advertisements were carried in the newspapers of the four nuclear weapons possessing countries - USA, Britain, France and Russia.

for civil nuclear waste.

We shall continue to argue that Britain's testing programme is a dangerous, provocative and futile charade, to be permitted to continue for as long as it suits US policy goals.

The British Trident programme clearly represents an escalation and incitement to proliferation. In a deep recession, its continuation is economically foolhardy and not even feasible without US sanction. Our immediate policy objective must be to change the policies of our own government.

We shall also continue to work through international networks, particularly the IPPNW, which mobilised many of its affiliates to call for and build on the encouraging Senate resolution calling on the US to join the moratorium and move towards a total ban on nuclear weapons testing.

**Tony Smythe**  
Director, Medical Action for Global Security (UK affiliate of IPPNW)

## Hibakusha Park in Mons University

Prof. Pierre Pierart

Mons University, founded in 1965, is located 60 km south of Brussels. The "Association des Etudiants pour la Prevention de la Guerre Nucleaire" (Student association for the prevention of nuclear war), created in 1987, supports the cease-fire campaign set up in 1988 by the International Physicians for the Prevention of Nuclear War (IPPNW).

Each time there is a nuclear test, letters signed by hundreds of students are sent to the embassy of the country which carried out the testing, besides telephone calls and demonstrations.

In 1989 the idea of planting Peace Trees for each testing emerged and the Mons Hibakusha Park was created when six Japanese Hibakusha (Hiroshima and Nagasaki survivors) visited the Flemish branch of the IPPNW. The ceremony took place on 27 May and the Hibakusha Secretary planted the 9th tree of the year. The academic and administrative authorities participated in the creation of the Hibakusha Peace Park, purchasing two big stones and many little ones on which are written the dates of the testing and the names of the countries responsible. The trees chosen are oaks for American explosions, birches for Soviet ones, pines for British ones, beeches for the French ones and ginkgoes for the Chinese ones. On the two big stones are written: "Parc Hibakusha" and "A la memoire des victimes de Hiroshima, de Nagasaki et des essais nucleaires".

The inauguration of the Hibakusha park took place on 19 October 1990, with a Minister of the Soviet Union and two Ambassadors, an Irish one and a Belgian one, attending. Shizuko Takagy, secretary of the Hibakusha women was there and delivered a very touching address. In August 1945, Shizuko Takagy was at 1700 metre from Hiroshima zero point.

On 2 July 1991, a demonstration was organized with the "SOS-Tahiti" which presented 169 boards commemorating the 169 French crimes committed in Polynesia over the 25 years of nuclear testing in Moruroa.

Each year, between the 6th and the 9th of August, the AEPGN organises fast for a few days. On these dates an exhibition on nuclear testing and the Hibakusha Park is displayed in Mons. This exhibition, prepared in 1988, has been put up in schools and universities in more than 25 Belgian towns and also in Montreal (IPPNW Congress) and Paris (SOS Tahiti).

In Easter 1992 chocolates were distributed to children and a manifestation (fast, laying flowers at the memorial) against the first nuclear testing of the year (26 March in Nevada) was organized with white ribbons bound to a tree.

A view of the Hibakusha Park



## PEOPLE'S DIPLOMACY

George Krasovsky

The so-called people's or citizens' diplomacy holds sway ever more prominently in the life of many countries and sometimes plays a certain role in international relations. This is, so to say, a phenomenon of our times. But before dealing with the problems which people's diplomacy faces one should clearly define the term.

Unlike top-ranking diplomats, people's diplomacy is a matter of concern for ordinary citizens, the so-called common people, who have no special knowledge or diplomas and do not hold high positions. But these are people who are aware of their involvement in world events and who wish to act accordingly. In other words, people's diplomacy always implies goal-oriented actions. As for the aims pursued by people's diplomacy, they are consistently of a humanitarian character: peace, disarmament, environmental protection, human rights promotion, healthy and decent living conditions for all, and the like.

Another characteristic feature of people's diplomacy activists is their conviction that the aims they pursue can be achieved through impact on public opinion which, in its turn, can influence governments. Nevertheless, such influence does not necessarily mean pressure. This is rather an encouragement and the people's voice

which reaches the ears of those in power. This is what ancient Romans called "vox populi" and what the governments claiming to be democratic should reckon with.

As for the means used by people's diplomacy to achieve its aims, these are above all a flat refusal of any violence, both physical and moral. In other words, people's diplomacy is fully opposed to terrorism, putschism, armed uprising, etc. People's diplomats are inclined to act and influence primarily through mass media. But for this purpose, what is needed is either to have one's own publication or to initiate an event of interest for the press, radio and TV, that is, congresses, exhibitions, mass rallies, marches, other events, to mention but a few. But this is not so simple because journalists are mostly satiated with what happens repeatedly, they always look for something new, unusual and extraordinary. For this reason people's diplomats should constantly renew their methods and display creative imagination.

These are the features of people's diplomacy: to have something to say, express it explicitly in order to be heard. Some people regard it as a kind of selfless and tireless activities. I would rather call it a vacation and proficiency.

and to protect them and their social and cultural traditions and rights.

Scientists, MPs and people's deputies, chiefs of local administrations, representatives of small nations took part in a two-day seminar in Moscow. They dealt with practically all aspects of life of Saami and Evenki, Chuchas and Koriaks, Nentsi and Nagai as well as other peoples.

Poor food, disturbed ecological balance, poisoned atmosphere and water basins, lack of well-planned programmes for northern region's development were among the topics raised. The unanimous conclusion was: the situation is critical. Many populations are dying out.

An open letter was sent to President Boris Yeltsin demanding measures be taken to improve the situation in the northern areas and to balance the interests of Russian nordic region's economic development with interests and rights of local population.

"Turning the northern region into a dump for nuclear waste and a site for new nuclear tests should not be allowed", the participants stressed.



## War and Peace

Over the past 20 years global military expenditure totalled US\$ 17000 000 000 000 -the equivalent of US \$1.6 million a minute. During the 1980s military spending in the developed countries began to reduce slightly - perhaps as a result of the beginning of the end of the Cold War - but spending in developing countries increased, notably in the Middle East and North Africa.

Military activity absorbs more than just money - it needs large areas of land on which to train personnel; it consumes 6 per cent of the world's oil, and as much aluminum, copper, nickel and platinum as Africa, Asia and Latin America put together. It employs at least 60 million people, of whom 3 million are scientists and engineers.

The environment suffered badly from military activity during 1970-90. Vast

areas of Vietnam's forests and crops were destroyed by herbicides, leading to soil erosion, and loss of both human and wild life. There was a huge oil spill off Kuwait, and 613 of that country's oil wells were ignited. Between 4 and 8 million barrels of oil were burnt a day, producing clouds of pollution so large and so dense that the Sun was blacked out and surface temperatures lowered in many parts of the Gulf.

This was, fortunately, the nearest that the world came to all-out environmental warfare during the past two decades - in spite of speculation that in the future the military arsenal might include deliberate environmental disturbance as a new weapon, and that advances in genetic engineering might be used to convert the micro-organisms that cause disease into biological weapons.

The dark skies over Kuwait followed

## Jobs for the future Jobs with a future

Ron Gray  
South Australia Peace Committee

Repeatedly over the years, the peace movement has been drawing attention to the fact that money spent on armaments provides fewer jobs than money spent in other ways. We have all seen the charts showing that X amount of money spent on weapons provides Y number of jobs, while the same amount spent in such areas as education, health and transport provides many more jobs.

While this is undoubtedly true, it is not a solution to our problems to take workers from the arms industry and turn them all into teachers, doctors and bus drivers.

We need a defence industry to supply our defence forces, but we have to stop regarding our national defence in purely military terms, and we need to resist our government's efforts to try to cure our economic ills with an arms export-led recovery.

The ending of the NATO/Warsaw Pact confrontation ended the fear of large scale military action against Australia for the foreseeable future. The ending of that confrontation also provided a glut or over supply in the arms trade. So our government's policy of supporting and actively encouraging the export of defence equipment is clearly not the path to prosperity.

Despite the problems of instability arising from the changes in eastern Europe, we now have an opportunity for the peace movement to take the initiative and promote a positive total defence for Australia and the world.

Politicians have always taken the short

option, and industry managements have always been resistant to change, while military leaders have always been keen to show off their destructive skills and weapons. For us the challenge is CONVERSION.

By changing our whole approach to our defence needs, we can defend ourselves totally, secure within our borders, secure in our environment, and secure in our well-being. In other words, we can live in peace and have jobs with a sustainable future.

Conversion means that an industry such as the Submarine Corporation would begin to look now at alternative manufacture for its workforce and skills at the conclusion of the current RAN contract, instead of touting for more submarine sales to any country where interest can be aroused.

Conversion means that our politicians will look realistically at our defence needs in overall terms and not just in terms of military hardware.

They will also deal more positively with our neighbours, promoting mutually beneficial trade and cooperation, instead of pushing the sale of arms to governments too impoverished to pay for them, or who pay for them by denying their own citizens even the very minimum of social welfare. Often these are the same government who then use those same arms against their own people to stifle their protests against tyranny and injustice.

We have begun our campaign correctly, by opposing the arms fairs. The campaign leading to the demon-

strations that revealed a hidden threat behind the world's stockpile of some 50 000 nuclear weapons. The 50-70 per cent of the world population that might be expected to survive a nuclear war, scientists predicted, would have to undergo a nuclear winter caused by smoke from fires cutting out the Sun's rays. Temperatures would fall below freezing, and rainfall would be affected. Crops and ecosystems would undergo changes.

The environment suffered in other ways from military activity. The numbers of war refugees rose steeply - from about 3 million to nearly 15 million. Most of these people live miserable lives in refugee camps, and are unable to return to their homes. Since World War II the remnants of war have littered old battle fields in the form of hundreds of millions of unexploded bombs and shells: in Poland nearly 15 million land mines

and more than 73 million bombs have been recovered since 1945. And nuclear testing has continued: by 1990 there had been 1818 nuclear tests, 489 in the atmosphere and 1329 underground.

### Major Gains

There has been progress over the past 20 years in arms control. Major achievements include:

a treaty to prevent the placing of nuclear and other weapons of mass destruction on the sea bed, and on the ocean floor (in force 1972); a treaty prohibiting the development, production and stockpiling of biological and toxin weapons (in force 1975); two protocols to the 1949 Geneva Convention on protecting the victims of armed conflict (in force 1989); a treaty prohibiting the military use of

strations in Canberra certainly drew attention to AIDEX 91 and increased public opposition to the arms export industry.

The continuing campaign now, in opposition to the next proposed arms fair AUSTECH '93, has already had some success as the Queanbeyan Council refused to host AUSTECH '93, but offered facilities for a similar exhibition of peaceful high tech equipment. The organisers of the arms fairs (DESIKO) refused the alternative proposal and will now have to look elsewhere for a site.

It would seem, from the keenness of DESIKO to organise another exhibition, that the federal and state governments have not yet given up on the idea of arms exports, however, so that campaign must go on.

