

# Between the Lines

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

November 1991 #15

## DAVID DUNCOMBE BACK ON TRACK!

October 10, 1991

Dear Friends,

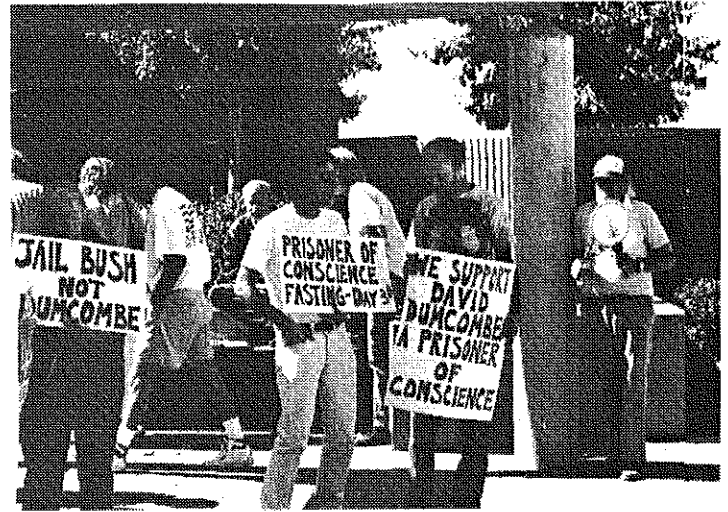
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A little after 11:00 am, Larry Harper stopped a truck loaded with munitions headed for the docks. Nine of us blocked it. Our average age was over 70! When the Sheriff's deputies arrived, they seemed overwhelmed. They wrote us out citations and released us at the demonstration site. Sally and I left and drove home. At 6:00 pm we went to the evening communion service at our neighborhood church, All Saints. There at the eucharist I broke my fast, 40 days to the hour after it had begun. Afterward I enjoyed my first meal, a tablespoon of unseasoned steamed rice which I savored for over 30 minutes.

I am at a loss to know how to express my thanks to all of you who have supported me in so many ways during my 49-day detention and 40-day fast. I have received word by letter, card or phone message (through Sally) from over 100 persons. Some of you have undergone the formidable red tape required for a personal visit. Others have organized or participated in the three wonderful demonstrations outside the jail, and scores have called (or attempted to!) the jail about my condition. Still more have spread the word, facilitated media reports or interviews, and helped bring the issues to public attention. And so many of you have kept me in your thoughts and prayers. I have felt very supported and loved by this, knowing that we were all in this together as a team. What was planned by the district attorney's office as a deterring blow to our witness has turned out to be a significant victory for us.

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Vigil for David Duncombe at Martinez Jail

## 500 YEARS OF LIES

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Most Americans are preparing to celebrate, to glorify, the five hundredth anniversary of a discovery by Columbus. Others are marking this time as the anniversary of Columbus' invasion. Open a history book of the United States. Life started here in 1492? The national action plan titled '500 Years of Resistance' is a broad effort to educate about all the cultures...ultimately leading to a celebration of our diversity.

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Columbus opened the doors to a holocaust in North America, the proportions of which overshadow even Hitler's genocide. It took a little longer, but within a century, in Central America alone, a population of 15 million was decimated to only one and a half million. Conquering the 'new world' was not limited to enslaving and killing the people found here. The extinction of both plant and animal species began almost immediately, as 'Old World' species were introduced into the new environment.

It's generally accepted that this land has been occupied for at least 15,000 years, perhaps 40,000. Over 400 native cultures developed by living in harmony with their world. How many of you can name even 15? 10? Certainly 1492 did mark the beginning of a new era in this continent's history. But rather than marking the beginning of 'life' and 'civilization', it marks the beginning of racism, specieism, and abuse.

Continued on page 3

## **NEW NAVY SUB BASE IN ALASKA**

With the US forced out of its Philippine bases through the termination of a ten year treaty in September of this year, serious economic woes gripping the country, and changes in the structure of the US nuclear arsenal announced by Bush last month, all eyes are watching the Pacific for the next US move. The US maintains 20 major bases in Japan, at an annual cost of \$6.2 billion, with a total of 134,000 US troops still stationed in Asia over all. The Navy has also been investigating many possibilities for expanded and new facilities up and down its Pacific coast, to service the Pacific fleet wherever it may be.

