

# Public opinion is too strong says Greenpeace crew member Amchitka will be the last blast

by Winston Gereluk  
Many veterans of the struggle against American imperialism undoubtedly see reason for optimism in the widespread acceptance by Canadian people of the desirability of protesting against such American abominations as the proposed blast at Amchitka.

To Mr. Ben Metcalfe, crew member of Greenpeace I, the Canadian protest against American nuclear tests has become so widespread that it can no longer be ignored by political leaders, American or Canadian.

At a meeting in the Tory Building Tuesday night sponsored by the Edmonton Coalition to Stop the Amchitka Blast, the pioneer of Amchitka protests stated that even though the presently-scheduled blast will probably go off as scheduled, he doubts very much that another such test could be undertaken by the Atomic Energy Commission,

assuming, of course, the unabated growth in the level of the Canadian opposition.

In Mr. Metcalfe's opinion, the present Amchitka blast could have been averted had Mr. Trudeau spoken up in time on behalf of the protest. Instead, our Prime Minister had said that Americans already knew the Canadian attitude, and that the addition of his voice could only be insignificant. More recently, he has borrowed the AEC's apology; that because the bomb is already in the hole, it is too late (expensive) to dismantle it.

"We can only conclude", said Mr. Metcalfe, "that Mr. Trudeau's reluctance to speak out against Amchitka reflects his reluctance to be rebuffed by Mr. Nixon on the International level. Let him weigh that against the possibility that he will be rebuffed by the Canadian people at the national level!"

In judging Mr. Trudeau,

Metcalfe continued, we should remember that he hasn't spoken out against the Vietnam War either, and that, more importantly, the device that is being tested at Amchitka is part of the ABM system, to which his government has already agreed.

According to Mr. Metcalfe, we should also remember that P.E.T. can act very quickly when he wants to -- "He's got the brown belt in parliamentary karate" -- it took him less than 24 hours to suspend the civil liberties of every person in Canada last October. We should conclude that the only enemy Mr. Trudeau recognizes is the Canadian people -- when he confronts Mr. Nixon he is completely quiet.

In spite of the apparent intransigence of political leaders, the protest has not failed, and it is the nature of such protests that they can't be killed -- the Greenpeace II is a symbol of this. Mr. Metcalfe admitted, however,

that he was puzzled by Nixon's decision to invalidate the whole judicial process in the States by announcing his approval of the test before the judicial procedure had been exhausted.

Speaking of Greenpeace I, Metcalfe said that the crew was forced to return from the test site when the blast was postponed until November; however they, compensated by quickly becoming a floating information vessel stopping in at all small ports along the Aleutian chain and the coast of Alaska. According to Metcalfe, he was most surprised by the discovery that residents of that area knew nothing of the Canadian protest against the blast. "But they began forming anti-Amchitka groups almost immediately upon the arrival of the Greenpeace."

Most of the participants in the question period wanted to discuss the role that the Canadian

government had played (or failed to play) in the national protest.

One person pointed out that rather than being vital to the protest the degree to which Trudeau and Sharp (and their likes) were tied into the U.S. military-industrial complex was made clear by their plans to allow tanks into Suffield at precisely the time that the people's protest was reaching its peak.

Another pointed out that it was a mistake to count on Trudeau's participation as he (and his party) was being backed by the same interests as were putting on the blast at Amchitka. "Vietnam", she said, "was used as a testing ground for dealing with people who disagreed with the U.S. Amchitka is a demonstration of what will happen to the next people who disagree with what the U.S. is doing in their country."

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## 10 ARRESTED AT RALLY

### but the blast will go on the Man says

City police yesterday arrested ten students out of a group of about 50 persons in front of the Imperial Oil Building, for "causing a disturbance by shouting and yelling."

The arrests were made following a much larger demonstration in front of the Federal building. About 2500 junior and senior high school students, 75 University students and at least a dozen uniformed policemen assembled in a mass demonstration against the Amchitka blast.

Speakers included Ben Metcalfe, a crew member of the Greenpeace, a ship which sailed to the island as a possible deterrent to the blast. He said the Greenpeace gave a Canadian protest a focal point which expanded into a nation-wide protest. It is a "people's protest" though, because it lacks the support of Prime Minister Trudeau.

"Nixon found it a simple matter to give the go-ahead to the Atomic Energy Commission despite Canadian objections, realizing that the protest is simply a "people's protest" and he has learned how to deal with such "people's protests" Metcalfe said.

Metcalfe impressed on the young people the fact that their votes will count in a few years. "If the present movement sticks together, the next Prime Minister will perceive the responsibility he has to the Canadian people."

Mary Van Stolk, of Save Tomorrow Oppose Pollution, n Edmonton anti-pollution group, said that the Canadian government cannot honourably

protest the continued testing of nuclear weapons by the United States or any other nuclear power so long as it is tied to NATO and NORAD.

She said that young people are aware that these systems are devised solely for the protection of missile sites and that all civilian populations involved in nuclear war have been written off.

Other speakers encouraged the demonstrators to continue their fight against the blast and against the Viet Nam War.

Mike Carmody, chairman of the group organizing the demonstration, said he "had no idea that such a turnout could be

possible from the high schools. He stressed that it must continue to increase in order to produce channels for young people to present their views to the governing body. He said a second community-wide protest march will be held on Saturday at 3:00p.m. in front of the Imperial Oil Building to protest Amchitka and all wars in general.

Several floors above the demonstration government employees watched the scene for a short time then retired to the security of their offices-- apparently unaffected by the scene.

The blast will still go on Saturday.

by Rick Merry



No these people are not waiting for a bus. They are protesting Amchitka. What's the matter with you, can't you see the police brutality .?

## U of S cancels some classes for Amchitka protest

SASKATOON (CUP) -- The University of Saskatchewan has cancelled some of its classes for Wednesday (Nov. 3) to enable students to participate in a protest demonstration against the United States planned detonation of a nuclear weapon on Amchitka Island later this week.

Some classes were also cancelled Tuesday (Nov. 2) at the University of Manitoba to allow

attendance at a protest march and teach-in on the implications of the Amchitka blast.

Seminars on the subject have been conducted for the past several days at the Winnipeg University and a silent vigil has been conducted at the American Consulate, and will be maintained until the weapon has been detonated.

Also at the University of Manitoba students from the

Judaic Studies Department have started a fast which they will maintain until Friday, the day of the blast.

Wednesday's demonstration in Saskatoon will take protestors downtown to the City Hall. The protest has been backed by Saskatchewan Premier Allan Blakeney, who has sent a telegram to President Nixon asking the detonation be cancelled.

The Gateway made a mistake in the last issue in the article entitled "S U Executive Salaries Raised". For explanation, see page 5 under "Pay Corrections".