Immediately after the anti-AIDEX '91 demonstrations, a conference "World Without Weapons", to look at the alternatives to militarism, was held in South Australia. The conference emphasised the need for an alternative foreign and defence policy, the arms trade's role in repression and as a bar to development. It also emphasised the essential interest of the trade union movement in peace issues, particularly where they relate directly to the working lives of their members.

It is essential for the success of the conversion campaign that workers in defence industries understand that the aim of conversion is to provide alternative employment and not to take away jobs.

environmental modification (in force 1978); a treaty prohibiting or restricting the use of excessively injurious or indiscriminate conventional weapons (in force 1983); and the creation of a nuclear-free zone in the South Pacific (in force 1986).

War and environment are intimately related in many ways. Nations fight over supplies of natural resources, and conflicts arise over forms of pollution that spread across national boundaries. But these issues have, over the past two decades, brought nations together in a mutual battle against a bigger enemy - forms of environmental degradation that threaten human survival. The term 'security' has come to mean much more than the possession of sufficient military might to deter aggression; true security has political, economic, social, humanitarian and ecological

In the Defence, Science and Technology Organisation (DSTO), where people are facing dismissal through cut-backs, a campaign to have alternative employment for displaced people and equipment is already underway. This campaign was one of the recommendations of the Industry Conversion Workshop of the "World Without Weapons Conference."

Recognising the importance of gaining government support for changes, both at State and Federal level, discussions have been taking place with the South Australian Minister of Industry, Trade and Technology. Two meetings have been held with the Minister, dealing with the whole concept of conversion and in particular, with the immediate South Australian problems of the DSTO and the Multi-Function Polis.

While progress is still in the early stages, the signs so far are encouraging, and the peace movement is showing the ability to not only initiate proposals and put forward positive ideas, but also to act upon them to achieve the aim of alternative policies which will lead to total defence:

-- Defence which will maintain our sovereignty and independence  
-- Defence which will maintain our jobs and living standards while, at the same time, assisting others in the developing countries to improve their well being and security.

Clearly, the conversion campaign affects all aspects of our lives, and to be effective, it requires the coordinated effort, not only of a united peace movement, but also of the environmental organisations, trade unions and other industry bodies. Our experience is that unity is achieved once the issues are understood.

dimensions. Military spending deprives many countries of substantial sums that could be used for development. Aware of this, some nations are making efforts to redeploy military assets for civilian purposes.

### Enormous Disparities

Yet the disparities are enormous. The money that UNEP has had to safeguard the global environment over the past decade is equal to only five hours of global military spending. The formal aid given to developing countries in a year equals 15 days of global military spending. And the money spent in just 24 hours on the war over Kuwait could have funded a five-year child immunization programme against six deadly diseases, and prevented deaths of one million children a year.



## Cumbre de la Tierra-Foro Global 92 Crisis de Justicia y Democracia

Ray Stewart

La Cumbre de la Tierra y el Foro Global 92 ( Río de Janeiro , 3-14 junio, 1992), se convirtieron en los mayores encuentros de la historia donde representantes gubernamentales y no gubernamentales se dieron cita en reuniones paralelas y separadas, pero convocados por un tema común.

Concurrieron a los eventos delegaciones de 178 gobiernos y más de 9000 ONG de casi 170 países. Sin duda estos eventos - que sumaban hasta 400 actividades diferentes cada día - han elevado la importancia de este problema internacional al rango

de otros tan inquietantes como los problemas de la seguridad nacional y económica, a la vez que impulsan al ciudadano común a aprender más de las cuestiones que afectan directamente su bienestar.

Sin embargo faltaba en estos eventos una visión común de lo que significa un mundo de paz; se notaba la ausencia de un sentido real respecto de

qué elementos son esenciales para hallar soluciones justas y democráticas a los problemas de la humanidad cada vez más complejos. En Río se identificaron una vez más los temas ya debatidos hace 20 años en Estocolmo, pero esta vez sobre la base de sólidos antecedentes probatorios que apuntaban a transformaciones urgentes, sino inmediatas, del estilo de vida de la humanidad.

Pero en los 20 años transcurridos desde Estocolmo la guerra fría siguió sin pausas y el binomio desarrollo-medio ambiente devino un rehén de la DEMENCIAL carrera por la supremacía mundial. Los proponentes de la guerra fría, al terminar ésta, y luego de casi destruirse a sí mismos y a sus seguidores, dejaron al descubierto cual es la verdadera

víctima: Nuestra Casa Común y la vasta mayoría de seres humanos que la habitan. Ambos protagonistas principales quedaron tan agotados de su enfrentamiento a vida o muerte que parecen tener poco interés en el daño que provocaron a todas las demás formas de vida en nuestro planeta. No obstante, la mayoría presente en Río reafirmó la mutua dependencia entre medio ambiente y la economía sana, incluso sin haberse alcanzado acuerdos obligatorios con plazos específicos.

La Cumbre de la Tierra, el mayor encuentro de la élite gobernante jamás efectuado, dejó de manifiesto nuevamente que sin la participación

"Norte" de financiar la reparación ambiental en el "Sur". Se hicieron escasas concesiones a los problemas del desarrollo y ningún reconocimiento a la necesidad de reducir los gastos militares o cancelar la deuda externa del "Sur" en tanto prioridades para resolver los problemas del desarrollo y el medio ambiente.

El "Sur" montó una enérgica campaña exigiendo que el "Norte" financie el trabajo para reparar la degradación ambiental, mientras no pocos demandaban del "Norte" desembolsos para cubrir los costos de educación y salud en el "Sur". Por su parte, el "Sur" no consiguió hacer ofrecimiento alguno en términos de reducir sus

acción destinados a coadyuvar a la protección del medio ambiente. Tópicos tan diversos como hornos de cocina económicos y gobierno mundial, ecología espiritual y vigilancia ambiental vía satélite, fueron atendidos en más de 400 encuentros y actividades cada día. Se consideraron importantes ideas y paradigmas respecto de cómo preservar el medio ambiente a nivel comunitario. Muchas de éstas, de conquistar el respaldo de quienes toman las decisiones y los gobiernos, podrían significar una aportación considerable al desarrollo sustentable y preservar el medio ambiente.

Los ONG presentes en el Foro Global

9 2 elaboraron más de 30 tratados sobre los temas principales de la . Evidentemente, éstos requerirán del apoyo popular y de la opinión pública si es que los gobiernos han de asumírselos e introducir los cambios necesarios.

La crisis de democracia se reflejó en la brecha que separó la Cumbre de la Tierra y el Foro Global 92. Los gobiernos resguardaban

presupuestos militares (en promedio, superiores que sus presupuestos de educación y salud tomados de conjunto), o introducir en sus economías cambios conducentes a una distribución más justa de la riqueza y la eliminación de la corrupción. Muchos gobiernos del "Sur" acusaron a las ONG de revoltosas y reiteraron sus intenciones de impedir que la gente actúe para cambiar las políticas gubernamentales.

El proceso de adopción de decisiones estuvo permeado de un ambiente de mutuos recelos acerca de los motivaciones del "Norte" y el "Sur", con un sinnúmero de generalizaciones y escasos argumentos convincentes que pudiesen provocar cambios en la otra parte.

En el Foro Global 92 se exhibieron y debatieron numerosos proyectos de

celosamente su derecho a ser los "únicos" representantes de sus pueblos y países (en los casos más generosos, algunos gobiernos solían reclamar la representación del 30% de la población adulta de sus países). Por su parte, las ONG (aquellas que pudieron financiar su asistencia probablemente representaban alrededor de 100 millones de miembros) están dedicadas a los problemas de la comunidad, y en su mayoría no consideraron necesario involucrar a sus gobiernos. Si bien se mencionó la conveniencia de intercambiar ideas, escaso fue el intercambio entre los representantes de ambos eventos.

Carentes de un consenso sobre qué elementos son esenciales para crear un mundo de paz, los gobiernos, reflejando sus propios intereses

creados, lucharon por sus derechos nacionales haciendo magras referencias al trabajo de las ONG o las necesidades internacionales. Y la mayoría de las ONG, proyectando su circunscripción comunitaria, condenaron a todos los gobiernos y partidos políticos y parecen haber abandonado las actuales estructuras "democráticas" al no encontrar lugar en el proceso de toma de decisiones.

La crisis de justicia quedó en evidencia al fracasar el Norte en reconocer que ellos han sido los principales contaminantes y que por lo mismo deben asumir las responsabilidades de la degradación del medio ambiente global. La demanda del Norte de que se mantenga el status quo no deja de ser injusta, pues son sus deudas externas y políticas económicas las que contribuyen a la destrucción ambiental en el Sur. No se mencionó el desarme y se ignoró el fracaso en el desarrollo de un consenso sobre los elementos fundamentales que el CMP considere cruciales para instaurar un mundo de paz, como asimismo alrededor de las acciones que conduzcan a esta meta.

La renuencia del Norte a asumir responsabilidades por sus prácticas pasadas y presentes y a fijar plazos y metas para cambiarlas, por una parte, y el desacierto del Sur al no hacer más que exigir aumentos de la asistencia - receta para desastres a largo plazo, ya que induce a la gente a esperar recursos monetarios antes de comenzar acciones en su propio beneficio - en lugar de producir propuestas concretas destinadas a transformar las prácticas y políticas económicas ambientalmente destructivas en el Sur, por la otra parte, significa que harán falta muchas negociaciones más antes de hallar soluciones globales. Sin embargo, el crecimiento demográfico, tema raramente mencionado en Río, y la persistente degradación ambiental anularán notoriamente estas decisiones, de ser tomadas sobre la base de las discusiones actuales.

Nadie en Río lamentó el derrumbe del mundo bipolar. Sin embargo, la situación contemporánea puso en primer plano la necesidad de desarrollar todavía más, y a la brevedad, el papel de las ONG. El poder la gente y la opinión pública constituyen el único medio eficaz para obtener cambios en los niveles gubernamental e internacional conducentes a decisiones y políticas que corrijan las prácticas destructivas y egoístas y que impidan y reparen los daños a nuestra casa común causados por la indiferencia, el descuido y la avaricia humana.

Debido a la falta de orientación por los gobiernos, la gente sencilla tendrá que forzar a los políticos a cumplir con sus obligaciones, no obstante débiles, articuladas en Río, y también presentar nuevas ideas para acciones locales, nacionales e internacionales. Se creó una Comisión de la ONU sobre Desarrollo Sustentable (según el modelo de la Comisión de Derechos

Humanos) para proseguir el trabajo sobre medio ambiente-desarrollo. Las ONG crearon el Consejo de la Tierra, dirigido por Maurice Strong, a modo de organismo de vigilancia (como los Grupos de Vigilancia de Helsinki) con el objeto de asegurar que la Comisión de la ONU sobre Desarrollo Sustentable cumpla con su mandato. Asimismo se creó una Cruz Verde, dirigida por Gorbachov, especie de Cruz Roja del medio ambiente. Sin embargo, las grandes esperanzas para el futuro emergen de los cambios de valores fomentados por las inquietudes del nivel de base.

