

Between the Lines

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WE HAVE JUST BEGUN

As I sit down to write today, my mind continually returns to the terror of the children, in cities across the nation that are burning, their streets filled with enraged people driven to hopeless and desperate acts to make their rights as living beings known. As I hear condemnations of the random violence against yet more innocent people, I can only ask, where were we, what have we been doing, that we did not as a nation respond to their call before now? In a year that has seen the public billed billions of dollars to pay for the looting done by Savings & Loans white collar executives, billed billions of dollars to pay for the destruction of Iraqi cities on the other side of the world, that has seen a Senate panel of white men look down their noses for two days at professor Anita Hill, that has heard the testimony from the Noriega trial and many other places of U.S. government involvement in intercontinental drug smuggling, seen tax cuts for the wealthy, seen programs for housing, education, health and medical care slashed to the bone to pay for a military budget that is bankrupting the nation, witnessed the execution of Robert Alton Harris and rising police brutality in many major cities, what, indeed, did anyone expect? Martin Luther King Jr. once said that riots are the language of the unheard.

What really frightens me, above all else, is that there were twelve people and an entire judicial system that close to Los Angeles so ignorant of the situation that they did not have a clue what the Rodney King verdict would unleash.

Rodney King himself, just moments ago near tears, spoke for all of us in issuing a plea to work it out together, and have compassion and concern for the elders and children and the families of the newest victims. ©

**CONCORD WEAPONS STATION
50TH ANNIVERSARY EVENTS
MAY 16: 10-4 AT THE TRACKS
6-8 RALLY/PRESS CONFERENCE, CONCORD
SHERATON (CONCORD AVE/JOHN GLENN DR.)**

Demand that our nation's funds and resources be used to recreate a climate of hope and prosperity at home. Cease the funding for death and destruction abroad.

MAY 16: CNWS 50th ANNIVERSARY

On May 16, the Concord Naval Weapons Station (CNWS) will be celebrating their 50th anniversary, as the primary Pacific weapons depot. They plan to conduct bus tours of the base during the day for those willing to pay \$25 a plate for a testimonial dinner to follow, at the Concord Sheraton Hotel.

On the other side of the country that day, thousands will join the Save Our Cities march on Washington to demand immediate federal funding for social programs, tax reform and a seriously reduced military budget. Ranks will no doubt be seriously swelled by those seeking redress for recent events. With 50-70% of the military budget aimed in the past at the Soviets and Eastern Europe, as Ron Dellums says, "You don't have to be a rocket scientist to calculate that a military budget cut of 50-70% makes sense."

Here at Concord, however, one can view first hand the glittering and deadly fruits of the Pentagon's labors: the assembly buildings, testing facilities, and storage bunkers for nuclear and conventional munitions alike. Concord's invitation (which was not extended to us directly) asks people to "join the community in recognizing the contributions the Naval Weapons Station has made to our nation's defense and to the area's prosperity." We are certainly eager to do that, as we feel there may be some details that will be officially overlooked.

Nuremberg Actions is joining with the Mt. Diablo Peace Center, and other Bay Area groups to maintain a highly visible presence at the base throughout the day, and to hold a press conference outside the Sheraton Hotel to ensure the real story gets told.

We invite all concerned people to take this opportunity to demand in a serious and nonviolent way our government's return to decent American values: that our nation's resources and tax dollars be used to recreate a climate of hope and prosperity at home, and to cease funding and implementing genocide and destruction abroad. The Children's Defense Fund estimates the cost of eliminating poverty in the United States at \$5.3 billion, less than 2% of the military budget this year. The US spends \$6.2 billion alone to maintain troops in Japan, (a nation that spends proportionately 37% more of their federal budget on education than we do).

WHAT HAS CNWS CONTRIBUTED?

CNWS was constructed in 1942, to arm the Pacific fleet during WWII. On July 17, 1944, an explosion at the docks virtually vaporized 2 ships, a train, 5,000 tons of ammunition and 373 human beings. Most were Black sailors, who were loading the ships, nearly 20% of all Black WWII casualties. Surviving men refused to load the ships (cont. on page 2)

CNWS ANNIVERSARY, CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

again under the same unsafe conditions, and 50 were court martialed for treason. They have never been exonerated.

Although the US has not been officially at war since WWII or defended US soil, the death count from US bullets has been apocalyptic. The enormous majority were civilians. In light of this, we must redefine what CNWS has contributed in the last 50 years to "national offenses" and war crimes, not defense. John Stockwell estimates foreign casualties at:

- 1 million in the Korean war
- 2 million in Vietnam
- 1-2 million in Cambodia
- 800,000 in Indonesia
- 50,000 in Angola
- 50,000 killed or wounded in Nicaragua

In addition, widely accepted figures are:

- 75,000 in El Salvador
- 3,000 in Panama
- 1 million in Iran/Iraq war (we supplied both sides)
- 300,000-400,000 in Iraq, with more dying every day.

