

Between the Lines

Nuremberg Actions, P.O.Box 13, Boulder Creek CA 95006

April 1991 #8

500 MARCH ON WEAPONS STATION

On Saturday, March 16th, A Day to Resist, A Day to Mourn, organized by a broad spectrum of Bay Area groups, brought about 500 people to the Concord Naval Weapons Station. An initial rally was held about 1/2 mile from the base, where speakers from many groups addressed the crowd. A march to the front gates of the base, taking up all lanes of the Port Chicago Highway, was interrupted by the wail of an air raid siren over the loud speakers. The crowd immediately dropped to the road for a chilling mass die-in, as the recent death toll was slowly intoned. American dead, Iraqi dead, unsuspecting women and children sleeping in an air raid shelter, those dead of AIDS, homelessness, the obscenely high American urban infant mortality rate, all the dead victims of a ruthless government gone out of control.

At the gates of the base, the usual walls of razor wire and banks of cops and camo-clad sailors were conspicuously absent. Those crossing onto base property to risk arrest found themselves wandering around undisturbed in the parking lot. They were quickly joined by the bulk of those assembled. A variety of projects burst forth. Graves were dug in the grounds and cardboard coffins interred. Veterans and others addressed the small Navy guard stationed behind an inner gate. Letters on the base's 40 foot sign were removed, and replaced with 'Agents of Death'. The parking lot became a giant blackboard for spray paint and chalk. Fences were decorated with flyers, posters, mementos and yarn. Shanties were erected on the death train tracks to commemorate the rubble of Baghdad. Ultimately, when neither Navy or police came forward, 20-30 people began to rip up the tracks themselves, and eventually rendered them unusable.

The new base Commander, Capt. Richard Owen, was apparently responsible for the non-confrontational approach to the demonstration. The reversal of roles was somewhat eerie to those of us who are often at the base. Owen initiated a much more informal appearance base-wide when his command began, with civilian dress for gate guards and personal conversations with Nuremberg and other protesters.

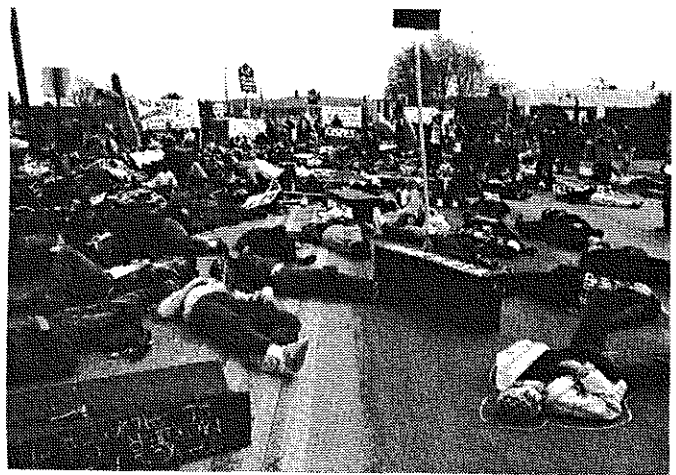
The level of destruction by some of the March 16th protesters has prompted much discussion among local peace activists. As in any focus group that spans millions of Americans, many differences of opinion exist in the anti-war movement, including the issue of acceptable tactics.

Nuremberg Actions was founded with a Nonviolence Covenant, including 11 separate points, from respectful forms of speech to not damaging property. Although we have had our arms broken by police, our car windows smashed by vandals, been issued death threats, been assaulted, shot at and run over by

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"Why of course the people don't want war...It is the leaders...who determine policy and it is always a simple matter to drag the people along...All you have to do is tell them they are being attacked and denounce the pacifists for lack of patriotism and exposing the country to danger. It works the same in any country."

Herman Goering (Hitler's Deputy)



A Day to Mourn, A Day to Resist, Concord Weapons Station 3/16

PALESTINE, ARIZONA

Supporters of traditional Navajos (Dine) in Big Mt. Arizona and the surrounding area have been battling the relocation of a handful of Hopi and 10,000 Navajo since 1974. Federal Law (PL 93-531) at that time mandated running them off their traditional lands to open up exploitation by Peabody Coal Co., a British corporation planning to sell much of the coal to Japan.

Many people have travelled to Big Mt. to bring much needed food and materials, to help rebuild, and to stand firm in nonviolent resistance with the remaining Navajo, mainly elder women. A fast was held on the Capitol steps by Duncan Murphy and others in late 1990 to focus national attention on this attack on sovereign lands right here within US borders.