Al CMP, una de las pocas organizaciones internacionales que trata de tender puentes en brecha entre las acciones de la comunidad y las decisiones gubernamentales, le corresponderá una gran misión en el futuro cercano. Durante la preparación de la Asamblea del CMP (junio 1993), un elemento importante debe ser el desarrollo de un consenso sobre los elementos fundamentales que el CMP considere cruciales para instaurar un mundo de paz, como asimismo alrededor de las acciones que conduzcan a esta meta.

La Cumbre de la Tierra y el Foro Global 92 sirvieron para identificar la inmensidad de los problemas que enfrenta la humanidad. Ahora corresponde hallar acuerdos comunes sobre acciones que faciliten la solución urgente de estos problemas.

### ¡NO MÁS PRUEBAS NUCLEARES!

- Llamado a los líderes mundiales -

El CMP expresa su reconocimiento por el voto del Senado de EE.UU. que suspende las pruebas nucleares norteamericanas por nueve meses y las prohíbe permanentemente hacia 1996. Se trata de un paso significativo en el período post-guerra fría, que ya conoció reducciones cruciales de las armas estratégicas por parte de EE.UU. y Rusia, y que contribuye a reforzar todavía más la seguridad universal y la estabilidad en el mundo.

Es el cúmulo de una oportunidad histórica para que las potencias nucleares pongan fin a todas las pruebas nucleares. Que esto se convierta en realidad es el gran reto para los líderes mundiales.

Instamos al Presidente de EE.UU. a respaldar la resolución senatorial y ratificar la suspensión de las pruebas nucleares. Exhortamos a los Presidentes de Rusia y Francia a prolongar sus moratorias a los ensayos nucleares para que asuman carácter universal. Solicitamos al Presidente de China y el Primer Ministro británico que tomen medidas similares y suspendan sus programas de pruebas nucleares. Pedimos a los líderes de las "naciones

## Asamblea del CMP y Diálogo entre los Movimientos de la Paz

El Comité Permanente del CMP y los representantes de comités nacionales en los países de la CSCE decidieron en un encuentro celebrado en Ostende, Bélgica, efectuar la próxima Asamblea del CMP en Basilea Suiza, (3-6 junio, 1993). Al mismo tiempo, se efectuará un diálogo internacional entre movimientos de paz. Se ha encomendado al Movimiento Suizo de la Paz (MSP/SFB) la organización de estos eventos.

El Llamamiento de Ostende se refiere a la urgente necesidad de un diálogo entre los movimientos de la paz y exhorta a desplegar acciones por la paz donde quiera que ésta se halle amenazada o no exista. El MSP/SFB se siente honrado y está dispuesto a responder positivamente a este llamado, pues tiene conciencia de su responsabilidad por la paz mundial. Considera también que este es un reconocimiento a los largos años de esfuerzos con que los activistas del MSP/SFB han respaldado con entusiasmo las actividades del CMP. El MSP/SFB siempre ha sido un movimiento antiimperialista por la paz que siempre estuvo de lado de quienes luchan por la justicia, la paz y la soberanía nacional.

Cuando los amigos de todo el mundo lleguen a Suiza en 1993 encontrarán un país con altas aspiraciones en pro de la paz y el desarme, donde un tercio de los electores votó por la abolición del ejército.

Estamos convencidos de que el espíritu y las tradiciones de Basilea, el amor por la paz y la perseverancia y el placer que nuestros activistas demostrarán en la preparación, constituyen buenas precondiciones para una exitosa asamblea en 1993.

Está pendiente una serie de plebiscitos sobre enmiendas constitucionales referidas a: el umbral" que no adquieran armas nucleares. La proliferación de armas nucleares aumentaría la inseguridad e inestabilidad ahora cuando preciosos recursos materiales y económicos son necesarios para el desarrollo sustentable.

Solicitamos a los líderes de los Estados miembros de la ONU a reanudar sus esfuerzos por un Tratado Amplio de Prohibición de las Pruebas Nucleares y para hacer permanente el Tratado de No Proliferación.

El CMP se une a todos los movimientos de paz y ONG en un esfuerzo sostenido por la suspensión definitiva de las pruebas nucleares. Esta, la más reciente, oportunidad histórica debe ser aprovechada a fin de liberar al planeta Tierra de todo tipo de armas nucleares.

-el término de la construcción ulterior de instalaciones militares.

-la prohibición de comprar nuevos aviones militares (más de 500.000 ciudadanos apoyaron la realización de este plebiscito en un tiempo récord inferior a 4 semanas).

-la reducción en 50% de los gastos militares, en escalones de 10% en cinco años.

-la prohibición total a la exportación de armamentos.

Estas iniciativas por la paz, el desarme y el desarrollo pacífico, como también por la protección de la humanidad y el medio ambiente fueron respaldadas y llevadas a cabo por todas las organizaciones suizas de la paz, incluido el MSP/SFB ya sea como iniciador o asociado. Un instrumento importante, "organizador colectivo", es el periódico del MSP/SFB, "Unsere Welt" (Nuestro Mundo), que ha sido publicado por más de 15 años. Sus 50.000 ejemplares por edición son financiados con las donaciones y suscripciones de sus lectores.

Nos preparamos para dar la bienvenida a los amigos de todo el mundo en Basilea. Se trata de una ciudad cosmopolita, punto de partida de viajes a ultramar, nudo ferroviario internacional y sede del aeropuerto Basilea/Mulhouse. Centro de la industria química, el comercio y la banca. Ciudad de humanistas, museos, artistas, de un activo movimiento sindical y de la paz. Anfitriona del Congreso de Paz de la II Internacional en 1912 y de la Asamblea Ecueménica Europea "Por la Paz con Justicia" en 1989. Ustedes serán los invitados de una ciudad que votó en cifras de millones durante un referéndum para adquirir obras de Picasso para la galería de arte. Picasso, el inolvidable creador de nuestra paloma de la paz, agradeció donando obras de arte adicionales.

Los preparativos están en marcha. Los locales, los aspectos técnicos y los hoteles ya están reservados. Una velada de verano en julio pasado nos proporcionó la primera remesa de US\$2000 para el Fondo de Paz "Junio 1993". Usted también puede hacer aportaciones a este fondo a través de la donación de artículos (artesanía, etc.) para vender en nuestro bazar.

Nos aprestamos a dar una cálida acogida a nuestros invitados extranjeros. Nos esforzaremos al tratar de asegurar que estén disponibles las mejores condiciones para una conferencia eficiente y fructífera. ¡"Auf Wiedersehen", en Basilea en junio 1993!

Hans Stebler  
Presidente del MSP/SFB



freedom for Leonard Peltier. Contact: John Dacajewiah Hill, LISN, POB 312, Port Tobacco, USA.

**One World Week**

18-25 October. The Week was started by the churches 15 years ago. Today, it is a focus for all those working for justice, peace and sustainable development and it welcomes all who wish to join it. The idea in a nutshell is "trading actions - living links". This year's call suggests steps like:

A "Day without the Third World". Jeans, trainers, chocolate and potato chips - all originated in the Third World. Can your school or youth group survive?

A One World Harvest Festival, celebrating the skills and labour of the world's producers.

A "Last Day of Freedom Party" on 11 October in solidarity with the indigenous people in Latin America who still live with the legacy of Columbus.

For details, contact: One World Week, POB 100, London SE1 7RT, UK.

**World Congress for Education and Communication on Environment and Development**

17-21 October, Toronto, Canada. It is aimed at stimulating action by improving the accuracy, quality and delivery of education and communication relating to environment and sustainable development. For more information, contact: Eco-Ed Congress, 191 Niagara Street, Toronto, Canada.

**Beyond the 500 Years: Discovering Our Common Struggles Against Oppression & Colonialism**

31 October-4 November, seminar in Quito, Ecuador, co-organised by IFOR and SERPAJ-Ecuador. It will be followed by IFOR Council meeting. For details, contact: IFOR, Spoorstraat 38, 1815 BK Alkmaar, The Netherlands. Ph.31-72 12 30 14

**International Symposium on the Urgency of New International Scientific and Technological Order**

9-16 November, Dakar, Senegal, as part of the 16th General Assembly of the World Federation of Scientific Workers.

Contact: African Committee for the symposium and the General Assembly, Post Box 10 224 Dakar Liberte, Senegal. Executive Director: Dr Abdoulaye Samb. Ph. 221 21 15 14 (off) and 221 25 43 45 (home).

**Mass Demonstration - A Movement of Different Movements**

October, Genoa, Italy. Peace, solidarity, ecological, anti-racist and others, united in a struggle for better world.

**Demonstration Before UN Building**

12 October; organised by the League of Indigenous Sovereign Nations of the Western Hemisphere. Demands include Voting Seat in UN for Indigenous Nations, sovereignty and self-determination for native peoples, and

**500 years...**

From Page 3

Agriculture in 1990 accounted for 17 per cent of the production structure, industry 27 per cent while services including tourism were as much as 56 per cent. For a population of a little over seven million, the Dominican Republic had to import 662 million tonnes of cereals in 1990, among other items. Its total external debt in 1990 stood at 4,400 million dollars!

Yet this island has had the first exposure to the "modern world", notwithstanding the ruthless butchery of the Spanish "conquistadores". It had not only modern education (the first university of the western hemisphere) but also the first hospital and first cathedral. Still the adult literacy is around 18 per cent only. Its tempestuous history has been marked by violence and conquests. It was Spain's steppingstone to further explorations of the New World and colonisation, and the people paid for that. But there were revolts including the so-called

slave insurrection of 1791.

After the downfall of the Spanish authority, the island passed through various troubled phases including occupation by the French and Haitians, as well as British. Its trade and customs were controlled by USA during 1905-41 and it came under US military occupation twice - 1916-24 and 1965-66, interspersed with bouts of dictatorships including that of notorious Trujillo. Finally on 16 May 1986 elections brought a form of democracy which is now gathering strength. Real democracy is yet to come and the country is yet much too dependent on USA. Most of its communication system is controlled by USA.

So how does one assess the 500 years of the Dominican Republic? As years of progress or years of lost opportunities? Has the country gained anything? Despite all the negative features, any rational being would take the overall balance as positive, especially so when you cannot go back into history and start all over again.

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**TACKLING THE FLOW OF ARMS**

Last year, arms sales to the 'third world' countries dropped by 40 per cent to a total value of 24.7 billion US dollars from 41.1 billion in 1990. Soviet deliveries dropped by 55 per cent to 5 billion dollars from 11.2 billion; the French sales by an even more impressive 87 per cent (from 8.1 to 0.4 billion) and Chinese by 86 per cent - from 2.1 to 0.3 billion dollars.

Since the sales to the 'third world' constitute a larger share of total arms trade, one can conclude that the trade of the deadly merchandise has been falling sharply. Does it mean that the peace movement campaigning against the arms transfers can now be satisfied? Well, yes and no.

Yes, because the current slide down in the armed sales is rather significant. Besides, some regions and countries have been closed by the UN embargo on arms sales. The UN General Assembly last December passed a resolution for a register of arms sales. This will mean a kind of control over the trade. And the last but not the least - there is an understanding in governmental circles of the industrial countries of the dangers of unlimited sales to the conflict areas.