Between 6.5 and 7.5 million people have died in US orchestrated or manipulated wars. Most of these have taken place in the Pacific region, CNWS turf. By its own figures, CNWS supplied 80% of all munitions to southeast Asia, including Agent Orange. A Navy memo details over 17,000 tons of munitions shipped to El Salvador, from 1983-87, and we saw with our own eyes the rushed activity preceding the invasion of Panama. CNWS shipped nearly 80,000 tons of munitions to the Gulf War, "30% of all the ammunition, bombs and missiles expended by US and coalition forces". In addition, they speeded up the inspection process for cluster bombs by 400%, ensuring their timely delivery for the Highway of Death bombings. CNWS Gulf War munitions sales brought the base from an \$18 million deficit to a \$3 million profit.

Of the munitions dropped by 106,000 bombing runs, it is estimated that 70% missed their target. In addition, the majority of US ground vehicle casualties were killed by friendly fire. The base continues to ship munitions at an enormously accelerated rate, presumably many of them the \$19 billion in arms sales already transferred to the volatile and bristling Middle East in the last 18 months.

NUCLEAR WEAPONS IN THE BAY AREA

Since President Bush's decision on Sept. 27, 1991 to recall nuclear bombs and short-range missiles from ships and planes, the impact has been enormous at CNWS. Nukes from the Pacific fleet have been arriving for months; the Center for Defense information estimated that 400 would have been offloaded by March 1.

Although the Navy continues its absurd policy of refusing to discuss nuclear weapons with the US public, Navy spokespersons have stated that Bush's plan is being implemented on schedule, and we assume that the 125 person Regional Response Team (for handling Navy nuclear accidents) is not just randomly placed. 75% of all Navy ships are equipped to carry nuclear weapons.

For Bay Area residents, this enormous nuclear arsenal resting a mile and a half from an earthquake faultline presents a frightening specter. No evacuation plan exists, and numerous public schools, hospitals and convalescent homes

are within a mile of the base.

One building, within sight of the Concord high school, has been described by experts as a tritium warhead refurbishing facility. Worker Frank Davenport insisted that his cancer was caused by working there, prior to his death.

ENVIRONMENTAL HAZARDS AT CNWS

In 1988, three toxic-waste sites covering 110 acres at CNWS were nominated for the Superfund list, which includes those in most serious need of immediate attention. Cleanup costs were estimated at \$56.5 million in 1985. In addition, some 20 other hazardous sites are under investigation on the base for future cleanup. Numerous heavy metals at very dangerous levels have threatened 8 rare or endangered species of wildlife in the Suisun Bay wetlands for years.

The US military is the largest polluter in the country, and claims itself to have 17,482 toxic sites at 1,855 military facilities in the US alone. The military produces over 70% of US toxic waste.

CONVERSION OF THE BASE

The base holds nearly 13,000 acres of prime land in the middle of a rapidly developing area. Waterfront access would be a major boon to Concord businesses and recreation. Ron Dellums and others have advocated the 1993 Quality of Life Budget, which includes \$3 billion in retooling incentives for munitions plants, community redevelopment for base closures, labor retraining, small business assistance for subcontractors, and a GI bill of rights for demobilized personnel. Numerous economic studies show that shifting federal spending from military to infrastructure and social programs would generate more jobs and increase economic activity. ©

ROCKY FLATS SHUTS DOWN

The Rocky Mt. Peace Center is holding a massive party on May 9 in Denver "with potluck dinner, music, dancing and hugging, from 6:00 pm to who knows when" to celebrate the fact that Rocky Flats will not be resuming weapons production, as earlier predicted, and will instead embark upon the massive task of clean-up at the site. Rocky Flats has in the past made the nuclear triggers for assembly at the Pantex bomb plant. It has been shut down since 1989 due to unbelievable environmental hazards, such as 11 pounds of plutonium found in an exhaust ventilation duct.

Activists there invite all who can to join them in Denver for this long-awaited event. Thanks to everyone who has worked so hard for this incredible victory!

For info, contact the Rocky Mt. Peace Center at 303-444-6981.

BUT...AT PANTEX, TEXAS...

The Peace Farm writes us: Although the major mission of Pantex will soon be dismantling up to 2,000 nuclear bombs a year instead of building them, the Dept. of Energy still plans to move Rocky Flats here or some other DOE plant, and there is still some concern that the new production reactor could be moved here as well. 100,000 lbs. of plutonium will be stored here in concrete bunkers. ©

For more information, contact the Peace Farm at 806-335-1715.

