

# Between the Lines

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

FEBRUARY 92 #17

## MIDDLE EAST VETERANS TRIP

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The group members seemed to agree after witnessing events and talking to a wide variety of people that US support continues to make massive human rights abuses possible and that the repression is getting significantly worse. Elizabeth Barfield described it, "The United States pours millions into Israel and what Israel does is oppress Palestinians through beatings, restrictions on travel, and the destruction of their economy."

Willson expressed the thought that nothing can be accomplished until both the US and Israel are willing to abide by international law. "It seems to me, if the parties involved are interested in peace, they would start off by saying they are willing to implement UN Resolutions 242 and 338," said Willson. Israel has refused to do this. Palestinians they spoke to had little hope of positive results from the peace talks at that time.

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Schuchardt went on to say that when he spoke out to President Bush last year, he could only imagine the bombing's impact. "Even in my own mind, I could not have imagined the consequences," he said, "until you see a child lying in bed, too weak to cry, just looking at you. I didn't have that child's face in my mind when I spoke in February. Now I do."

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### ACTION: END THE SANCTIONS NOW.

Congress: 202-225-3121 Washington DC 20515.

Senate: 202-224-3121 WASHINGTON DC 20510.

White House: 202-456-1111, White House FAX 202-456-2461.

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## RECENT TRACKS EVENTS

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### NOVEMBER 27, 1991: THANKSGIVING OFFERING

About 25 people gathered at the tracks the day before Thanksgiving and entered the base with an offering of foods and a request to base commander Richard Owens to aid those civilians already victimized by Concord's bombs, and ship the food in lieu of further ammunition. Ten people were arrested at the gates. Later in the day, Duncan Murphy and event organizers Sunshine Appleby and Susan Crane were arrested at the nuclear weapons compound of the base.

### DECEMBER 28, 1991: FEAST OF HOLY INNOCENTS

Thirteen people were arrested as they gathered with others at the gates of the Weapons Station to pray and erect tombstones to the children of many nations who have suffered and died as a result of Concord's arming of conflicts either funded or implemented by the United States. In Iraq, the infant mortality rate has quadrupled, and small children and the elderly are most vulnerable to water-borne diseases and hopelessly under-equipped hospitals.

### JANUARY 2, 1992: SPIRITUAL WALK, 1992 & BEYOND

People gathered to greet participants in one of five transcontinental peace walks for 1992, on the second day of their journey. Organized by buddhists, Native Americans and others, these walkers will continue 5400 miles across the US to arrive in Washington DC on October 12th.

At Concord, a circle was held to greet the walkers, and then all processed to the gate of the base to pray together. More prayers followed to honor the place where a Navy train ran down Brian Willson and others on Sept. 1, 1987.

### JANUARY 16, 1992: ANNIVERSARY OF THE DECIMATION OF IRAQ

An excellent front page story in the Oakland Tribune, with a beautiful picture of our beloved elder Abraham Zwickel, 88 years strong, helped carry the word. Over one hundred people gathered to pray and be together on this painful anniversary. The Navy has stated that the base shipped out almost 80,000 tons of ammunition for the Gulf War, about one third of all munitions 'expended'.

Following music at the tracks, the group processed single file along the road used to carry munitions from the inner bunkers to the piers, and stood along the fence in silent meditation, 100 people, side by side, witnessing. The procession then reversed direction to the front gate of the base, where 100 tombstones were erected on the lawn, and the litany below was read. Twenty-seven who entered the gates to pray and speak about their concerns were arrested.

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## A LITANY OF RECONCILIATION

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We pray for reconciliation with the people of Iraq. Let us remember that Allied bombs killed thousands of people, destroyed homes, neighborhoods, and cities. Our weapons of destruction have inflicted physical, emotional, psychological, and spiritual scars on the Iraqi people. We especially remember the children who have been traumatized and wounded by this display of hatred between nations.

Forgive us for our vengeance, impatience and hatred. Help us recognize the power of nonviolent resolution to conflict, rather than using fire to fight fire, evil to combat evil.

We pray for reconciliation with all the people of the Middle East. We have failed to understand and respect their different culture and history. Our aggression and use of force has created feelings of fear and mistrust. We have supplied arms that continue the spiral of violence. We have been friends with some nations one day and enemies the next, while ignoring the tremendous human needs of others. We have supported corrupt leadership while ignoring human rights abuses.

Forgive us for our disrespect and aggression. Forgive us our constant use of stereotypes and our lack of understanding about faiths that are different from our own.