No, because there are still too many problems, as Ernst Gülcher of the Antwerp based International Peace Information Service points out, the thirst for money happens to be stronger than political will. The military industrial complex is too strong to surrender and stop arms production. And, of course, it is not a simple process which demands conversion efforts. Some of the countries, as USA, have good regulations in the law books curtailing the arms trade, and Washington produces impressive initiatives, but the trade goes on.

No, because there are countries, Russia, Czechoslovakia, Belarus among them, which openly declare that the arms trade is an integral part of their foreign trade because they need hard currency for economic needs, including the conversion process. And they try to increase their sales.

No, because under the official cover of talks about cutting down arms trade and despite initiatives by different governments to regulate weapons transfers, a lot of trade have taken place in the form of clandestine operations, sometimes with the knowledge of high governmental officials. It is an open secret: different ex-Yugoslavian republics continue to receive arms, including heavy weapons, while the whole world is watching in horror the bloodshed in the senseless conflict.

No, because the Gulf War instead of being a warning to everybody, turned to be a kind of an arms fair. The

principal winner happens to be the USA. In February 1992 the Arms Control Association in Washington reported that in the 17 months since Iraq's invasion of Kuwait, the Bush administration received 19 billion dollars in new arms transfers to eight Middle East countries, and many weapons were "offensive weapons", as they are identified in the CFE Treaty. This is the result of a policy when high-flown proposals and policy statements are too often not followed through by actually stopping or limiting arms sales.

No, because it is not only the industrial North that is to be blamed for arms trade. The responsibility is also on many governments of the South. Authoritarian ambitions, repressive attitudes, power struggle, repressions against own peoples, exaggerated defence requirements are among the reasons to ask for arms despite the fact that economy of the South cannot stand such expenditures.

I have met Ernst Gülcher at various international meetings. The problem of arms trade has always been his favourite topic. Now with the help of IPB he published a book titled "Tackling the Flow of Arms", an international survey of initiatives and campaigns against arms trade.

While SIPRI and other research institutes follow the problem of arms transfers itself, until now nobody tried to "paint" a more or less complete picture of the struggle waged by the peace movements against the "death trade". Now it is done.

The volume of arms trade has been shrinking over the last couple of years. Military products might find it difficult to find cash customers in Black Africa or Latin America. It might also be that in Europe there is a general trend to reduce defence spending and cut arms. There are international limitations of trade. "But over-optimistic approaches might also be wishful thinking, taking into account the strong opposing forces", -points out the author with a warning: "The peace movement must be vigilant because in so many forums the issues of arms trade is discussed and sometimes positive proposals are put forward as if they are almost fulfilled. But even the best proposals...are not yet political reality and their realization will be a matter of hard struggle for many years...National and international anti-arms trade campaigns and lobbying

must be high on the agenda of every peace movement if any good results are ever to be expected".

It will take too much space to try to give examples of the struggles by the peace movements of Britain (The Campaign Against Arms Trade is very active there) and Germany, US and Sweden (an interesting fact: Swedish arms were used in 63 international wars between 1950 and 1983), Spain and Australia, Belgium and Switzerland, France and Italy.

Let me just mention Ernst Gülcher's words concerning the efficiency of the campaigns and daily routine activities directed against arms transfers: "If nowadays it can be claimed by peace movement that no arms trading contact can hide longer then a few weeks from

articles in major newspapers, this is partly the result of cooperation within the European Network Against Arms Trade", which has no formal member-

ship but reflects the great desire of a number of peace organisations to stop the "death trade". No wonder the author proposes that a global 'North-South East-West' communications network for activists and researchers from all over the world should be set up. It is very important to involve public organisations from the South into anti-arms trade struggle, though it is not an easy task.

Over the years anti-arms trade campaigns have had the human rights dimension. Another concern was that arms exports stimulate or aggravate violence in conflict-ridden regions of the world. Still another - economic and social development - is hindered by exaggerated arms expenditures, and finally - it is the issue of security that is undermined by arms transfers.

There are different ways to limit and then to stop arms trade at national and international levels, advises Ernst Gülcher. Civic diplomacy can play an important role in curbing arms trade but it requires cooperation of all peace movements at various levels. A peace researcher in the field of arms trade since 1975, the author has written a book very useful for the peace movements and those who are interested in the problems of arms sales.

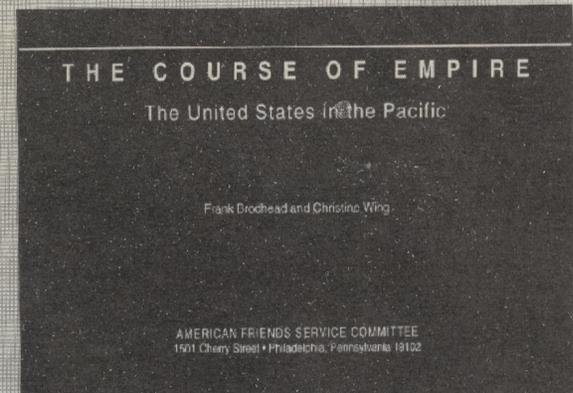
Georgiy Kouznetsov

**tackling the flow of arms**



An international survey of initiatives and campaigns against arms trade by Ernst Gülcher

ipb



Did USA ever have an empire or did it ever aspire to have one? Opinions sharply differ. But what is beyond any doubt is the fact that joining late in the division of the world, USA did manage to develop an economic empire supplemented by its backyard political empires - in Latin America and in the Pacific. These were for a long time maintained through use of military power and as an option the use of force has not been given up even today. This is the crux of the matter.

It is in this context, the 56-page highly informative booklet produced by the American Friends Service Committee becomes a good and useful reading. As the chapters of this booklet clearly show between 1947 and 1960,

USA built up a Pacific system to sustain its military and economic power. It was during 1961-75 that it faced a challenge due its Vietnam adventure and had to retreat. It further changed in 1975-1987 when political changes and the second oil shock played a very big role. A still further shift came in the Gorbachev era - 1987-1991.

What now? The so-called Soviet threat has vanished; only US "expansionism" remains and that is what brings into doubt the US approach to the region - cooperation or conflict? One point has been very well made: USA does not have a free hand in the region. National governments have their own agendas and there are active resistance movements as well.



# The Falklands Alternative

Joe Vialls

The following is from Joe Vialls' pamphlet "Secret Agenda of Falklands and Gulf Wars" which provides considerable insight to a problem that is not easily understood at the grass-roots level. The author, from Perth, Australia, is active in the peace movement - ed.

Oil is the decisive power source of industrial countries. Control of production and price of oil is the throttle-hold on the economics and politics of the world.

## WERE THE WARS IN THE FALKLANDS AND IRAQ FOR CONTROL OF WORLD OIL?

When OPEC (Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries) set the production and price of their own nationalized oil in 1973, power was snatched out of the hands of the seven oil transnationals.

Since that time the transnationals and the USA and British governments have set out to regain control of world oil. The prime targets have been the Gulf states decisive in production and reserves of OPEC oil.

The US and British governments and the transnationals used coups, boycotts and other methods to weaken OPEC hold.

At the same time they searched desperately to find major alternative oil fields in deserts, under seas and ice.

## London, Late 1981

The British multinational was in a state of seething excitement when the results of its comprehensive seismic survey were compiled and delivered to the directors. The results were almost beyond belief, showing estimated oil reserves under the Falkland Islands continental shelf, more than ten times as large as those existing in Saudi Arabia when production first began.

It was the greatest agglomeration of crude oil and gas on the face of the earth. The excitement was palpable, and the normal reserve of the eternally serious executive slipped for an instant. Secretaries passed the wonderful news to their friends in City of London pubs and, within days, reasonably accurate details arrived at

Argentine Intelligence in Buenos Aires. By early 1983, full details were in the possession of Saudi Arabian Intelligence in Riyadh.

No doubt the mass of the British public thought their Prime Minister the absolute champion of democracy, when in 1982 she felt compelled to protect a handful of sheep farmers who had recently been invaded by shock waves of Argentinean troops. It was Britain at its best. Thousands waved white handkerchiefs, and cheered the QE-II as it steamed slowly out of Southampton, bound for the battle of the South Atlantic.

Those reading this analysis might detect a startling similarity in response times between Britain's Falklands war and America's Gulf war. Only the size of the armada differed.

## American Support

Although Britain managed to evict the Argentineans, she did not do it entirely alone. Wave after wave of 'unseen' American aerial tankers refuelled British aircraft, and hundreds of American ships provided supplies at the half way point. Washington knew about the oil, and wanted in on the deal in a big way. The hidden 'aid' was just a small down payment.

Washington, together with London, has had an alternative to the Gulf for many years now: the Falkland Islands continental shelf. The problem has always been the prohibitive cost of developing the huge, remote resource. This brief analysis examines whether the destruction of Iraq and Kuwait, plus threats to Libya, form deliberate links in a chain of events designed to remove Arab OPEC dominance of crude oil completely, forcing an oil price rise of sufficient magnitude to allow the Falklands Alternative to become practical reality.

If that proves the case, changes in regional power will be incredible. However, to be successful, strategic controls would have to be placed on Arab OPEC members first, to erase or reduce competition in the long term.

One way to achieve those controls would be to deliberately wreck the production capabilities of some Arab OPEC members, making others more vulnerable to US and British control.

Joint studies were conducted for years between selected British and American oil multinationals. Plans were rushed backwards and forwards but to no avail. The price needed to start exploration was US\$25+ per barrel, and the cost to start production around US\$30-35+ per barrel. Unfortunately, during March 1983 the Saudi govern-

ment lowered the price of crude oil to \$29, which started a downward spiral in prices that bottomed out at \$10 in November 1985, destroying prospects for the Falklands Alternative.

## Price Hike Aim

The US and Britain had to get the price of oil back up to at least \$25+ if global oil dominance via the Falklands Alternative was to become reality.

One way the price could be achieved, would be by dominating some of the Arab OPEC producers and finding a way of throttling their production output back considerably.

Even then there would be a problem. Sooner or later there would be a backlash and Arab OPEC production output would increase again if it was not carefully controlled. One sure way of achieving a constant price, might be to destroy the production capacity of some of the Arab OPEC nations.

The question then was probably: 'can it be done?' The question now is: 'Has it been done to two Arab OPEC nations already, with a third on the target list?'

Before the Gulf slaughter began, crude oil was more or less static at \$12-14 per barrel. Fifteen months later, in May 1992, the price quietly rose above \$22 per barrel, in the run up to the northern hemisphere summer. A reverse seasonal trend. It is left to the reader to estimate where the price would be now, if the Bush Administration and British government had succeeded in forcing military action against Libya as well as Kuwait and Iraq.

## Tripartite Ceasefire on Abkhazia

On 3 September President of Russia Boris Yeltsin, Chairman of the State Council of Georgia Eduard Shevardnadze and leaders of Abkhazia signed a cease-fire agreement in Abkhazia effective from 5 September. These negotiations in Moscow were a serious attempt to resolve the conflict by peaceful means.