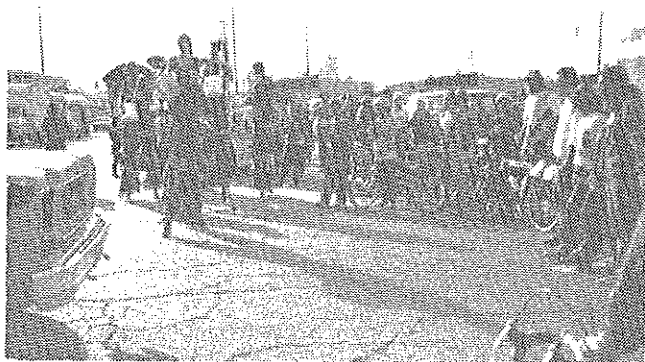


PEACESPOKES ON THE NUKE TRAIL

On March 26, about 25 bicyclists called Peacespokes left from the nuclear bunker of the Concord Naval Weapons Station (above) for a two week trek to the Nevada Nuclear Test Site, to join others in a 10 day series of pro-Comprehensive Test Ban events. Many more bicyclists joined them on route, from other parts of California. Their bright shirts, proclaiming STOP NUCLEAR TESTING, made their purpose clear.

Following The 100th Monkey weekend of music ranging from Michele Shocked to Clan Dyken to Kris Kristofferson and including Dan Ellsberg and other speakers, a rally and press conference was held at the Dept. of Energy in Las Vegas which administers the nuclear weapons program. Over 500 encircled the building and blocked doorways and drives. (See picture below.) About 300 walkers then set out with the bicyclists for the 65 mile trip to the Test Site. Five days later an impressive column of foot-weary but jubilant walkers came over the horizon of the Test Site camp, filling the sky line (although 63 had already been arrested for blocking the highway in a simulated nuclear test alert).

On Sunday, following an Easter service conducted by Nevada Desert Experience, and a prayer by Shoshone spiritual leader Corbin Harney, hundreds of people formed wave after wave of passive resistance, occupying the rather brutal Wackenhutt security personnel at the gates, while many other went around the sides and headed into the test site. Over 40 people reached the town of Mercury inside the site. ©



LETTERS FROM READERS

From Gordon A. Chapman, Silver Springs MD:

First, don't change your name. We must keep reminding citizens that it is our nation that self-righteously judged others by the Nuremberg Principles and that we have failed to live by our own principles.

Second, as advocates of nonviolence, we must seek opportunities to plant seeds of understanding in every way possible. We must help citizens see that ends do not justify the means, that covert actions destroy a nation's security, that know-it-all elitists are too clever for their own and their people's good.

Third, for the movement to grow, we must be willing to work with individuals of every theology and political persuasion. If we can't be tolerant of great diversity, if we cannot love our political enemies, and if we cannot forgive them, our sectarianism will divide us and the movement for social change will be neutralized.

Fourth, when grand schemes fail, small projects based on realistic assessments can prevail. Each of us is called to teach in different ways, some through street theatre or the printed word, others in classrooms, and those qualified to do so, from podiums.

We of the east coast should not wisecrack to you of the west. As long as you are motivated out of compassion, we support you, and we wish we had more to send.

From Maylie Scott, Berkeley CA:

I'm not sure what "continuing the vigil" means. If it means a 24 hour presence, this may be more than we can sustain. Living at the Tracks is a vocation that calls very few. I am truly grateful to the people that have shaped their lives to its exigencies. BUT, I think it is extremely important that a strong, non-violent presence be sustained in a regular, if episodic way. I feel indebted to David Duncombe and the "Thursday" regulars for their constant work. I never can come on Thursdays, but have been blocking [weapons vehicles] one Wednesday a month (usually the second) and usually have company, though would welcome more. Wouldn't it be great if we could have 5 mornings a week of 2 or more people blocking? A few people could, in this way, constitute a strong presence and witness.

The site is very important to me as a "dis-owned" place where I can come and claim my wholeness. I know that many of us have a significant relation to the site. Perhaps this is a time where we can reorganize our community support. If anyone is interested in making a regular blocking commitment, they could phone me at 510-848-2924 (after May 29th).

From Bob & Mary Ann Jones, Ashland OR:

We have been with Nuremberg Actions since the beginning and have watched the ebb and flow from nearby for most of the long years, as you know.

Upon reflection, we agree that the best course would be to close [the vigil]. It's true that this country will always be engaged in wars and CNWS will always have blood on their hands. But with the conflicts in Central America supposedly winding down

(cont. on page 4)

TRACK RECORD

May 1st, 1992 is the 1786th day of continuous protest at the Concord Naval Weapons Station since June 10, 1987. Nuremberg Actions will celebrate their 5th anniversary on June 13th at the tracks, from 10:00 AM until 2:00 PM. An open meeting will follow, to discuss the future of the vigil. Between March 23rd and April 21st, we recorded 21 train movements, with a total of 191 loaded munitions boxcars. Movement of munitions was about the same for inbound cars headed to bunkers and other buildings, or outbound to the waterfront piers. Arrested this month for blocking shipments were: Abe Zwickel, Maylie Scott and Kathy Galvin.