One new \$135 million Navy facility scheduled for completion this month is the South East Alaska Acoustic Testing Facility (SEAFAC) on Back Island in Behm Canal, just north of Ketchikan, Alaska. It is designed to test nuclear submarines for the quiet operation of everything from toilet plungers to rear propellers so that they can better avoid detection. The tests will take 10-15 weeks to complete per sub, and 12-15 tests are scheduled per year. In order to reach this site, submarines powered by nuclear reactors and armed with nuclear weapons will likely travel through the Canadian body of water called Dixon Entrance, at least one per week. (The northern approach through the US Clarence Strait is more difficult to navigate.)

### **INTERNATIONAL PROBLEMS OVER NEW BASE**

Dixon Entrance is Canadian territorial water. Also in the area are four indigenous nations: Haida, Tlingit, Tsimshian and Nishga, represented by the North Coast Tribal Council, and borders have been heavily disputed for years. Canadian MP for the area Jim Fulton stated in the House of Commons, "I think that the United States Government should recognize that in bringing Trident submarines through Dixon Entrance they are committing a violation of Canadian sovereignty."

Canadians, Alaskans and First Nation members all rely heavily on fishing local waters for their food and livelihood. Fishermen, environmentalists and indigenous people have joined to form the Friends of Back Island (FOBIA), and are strongly opposed to the plan. They say that no environmental assessment plan had been done by the Canadian government, and the dangers are many. In August, they were joined for several days by the Greenpeace ship, the Rainbow Warrior, to bring attention to the new base and its inherent dangers.

### **TRIDENT & SEAWOLF SUBS**

The Back Island facility is designed to test the Trident and new Seawolf nuclear submarines. The Trident submarine, a huge vessel, is capable of launching 24 Trident II ballistic missiles--each independently targeted and equipped with 14-150 kiloton warheads. The Trident is capable of destroying 408 different cities, each with a nuclear blast five times that of the Hiroshima 20-kiloton bomb.

The Stealth Seawolf is an attack submarine, currently

under construction. It will be powered by a nuclear reactor, and be heavily armed with anti-ship and anti-sub nuclear weapons. It is substantially quieter, faster and has 50% more firepower than previous attack subs. It is being built by the General Dynamics Corporation in Groton, Connecticut, with engines by General Electric. Estimated cost: \$1.7 billion each.

However, like so many of the Pentagon's new weapons systems, it is seriously flawed well before completion. On August 1, the Navy announced that the sub needs reconstruction although already 15% complete, due to microscopic cracks discovered in welds in June.

The Trident's solid fuel propellant is very unstable outside of a narrow temperature range. The Seawolf uses a liquid sodium cooling system which is extremely flammable in contact with water. If a reactor's cooling system is disabled and the reactor isn't shut down, (in a sinking), a 'meltdown' such as at Chernobyl is likely to occur. This would cause radioactive poisoning of the water for thousands of years.

### **US NAVY HAS HISTORY OF PROBLEMS**

Nuclear subs entering the Dixon Entrance will intentionally discharge coolant water, according to FOBIA. Their Sept. 1991 report states: "The intentional discharge of coolant into water is a common practice of the US Navy, and according to retired Submariner Captain James Bush these coolant waters have a high possibility of containing radioactive particles. These radioactive particles are parts of filters that corrode and are then carried out into the ocean. The US Navy will not discharge primary coolant into a harbor, but they do not consider Dixon Entrance a harbor. Will these radioactive particles show up in the halibut, the salmon, the seaweed, the razor clams, the octopus, the people?"

Another problem is that subs operate mostly between 10-25 fathoms and are incapable of detecting fishing gear. Numerous snaggings of subs in gear have occurred, on the average of one per week. Subs range from 7,000 to 19,000 tons of submerged weight, and snagging at best rips gear lose from fishing ships, and at worst, drags them under.