A few days earlier, the Federation of Peace and Conciliation together with the Russian Peace Committee had organised a round-table discussion on this theme which was attended by a number of representatives of state and public organisations of all the interested sides. The participants adopted an appeal urging the leaders of Russia, Northern Caucasus, Georgia and Abkhazia for a peaceful settlement of the conflict.

The appeal underscored: There is no doubt that all nations of Georgia - Georgians, Abkhazians, Osetians, Azharians and others have equal and inalienable rights to their self-determination and national arrangement in a single multinational state. Its unity and territorial integrity can be preserved without resorting to force. To this end a political dialogue of responsible leaders of Georgia and Abkhazia should be started above all."

The internationalisation of the conflict, the kindling of ethnic discord and direct interference with military action will not be able in any way to help a peaceful settlement but will only aggravate the already desperate condition of the innocent people, the appeal pointed out.

The Federation for Peace and Conciliation and the Russian Peace Committee called for the earliest restoration of peace and justice in Abkhazia and expressed readiness to assist this process, by all methods of people's diplomacy and a constructive dialogue of the representatives of the public of all parties concerned.

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## WHO OWNS SAN FRANCISCO'S SUPERVISORS?

*Contribution Records Indicate Special Interests Are Bigger Than Ever*

by Nina Schuyler

**W**hen California voters approved Proposition 73, the Campaign Reform Act of 1988, it was viewed as a repudiation of a political system fueled almost exclusively by special interests. Proposition 73's sponsors, which included State Senator Quentin Kopp (Ind.-S.F.), promised the measure would limit the role that big donors — organizations and individuals who could make contributions totaling many thousands of dollars — play in choosing our representatives.

It hasn't happened that way — at least not in San Francisco.

Campaign statements filed in January by each of the members of the San Francisco Board of Supervisors indicate that the passage of Proposition 73 has not limited the influence of special interests in local politics.

In fact, San Francisco's major special interests — the real estate lobby, attorneys and major corporations — seem to have a greater role in local politics today than they did prior to the passage of Proposition 73.

For example, at least two supervisors, Willie Kennedy and Wendy Nelder, tapped into special interest money they had not previously reported receiving last year. Both surpassed the amount of money they raised in 1987 and 1985, similar off-election years.

Mitchell Omerberg, Director of the Affordable Housing Alliance, a pro-rent-control organization, says the role of real estate in local politics has grown greatly in the past year.

"When Proposition M, which capped downtown growth, passed in 1986," said Omerberg, "candidates stopped seeing the plentiful flow of real estate money that marked previous years."

"That changed in 1989," said Omerberg.

Omerberg witnessed first-hand the overbearing special interests in fundraising when he served Willie Kennedy's reelection campaign in 1988.

"The real estate industry rallied against Kennedy in '84 and '88 because she had voted in favor of rent control," said Omerberg. "She was dubbed the anti-industry candidate." Kennedy raised only \$126,000 in 1988 and still sits on a \$31,000 debt.

But when Kennedy placed a paid argument in the November 1988 election against Proposition U, a measure that would have limited rent increases to 7 percent after an apartment is vacated, the real estate industry saw a chance to intensify its influence.

"This was the window of opportunity for the real estate community," said Omerberg. "She was a prime target to be courted by real estate interests."

Zev Ben Simon, president of Taldan Investments, hosted a fundraiser for Supervisor Kennedy in September of 1989. But, according to Omerberg, the Coalition for Better Housing, the euphemistically named lobby for San Francisco's big landlords, took the event over.

"It was the first time I'd seen political consultant Jack Davis, Coalition for Better Housing Executive Director Barbara Kolesar and Russ Flynn of TRI Realty together at a Kennedy fundraiser," said Omerberg.

Kolesar said, "We just wanted to congratulate Kennedy for signing on to Proposition Q, the measure that created a fund for low and moderate income housing. She got immense pressure from the people on the other side."

"As an individual I give to elected officials who support and represent my interests," said Flynn, a principal at TRI Realty, the city's largest residential real estate company. "Supervisor Kennedy has

been very helpful and we made a commitment to help her out."

For Zev Ben Simon, who hosted the real estate event, stopping vacancy control is the single most important issue to him. "As a responsible business person, we can't let the crazies take over," said Simon, apparently linking support of vacancy control to mental instability.

The September fundraiser raised more than \$18,000, with at least \$12,000 coming from real estate interests. All the money was funneled into Kennedy's "Friends" account, which is used to pay for expenses associated with holding an office.

Some of the new names on Kennedy's contributor list include Founder's Title Company (\$500), Herth Realty (\$250), Colonial Realty & Investment Co. (\$250), Bernstein Realty (\$500) and TRI Realtors Development Corporation (\$750).

Kennedy raised a total of \$58,154 in 1989 with at least \$23,970 coming from the real estate community, the biggest single contributor to her bank account. In 1987, real estate gave \$5,100 of the total \$16,135. The largest giver in '87 was the business community, which gave \$7,000.

Last week, Kennedy provided a key vote to defeat

a vacancy control proposal less stringent than a measure Kennedy had voted for in 1984. With the volume of contributions Kennedy has received from real estate interests, her decision to renege on a campaign pledge to support vacancy control is not surprising.

Kennedy testily denies that contributions have influenced her voting on vacancy control or any other measures. "I don't even know who gives me what," said Kennedy, repeating a statement she made to the *San Francisco Chronicle* earlier this month — a statement that drew snickers of disbelief from most

*"I give to individuals who support my interests. Supervisor Kennedy has been very helpful."*

**Russ Flynn  
TRI Realtors**

political insiders.

Kennedy spent \$57,580 last year, with most of the money allocated to her 1988 campaign manager and fundraiser, Gale Kaufman and Mary O'Shea. Kaufman is still owed \$7,000, according to campaign statements.

Supervisor Wendy Nelder's fundraising story is similar to Kennedy's, but with a twist. She, too, saw her campaign funds balloon with real estate money. But her recent flip-flop on vacancy control and her announced bid for city assessor may have more to do with animosity towards Mayor Agnos than with the influences of real estate money.

The San Francisco Association of Realtors, then headed by Victor Makras, sent the message to the real estate community last year that Nelder was ripe for a change in her vacancy control position. Makras hosted a fundraiser for Nelder on June 29, 1989. Most of the big stars of real estate were there.

The event was held on that date for a particular reason — if Nelder collected her money before June 30, the last day of the fiscal year, she could hold another fundraiser during the second half of 1989 to tap the same resources. Proposition 73 limits the amount of money a contributor can give during the fiscal year, which runs from June to July.

That event raised more than \$14,000, with at least \$5,600 coming from real estate interests.

The second major fundraiser, held in a North Beach art gallery, was a bigger coup for Nelder. The event was held in November after Nelder failed to attend a vacancy control hearing and then delayed the measure 90 days at the following meeting.

Nelder was well rewarded for her actions, with a total of \$36,325 coming from 43 real estate and development companies.

This time, real estate contributors that had previously given to Nelder — Taldan Investments and Grovesnor Properties — were joined by a horde of new contributors, including Coldwell Banker (\$250), Colonial Realty Investment Company (\$500), and Bernstein Realty (\$500).

Nelder has one more chance to tap this money before June. She says she intends to transfer the money she's raised for her supervisorial reelection to her bid for assessor.

With her recent sudden entry into the assessor's race, Nelder takes on Agnos-endorsed candidate Richard Hongisto. She's solidified her conservative base with her vote against vacancy control, and figures to receive more money from both business and real estate interests to run a well-financed campaign.

Supervisor Jim Gonzalez topped his 1987 contributions of \$58,150 when he raised \$64,904 in 1989.

Gonzalez's largest contributors are the same that head Supervisor Bill Maher, Nelder and Kennedy's lists: the Swig family (\$950), Grovesnor Properties (\$1,500), Cypress Management (\$1,000), and Markborough Properties (\$1,000).

Unlike Kennedy and Nelder, whose largest special interest contributor is the real estate industry, Gonzalez's is big business, which gave at least \$21,000 in 1989. But real estate is playing a bigger part in Gonzalez's financial picture than before. The industry contributed \$20,000 to Gonzalez last year, compared to only \$8,000 in 1987. Though only 23 different real estate sources gave money to Gonzalez in 1987, more than 50 real estate companies gave him money in

*continued on next page*

### CONTRIBUTIONS TO SUPERVISORS BY SPECIAL INTEREST

	Attorney	Real Estate	Business	Union	Others*
Alioto	\$10,275	\$12,530	\$28,465	\$6,200	\$38,926
Britt	2,050	3,250	8,750	3,800	13,145
Gonzalez	2,050	20,750	21,175	9,000	11,929
Hallinan**	2,850	5,400	4,500	4,000	13,204
Hongisto					50,000
Hsieh	400	3,900	6,076	200	8,277
Kennedy	2,750	23,970	14,400	2,550	14,484
Maher	10,200	38,075	37,450	400	3,692
Nelder	5,850	17,650	13,025	14,575	4,350
Walker	500	800	850	400	275
Ward***					

\* Other contributions include any that do not fit the categories above, all personal loans and all reported contributions under \$100.

\*\* Hallinan's numbers only include January through June 1989.

\*\*\* Doris Ward disclosure statements report no money raised in 1989.

# Brazil COPY COPY 50,000 Teenage Prostitutes

Brazil, well-known for its fantastic and lively carnival celebrations, is gaining world-wide attention for another, more notorious activity: teenage prostitution. International agencies and human rights specialists have been gathering frightening statistics on the growing trafficking in young girls. All of them are calling for immediate action to stamp out this practice of white slavery.

About 50,000 teenage Brazilian girls, some of them barely 12 years old, are illegally exploited as prostitutes in towns of northeast Brazil. This fact was presented at a U.N. meeting recently by an independent human rights expert.

Benjamin Whitaker of Britain, vice-chairman of the U.N. Subcommission on Prevention of Discrimination and Protection of Minorities, gave some enlightening facts about teenage prostitution in Brazil. He said the girls usually begin working in brothels between the ages of 12 and 14 and by 20 they are considered too old, if not worn out, by the brothel keepers.

For services rendered, the teenage girls received a mere 37 cents per client. Yet they have to pay six times that amount per day to the brothel. One can imagine how hard they have to work just to pay brothel rates. This bit of information was gleaned from the British Charity Oxam.

Prostitution as such is illegal in Brazil but the girls, according to Mr. Whitaker, continue to be exploited in town vice zones because the law could not prevail against visited interests and police corruption.



Family living on top of a garbage dump. These are some of the conditions that spawn teen-age prostitution.

"These young people are the victims of a flagrantly machismo culture

"They are in some cases sold by their parents in villages and taken to towns in lorries where they become part of a debt bondage system."