Grant us the wisdom to respect the dignity of all people. Guide us as we continue to forge a new path based on mutual respect and security for all.

We are grateful for the release of the American hostages. We are grateful for the Middle East peace talks which, however difficult, provide new opportunities for a non-violent, resolution of the region's complex problems.

We pray for reconciliation within our nation. We have seen freedoms slip away in the name of national security. We have witnessed an intolerance for anyone who is different. We see the rich getting richer and the poor growing poorer. Despite the end of the Cold War the massive military budget has been only cut slightly, while more and more people are homeless, hungry, jobless, uneducated, and in need of caring and attention.

Forgive us our callousness, our greed, and our apathy. Help us to find a way to honor all who have participated in the struggle in the Middle East--those in the military as well as those who resisted, those who keep this nation running, and those who raise critical ethical issues. Grant to us now a compassion for all people and a will to make the needs of people and care of the earth our primary concerns.

We pray for reconciliation with the earth. O God, we know that we have desecrated your creation. The air is blackened with hydrocarbons. The ozone is being eaten away. The sea has turned black and the food is being poisoned.

Forgive us our shortsightedness, our carelessness, and our arrogance. Help us to recognize our interdependence with all creation.

Bless us with your wisdom, enable us to heal the wounds we have inflicted on planet earth, and help us guarantee dignity and reverence for all human beings.

We pray for reconciliation with you, O God our Creator. We know that we have failed to place our trust in you and lived as though weapons of destruction can bring security. Our efforts at diplomacy and negotiation have been limited. We do only what the world calls wise.

Forgive us our dependence on power and violence. Forgive us our lack of faith that would take us into new avenues of resolution. Bless us with courage, love and compassion. Grant us the vision to create a new world order based on dignity, reverence and faithfulness.

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## **BIG MT. ACTIONS: FEB. 27**

Patrick O'Connell, San Jose Big Mt. Support Group

Since 1974, the traditional Dine (Navajo) people living on Black Mesa in northeastern Arizona have been targeted for removal from their ancestral homelands by the US government. The actual plan for this specific area was drawn up much earlier, in the late 50s and 60s. It was at this time that the energy companies and local government officials made the decision to use the easily accessible coal from this region to power pumps to bring water to southern Arizona.

Today, this process has almost been completed. The few thousand left, of the estimated 10-15,000 original inhabitants, are the strongest. They have had to be.

As a non-Indian, I have no right to speak as an expert on Indian spirituality. However, I do know that these people's traditional spirituality is directly connected to and reliant upon the Land on which they live. For them, there is no separation between their spirituality and all other aspects of their lives. For the communities affected, it is genocide.

Genocide is defined in the Genocide Convention Implementation act as: "...acts committed with intent to destroy, in whole or in part, a national, ethnical, racial or religious group, as such:

(c) Deliberately inflicting on the group conditions of life calculated to bring about its physical destruction in whole or in part..."

### **THE GENOCIDE DEMAND**

Those who originally designed the relocation process may not have "calculated to inflict conditions of life that would destroy these people". But through the work of supporters and the testimony of the traditional Dine themselves, it has been made clear to those responsible.

Another International Day of Direct Action for Big Mt. will take place on Feb. 27th. The focus of this action will be the Genocide Demand, which calls for an immediate, thorough and public investigation, and an immediate moratorium on all aspects of the relocation policy.

People are needed to take the 3 page Genocide Demand to their representative or senator. Ask that they contact the Attorney General themselves. Fax it to the White House. Copies of the demand (and an extensive documentation packet, to back up your demand at \$5-10 for costs) are available from the SJ Big Mt. Support Group.

Feb. 27th will mark the 19th anniversary of the start of the traditional Lakota/AIM resistance at Wounded Knee in 1973. This is an appropriate day to both commemorate and support ongoing Indian resistance.

We all have a chance, especially those of us of European ancestry, to take one step toward ending 500 years of genocide of indigenous people that began with Columbus' arrival. The destruction of 15,000 more Indian people should not be the legacy we leave for future generations. Join us on this day and take a stand against genocide.

For more information, contact San Jose Big Mt. Support Group: Pat O'Connell, 408-971-4277, PO Box 1960, San Jose CA 95109.

## **INTERNATIONAL WAR TRIBUNAL**

Since last May, the Commission of Inquiry for the International War Crimes Tribunal has held 30 hearings across the US and in 20 countries across 5 continents to expose the US government's war crimes against the Iraqi people. The Commission has been able to partially break through the US media blockade and bring to many thousands in this country important facts about US conduct before, during, and after the Gulf War in violation of international law and in carrying out violent crimes against humanity.