The North Coast Tribal Council states that "submarines are very prone to accidents, and [nuclear] submarines are exempt from reporting provisions imposed on land based reactors. Submariners by and large come from broken homes and have the highest occupational risk of family violence of any group, yet they have the independent ability to launch their missiles. Since 1945, an American sailor has died on average every third day in a Naval accident." One wonders if the Council has yet seen an Oct. 1989 report on the skyrocketing sales of hallucinogenic drugs to sailors in port cities, which, unlike marijuana, do not show up on urine tests.

Submarines are built to withstand static high pressure (such as in deep water) but their hulls are brittle and break on impact. Between 1983-87, there were 56 collisions between US Navy subs and other vessels. Since World War II, there have been at least 27 peacetime sub sinkings, and there are no 48 nuclear warheads and 7 nuclear reactors on the ocean bottom. ©

**ACTION:** Contact your Senators and Congresspersons and let them know that you do not wish your government to violate the sovereignty and safety of your Canadian, Haida and Tlingit neighbors for the sole purpose of perpetuating nuclear warfare.

## '500 YEARS' CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

It started in 1492, but it continues today. Native people are denied their religious symbols. Their symbolic, sacred places are plundered and covered over by our symbols of technology. Native people all over live in poverty, with inadequate housing, healthcare, and nutrition. And the litany of abuses is swelling.

Hydroelectric dams drown out the Cree. The James Bay project threatens an entire ecosystem, upon which the Cree are dependent for their food and livelihood. Many ancestral gravesites are already submerged, for electricity that is not needed, called 'excess capacity'. The only ones who really want it are the corporations who will profit from the construction of these dams.

On an Apache sacred mountain, there are telescope observatories being built. Mount Graham in Arizona is the vehicle by which the Great Spirit sends the Mountain Spirit to the Apaches, to teach the medicine men and women how to heal the sick- with special waters, herbs, and plants from the mountain. In the ultimate insult, one of the telescopes is named 'Columbus'.

Uranium tailings poison the water and the food of the Navajo. Uranium is mined, and enriched to become plutonium for atomic weapons. And accidents happen. In 1979 one mine spilled 94 million gallons of radioactive water and eleven hundred tons of toxic solids into a river- killing livestock and contaminating the entire area...land called 'national sacrifice areas'.

Remember those atomic tests out in the desert? That land is now radioactive. That's Shoshone lands. During the past 40 years, the US and Great Britain have exploded over 700 bombs on Native lands, 17 just last year. Are there any effects? Lung cancer rates for men 31% above national average, for women, 53%. Leukemia, brain tumors, bladder, prostate cancers all significantly higher than national averages, with special peaks in the rates of tongue and bone cancers.

Inuit's caribou herds, their main food source, are dying from the aftermath of oil drilling in Alaska. The President wants to open up the Alaska National Wildlife Refuge. He says we need the oil to protect our future. But scientists claim there is only a six month supply there to be pumped. The President claims no harm has been done by drilling on the North slope, or constructing the Alaska pipeline. But the Inuit have seen the caribou have trouble birthing. They've cut open a kill and found the bone marrow grey and mushy instead of a healthy pink and resilient. But it's their major food source and they must eat it.

Massive landfills are slated for Lakota lands. Why? Because waste corporations know easy targets. Remember- these reservations have high unemployment, remote geographical locations, and compliant tribal leaders. lax environmental laws make it much easier to exploit reservations, easier than to meet regulations on private lands.

A Native American told me, "This is the end of living, and the beginning of survival". He said this in a very resigned, matter-of-fact way. End the silence now! Learn all you can about Native peoples and cultures and then pass it on. We'll all be richer for it. ©

## RESULTS OF NUCLEAR AGE SO FAR

Total nuclear power plants (many in countries with poor security)	429
Total nuclear tests (1945-1990)	1910
US	929
USSR	715
France	186
Britain	43
China	36
India	1
Total atmospheric tests (1945-1980)	423
Deaths that will result	2.4 million
Avg. deaths per atmospheric test	5674
Total radiation victims so far (does not include low-level radiation which may not show up for years, or generations)	16 million
Total radioactive curies released by Nevada Test Site	
Atmospheric (1951-1963)	12 billion
Pre-1971 releases	25,300,000
Releases 1971-1988	54,000
Chernobyl (estimate)	81,000

