

Successful and nicely organized UN Disarmament Week

by Mark Roppel

United Nations Disarmament Week came to a close Tuesday and according to organizers the week was a success.

"I would say it raised people's awareness," said Godo Stoyke of the U of A Group for Nuclear Disarmament.

Stoyke said the highlight of the week was a march on the Legislature which was held on October 22.

October 22 was UN Disarmament Day, a day set aside by the UN each year in the last week of October to inform people about the dangers of the arms race.

Over 1400 people participated in the Edmonton march.

"I would say the turnout was satisfactory for Edmonton," said Stoyke, "but you can't compare it with West Germany" where approximately 1.3 million people demonstrated.

There were demonstrations across Canada and in virtually every population center in the world. Half a million demonstrated, in Holland, 400,000 in London, and 900,000 in Moscow.

Robin Denton, spokesperson for the UN Disarmament Committee which organized the activities, was also satisfied with the turnout at the Legislature, "you always hope for more but there are many more at home supporting us," he said, "Nobody is for nuclear war."

Aside from the march the Committee sponsored a debate between NDP External Affairs Critic Pauline Jewett and Edmonton Journal editor Stephen Hume about testing the Cruise, a panel discussion, various speakers and films.

"I thought it was a very nicely organized week," said Denton.

Denton also attended the "Strategies for Peace and Security in a Nuclear Age" conference in Guelph, Ontario. The conference was addressed by Prime Minister Trudeau. Many prominent Canadians were there including Edmonton MP Doug Roche and Archbishop E.W. Scott, Primate of the Anglican Church.

Rear Admiral Eugene Carroll, former head of all US forces in Europe and the Middle East, and General Brent Scowcroft, who was in charge of the M. program were at the Guelph Conference, as well as prominent leaders from around

the world.

"I met Walter Gordon (former finance Minister of Finance under Lester Pearson)" said Denton. "He said something very interesting. He said 'Canada should get out of NORAD and not test the Cruise.'"

Denton cited a recent poll published in the *Edmonton Journal*

and said "Despite what (Premier) Lougheed told (British Prime Minister) Thatcher, the vast majority of Albertans do not support the Cruise."

"I think most people are aware we've got a problem, they just have to be filled in on the details," concluded Denton.

Pacifists arrested

by Taras Lehkyj

On two separate occasions last June, a delegation of the unofficial peace movement Group to Establish Trust Between the USA and USSR tried unsuccessfully to deliver a letter for Margaret Thatcher to the British Embassy in Moscow. The letter protested arrests of pacifists outside military installations in England in the spring.

On June 14 V. Brodsky, M. Reitman, and S. Rozenoer were arrested near the embassy and interrogated for three hours. The police claimed that a threat "of impending terrorist attack" on the embassy had been discovered. After the interrogation, the delegation was released.

On June 25, the same members of the Group were arrested while trying to get out of a taxi at the embassy gate. They were searched, interrogated for three hours and warned that "if we catch you near the British embassy, we'll throw you in the Moscow River." The police confiscated the protest letter to Thatcher.

Six days after the second incident, a delegation from the Group successfully handed over a letter for Thatcher to a British diplomat at his apartment. They were accompanied by English pacifist Andrew Dobson. Only one member of the delegation - Serhiy Rozenoer - was detained on his way to the meeting.

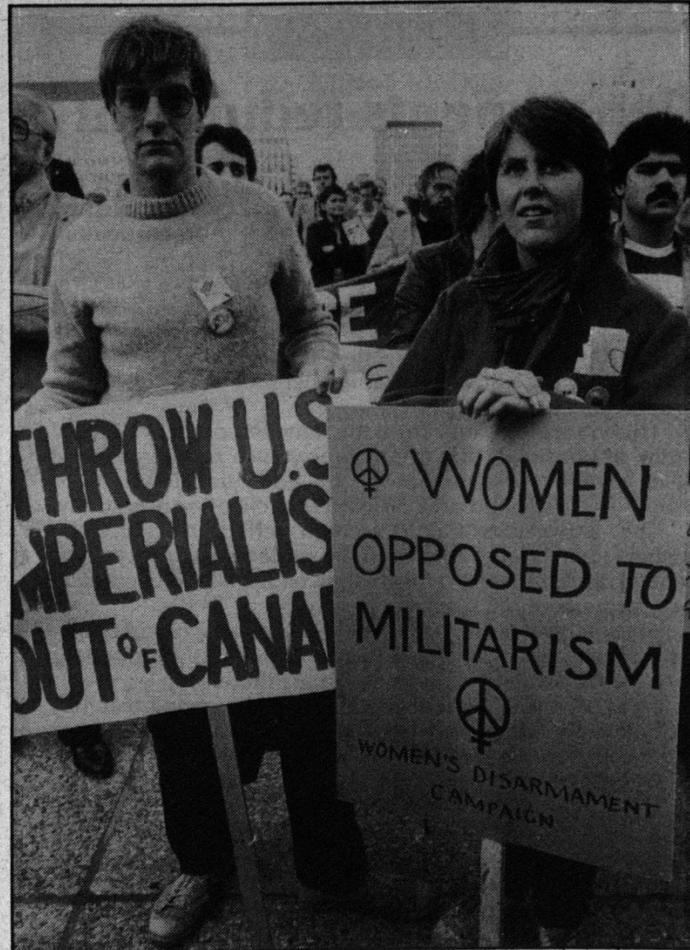
Members of the Group in Moscow marked the anniversary of the US bombing of Hiroshima with a meeting on August 6 at Rozenoer's apartment. Fifty people came. Four days later Rozenoer was summoned to the police station and threatened with arrest for 'parasitism' and expulsion from Moscow. The police were trying to learn about his place of employment. Last March,