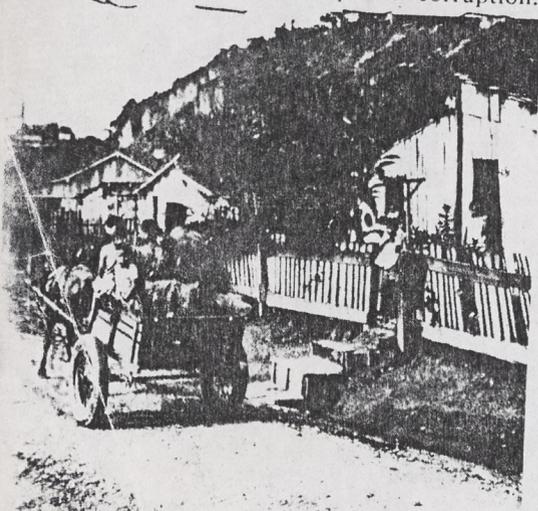
Teenage prostitution in Brazil is just one of the degrading jobs that children of the world have to con- end. A recent statistic of the International Labor Organization (I.L.O.) says that there are 400 million children in the world who do not attend school, and about half of these work in degrading jobs from an early age. In India, as an example, there is a reported 16.5 million working children between the ages of 5 and 14, and the Indian government had formed a commission to examine existing legislation and recommend necessary changes.

A number of recommendations have been suggested to ameliorate the widespread problems facing children in life crises. One recommendation strongly urges closer coordination between different U.N. agencies to tackle the extreme poverty which caused most of the child labor exploitation.

Experts on the U.N. Subcommission said, and rightly so, it was not enough to list the hardships that face children; a special rapporteur should be created to advise how their cultural and emotional future could be protected.

Panels and investigative commissions notwithstanding, the Brazilian situation needs some immediate curative action to safeguard the human rights of those unfortunate minors.

Some of the millions slated for industrial improvement and advancement ought to be used for the improvement of the adverse human conditons existing in Brazil, the Superpower of Latin America

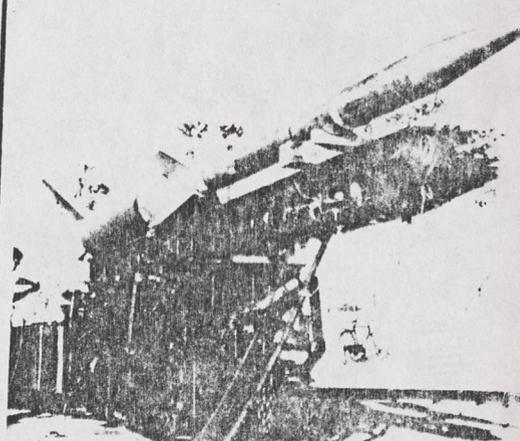


A poor Brazilian family leaving their home on their way to get food.

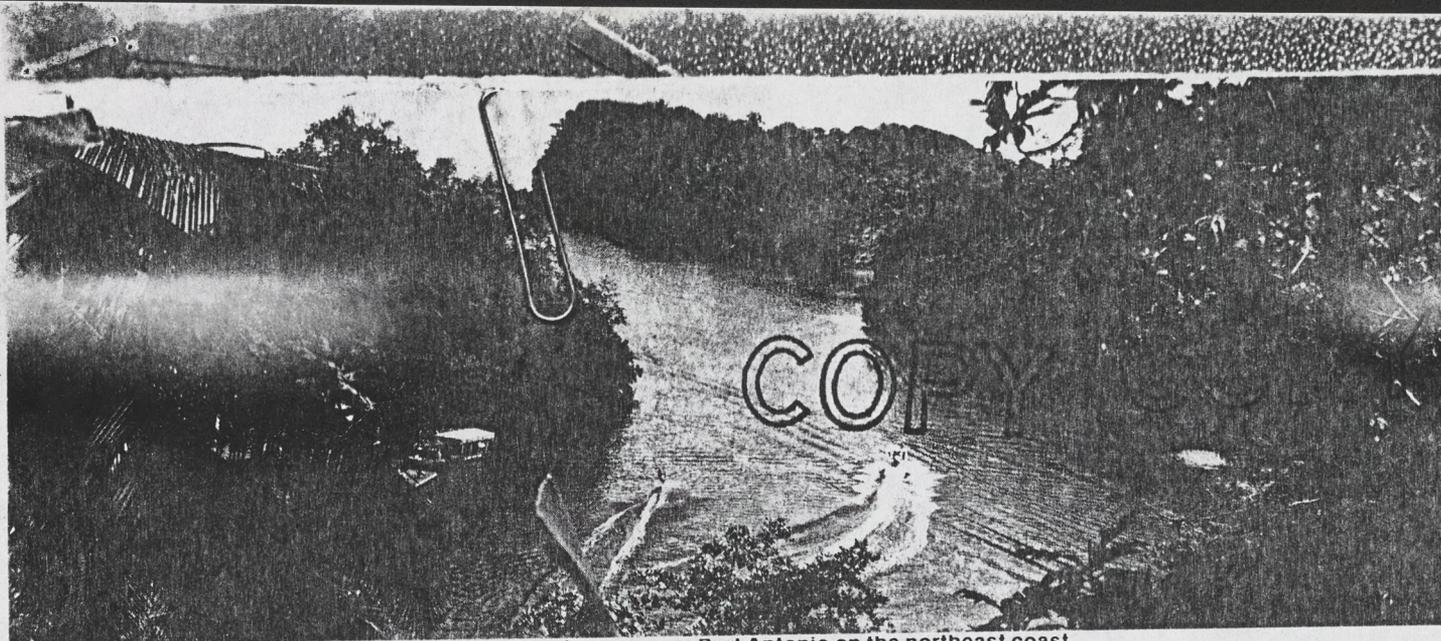
CUBA

## Nuclear Power Cometh

The government of President Fidel Castro recently announced it will be in stiff competition with other powers. How? Nuclear power will become a part of the Caribbean Basin via Cuba. Luis Beltran.



Rocket launching station, a phase of Cuba's nuclear power plans.



The beautiful Blue Lagoon near Port Antonio on the northeast coast.

## THE CARIBBEAN

# Caribbean Revolution '79

The wind of change which has been sweeping through the African homeland has swung to the Caribbean diaspora, where it has found help in men and movements.

1979 has been an awesome year for the "High and the Mighty." Many world leaders have had Humpty-Dumpty-like tumbles from power this year. Political winds of change have swept away Field Marshall Idi Amin Dada of Uganda, President Francois Macias Nguema of Equatorial Guinea and His Majesty Emperor Jean-Edel Bokassa of the Central African Empire on the African continent; the Shah of Iran in Asia; and President Anastasio Somoza of Nicaragua in Central America.

But to many, the greatest surprise has been the earthshaking events that have occurred in the Caribbean since last March. Three sunny, simmering, once British-owned isles of Grenada, Dominica and St. Lucia did the unthinkable. They revolted. There was a coup d'etat in Grenada; a forced abdication of the Dominican head-of-state; and a constitutional coup in St. Lucia.

The coup precipitated international responses and a range of speedy actions. The member states of the West Indies Associated States (WIAS) Council of Ministers met within a week of the coup in Grenada and resolved to establish a regional security force for the Eastern Caribbean. Several CARICOM leaders considered immediate expansion of their national security forces. Guyana, as an example, revamped its army in light of the

coups. The US and other Western Countries, caught unaware, offered advice, assistance and whatever else was necessary. Paying close attention to the fact that all three countries had opened relations with Cuba, the US did not want its image to sag any further.

A mid-July summit meeting by Grenada, Dominica and St. Lucia announced their solidarity and non-alignment in foreign policy. More and more the islands are moving towards political self-sufficiency even if economic independence can not be realized simultaneously. The revolutionary fever of the grassroots in the Caribbean portends a different political game for the islands in 1980s.

The present impetus strongly suggests that the political winds of changes sweeping through the Caribbean has not claimed the last victim.

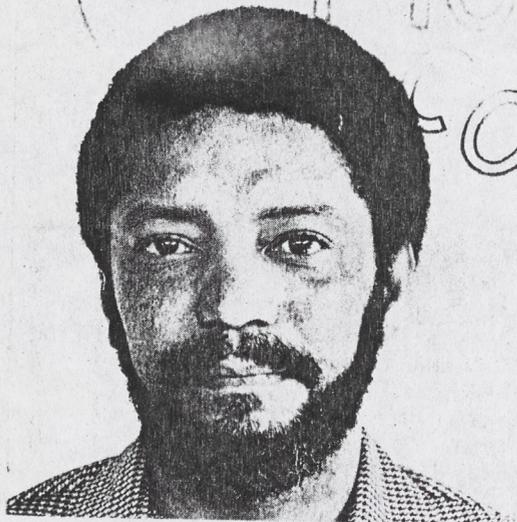


## Grenada Leads The Way

Nationalism, a moving collective force burst like an overripe melon in the Caribbean on March 13, 1979. It marked the armed and abrupt end of the Eric Gairy government in Grenada. Prime Minister Maurice Bishop who spearheaded the bloodless coup seven months ago, provides the Caribbean with a model for revolutionary change. The revolution in Grenada has been likened to the nationalist spirit of the US in the early days of the Republic when the battle was to overthrow repression and violation of basic human rights.

Now that the political change has occurred and supported by almost all Grenadians, the true test emerges. Can the new government establish and/or secure a solid economic foundation for Grenada? Is the political shift taken by Bishop enough of a glue to speed the island out of its

COPY P. B.



Maurice Bishop, Prime Minister of Grenada.

multifarious miseries?

Prime Minister Bishop is committed to unraveling the maze of problems spawned by the Gairy era. It is not an easy task before him: to try to offset the social political and economic abuses of the nearly 30-year-old Gairy regime. Gairy, the iron-fisted ruler of Grenada, kept two things level. He made sure the people and country remain abysmally poor while he became quite wealthy as he pursued his favorite subject, UFOs in many of the world capitals, including Washington, D.C. Sir Eric Gairy was a British appointee who was installed in 1959 and led the country into independence in 1974 as Prime Minister. Gairy, in spite of heavy charges of corruption and the dismissal of his government in 1961, regained power in 1967 and continued to use Grenada as his possession and Kingdom.

Sir Eric Gairy, former Prime Minister of Grenada.



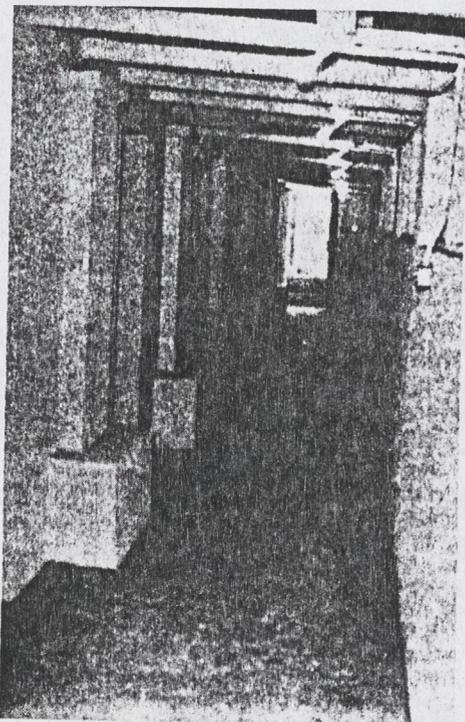
He had the only newspaper on the island and it remained that way because to found any newspaper on the island would require a \$20,000 bond. His presence dominated the only radio station because he himself was supposedly the author of all broadcasts. Gairy allowed little or no opposition. His dreaded "Mongoose Squad," his own private band of thugs, violently suppressed any political opposition. This same gang killed Prime Minister Bishop's father in 1974.