On April 16th, Dorothy Grenada and Charles Grey, early members of Nuremberg Actions came to the tracks to report on their lives in rural Nicaragua. Dorothy runs a health clinic and Charles has started many community development projects.

On Easter Sunday, about 30 people met for a sunrise service at the nuclear bunker, and shared scriptures and song. The theme was "The connection between hope and faith, in the face of nuclear weapons". Among those present was Philip Berrigan, noted anti-nuclear activist.

Please look elsewhere in this paper for articles on the Peacespokes bikeriders who rode from the CNWS nuclear bunker to the Nevada Test Site, and for details on our planned events on May 16th, to augment CNWS's 50th anniversary events. It is our responsibility as US citizens to make sure the whole story is told.

A Mother's Day event is being planned at the tracks on Monday, May 11th. Please call Sunshine Appleby for details at 415-868-1359. ©

LETTERS, CONTINUED FROM PAGE 3

(the US can still sabotage the chances for peace, of course,) the raison d'être is no longer there. The global bullying will, of course, continue, but Nuremberg Actions needs to have a sharp focus with which the public can identify, regardless of their stand on an issue.

You've won!!! you've witnessed your convictions in what Tom Paine called "four o'clock in the morning courage"--the kind you've had to endure all those cold nights and blazing-freezing days; the courage that waits out the boring and interminable hours when the hurrahs have died down and the by day or weekend demonstrators have gone home.

And by all means, do end with a huge celebration. Proclaim the victory over Eichmanism. Celebrate conviction, and love, and the vision of the human family around the world living in pace and harmony. Celebrate the many times that love was returned when hatred was offered. Celebrate the courage of those who fasted for days, weeks, or months for their convictions and those who said with their bodies that the death trains were not running with their permission. Celebrate LIFE. Because this is what Nuremberg Actions is really about--life as opposed to death.

From Peter Harvey, Calais VT:

We have decided to stop paying our Federal Telephone Tax as a form of War Tax Resistance. We will instead send that amount to Nuremberg Actions. ©

CALENDAR

AT THE TRACKS:

5/11--Mother's Day at the Tracks. Call Sunshine Appleby at 415-868-1359 for more info.

5/14--9:00 am Sonoma Co. Taxes for Peace, Redwood Friends Morning circle, orientation and weapons blockade.

5/16--CNWS 50TH ANNIVERSARY UN-CELEBRATION Gather at the tracks from 10-4 with signs, music, food to share, etc. Meet at the Concord Sheraton Hotel (Concord Ave. & John Glenn Dr.) for a rally and press conference from 6-8, where CNWS Dinner will be held.

6/13--10:00-2:00 NUREMBERG ACTIONS 5TH ANNIVERSARY Gather at the tracks to celebrate 5 valiant years of resistance to US war crimes. Meeting to follow to discuss future.

Orientation and training are available most Thursdays at the tracks from 9:00 am to noon.



IN THE BAY AREA:

5/9--Media & Democracy: Covering the '92 Elections. A conference by Media Alliance and KPFA, with Ralph Nader. University of SF. Call Media Alliance in SF for info.

5/10--Living Democracy in a Media Age public forum with Frances Moore Lappe and Paul Dubois. SF State, \$10. Call Mara Keller at Global Peace Studies, 415-338-1592.

5/22-25--Strategies for Solidarity Conference with the Bay Area Anti-Apartheid Network to assess the situation of the movement and its relationship to South Africa. Laney College, Oakland. 415-332-3819 (eve) 415-255-7296 (day).

AT LARGE:

5/9-10--Mother's Day ELF Project at site of Navy Trident Sub communication center. Call Nukewatch, 608-256-4146.

5/16--Save Our Cities March on Washington Sponsored by many national organizations and the mayors of many cities, this is an unprecedented event of local govt. taking the feds to task. Even more timely after last week.

6/5-10--Middle East Peace Walk On the 25th anniversary of the 6 Day War, hundreds of internationals, Israelis and Palestinians will walk through Israel and occupied territories, ending in Jerusalem. Kathy Kelly 312-784-8065.

"SEEDS OF NONVIOLENCE"

John Dear, S.J. is known to many for his involvement in Pax Christi and Bay Area Religious Peace Action. He has organized many events and actions at the Concord Naval Weapons Station. His latest book, Seeds of Nonviolence, is an impressive 450 page journal, reflecting on the many experiences that have led him to where he is today. It includes material about his activities at CNWS, and a forward by Bishop Thomas Gumbleton. It is available for \$19.95 from Fort Camp Publishing in Baltimore. Call 1-800-43-PEACE to order. ©