Legal recourse was exhausted in late 1988, but now with the passage of the Genocide Convention Implementation Act of 1987 which ratifies principles of International Law into the US Constitution, a new legal remedy has been created. The following are excerpts from a petition to the US Justice Department to investigate breaches of the Genocide Act by various Departments of the Federal government:

This program...is resulting in the destruction of an

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a train, we have not deviated from our course. Throughout our vigil at the tracks, we have formed relationships with police, Navy personnel and local residents, some of whom have joined us. This relationship has been affirmed by the base commander, as recently as Valentine's Day. Some individuals who have not been able to abide by this Covenant have been asked to leave our group.

However, Port Chicago Highway is a public place, and the Concord Naval Weapons Station is a legitimate focus of anyone concerned with sickening attacks on civilians and the principles of International Law.

What we do agree on, in the anti-war movement, is that we will not stand silent while our government commits the very war crimes they tried German and Japanese officers for, and condemn Iraq for, not with our tax dollars, not in our name. A very conservative estimate assigns the deaths of some two million civilians to CNWS, before the outbreak of the current war.

How can we afford to brutally kill 75,000 Iraqi children, when we can't afford to educate our own? How can we bring to rubble Baghdad, Panama City, El Salvadoran villages, and assist American corporations like Bechtel get contracts to plan to rebuild them? Are they rebuilding Detroit, Newark, East Oakland, Pittsburg CA? How can George Bush discuss medical aid to the foreign children he has decimated, when the Black children in his own neighborhood have the highest infant mortality rate in our hemisphere, higher than Haiti? How can we step over our own people sleeping in the streets while Neil Bush faces a slap on the wrist for looting the savings of elderly Americans?

We are outraged, we are disgusted, and until our elected officials direct our hardearned tax dollars to rebuilding our own crumbling nation, our rage can only continue to grow and our ranks continue to fill.

Arizona, continued from page 1

identifiable group of traditional Indians, inextricably bound to their homeland by shared religious beliefs and family ties. The Fourth Russell Tribunal on the Rights of Indians in the Americas (1980, Rotterdam, Netherlands) and the Commission of Inquiry (Big Mt. Arizona, 1984) have both found that the policies of relocation under PL 93-531 are resulting in the genocide of the people affected by the forced removal.

As conscientious citizens of the United States and the World Community, we cannot allow the destruction of these people to continue. We have a responsibility, under the principles adopted at Nuremburg in response to the Nazi war atrocities prior to and during World War II, to do all that we can to stop any such acts from ever happening again.

A. CHARGES UNDER 18 USC 1091 (a) (4)

Section (a) (4) of the law defines the offense of genocide as one that "subjects the group to conditions of life that are intended to cause the physical destruction of the group in whole or in part".

1) The forced relocation of the Traditional Dine people from their lands by the United States constitutes an intentional disruption of their lifestyle that will lead to their

imminent physical, social, spiritual, cultural and economic destruction as a people. The relationship of the Dine to the land on which they reside is intimately interwoven into every aspect of their lives. To remove them from their landbase, the irreplaceable source of their physical, spiritual and cultural subsistence can be construed as nothing less than a conscious policy of destruction.

2) The forced reduction of livestock herds and a ban on new construction or repair of shelter constitutes an intentional policy designed to disintegrate the physical, economic and social means required to sustain the Dine as a people on their own lands. This brutal tactic, used to force the Dine into submitting to relocation, through starvation and destruction of their housing, is one of the most inhumane policies imaginable. The intentional, enforced destruction of people's homes and the destruction of their means of feeding themselves certainly constitutes a violation under the law.

3) The removal of the traditional Dine, many of whom speak only their indigenous language, to cities or lands that are completely foreign to them, and requiring them to abandon their traditional lifestyles and adopt the customs and lifestyle of the dominant settler lifestyle around them, certainly constitutes "subjecting the group to conditions of life" that will lead to their eventual destruction.

B. CHARGES UNDER 18 USC 1901 (a) (3)

Section (a) (3) of the law defines genocide as any act that "causes the permanent impairment of the mental faculties of members of the group through drugs, torture or similar techniques".


1) As early as 1979, evidence indicated that severe mental and psychological trauma was being experienced by those actually relocated, as well as those scheduled for relocation. The prospect of being wrested from their homelands, from the burial sites of their ancestors, from the land that has sustained their people and lifestyles for centuries, inevitably leads to psychological anguish and torment that can be legitimately described as torture. This has resulted in increased incidents of suicide, alcoholism, and permanent states of chronic, clinical depression among the dispossessed.