The New Jewel Movement had been gaining in strength against Gairy for years. The catalyst that propelled the coup d'etat was the information the NJM received about their immediate future just a few days before the overthrow. Bishop and his colleagues found out that Gairy intended to arrest them and then execute them. In fact Gairy had built special underground chambers that would house the New Jewel leaders.

This move by Gairy who at the time was at a UN conference in New York sparked the revolution that is now part of history and a new day for Caribbean nationalism.

The coup was over in one day. The army barracks and radio station were seized and the police were made to surrender. An announcement was made to Grenadians to the effect that Sir Eric Gairy had become a victim of the "revolution" and the People's Revolutionary Party Government of

Special underground jail cells built by Gairy for the detention and execution of the New Jewel leaders.



Thousands of Grenadians cheered at the "Caribbean Solidarity Rally" in St. George's.

Grenada had taken over with Bishop as its head and a 23-member governing council was set up with cabinet of seven ministers.

Since the rebellion the PRP has wholeheartedly attacked the repressive legislative system which had imprisoned the island for nearly 30 years. There has been a number of progressive legislations including, for the first time the Grenadian history, a law requiring women get the same wages as men for doing the same job. A number of political prisoners have been granted amnesty. These moves represent a significant achievement by the Bishop government. Yet one of the thorniest problems is still painfully obvious - the state of the economy.

Grenada, although one of the most beautiful islands in the West Indies is one of the poorest. It has an area of 133 square miles and a population of over 100,000 people. The average wage is about \$2.25 per day. Food is expensive since about half foodstuffs and vegetables were imported by the Gairy regime which neglected a viable fishing industry that could have provided Grenadians with a good source of protein. Chicken which is not necessarily a gourmet's dish costs \$2 per pound. Since most Grenadians could not afford those foods, they subsisted mostly on bananas and rice.

The PRP Government intends to reduce the country dependence on imported foods. One of the first steps taken by the new government is to reform the old economic way of doing things. A priority of this administration is the development of Grenada's own food resources.

Major restructuring operations have been authorized by the new government. The country's economy has been based primarily on sugar, cocoa and tourism. The latter has been affected by the coup but reports have it that people are being easily persuaded to return for holiday or vacation.



# An Island In Labour Pains

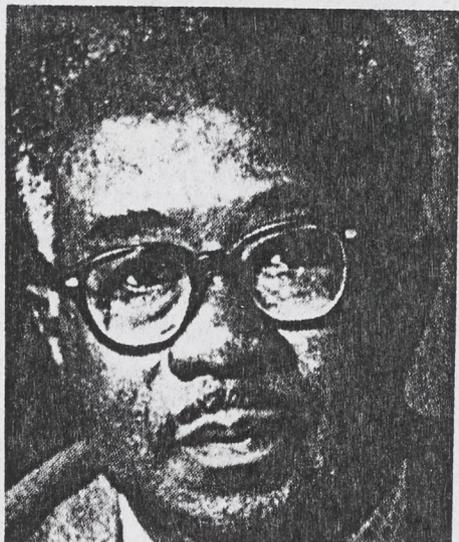
Since last year independence fever has been striking the Eastern Caribbean with what seems to be a mighty vengeance. This year political upheavals have gripped the region - Grenada, Dominica and St. Lucia in particular. The necklace of small islands is flexing its muscles as it steadfastly pursues the green pastures of self-rule and self-determination.

The latest island about to embark on this wind of change is St. Vincent and its dependencies, the Grenadines. The status of nationhood will be acquired by St. Vincent on the 27th of the month. That date also would have marked the 10th anniversary of the island's associated state status with mother Britannia.

A political change could come to Vincentians in the next four months when a general election is slated to be held. The government of Premier Milton Cato could be removed if the new United opposition has its way. In fact, within the next few months the political spotlight will be focused on St. Vincent to bear witness to which direction the island will decide politically.

Premier Cato and his ruling St. Vincent Labor Party (SVLP) are not too pleased with the turn of events. Instead of the main opposition parties battling among themselves for votes, they have banded together to target the Cato administration for extinction. Politically things are getting hot in St. Vincent.

Milton Cato, Premier of St. Vincent.



J.F. "Son" Mitchell, ex-Premier and leader of the NDP.

The majority of the people, it seems, are indifferent to the political chess game. The governmental system has failed them for too long and too often. Is there a political tonic strong enough to pep up St. Vincent's citizenry to the point where a vast majority would involve itself in the electoral process again? A system which is reportedly not up to date in terms of electoral listing.

What has been surfacing for some time now is two schools of thought about the political future of St. Vincent. One school strongly suggests that a political upheaval akin to what has occurred in some other Eastern Caribbean islands — a political wind of change could blow in a new administration. However there is no leader on the horizon presently who possesses those leadership abilities that could shock the people out of their indifference.

One person interviewed by this writer, a young man, said "the people are in a mire of political cynicism and lethargy about the so-called leaders."

The other school of thought claims that Cato will be a "shoo-in" because of the people's apathy and nonchalance. Even the milder-sounding opposition parties like the New Democratic Party (NDP) and the People's Political Party (PPP) that want to unseat Cato are not expected to win because they are considered part of the same system which brought him to power. Leaders of the two parties are viewed as never effecting any eventful accomplishments either.

The group that is causing somewhat of a stir among Vincentians and giving Cato a cause for concern is the new United People's Movement (UPM), formed from

the People's Democratic Movement (PDM) and the Youlou United Liberation Movement (YULIMO). The UPM has clearly stated it has a democratic-socialist bent. Unlike the other opposition parties and the SVLP, this group has been growing in favor among the youth of St. Vincent and possibly some other sectors of the population.

If a survey were conducted in the island, most observers and political experts in the area agree that the new alliance of the UPM has a better than average chance of winning the election. But all does not bode well for this party either. "Many Vincentians," according to one St. Vincentian, "are aware of the problems that democratic socialism has reaped in Jamaica under Prime Minister Michael Manley's management and we do not want to suffer the same fate."



Ebenezer Joshua, leader of the PPP.

This is by no means an enviable position for an island that is about to become independent to have. Yet there is an even worse economic picture. The economy has sagged much lower than the political condition of the country.

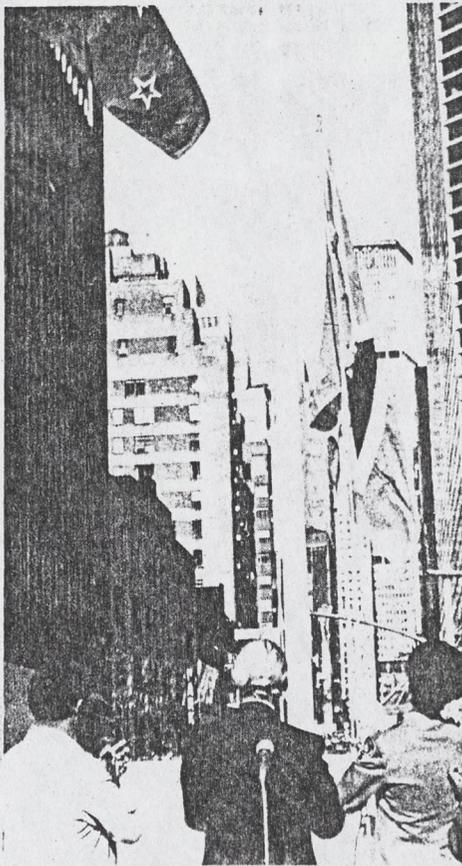
The economy was crippled further by the recent eruption of Soufriere volcano in the northwestern part of the island. Its extensive crater which is 4,084 feet above sea level spewed forth lava and ash, leaving destruction and misery in its wake. Millions of dollars worth of damage was suffered by the banana plantations, tree crops and agricultural land. Like some other isles, the economy is based fundamentally on agriculture and tourism. Both have been hurt immeasurably by the Soufriere disaster last April.

## The Caribbean

About a month after the fall of the Patrick John Government, the John Compton United Workers Party (UMP) was ushered out of power, electorally by the St. Lucian grassroots. St. Lucia freed barely five months was caught in a tailspin from the political wind of change engulfing the Caribbean.

A massive turn-out by young St. Lucians at the polls brought in Allan Louisy, 62 years old and his St. Lucia Labor Party (SLP). The end of Compton's 15-year-old regime signaled the end of the Westminster or British model of government. A St. Lucian traveling in New York said in her comments about the previous regime: "Those entrenched in power in the Caribbean are being blown away one by one. We are demanding a government that fits our needs and not the cumbersome and inefficient wishes of our former colonial master."

A Jamaican young man said that he was in St. Lucia several times and he believed that "the era of the Black grassroot power has arrived in the Caribbean. It is becoming a terrible force to those still entrenched in the old way of doing things. St. Lucia was civil. The confrontation was at the ballot box and not with the bullet but in Jamaica's case it will definitely not be at the ballot box."



Flag raising ceremonies at the U.N. (l to r): Deputy PM George Odlum, U.N. Secretary-General Kurt Waldheim, and a U.N. Security Guard.

# The Grass-Roots Triumph COPY



St. Lucian delegation at the U.N. headed by Deputy PM George Odlum.

John Compton's Waterloo had been building since the decade of the seventies began. Progress in his terms included the beefing up of the police force while the nation's unemployment rate rose higher and higher, especially for the 18 to 25-age group.

One of the first actions the new Prime Minister promised to assault is the unemployment which his government has estimated in excess of 40 percent. Compton's failure to deal with this critical problem contributed greatly to his downfall. The new St. Lucian leader said island's multitude of unemployed labor: "We must all work particularly hard to relieve their suffering and stress. We cannot survive as a nation, or as a people, while the masses live in squalor and destitution. My government considers the improvement of their lot to be the first charge on the national conscience and the national pocket."



Allan Louisy, Prime Minister of St. Lucia.

The overwhelming support of the island's people, a key contributor to PM Louisy's election win was George Odlum, a fiery and articulate politician, his Deputy Minister and Minister of Trade, Industry, Tourism and Foreign Affairs. One other official Peter Josie is the Minister of agriculture, lands, fisheries, labor and cooperatives. This government follows a socialist bent and has ambitious plans to relieve the economic trials of its citizens.

There have been rumors to the effect that Odlum and Josie have more than impressive titles. They are believed to be a great influence in, if not sole arbiter, of Government affairs. Be that as it may, the coming months will make it clear if indeed the New guard is an improvement over the old guard. And more than that the awakened grass roots may not be put to sleep again.



JAMAICA COPY

# Middle Age At 17

Vincentians are still suffering from the ill effects occasioned by that volcanic nightmare. The mop-up is still underway. The embattled economy is being pelted by other aggravations as well: oil prices are rising, while agricultural production is falling; the public debt, which seems to be the status-quo in so many Caribbean islands and the Third World in general, is in excess of the recurrent budget and way above domestic exports.

In fact, an economic analysis of country shows a worsening state of economy. Nearly half of the work force is unemployed; housing is poor; and political corruption reported rampant. The list of woes reads like a Who's Who in short-circuiting an economy. Even the propriety of the leaders are said to be questionable.

