

Willing ally . . .

by Ron Crocker

Staid old Dalhousie University seems a long way from military atrocities in South Vietnam and from imperial oppression in other developing nations.

It also seems safely removed from the conscious plotting of military strategies by the Pentagon and by that stout military bulwark of Western imperialism, the North Atlantic Treaty Organization.

Yet in a remote, subtle and roundabout fashion, good old Dal has a role in all these phenomena, a role that lies somewhere between not-unwilling ally and more-than-eager whore.

For Dalhousie, like most other Canadian universities, contributes to the development and perfection of the monster that makes it all possible, the Western military complex.

Dal's complicity, oddly enough, does not manifest itself in any special activity or project but rather in a process that is part of the university's everyday life — scientific research, specifically the scientific research being funded by the Defence Research Board, an institution whose singular purpose is war research.

This university's contribution can be measured by determining the amount of DRB research done here and that has finally been done in a research project undertaken by Will Offley, an organizer for the Young Socialists/Ligue des Jeunes Socialistes. Offley's findings were presented at a Young Socialists forum held recently at Dal.

Offley's investigation unearthed some interesting, if not surprising, information. While its contribution is by no means massive in national or international terms, Dal does get the lion's share — more than 50 per cent — of DRB grants in the Atlantic region.

And in recent years at least 19 Dalhousie faculty members, including six department heads, have taken part in

Canadian war research.

Offley also told the forum of the establishment here this year of a mysterious "Foreign Policy Research Centre", co-funded by a \$130,000 grant from the department of national defence.

In 1969-70, according to Offley's statistics, the Atlantic Provinces got 15 DRB grants with a total value of \$99,550. The amount represented only three per cent of the total DRB allotments for external research . . . and Offley wryly noted that there are few exceptions to Atlantic underdevelopment.

The 19 professors named by Offley, along with the size of their grants and the title of their projects are:

B. EARHARD, associate professor of psychology, grant 9401-32, "Visual discrimination as a function of size of response set and repeated experience", 1966-68, \$12,225;

J. EMBIL, assistant professor of microbiology and pediatrics, grant 8910-03, "Epidemiology of the TRIC group of agents," 1968, \$6,500;

W. K. HONIG, professor of psychology, grant 9425-20, "Recovery and enhancement of the aftereffect of movement," 1966-70 (\$17,400 for 1966-68; no sum given for 1968-70);

H. S. HEAPS, ex-professor of physics, grant 5540-29, "Effect of wavefront coherence on the design of hydrophone and antenna arrays," 1966, \$5,000;

P. H. R. JAMES, ex-chairman of the psychology department, now Killam research professor of psychology, grant 9401-22, "Parametric studies of sensory preconditioning in humans", 1966-67, \$6,944;

W. L. KING, ex-professor of psychology, grant 9425-19, "The effect of implicit context of the perception of size and distance", 1966-67, \$7,350;

M. J. KEEN, chairman of the geology department and professor of physics, (two grants), grant 9511-66, "Seismic



The Defence Research Board, the scientific research board of the Canadian Armed Forces, was set up in 1947 as a civilian service within the department of national defence.

The board proper, comparable to the board of directors of a commercial corporation, consists of a chairman and a vice-chairman, a number of members appointed by the lieutenant-governor in council (the federal Cabinet) for three-year terms, and ex-officio members representing the Canadian Armed Forces, the deputy minister of national defence and the National Research Council.

The chairman, who is chief executive officer responsible for directing the board's operations, also sits as a member of the defence council which is chaired by the minister of national defence.

The board's research and development programs are carried out in seven research establishments across Canada, including Defence Research Establishment (DREA), located in Dartmouth. The main projects of the local establishment include all aspects of maritime warfare, particularly anti-submarine warfare.

But these research centres do only a fraction of the board's work. The overwhelming majority of its research is carried out in Canadian universities. This "extramural research" consists of grants in aid and contracts for research.

Out of an average yearly budget of \$43 million, nearly \$3 million goes out in the form of research grants to universities.

The Board's functions, in providing money for research in universities according to its own official publications, is three-fold: (1) to acquire new scientific knowledge that may prove applicable to the solution of technical defence problems; (2) to develop and support in the university community an interest in defence science, which may contribute to the long-term maintenance of a Canadian defence research capability; and (3) to assist in recruiting young scientists for employment with the board.

But whatever the euphemisms, the Board in reality has one sad and singular mission: war research; or, to quote the Young Socialist research paper on which the accompanying article is based, "it is a multi-million dollar government agency that exists in order to perfect methods of organized mass murder, and nothing more."

wave propagation in underwater layered media with non-sharp boundaries," 1966-69 (\$16,000 for 1966-68; no sum given for 1969); and grant 9520-20, "Sediments and microtopography of the continental margin, Maritime Provinces", 1967-69, \$9,400;

O. KNOP, professor of chemistry, grant 5501-38, "Ferro-electric ceramics", 1966, \$5,000;

M. J. L. KIRBY, associate professor of mathematics and past assistant dean of arts and science, grant 9540-14, "Model of dynamic decision-making system", 1967, \$3,700;

J. A. McNULTY, professor of psychology, grant 9425-13, "The effects of terrain on perceived size and distance," 1966-69, \$13,300; grant 9401-49, "Human underwater sound navigation", 1970, no sum given;

R. F. OVER, associate professor of psychology, grant 9401-46, "Perceptual error in spatial judgement on the skin", 1969, no sum given;

D. E. RYAN, professor of chemistry and chairman of the department, grant 9530-34, "Metal Complexes", 1966-69, \$14,500;

G. A. RILEY, Director of Bedford Institute of Oceanography and Research professor in marine biology, grant 9511-

42, "Geology and geophysics of sediments beneath Canadian Atlantic coastal waters," 1966-68, \$36,000;

D. SWIFT, ex-professor of geology and oceanography, grant 9520-20 (see M. J. Keen, above), \$13,500;

C. B. STEWART, dean of medicine, grant 9930-14, "Equipment for cardio-respiratory studies at different levels of altitude", 1967-71, no sum given;

C. E. VAN ROOYEN, professor and head, department of microbiology, grant 8915-03, "Virus studies of military importance", 1966-69, \$2,000;

Offley also named seven past or present Dalhousie professors who have served on various DRB committees and sub-committees.

They are: C. E. van Rooyen, advisory committee on biology warfare, 1966-68; D. E. Ryan, advisory committee on chemical research, 1966-69; W. L. Ford, advisory committee on geophysics, 1966-69; S. J. Patrick, panel on toxicology, 1966-69; P. L. Lundrigan, panel on antibiotics, 1967-69; J. Lions, advisory committee on applied math and computer science, and W. T. Vosenhans, aviation and underwater physics.

Dalhousie University itself has been awarded DRB research contracts on a number of occasions.

A story of Dalhousie