



DISARMAMENT

Schultz's visit to Halifax met with protest

by David Olle

Heated emotions warmed an otherwise chilly autumn day as peace activists and others protested the presence of George Schultz in Halifax Monday, Oct. 17.

U.S. Secretary of State George Schultz and Allan J. MacEachen, Canada's Secretary of State for external affairs were meeting to discuss a variety of international issues with MacEachen during Schultz's surprise two-day visit.

About 100 demonstrators gathered on the Grand Parade for an hour at Monday noon. People were there from Oxfam-Canada, Voice of Women, Latin America Information Group, Dalhousie Disarmament Society and other related organizations.

These groups took advantage of Schultz's presence to make clear their opposition to his stand on many foreign policy issues. Nuclear armament was the prominent objection, but protests were also registered against the American involvement in Latin America, American involvement in the Middle East and acid rain.

Many in the crowd said Halifax was chosen for the

meeting because it is quieter than many other cities. Protestors felt it was important to show Schultz could not run away from the issues and "conservative" Halifax is not free from controversy.

Word of Schultz's visit was officially released only 72 hours before his arrival Sunday at CFB Shearwater. The march was arranged for Monday because the two officials were scheduled to have lunch at the Upper Deck, a restaurant in Historic Properties.

These plans were shelved when word of the protest reached security officials. A fleet of 10 limousines brought MacEachen and Schultz to the waterfront just before the marchers. The two men, looking dapper in warm yellow sweaters and white yachting caps, left on a large motor launch to a ship stationed in the harbor.

The protestors continued an orderly picket along Water Street for about 30 minutes in front of on-lookers and police. At one point, some marchers staged a "die-in," symbolically dropping to the ground as if killed by an atomic blast.

After the protest, one co-ordinator of the march, Jeff Claire, said he was pleased with the event. "Of course it was successful. We forced them to change their

plans, and we got national and CBS news coverage.

Another demonstration against Schultz was made Sunday afternoon at the Hotel Nova Scotian, where he was scheduled to stay for the night.

Marion Kerans, Kate McKenna and Pat Kipping, all members of Voice of Women, waited at the hotel through the afternoon. Their purpose was to present MacEachen with a prepared statement on the subject of nuclear disarmament, which they hoped he would hand on to Schultz.

Dressed in the black of mourning, they attracted the attention of the many plainclothes security men in the lobby. The women were warned if they tried to impede the two officials they would be treated as hostile.

When Schultz and MacEachen arrived the women were blocked by police and security men. Despite this, they attracted MacEachen's attention and handed him the message, which he accepted, saying, "I'll read the message carefully."

Kerans admitted later to having been unnerved by the whole affair. "As a woman you're used to being protected; (in this situation) you realize that you are the threat . . . the soldiers turn to you."