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A Call to Veterans and Activists  
From the Alliance of Atomic Veterans

DAY

**AT THE NEVADA NUCLEAR TEST SITE**

**SATURDAY-MONDAY, NOVEMBER 9-10, 1990**

**END NUCLEAR WEAPONS TESTING**

**JUSTICE AND MEDICAL CARE FOR VETERANS**

**SUPPORT WESTERN SHOSHONE LAND RIGHTS**

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Veterans and supporters  
will come together for a  
3-day, 2-night campout,  
including a celebration,  
Veterans Rally on Sunday,  
and non-violent direct action.

For more info contact:

Alliance of Atomic Veterans  
(602) 368-6623  
P.O. Box 32  
Topock, AZ 86436

American Peace Test  
(702) 386-9834  
P.O. Box 26725  
Las Vegas, NV 89126

Local contact info

cosponsored by the Western  
Shoshone National Council




Photo: O.S. GS being exposed to radiation from an always and nuclear explosion in Nevada. Photo courtesy Larry Piny, Hesperidge Street Lyons.

## DANN LAND UPDATE

The struggle for control of Shoshone lands continues in Nevada, as the Bureau of Land Management moves forward in their efforts to collect grazing fees and fines from the Dann Band, in violation of the 1893 Ruby Valley Treaty.

Following negotiations on Sept. 24th, it appeared that a verbal agreement may have been reached, but differing interpretations surfaced within days. However, the fact that the US government has for the first time ever recognized the Western Shoshone National Council as representative of Shoshone people is highly encouraging. The Danns are now conducting their usual fall roundup and sale of stock, which will satisfy BLM numbers and jurisdictional constraints until spring, when calving begins and cattle need to be moved back onto summer grazing lands. Negotiations will continue and it is hoped that all direct confrontation has been at least deferred until that time.

The 24-hour Hotline remains, of activists willing to gather quickly should trouble occur. For information, contact the Western Shoshone National Council, PO Box 140068, Duckwater NV 89314. (702) 863-0227. ●

## BIG MOUNTAIN UPDATE

On Friday, October 11, over 75 Navajo (Dineh) Women tribal leaders planned to bring their concerns directly to the Bureau of Indian Affairs office in Keams Canyon, Arizona. The BIA has been systematically reducing these women's livestock by about 80% since 1974, making it impossible for them to continue traditional religious and cultural pursuits. Many are members of The Weaving Project, which facilitates sales of traditional woven rugs. Livestock reduction has long been a ploy of the US government to drive thousands of Dineh from their lands, first used around 1860 by Kit Carson in a scorched earth program.

The latest efforts have been to forcibly relocate 10,000 Dineh and 100 Hopi from land traditionally shared, to make room for coal and uranium mining. In addition to livestock impoundment and high fines, water is being diverted from homes and livestock, sacred sites are being destroyed, homes are being torn down and removed, and elderly people are being terrorized by El Salvador-like nocturnal roving gangs.

Most people have already been forced off their lands, but some traditional elders, mainly women, are hanging on. They are badly in need of our support. Under International Law, what is taking place in Arizona is genocide. As Judge Noonan of the 9th Circuit Court of Appeals stated to the BIA attorney earlier this year, "Everything you are doing to the families is an annihilation of a culture and a people. You are reducing and cutting off their resources so they can't survive." ●

ACTION: In both these cases, please contact Senator Daniel Inouye and let him know that you do not wish your government to perpetuate genocide at home or abroad.

## SOUTH AFRICAN COVER BLOW

Startling new evidence proves the South African government has not only supported Gatsha Buthelezi's Inkatha Freedom Party with large sums of secret government money, but has also supplied it with arms to carry out attacks against African National Congress supporters.

In addition, the Special Forces of the SADF (the army) have kidnapped African men in South Africa and neighboring countries, interrogated and tortured them, indoctrinated them with pro-Inkatha propaganda, and directed them to carry out attacks in support of Inkatha, or to terrorize the black community. These attacks include the massacres of Africans on commuter trains in South Africa. (The South African-sponsored RENAMO rebels in Mozambique have used the same tactic of kidnapping civilians, including children, torturing them, and forcing them to commit terrorism and sabotage.)

