

The resistance continues

by Bob Morrison

Human rights in South Africa was the topic of discussion last Tuesday night as Dalhousie Cuso and the International Student Co-ordinator presented the film *Nelson Mandela* in the McMechan Auditorium.

Following the film a discussion

was led by O'Bryne Chipeta, a Dalhousie Graduate Student, and Jennifer Wade of Amnesty International.

The 1980 film documents the life of Nelson Mandela, leader of the African National Congress (ANC)

who has been imprisoned for the past twenty years on Robben Island by the government of South Africa.

The ANC was formed to combat racial discrimination against the black population by the ruling white minority. The film, however, goes beyond the portrait of Mandela, focussing on the situation in South Africa today and the continuing resistance.

Chipeta said many people know of the injustices in South Africa but very few really understand the situation. "Europeans expropriated land and reduced the majority of native Africans to being squatters or members of a labour reserve," he said.

Wade said Mandela was one of Amnesty's first ministers of conscience, but when he advocated the use of violence in his cause they decided they could not support him. However, since his imprisonment on Robben Island, Amnesty decided it could "work for better conditions in jails and discourage the use of torture."

According to Wade, Mandela has been kept in prison for so long because authorities feared the following he would generate if released. At the same time they are afraid to kill him because they would make him a martyr for black South Africans.

"Mandela is symbolic of the general struggle in the Third World - as a struggle by the dispossessed against the greedy possessors," concluded Chipeta.

Pentz exposes pro-Cruise myths

by Ivor MacKay

"There are a number of myths surrounding the Cruise Missile," said Dr. Michael Pentz, addressing an audience in the Audio Visual room in the Public Archives Building March 15.

These myths hide the fact that all theatre nuclear weapons, those of short and medium range, can reach the USSR, but none can reach the United States.

Pentz' qualifications are extensive. Currently the Dean of the Open University of London and Vice-chair of the Campaign for Nuclear Disarmament, Pentz was a researcher at the European Centre of Nuclear Research and a founder of the Scientists Against Nuclear Arms.

One myth, that the cruise was developed in response to the Soviet medium-range missile, the SS20, is untrue, said Pentz. "The cruise missile program was launched in 1972, while the SS20 was developed after that date and deployed in 1977," he said.

The argument claiming the cruise is only a defensive weapon is also a myth, said Pentz, because it is both extremely accurate and able to avoid detection as it flies below the tracking capacity of radar screens. This ostensibly makes it a first strike weapon.

The purpose of nuclear weapons is theoretically to deter war between the US and the USSR, said Pentz. "The idea is that they not be used. If they are used then they have failed as deterrent."

"Recently the US has moved away from the policy of deterrence to the concept of limited nuclear war," he continued. The cruise missile complies with the change in American strategic policy.

NATO strategy is one of "controlled escalation of limited nuclear war." The cruise missile, he said, is to fill "the missing rung of this ladder of escalation."

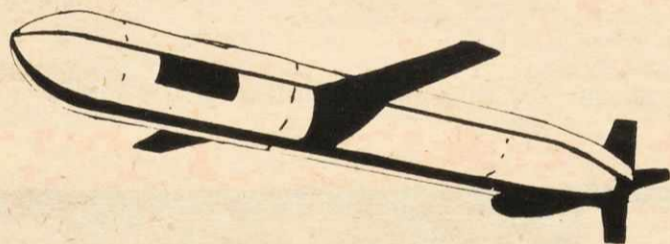
A third myth, according to Pentz, is that the Cruise may be used as a bargaining chip. Advocates of the cruise missile program argue that the Cruise missile was SALT-free, because it didn't fall under any current arms limitation agreements and it was not verifiable.

Pentz said the cruise limits any further arms limitation

talks as it prevents the Soviets from verifying the existence or numbers of the weapon. They would thus be unwilling to bargain away their own defense system. When knowingly detected "the Cruise looks like a seagull picked up by the satellite screens," he said.

Pentz continued another result of the Cruise's unverifiability is that the Soviets would be forced to "put their arsenal on 'launch on warning status.' This would increase the danger of an accidental nuclear war — through computer malfunction or human error.

"It is an illusion that nuclear arms are weapons of deterrence" concluded Pentz. "We are still caught up in the mind set that nuclear weapons are used for defense."



Search for Chile's missing continues

by Bob Morrison

The human rights situation in Chile was discussed after the film *Message from Chile* (sponsored by Dal Cuso and the International Student Co-ordinator) was shown in the McMechan Auditorium last Tuesday evening.

The film was discussed by Elias Letelier-Ruz, a Chilean refugee now studying at Dalhousie, and Jennifer Wade of Amnesty International.

Produced in 1979, the film shows the protest activities of the Family of Detainees and Disappeared Prisoners in Chile. Pictures of some of the 2000 or more missing people who have either been murdered or imprisoned by the Security Services of the military regime that rules the country were shown. After the film Letelier-Ruz informed the audience that 200 students had just been arrested last Friday during protests in the cities of Santiago and Concepcion.

"Torture and other violations of

human rights have been institutionalized - killing is a part of everyday life in Chile," said Wade. She criticized American involvement in overthrowing the Salvador Allende government and Britain's supply of military equipment to the present dictatorship.

Letelier-Ruz, in reference to the film, stressed the important role of churches in bringing about reform and the importance of the women of Chile taking their protests to the streets.

Because of all the torturing and killing that takes place in Chile, the mental state of many Chileans is permanently affected and many in exile are often driven to commit suicide, said Letelier-Ruz.

Wade said positive steps are being made towards achieving human rights in Chile, reporting that three missing people shown in the film have been located and released through the efforts of

Amnesty International.

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