Now, as the culmination of nearly one year's work, the Commission will hold the International War Crimes Tribunal on February 29th in New York City. The Commission has conducted the largest independent worldwide investigation of war crimes in history. Its final judgement will be made by the Tribunal.

In addition, the evidence is available to the public in the new book, A Report on the US War Crimes Against Iraq, for \$14.95. (Nuremberg Actions will be organizing an event to present a copy to the base, which shipped 1/3 of all munitions used, and speeded up delivery of cluster bombs to make the Highway of Death massacres possible.)

International War Crimes Tribunal, 36 East 12th St. New York, NY 10003, 212-254-5385, FAX 212-979-1583.

## **RETREAT WITH DANIEL BERRIGAN**

Bay Area Pax Christi presents "Following the Peacemaking Jesus in a Warmaking State", a weekend retreat with Daniel Berrigan in Berkeley, February 21 and 22. Daniel Berrigan is a Jesuit priest, poet and peace activist who is one of the leading spokespersons for a nonviolent, nuclear-free world. The retreat will take place at Newman Hall, UC Berkeley, 2700 Dwight Way, Friday Feb. 21, 7:30 to 9 pm, and Saturday, Feb. 22 from 9:00 am to 6 pm. Call John Dear at 510-655-8933.

## **LENTEN DESERT EXPERIENCE XI**

The Nevada Desert Experience is organizing their 11th year of events during Lent. They invite you to "Join the Lenten Desert Experience XI in seeking healing, and expressing prayerful protest" at the Nevada Test Site, March 4-April 19, 1992. Call 702-646-4814 for more information.

## **100TH MONKEY AT THE TEST SITE**

The 100th Monkey project, based on concepts in Ken Keyes' book of the same name, is a series of events in Nevada, April 10-19, leading up to Earth Day 1992. It will spark awareness of the Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty, ending nuclear testing for all time. The action takes place in Las Vegas with over 100 international environmental groups, speakers and performers, followed by a massive walk to the Nevada Test Site. For more info, call 510-655-6028 in Oakland or 303-442-5820 in Boulder, CO.

The Event	April 10-12
The Walk	April 13-18
The Action	April 19

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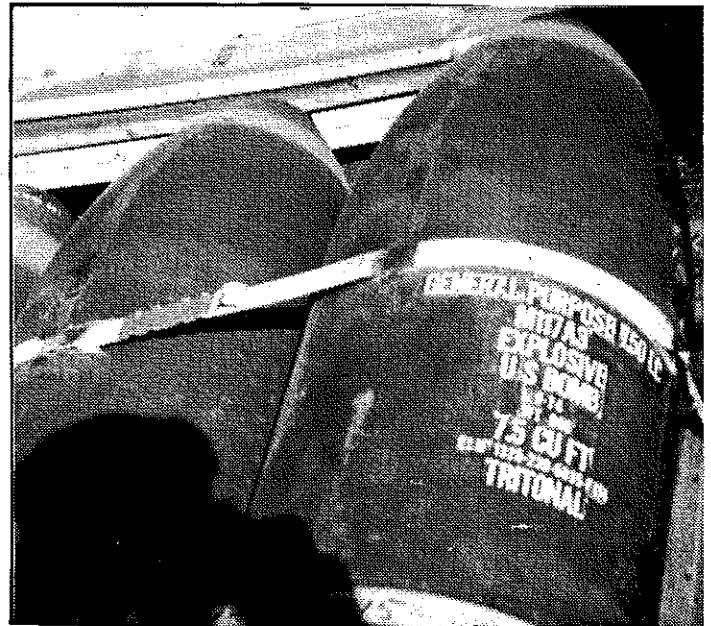
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# Nuremberg Actions

P.O. Box 13 Boulder Creek CA 95006 408-338-9416  
FAX 408-338-6408



February 1, 1992

Dear friends of Nuremberg Actions:

Today is the 1696th consecutive day of nonviolent witness against US war crimes at the Concord Naval Weapons Station. I have just been catching up on my reading, and I'm struck by what an appalling month this has been to be an American. First, in shame and rage, we look back on our nation's relentless, apocalyptic bombardment of Iraqi soldiers and civilians one year ago, around the clock, day after day, of whom thousands are still dying. (See newsletter for Brian Willson's trip to Middle East). And with the corpses still stacking up and the evidence of myriad atrocities just released in book form by Ramsey Clark's Tribunal, this war has already been written off by many as just one more sound bite in human history. We have ordered a copy of the Tribunal's book in the Weapons Station's name.