With all the problems the island is facing presently, one can easily forget that it has been a garden spot for tourists over the years. It is located about 100 miles west of Barbados and is part of the Windward island group in the Eastern Caribbean. The population is about 95,000 people.

It appears that the troubles might be heavier than most will admit. But Vincentians are stoic and hardworking people and they will survive their hard times. The question remains, however, will there be a leadership spark to ignite a big jump forward for St. Vincent.

Besides the well-publicized fact of Jamaica's tattered economy, the next well-known item is the continuous exchange of charges and countercharges between Prime Minister Michael Manley and Edward Seaga, leader of the Opposition, over the state of the country. The lively but sometimes ominous political banter between Jamaica's two major political parties is not sufficient to solve or bring immediate relief to the economic dilemma facing the majority of Jamaicans.

Carolyn Steele, a young Jamaican businesswoman said: "The constant mentioning of long-term projects feasibility and other assorted political palaver are not doing a thing to pull Jamaicans up from their knees economically. Academic appraisals and speculations are not feeding my family," she lamented.

"I want to know now, what will the government, or the opposition for that matter do to provide food, shelter and clothing for Jamaicans today. With no land to plant, no money for food when the food is there, no gas or oil to cook, and on and on. Jamaica is dying and the only way to save her is to restructure the political system which has proven itself to be incompetent and impotent." Miss Steele nearly screamed her last statements.



Edward Seaga, leader of the opposition JLP.

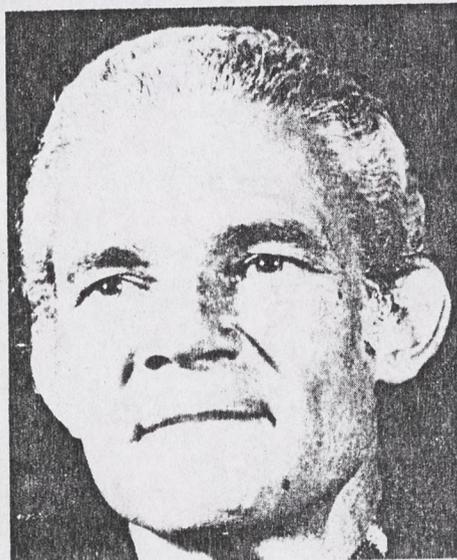
The mood of the people in Jamaica is changing as they realize the hopelessness and powerlessness of their conditions and according to Jeffrey Mills, "could do a damn sight better, at least, they could do no worse, there is only one perdition and I think we have been there long enough."

Because of the increasing economic hardships on the Jamaican people, they are being forced gradually into a dead-end corner. This a particularly unhealthy state for the country, against the recent backdrop of a 180 degree turn in the politics of three countries: Grenada, Dominica and St. Lucia. They are representative models for Jamaica and other Caribbean islands since most have similar conditions and background history.

"The trend towards the grassroots taking over the reins of government could become an uncontrollable brush fire as the momentum and the spirit of liberty continue at the pace it is moving," said a York College undergraduate in Jamaica, New York. The right and the means to secure food, housing, clothing and a job are not unreasonable requests.

Last August Jamaica reached its 17th anniversary as an independent nation. It is the largest of the English-speaking Caribbean islands, and has one of the largest economic headaches. For the last five years the country has been beset with those problems. Jamaica was the first

Michael Manley, Prime Minister of Jamaica.



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Jean-Claude Duvalier, President of Haiti.

# Haitians: Black "Boat People"

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"voluntary returns" and are denied work permits while awaiting hearings. Up to 150 hearings per day are scheduled by the INS. This makes it impossible for Haitians to have proper legal representation. No other nationality seeking refuge in the U.S. has been subjected to the degrading and deplorable treatment received by Haitians at the hands of INS officials the report also stated.

What is responsible for this discrimination against Haitians? The Task Force finds that Immigration's attitude is caused by their conviction that Haitians run away from the oldest Black Republic in the Western Hemisphere to escape starvation, not the rule of "Baby Doc" Duvalier or the wrath of Haiti's feared secret police, the Ton Ton Machettes.

An island of six million people, Haiti has been dubbed the poorest nation in the Western Hemisphere. Its per capita income of \$90 and the majority of its citizens are illiterate. Progressive Haitians blame the plight of the economy on the government and say that their lives are endangered as a result of their opposition to the Duvalier

government. Some Haitians have been granted political asylum but the unlucky ones are turned back before they get a chance to file a claim. Those that made it to the claim desk, were denied work permits thus forcing them to seek aid from local social services. This has imposed a severe fiscal burden on the surrounding countries where Haitians number some 12,000.

The Task Force also questioned the high rate of "voluntary returnees" among Haitians and found that many of the boat people were subject to various forms of coercion and intimidation, including physical abuse to return 'voluntarily' without a hearing.

Other hardships are suffered by the boat people. Last month six Haitian refugees drowned after their smuggler panicked and forced them overboard in 20 feet of water. The victims, a woman 31 years old, Elaine Lorfils and five of her seven children aged 4 to 11 years were coming to join her husband and her two other children who had made a similar journey 14 months before. Tragedies like this cause mental anguish, and frustration. Having to exist as an illegal alien makes one vulnerable to crimes that are dare not reported. No matter how many years of being here, the illegal alien is forever cautious of even his own fellow countrymen for fear of being turned over to immigration officers.

Rep. Chisholm has pledged that the Black Congressional Caucus Task Force is ready to go to the highest officials in the country to ensure the rights of Haitians but inevitably America will have to take a long hard look at the political ramifications of Haiti's economic circumstance and reconsider the classification of Haitian refugees.

The plight of the Vietnamese boat people has caught the hearts of all humanitarians as has the story of the Jews who sailed from port to port seeking refuge to escape the ravishes of Adolph Hitler, but very few words are spoken about the boat people of the Western Hemisphere.

Hundreds of Haitians come by way of boat from the popular stop-over, the Bahamas to the shores of Southern Florida.

In the darkness of the night, smugglers row into the waters off the southern shore with persons who has paid the going rate of about \$700 per person. The boat people come ashore bedraggled, bringing with them not much more than the clothes on their backs and an address of a relative or friend. Some are fortunate enough to slip into the Haitian community and disappear; but most fall into the hands of U.S. Immigration Authorities and for many that is when their troubles begin.

They are thrown into jail where they have only one set of clothing. Their clothes are washed once a week and for hours they lie on the bare cold floor waiting for their clothes to be returned. Dirty, unsanitary cells are another characteristic of their circumstance which account for the terrible health of most of the refugees being detained. In addition they are kept near starvation with an inadequate diet.

There is such a great contrast in the way U.S. Immigration treat Haitians to other refugees, that the U.S. Congressional Black Caucus has set up a special Task Force to investigate the charges of inhumane treatment of the boat people.

Chaired by Rep. Shirley Chisholm, the Task Force has finished its first phase of investigation and reports that the Immigration and Naturalization Services (INS) are in violation of due process of rights of Haitians. Those seeking asylum are given mass hearings, forced into



Haiti's Iron Market does not sell iron -- but almost anything else can be purchased.

N.Y. Representative Shirley Chisholm.



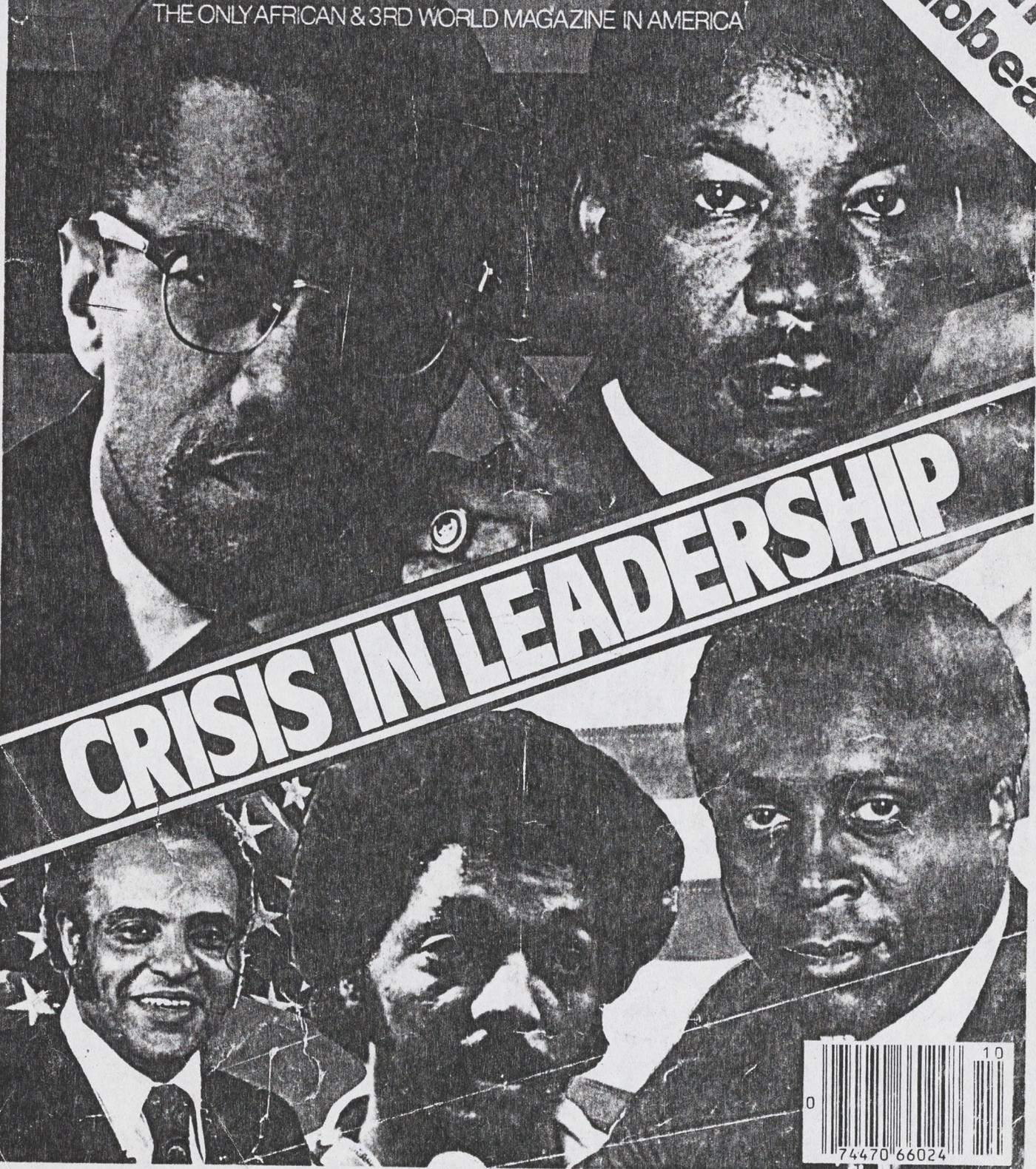
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The Revolution In  
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# African Mirror

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## CRISIS IN LEADERSHIP



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