the KGB pressured the school administration where he worked as a math teacher to fire him. It is believed he now works as a labourer.

In February of this year he joined Serhiy Batovrin in a thirty-two day hunger strike protesting police interference in their activities. They decided to fast after police broke up an exhibition of anti-war photographs by Daniel Ellsberg. Batovrin was exiled to the West in May together with his wife, child and mother.

Vladimir Kornev, a member of the Group to Establish Trust in Odessa was arrested in April of this year. The Odessa group claims to have over 900 adherents to its programme of building contacts between the peoples of the USSR and USA independent of the mediation of their governments. It proposes that the Black Sea be turned into a non-nuclear sea of trust and that Odessa and Baltimore, its twin city in the USA, be declared nuclear-free zones.

On July 14, two Dutch peace activists were handing out plastic shopping bags on the Moscow metro when they were arrested.



Peace demonstrators watching in wonder and amazement as a cruise missile demolishes the downtown core.

The bags carried a portrait of Oleh Radzinsky, a member of the Group to Establish Trust presently being held in the Serbsky Institute of Psychiatry in Moscow. Beneath his portrait, 'Oleh Radzinsky - who's next?' appeared in English.

This is one of the many ingenious ways to carry out propaganda in an East European

state. Plastic bags are sold commonly on the streets and in subways to shoppers. East Europeans prefer plastic bags made in the West (especially thick ones bearing a Marlboro logo).

Inger Elzinga and Eric Brassem, the two Dutch activists, were released on the following day and ordered to leave the country.

Zaire oppresses citizens

by Michael Wynne

You thought U of A was a dangerous place to be?

Other universities make this one look like a womb of pedantic security.

Hear about Zaire, for example, as the Edmonton members of Amnesty International did at their monthly meeting October 25 in Knox Metropolitan United Church.

An African student studying at U of A spoke about the decline in the general quality and safety of life in Zaire since President L. Mobutu overthrew the government in 1965.

By 1969, the government he built included professors, but it had lost its charm.

"Most intellectuals had fled or been bribed but students were still talking," the speaker recalled.

"They petitioned the president over living conditions at the Catholic university. So troops came to the campus, and hundreds of students were wounded or killed. The student organizers were drafted into the army."

In 1971, students remembered these deaths by burying coffins. Troops returned, there were more deaths, and 2,500 students were drafted.

The government emptied the university and brought in new students, but discontent continued.

The government fused Zaire's three universities and made politicians the academic authorities.

In 1979 students walked to the presidential palace in protest. Needless to say, no word of the subsequent arrests graded the state-run newspapers.

In December, 1981, students again petitioned for better living

conditions; 97 were drafted. Amnesty International worked to free them.

Asked whether he worried about his words getting back to Zaire, where his family is, the student said his family was too unimportant for the government to harass. He said he told no other African student he was going to U of A.

Here there is less danger than in Eastern Canada, where there are many Zairian students, some squealing on their compatriots.

"As an intellectual, it would be easy for me to be corrupted. I could write papers over the regime, get a good job, drive a car; but what about my brothers?"

Amnesty International investigates cases, using the United Nations Universal Declaration of Human Rights as its guide, to see whether governments or opposition groups have broken basic 'laws of humanity' which transcend borders.

It demonstrates its apolitical stance by working on behalf of prisoners from Eastern, Western, and Non-Aligned countries. Campaigns to free them are carried on by local groups, such as in Edmonton.

Edmonton members will have their spanking-new booth, which tours local malls, in HUB Friday, November 18. The group meets the fourth Tuesday of each month at 7:30 P.M. in Knox Church.



SORSE
The Long Range Planning Committee is accepting submissions and participation from anyone interested in the re-structure of Student Orientation Services.
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