The terrorist campaign, earlier attributed to a mysterious 'third force', is part of a deliberate government strategy to replace the official repression exercised by apartheid laws with unofficial repression exercised by terrorism.

Sergeant Felix Isaias Ndimene of the SADF, a Mozambican kidnapped in his own country and forced to work for the SADF for 7 years, said he and others were indoctrinated with pro-Inkatha propaganda and made to learn Zulu. They were armed with AK-47 rifles and machetes and sent on terrorist missions. They assassinated anti-apartheid activists Anton Lubowski and Dr. Fabian Ribiero, bombed a bank in Oshakati, Namibia (an attack which South Africa blamed on SWAPO), and massacred Africans on commuter trains this year.

Former SADF Major Nico Basson has confirmed that the SADF set up secret terrorist training camps inside South African game parks, and has kidnapped African youths in South Africa's bantustans (the so-called homelands), forced them to join the SADF, and trained them to attack black communities.

According to Basson, the region-wide destabilization strategy (called operation Agree), "started years ago and was designed to destabilize the entire Southern African region to prove to the international community that black people cannot run a country." ●

ACTION: Contact Senators and Congresspersons immediately and insist that sanctions be reinstated against South Africa, until all South Africans may freely elect a government that will insure their human and civil rights.

## US AID KILLS CIVILIANS...AGAIN

In an overwhelming wave of violence against displaced peasants, human rights workers, teachers and others, the Colombian military has recently strafed and bombed civilian areas and disappeared community activists in the area of Barrancabermeja in Santander Dept. and in the south of Bolivar Dept. At the same time, paramilitary squads supported or tolerated by the military have issued threats and carried out killings against peasants who are organizing shelters and other services for communities that have been displaced by military operations in rural areas of Santander. Peasants have organized to protest this violence and are demanding a dialogue with government authorities and a full investigation and punishment

of those responsible.

The Colombian police and military receive US military aid in order to fight a war on drug traffickers, but instead use the vast majority of this aid to carry out a counterinsurgency program that is extremely abusive of the civilian population.

Colombian army and police forces commit eleven human rights abuses day, according to a report released by the Colombian Attorney General in September. These daily violations include 3 killings, 1 disappearance, 3 instances of torture or injury and 4 other abuses of authority or mistreatment. These abuses have contributed to the 12,000-13,000 killings committed in Colombia in the first 6 months of 1991. ●

**ACTION:** Express your concerns about the attacks on civilians and the investigations to Attorney General (Procurador General) Dr. Carlos Gustavo Arrieta, Edificio Banco Ganadero, Carrera 5 No. 15-80, Santa Fe de Bogota, Colombia.

## 'CUBA' BILLS IN CONGRESS

Most informed people are aware of the 30-year US blockade of Cuba, the assassination attempts against Cuban leaders by the CIA, the Bay of Pigs invasion, the travel ban, the introduction into Cuba of crop and animal diseases and of the continuing invasion of Cuban air space via TV-Marti and Radio-Marti. (Congress recently voted \$36.2 million for the Marti program even though Bush had only requested \$18.1 million. Cuba can easily jam the program in any case.)

But now, pressure by the US to destroy the Castro government is intensifying. Take, for example the Mack amendment to the Foreign Relations Bill, already passed by the Senate. Under the term of this amendment, all trade with Cuba by US-owned subsidiaries operating in Third World countries is banned. An even more ominous bill, the Cuban Democracy Act of 1991, still in draft form, is being pushed by Robert Torricelli (D-NJ), Chair of the Subcommittee on Western Hemispheric Affairs, and will soon be introduced. Among its provisions: seizure by the US of any ship that loads or unloads cargo in Cuba and then enters a US port within 6 months; reduction of aid to any country that trades with Cuba; no credits to the USSR until all 'favored trade' with Cuba ceases.