2) Similarly, the relocation of the Big Mt. people denies them the freedom and opportunity to practice their spiritual ceremonies. Because the spirituality of the Dine is site specific, it cannot be transferred to any other geographical location. This spirituality is practiced on a daily basis, so having access to specific ceremonial sites will not change the fact that removal from the land upon which the spiritual ceremonies are practiced constitutes an effective destruction of the spirituality itself.

For the Dine, their spiritual connection to their homelands is an essential part of their individual and collective personalities. To deny them their ability to practice their religion is to remove from them the central reason for their existence. Removal from their traditional sites constitutes the most insidious form of psychological torture that could be visited upon them.

To assist Big Mt. people, contact VPAT at 415-752-2130.

SHORT TAKES


In the rush of news, it can be hard to determine who gets credit for a disaster. On Jan. 31, according to a wire-service story in the (S.F.) Chronicle, Gen. Schwartzkopf blamed allied bombing for the discharge of oil from the Mina al-Bakr Iraqi oil terminal. But in the same day's edition of the Examiner, Earth Island Journal editor Gar Smith spotted a wire-service story in which Schwartzkopf's word of the new spill, minus any mention of the allied bombing, was immediately followed by unnamed U.S. officials pinning the blame on the Iraqis. Can you say "spin control"? Smith's comment: "A lot can happen between 9 and 5." 

SF Bay Guardian, Seth Zuckerman, 2/20/91

WHOSE CAPITAL GAINS?

President Bush has made capital gains benefits a priority from day one. Is it any surprise to see who stands to benefit from this? How much is from oil and munitions?


Average Income Top 1% in 1980	Cap. Gains Portion	Average Income Top 1% in 1990	Cap. Gains Portion
\$313,206	\$83,000	\$548,969	\$175,000

Capital gains account for 32% of the income of the highest 1% in the U.S., while the lowest 90% of U.S. income producers get only 1% from capital gains. 

THE HUMAN COST OF WAR

Cost of War for = Annual Federal Budget for

10 days	Affordable Housing
6 days	Environmental Protection
4 days	Job Training
3.5 days	Student Loan Pell Grants
2 days	Headstart for Children
10 hours	Alternative Energy/Conservation
8 hours	Low Income Legal Aid
4.5 hours	Adult Literacy
2.5 hours	Handicapped Education

Based on \$1 billion/day war costs, from National Jobs With Peace Campaign. 

This newsletter is the mostly monthly publication of Nuremberg Actions, and is sent to N.A. supporters who request it. Additional donations make it possible to distribute it more widely for educational purposes.

The goal of the newsletter is to support citizens' rights in calling for just, sustainable non-exploitive policies from government and business alike, through nonviolent, creative and responsible means. Submissions accepted to 20th of month. Editor and Publisher: Jennifer Viereck

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LESSONS OF WAR


Portion of a statement from Concerned Citizens of Japan:

Japan went to war in 1931. At first, it seemed to the Japanese that it was a just war to establish a "new order" in China, Korea and other parts of Asia.

In reality, the war lasted fifteen years and the "new order" brought only misery and death to the people of Asia. In the End, the devastation came home. We suffered carpet bombing and firebombing of our cities. The only nuclear bombs ever dropped on humans were dropped on us.

The Japanese learned from the war the horror of killing and being killed. We thought Americans had learned a similar lesson from the Vietnam War. But the mood in the United States today reminds us greatly of the mood in Japan in 1941.

We do not want to contribute to any more killing. We do not want Japan to move closer to translating its awesome economic power into military power.


We are surprised at the short memories of Americans who see no danger in this. Our neighbors in Asia are less forgetful. 

HOW SMART WERE THEY?

According to Mishiakaku, the explosive power dropped on Iraqi targets was equal to 15 Hiroshima bombs. Based on estimates below, 10.5 of them would have missed their targets. The much lauded 'smart bombs' comprised only 7% of total bombs, and even 1 in 10 of those missed. Of the successful ones, targets included the Amiraya air raid shelter. In 106,000 bombing runs, according to Air Force General Merrill McPeak we dropped 88,500 tons of bombs with a total success rate of only 30% as follows:

Smart bombs that hit:	5868 tons
Smart bombs that missed:	652 tons
Dumb bombs that hit:	20,495 tons
Dumb bombs that missed:	61,485 tons

In addition, these figures assume Air Force definitions of a 'hit' as within 100 feet. If a bomb were dropped on the S.F. Federal Building and took out the row of cafes across the street, this would presumably be a success.

