

Multilateral disarmament efforts needed

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"More arms do not make mankind safer, only poorer."
Brandt Commission

The opening quote touches on two major issues we as Canadians and citizens of this world face. One is the grave economic situation in Canada and elsewhere (particularly the Third World); the other, the ever increasing threat of nuclear war due to a massive build-up in the nuclear arsenals of the superpowers. One is not exclusive of the other. It is imperative that the nuclear issue be resolved now.

E.P. Thompson, in "A Letter to America", stated:

"...In Eastern Europe there are profound pressures for peace...as an intrinsic part of the European campaign, the demand for an opening of the societies of the East to information, free communication and expression and exchange of delegations...will be pressed on every occasion..."

This underlines the impor-

tance of reaching Eastern audiences. The disarmament movement cannot be a one sided effort, with the balance of pressure coming from us in the West. Effort must be made to include those of the East in this important campaign because both sides must reduce their arsenal of nuclear weapons and the tension that currently exists.

Several steps can be taken in the West to initiate this new multilateral effort to rid the world of nuclear weapons. The goal of the following method is to involve those of the East in the disarmament movement. A quick glance at various actions that can be taken reveal that the key to the success of this campaign is communication. This communication is important because the Soviet Union is a nation of xenophobes whose history is one of being the target of conquest (as late as World War II they were intended victims of another nation's expansionist policy). In addition, Soviet citizens face a constant barrage of propaganda that criticizes the West harshly. As long as these peo-

ple continue to hold this image of Westerners there is little chance for the disarmament move succeeding in the East, and therefore in the West, as disarmament will not, and cannot, be a unilateral undertaking.

How does one communicate with those of Eastern nations? There are several options available. Amongst them are:

—Use the international airwaves to send messages. Get airtime on those radio stations, such as BBC overseas, the Voice of America, and Radio Free Europe, that can be received in Eastern countries. A "Radio Peace" effort can be established.

—Launch balloons from the West that can carry messages of peace to those in the East. This can become a very important symbolic gesture.

—Give media coverage to peace activism in the East, work through organizations such as Amnesty International to free prisoners of conscience, and take up the protest world wide.



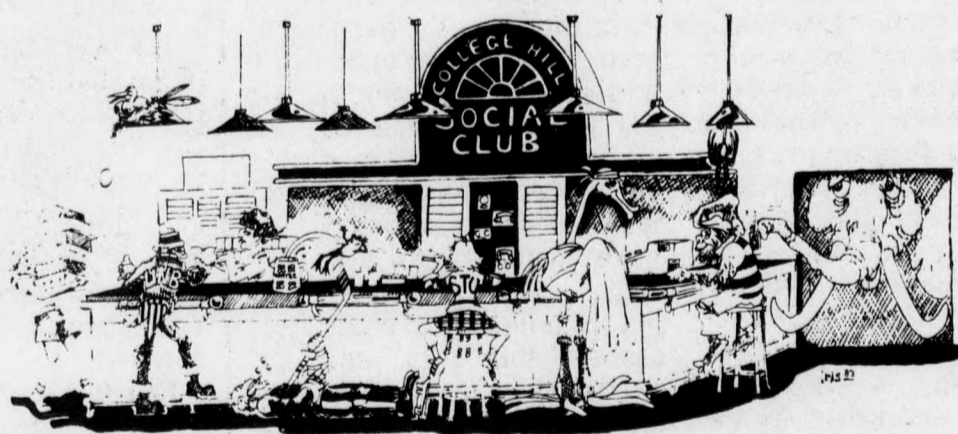
—Arrange NATO-Warsaw pact exchanges so that soldiers from the East and West can meet.

—Ensure pressure is applied to both the East and West and monitor the results. Make adjustments wherever necessary.

It is important that, above all, the idea of brotherhood underly all messages that we of the West communicate to those of the East. We can encourage Eastern leaders to tolerate

pacifism, point out to Eastern citizens that there are tremendous economic gains to be realized through disarmament, show that the reductions targets will be balanced, help all people of the world realize that nuclear weapons can be eliminated, and ensure those of the East that the peace movement is very active in the West (to allay any fear of being a plot of Western governments). Once again, I stress the very important point that this must all be done with the underlying theme of brotherhood.

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