And what pageant of video splendor has our head of state wrought this year to take our mind off our domestic woes? He has travelled to Japan, peddling Ken and Barbie dolls at a Toys R Us store, parading overfed CEOs who's combined salaries could completely retool the US auto industry, and barfing at the banquet. Really humiliating. US CEOs make 160 times more than the average US worker, the Japanese only 16 times more. And the election hype hasn't even started yet.

The Japanese have no Pentagon prospering on half the national budget. The Japanese Constitution reads, "The Japanese people forever renounce war as a sovereign right of the nation and the threat or use of force as a means of settling international disputes." Actually, we are spending \$6.2 billion to maintain 20 bases and 48,000 US troops in Japan. 600,000 tons of ammunition are stored at Hiroshima alone, shipped, most likely, from the Concord Naval Weapons Station.

In fact, Concord has been doing so well since the war began that their newsletter crows that munitions sales shipped from Concord have brought the Weapons Station out of an \$18 million deficit, to a \$3 million profit, a 'spectacular year'. We may have finally found those jobs Jim Baker was talking about.

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While the furor rolls on about when Iraq may or may not have been able to produce a primitive nuclear weapon if not bombed back into the stone age, the one nation ever to detonate two, not one, and against civilians, is stacking them up at a fast clip at the Concord Naval Weapons Station. Bush has given the order to round up short-range tactical nukes, but he has yet to tell us what happens next. The Center for Defense Information estimates that Concord will house about 400 by the end of the month.

Piers at the base are so crowded that, as reported in the Chronicle, the Astral Rainbow, carrying 4,260 tons of munitions destined for Concord, is illegally moored off Hunters Point until mid February. The safety zone for such cargo is 1.75 miles; this ship is one mile from San Francisco, in a heavily travelled area.

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Nuremberg Actions is an affiliate of the National Mobilization for Survival and a member of the Coalition for Peace and Sovereignty in the Asia-Pacific.

But what about the positive? As activists, it is important, to give us strength, and to give us wisdom, to evaluate our accomplishments. We are very happy that these weapons are no longer aimed at anyone, and we celebrate this as the success of all anti-nuclear activists. When we began talking about cutting the military budget in half, people thought we were crazy. Now, San Francisco has passed Proposition Q which asks that this take place within five years. House Speaker Thomas Foley has talked about cutting the military by 1/3.

We take great pride in the fact that peace accords have been reached, however tentatively, in El Salvador and discussion at least continues in the Middle East. Tensions seem to be easing in Korea. There were no victory marches the US this year, no yellow ribbons. The truth is becoming known.

We must take strength from these successes, because as people on the front line of nonviolent peacemaking, we are part of a global movement that is making these changes possible. We must keep up the pressure, now, while we have an advantage. The former USSR has closed its nuclear test site. We must close our own. These nuclear weapons have been brought back to Concord. We must demand that they are dismantled. We must demand that no more are designed, produced, tested or deployed, not with our tax dollars, not in our name.

We must demand that the policy of genocide be removed from our country's arsenal. No more East Timors, with civilians attending a funeral gunned down by American M-16s. As long as Concord is shipping bullets, there is no way of knowing where they will turn up next. American citizens do not need to pay for 300 US bases on foreign soil. To protect us from what? What is killing us is the corporate welfare at home. We need to educate our children, feed and shelter them, bring them up with pride and dignity, give them a future without nuclear waste, genocide and hatred wherever they go.

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There have been several very powerful gatherings and actions at the base, which are detailed further in the newsletter. On January 16, over 100 people gathered at the base to grieve. They installed 100 wooden tombstones on the lawn in remembrance of the dead in Iraq and Kuwait, read a litany, and voiced their concerns. Twenty-seven were arrested. Other events have included an offering of food for shipment to the needy on Thanksgiving, The Feast of the Holy Innocents on December 28, and the greeting of the transcontinental Spiritual Walk: 1992 and Beyond when they stopped at the Weapons Station on the second day of their 5,400 mile journey to Washington DC.

June of this year marks the twenty-fifth anniversary of Israel's occupation of Palestinian lands. We hope to use our 5th anniversary on June 13th to honor all the victims of this policy, Arab and Jew alike, to demand Israel's compliance with UN Resolutions, and to seek an end to the US aid which makes it possible.

As always, we deeply appreciate the support you have given us in the past. From checks in the mail to used tires to newsletter subscriptions to hours in the cold wind at the tracks, it is you who make Nuremberg Actions possible. Thank you, and please, if you are able, give what you can.

For peace through justice,

*Jennifer Verrick*