Anyone who has been at the Nuremberg Actions vigil since August has no doubt seen some of these bombs with their own eyes. 

____ Please send me more information about Nuremberg Actions.

____ Please send me the monthly newsletter Between the Lines.

I enclose a donation of \$15____ Other \$____ to cover costs.

Name _____

Address _____

Organization _____

TRACK RECORD:

April Fool's Day will be the 1390th day of continuous protest at Concord Naval Weapons Station against US war crimes and civilian deaths. The level of weapons shipped from the base has dropped considerably. Trucks loaded with missiles, bombs and bullets are often sighted and loaded trains passed 4 times this month, with a total of 35 boxcars of munitions.

On March 4, The Bay Area Religious Action group held an event at the base, with 14 arrests for trespassing. On March 16, 500 people rallied at the base (see cover article) with 2 arrests. Two pro-war people were also arrested for waving a loaded gun. Events were held on Good Friday and Easter Sunday at the nuclear bunker as well. Others arrested for blocking munitions shipments during the month were, Greg Getty, Dorothy Brownold, David Duncombe Denise Abbott, Russ and Mary Jorgensen, Sherry Madrone and Larry Harper.

In a new move on the part of the local DA, Dorothy Brownold and David Duncombe were charged at arraignment for their arrests on 2/21. Usually arrestees are either released after the passage of a train, or booked but not arraigned. Charges can be brought up to a year later, and in the past have been applied mainly to our most dedicated weapons blockers. It is not clear whether this procedure will be followed from now on. In another form of harassment, those taken to jail have been held recently until as late as 2 AM.

In a further attempt to squeeze blood from a rock, the State of California is seeking legal fees in the amount of \$5,906.17 for a lawsuit against the California Highway Patrol in which Nuremberg Actions, the Pledge of Resistance and Jennifer Viereck were co-plaintiffs with Doug Margolis. Doug and others were seriously injured by a technique in which police officers use a length of dowel rod against painful points on the body to discourage passive resistance to arrest. Although the CHP has radically altered their procedures on use and oversight of dowel rod torture, our injunction against their use was denied (as a result of their compliance with our demands!).

WHERE TO BE, WHEN TO BE THERE:

AT THE TRACKS:

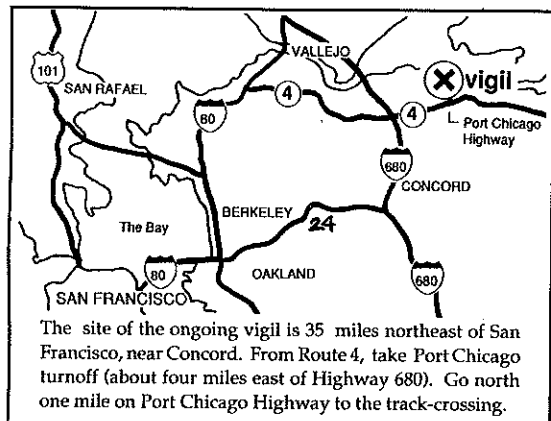
4/11--- 9 am Redwood Friends, Sonoma Co., War Tax Resisters. Nonviolence discussion group with David Hartsough.
4/21--10 am Buddhist Morning of Meditation. Sitting and walking. Rides leave Berkeley Zen Center at 9:15, 1933 Russell St.

Every Thursday: Morning Circle and Orientation, and Blockade Training with David Duncombe.

IN THE BAY AREA:

4/6 11 am National Day of Protest March & Rally, Dolores Park Rally 1 pm, Turk & Laguna. SF 415-821-6545
4/7 6:30 pm New World Order: What's Next? A political forum SF Women's Bldg. 3583 18th St. SF 415-861-1552 #3-6
4/19 8 pm New World Disorder Alexander Cockburn. Victoria Theatre, SF \$8 Tickets: Modern Times Bookstore
4/20 8 pm New World Disorder Alexander Cockburn. Calvary Parish Hall, Santa Cruz \$8 Tickets: Bookshop Santa Cruz
4/20 7:30 pm Money for Schools, Not for War Rally Bilingual Rally, SF Women's Bldg. 3543 18th St. SF

April 3-8--Annual Spring Peace Encampment and Nonviolent Direct Action at the Nevada Test Site. Call American Peace Test for more information. 702-386-9834



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