

Radio-thon to raise money for Red Cross

by Allan Carter

The Red Cross has handled over two million refugees since the eruption of war in the Middle East.

According to Hilary Howes, New Brunswick regional director of the Canadian Red Cross Society, the society's operations in the Middle East will need over 125 million dollars in the next three weeks.

That is why a radio-thon is being held at CFNB on February 22 and 23. Howes says they are trying to raise \$10,000 here in Fredericton, and nationally they are hoping to raise one million dollars.

To kick off the fundraising, a pictorial which is touring internationally will be in Fredericton this weekend at the Exhibition Centre.

The pictorial is titled "Victims of War" and it is twelve feet long and eight feet high. It displays photos of civilians who have died in the war.

Howes says that, since all the war conflicts from 1945, nearly nine out of ten people who were injured or killed were civilians.

The Red Cross operations during the Middle East crisis have only reached, what Howes describes, as "the tip of the iceberg". He doesn't feel the war will end quickly and " as

ground war intensifies there will be more civilian casualties."

Besides that, after the war is over the Red Cross deals with all the prisoner of war negotiations.

Moreover, the war has had a significant impact on the Red Cross' relief operations in the Third World countries because, says Howes, "the focus right now is in the Gulf."

The Canadian International Development Agency has been very supportive of the Red Cross, says Howes. Already they have given the society \$2.5 million dollars, and he hopes they will continue their support.

The fundraising drive will be on Feb. 22 from noon to 10pm and Feb. 23 from 9am to noon. Anybody interested in sending a donation or pledge

can call 453-5550 during the designated hours.

Howes says the Emergency Measures Organization is letting the Red Cross society use their twenty two telephone lines at the Victoria Health Centre. The Red Cross plans on using eight of the phones.

The Red Cross is hoping that residences, faculties and other groups at the university will organize pledge teams to

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-Howes

help the Red Cross in their attempt to raise funds to maintain their operations in aiding the war-wounded, prisoners, and refugees in the Gulf - "on both sides" of the conflict, says Howes.

Arab-Canadian students being harassed

by Heidi Modro

Montreal (CUP) - Some Arab-Canadian students involved in the anti-war movement are becoming the target of harassment and intimidation by the country's secret police, the Canadian Arab Federation says.

A handful of Arab-Canadian students who have participated in peace demonstrations protesting Canada's involvement in the Gulf war have been photographed by agents of the Canadian Security Intelligence Service said James Kafieh, president of the Canadian Arab Federation.

The agents are then circulating the pictures among members of the Arab community for identification, he added.

Kafieh said CSIS's tactics

aim to intimidate Arab-Canadian students into not expressing their opposition to the war.

"There have been a handful of cases in Toronto," he said. "It seems to be becoming standard practice that if an Arab Canadian demonstrates against the war, his basic human right to express an opinion is sure to be challenged by Canadian security agents."

Kafieh said that in the past two weeks his organization has received complaints from some 300 Arab Canadians about CSIS agents approaching them for information.

"In one case, CSIS agents stayed in the home of one person for six hours to conduct an interview," Kafieh said.

Apparently many of the agents have been watching too

many spy films.

"They actually call people up and tell them that to meet them at a certain time and place and to bring no one with them," Kafieh said. "What movie do they think they're starring in?"

The federation has published a pamphlet entitled "When CSIS calls" which advises Arab-Canadians on what to do if they're approached by CSIS.

"Many people don't know that they don't have to reveal anything if they don't want to and that they have a right to a lawyer," he said.

CSIS was created in 1984 to take over the RCMP's much maligned domestic surveillance operations. It comes under the jurisdiction of the Solicitor General and is subject to the different review committees.

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-Kafieh

In response to complaints, Liberal MP John Nunziata has asked that the Solicitor General Pierre Cadieux appear in front of the Justice and Solicitor General Committee.

"Our principal concern is that CSIS's questioning of Arab-Canadians may be based on the ethnic origin rather than on any real suspicion that they may be engaged in illegal activities," said David Pratt, an aid to Nunziata.

"If the questioning is based on a person's ethnic origin then what they're doing is not allowed by the CSIS act."

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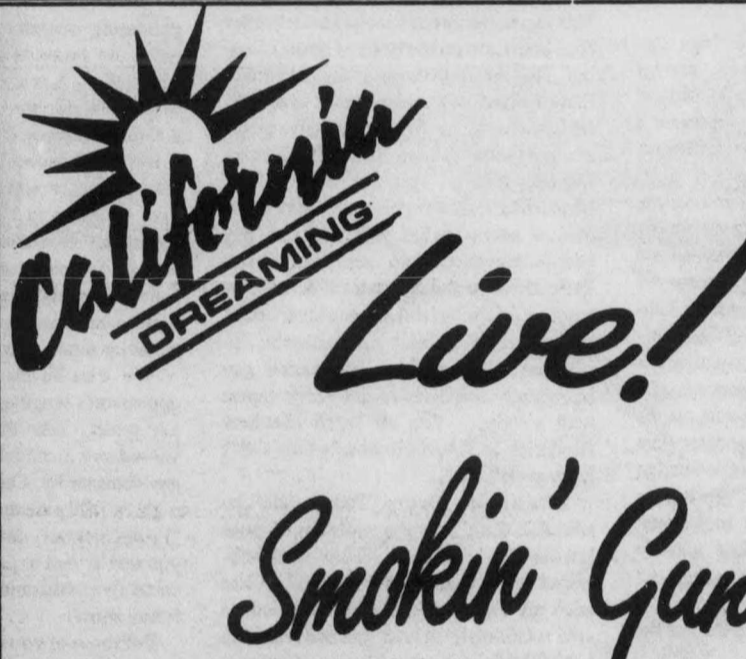
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