

Disarmament Fund Update

Grants and Contributions from the Disarmament Fund, April 1 - December 31, 1991

CONTRIBUTIONS

1. North American Model United Nations (Toronto) — 1992 simulation of the UN General Assembly	\$5,000
2. North Coast Tribal Council (Prince Rupert, B.C.) — nuclear conference, April 1991	1,000
3. UN Association in Canada (Vancouver branch) — conference on naval arms control, November 1991	5,000
4. Canadian Association of NATO Defence College Anciens (Ottawa) — symposium on "Canada and NATO," October 1991	4,000
5. Canadian Institute of Strategic Studies (Toronto) — Canadian Strategic Forecast 1991 seminar	3,000
6. Division of University Extension, University of Victoria — public forum on "Canada's Role in Disarmament, Arms Control and Arms Trade," October 1991	5,000
7. Park View Education Centre (Bridgewater, N.S.) — Atlantic Coast Model UN on the Arms Trade, February 1992	5,000
8. Peace and Environment Resource Centre (Ottawa) — purchase of books about disarmament for library	1,000
9. Voice of Women (national office, Toronto) — 1991 study tour of the UN General Assembly	3,000
10. Political Studies Students' Conference, University of Manitoba (Winnipeg) — conference on "Canada, the United States and New Challenges to Security," January 1992	4,500
11. Science for Peace (Toronto chapter) — 1992 University College lectures in peace studies	1,500
TOTAL OF CONTRIBUTIONS	\$38,000

GRANTS

1. Project Ploughshares (Waterloo, Ont.) — research and publication on naval arms control	7,000
2. Jocelyn Coulon (Outremont, Que.) — book on Canada and the Gulf War	2,500
3. UN World Disarmament Campaign Voluntary Trust Fund (New York) — information activities	30,000
4. UN Regional Centre for Peace, Disarmament and Development in Latin America and the Caribbean (Lima, Peru) — seminar on the relationship between hemispheric security, weapons proliferation and military expenditure	10,000
TOTAL OF GRANTS	\$49,500
TOTAL OF GRANTS AND CONTRIBUTIONS	\$87,500 ■

Focus: On the United Nations and Disarmament

Focus is written primarily for secondary school students.

Every fall the countries that belong to the United Nations adopt a number of resolutions calling for arms control and disarmament measures. As long ago as 1959, the UN adopted the goal of "general and complete disarmament under effective international control." Yet many countries continue to possess a large number of arms, in some cases far beyond what they need for self-defence. What is the role of the UN in promoting disarmament? How effective is it?

UN role in disarmament

The UN is involved in disarmament in many ways.

1. UNGA First Committee

The UN General Assembly (UNGA) meets every year in New York from

September to December. All states that are members of the United Nations have a seat in the General Assembly. The General Assembly's role is to debate and consider issues of international interest. The General Assembly can make recommendations, but it cannot force states to follow them. The General Assembly expresses its views and makes its recommendations in the form of resolutions.

The General Assembly divides its work into seven committees. Disarmament issues are looked at by the First Committee, in which all members of the UN, including Canada, are represented. The First Committee meets in October and November. Delegations first hold a general debate on disarmament issues. They then consider draft resolutions on disarmament. Many of the resolutions are the same from year to year and cause little debate. However, a few draft

resolutions are the subject of intense negotiations. States often make changes to their resolutions to arrive at drafts that will gain the widest support possible but still achieve something useful.

After negotiations, the First Committee votes on the draft resolutions. Each Member State has one vote. A state can vote in favour of or against a resolution, or it can abstain, which is a way of saying it takes a position between "yes" and "no." A state might abstain when it does not oppose the principle of the resolution, but does oppose a particular phrase or recommendation within it. If all states are in favour of a resolution, the resolution is adopted by consensus. The aim of the First Committee is to reach consensus on as many resolutions as possible.

If a resolution receives more "yes" votes than "no" votes in the First Committee, it is sent to the General Assem-