On the other hand there is the Weiss Bill, HR 434, that will allow sale to Cuba of much-needed medicines, medical supplies and equipment, and the Berman Bill, known as the Free Trade in Ideas Act, restoring to Americans the unrestricted right to travel in Cuba. ●

**ACTION:** check on where your representatives stand on these various bills, and let them know your opinion.

<b>US SENATE:</b>	<b>202-224-3121</b>
<b>US CONGRESS:</b>	<b>202-225-3121</b>
<b>WHITE HOUSE:</b>	<b>202-456-1111</b>

## PROGRESS IN EL SALVADOR?

Joyce Bowers, Twin Cities Pledge of Resistance

After so many terrible years, it finally seems possible to hope for an end to El Salvador's nightmare. The passage of the New York Accord on Sept. 25 and the conviction of two officers in the Jesuits murders on Sept. 29 have drastically changed the terms. However, while both events are positive, they are still only tentative, incomplete steps towards the end of the war and military impunity in El Salvador.

The New York Accord was the culmination of a ten-day special negotiating session conducted by UN Secretary General Javier Perez de Cuellar. Although much of the agreement is vague and leaves details to be settled later, it is the most significant breakthrough thus far in the negotiating process. The most clearly outlined provision of the accord calls for the formation of the National Commission for the Consolidation of Peace (COPAZ), which would begin its work after the signing of a ceasefire and would oversee the carrying out of peace accord provisions. COPAZ would be made up of 2 representatives of the Salvadoran government, 2 from the FMLN, and one each from the 6 political parties which hold seats in the Legislative Assembly. The FMLN and the government also agreed to the abolition of El Salvador's three security forces and the creation of one national police force under civilian authority. There is some contention about whether language calling for 'non-discriminatory selection' procedures means that demobilized FMLN combatants will be eligible to serve in the civilian police force.

In a historic admission by the Salvadoran government, the accord also recognizes the need for 'purification', reduction and re-education of the Armed Forces. Although decisions about methods, goals and timetables were left for future talks, it was established that each member of the military would be evaluated by a commission which would have on it no more than two (non-voting) members from the armed forces. The accord states that the military must be a pluralistic institution subordinate to law and civil society which respects human dignity and democratic rights.

No less important was the recognition that economic and social issues must be addressed in a settlement to the war. The agreement calls for enforcement of the 600 acre limit to individual land holdings. Larger parcels are supposed to be purchased by the government and distributed to landless peasants. The accord also stipulates that current land ownership in rebel-controlled zones will be respected, at least until a 'satisfactory legal solution' for land tenure disputes can be worked out. Credit for campesinos, the creation of a multi-sector forum on economic and social issues and ways to alleviate the impact of economic structural adjustment on the population were all cited as topics for further discussion. Finally, the two sides met again to discuss the armed forces, guarantees for the reintegration of FMLN combatants into society and term for a cease fire.

We must remain alert to human rights abuses in El Salvador. The Army offensive continues against rebel-control zones, particularly repatriated communities. There have been death threats against popular movement leaders, office ransacking, and death squad killings. Now more than ever we must continue our work for a just peace in El Salvador. ●

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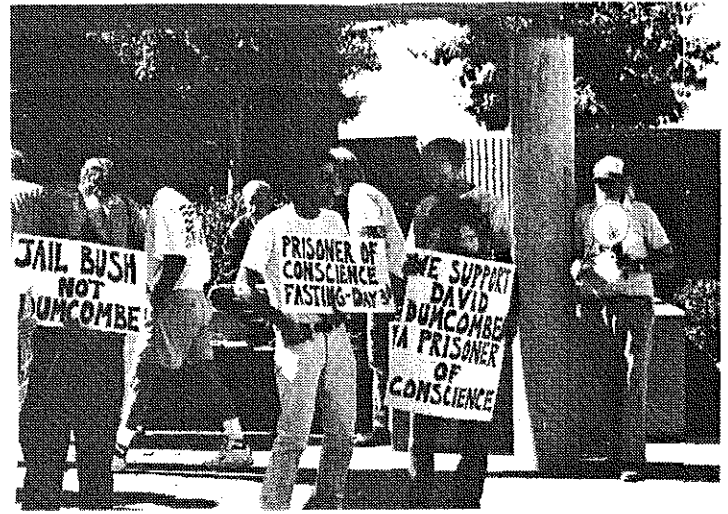
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