

NATO muscles up ..50,000 protest

by Cathy McDonald

In Brussels, the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) accepted on Dec. 12th the American proposal to deploy 572 new nuclear missiles in Europe aimed at targets in the Soviet Union. Canada voted in favour of the proposal. The NATO decision was made despite much European opposition to these Pershing II and Cruise missiles, as witnessed by a march of 50,000 people in Brussels on Dec. 9th.

Canadian debate on this issue is non-existent. Marion Kerans from Halifax and Kay Macpherson from Toronto joined the protest in Brussels. They talked to the Directeur du Cabinet of N.A.T.O. Mr. S.I.P. Van Campen, and three Canadian N.A.T.O. officials, and brought back an insight into this issue which has been ignored by Parliament and the Canadian Press.

The Pershing II and Cruise missiles were labelled as a response to the Russian SS-20 missiles aimed at Europe. The

SS-20's are a mobile and updated version of the SS-4 and SS-5 missiles which were replaced by the SS-20's 5 years ago. Debate on the need for medium range nuclear missiles was started 2 years ago when West German Chancellor Helmut Schmidt said there existed a gap in East-West strategic parity at a step in between the Inter-Continental Ballistic Missiles (ICBM's) and conventional warfare.

According to many defense analysts, strategic parity between East and West has existed since the early 1960's. NATO officials say the West can only bargain with the Soviet Union from a position of strength. Kerans describes the rationale behind this policy. "They think that [a further arms buildup] will convince the Russians we are serious and will further negotiations. They did not answer the question: If each side will negotiate only from superior strength, then when can negotiations ever begin?"

There is vigorous opposition to the missiles in Europe. Norway, Denmark and Holland made pleas to President Carter to postpone the decision. Dissension is strong within Belgium and West Germany.

Fred Kaplan, a defense analyst in the House of Representatives, wrote an article in the New York Times, Dec. 9th, "Warring Over New Missiles for NATO", which said the deployment of nuclear missiles on European soil "represents a 20-year step backward—and a step towards heightened vulnerability." In 1955 NATO missiles in Europe were seen as vulnerable to Soviet attack. They were replaced by ICBM's in the United States. The U.S. provided a "nuclear umbrella" over Europe.

The feared Russian SS-20's do not represent a fundamental change over the SS-4 and SS-5's. The question arises as to why the push is so strong now for the Pershing II and Cruise missiles. (Each

missile is 10 times more powerful than the Hiroshima bomb.)

Herbert Scoville, for 8 years technical Vice-President of C.I.A. is a disarmament expert said: "The reason [for the U.S. proposal] is political and only political. In the U.S. it is the military-industrial interests which try to force this decision through now. . ."

Kaplan writes that the Americans began to push the missiles after the neutron bomb project fell through. Carter's halting of the neutron bomb was seen by some Europeans as "caving in to the Russians". American experts said they had to succeed with the new missile project in order to maintain NATO solidarity and America's leadership role in NATO.

Since there has been no debate over the Pershing II and Cruise missiles in Canada, it would appear that an increase in the world's nuclear armaments, some of which are pointed at Canadian cities, is not important to Parliament or to the Press.

Two people, External Affairs minister Flora MacDonal and National Defense minister Allan MacKinnon, made their own decisions in Brussels for all of Canada. As MacKinnon said "I don't want to make up my mind before going on what our position will be." (Ottawa Citizen)

In an article sent to (but as yet not printed by), the Halifax Mail and Star, Marion Kerans commented on the lack of press coverage of the NATO debate. "I had to go to Brussels, to NATO headquarters, to learn how upset many Europeans are, and how the Canadian government is adopting a crucial foreign policy without consulting Parliament or people. . . in fact without even a Cabinet discussion."

The Pershing II and Cruise missiles are now being produced. Their deployment is scheduled for 1983. During this period of time, public opinion could still forestall a further escalation of the arms race.

No increase in dental fees at Dal

by Pam Berman

Despite the fact that University Dental Clinics across Canada are increasing their rates due to soaring metal prices, no fee increases are planned for the rest of this

year, according to Dr. Cunningham, Director of the Dalhousie Dental Clinic.

Gold in particular is at a record high and is hovering around \$650 an ounce in American dollars (\$740 an

ounce in Canadian funds). This has increased the cost of materials approximately three hundred percent, and caused university clinics to consider price hikes in order to compensate for their losses.

The fact that the Dalhousie Dental Clinic and the Dentistry School are still using a supply of metals that they had on hand before the inflationary prices may explain why the clinic will not have to up

its' fees. Dr. Cunningham states, however, that the clinic was set up to maintain cheaper rates, so they try as much as possible to absorb direct costs rather than increase dental fees.

"This is not to say that there won't be increases in the clinic's fees or in the Dentistry School's tuition next year", Cunningham added, "those decisions have not yet been made, but they won't be

directly related to the escalating prices of gold or silver."

Silver is needed in the making of x-rays and both silver and gold are not only used in the clinic for the filling of crowns, but also for the training of dental students. Dr. Cunningham said that between the clinic and the school several ounces of gold were used a year, although scrap gold used in training students can be recycled.



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continued from page 4 student newspaper will be "set back four or five years".

The question of our Student Council's financial condition is a valid one. Last year the Student Council did incur some debt. Estimates run very high, but just how much is missing is not really known. And the inference that **all this money** was stolen or lost is also incorrect. The fact is that the Student Union has limited resources resulting in limited funds for the newspaper.

Finally, our staff questions the right of the author to quote from our editor without his permission. In our opinion, it was not fair to be

quoted, whether correctly or incorrectly, as in this case, without knowledge of such a practice taking place. To our knowledge, the CUP conference which we attended was private, not public. Hence we feel that the author was wrong in what he did.

We hope that this clears up any misconceptions that appeared in your paper regarding our state of affairs.

Thank you for your co-operation in this matter.

The Staff,
The Capar Chronicle
Ken Chisholm
Lisa Greig
Alan Cash
Jeanne Walker



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