

OPINIONS

"Moral minority" Greenpeace should stick to whales and ozone

by Chris Honke

As a Canadian, I am appalled by the reception repeatedly given to the U.S. Navy whenever it visits Canada. The left-wing organization known as Greenpeace is detracting from our freedom-loving and intelligent nation every time they indulge in one of their misguided peace-at-any-price disarmament binges.

Case in point: last year's visit to Vancouver by the nuclear aircraft-carrier USS INDEPENDENCE. The repeated attempts to vandalize her (painting large nuclear signs on her hull), showing anti-nuclear slideshows on her side and attempting to illegally board her, were criminal in nature. The weak excuse offered by the ringleader on the spot, that it was necessary to break laws to get the Greenpeace point across, smacks of that familiar moral-minority righteousness.

The INDEPENDENCE, as with the U.S. Navy, is a costly masterpiece of human engineering which represents America's commitment to defending freedom and values — including the right to make such ingracious protests. As a part of the \$300-billion annual defense budget, INDEPENDENCE symbolizes the traditional American willingness to defend their freedom — and Canada's — with "blood and treasure." Even in a country that seems to do its utmost to maintain a low, if not non-existent, international profile (despite our membership in NATO), I do not believe that Canadians are generally naive enough to offer broad-based sup-

port to Greenpeace on the anti-nuclear policy.

Another case in point: Greenpeace foolishly decided to enter restricted U.S. government waters to interfere with a Trident-missile testing. They were repeatedly warned verbally, sprayed with firehoses and, as a last resort in a hazardous area, gently rammed by the battleship NEW JERSEY (and I emphasize the word "gently"). Now here was justice in the first degree. And outside of Greenpeace, I heard no Canadian public outcry in support of Greenpeace.

I believe many intelligent Canadians rightfully appreciate the United States' responsible possession of nuclear weapons. Anyone of at least basic intelligence who studies history since 1945, will realize that nuclear weapons have kept the peace between the two superpowers. ("Peace" being defined as the absence of World War III — which surely would have come and gone by now without the military deadlock of nuclear weapons.) To arbitrarily abolish nuclear weapons, even in today's improving political climate would perhaps be the most destabilizing act possible. Without nuclear weapons, conventional war becomes a viable outlet for great nations to resolve their differences — as it was for the past 3000 years before Hiroshima. Nuclear weapons are the RESULT of a basic distrust between nations and are NOT THE PRIMARY CAUSE of this distrust.

While world peace is a legiti-

mate and worthy aspiration, it must be secondary to that of maintaining the freedom of democratic countries. World history has repeatedly shown that freedom must be bought, secured and defended with military might when there are those in the world, as there always are, who would like to take it away from you (e.g. the demon we call Saddam Hussein).

Indeed, up until the recent remarkable changes in the Eastern bloc and the supposed end of the Cold War, little more than the United States' responsible possession of nuclear weapons (as well as Britain France and West Germany) had kept the Soviet Empire of conquered and subju-

gated states inside its boundaries — or at least out of the just nations of the First World. With its nuclear weapons, NATO has stood guard over the Warsaw Pact until the day, finally here, that they inevitably crumbled under their own political and economic oppressive incompetence.

May God forbid that the lawless and largely unsupported anti-nuclear protests of Greenpeace against the American, British, French and German navies whenever they visit Canada, be taken by our free-world compatriots to represent the intelligent Canadian's attitude. At best, Greenpeace manages to rally short-lived anti-American cru-

sades among naive schoolchildren and the ignorant, neither one of which is able to recognize the stabilizing value of both the United States and nuclear weapons in the world arena.

Unjustifiably righteous, pathetically naive and misguided Greenpeace is not in a morally righteous position to break laws with its anti-nuclear protests or, more to the point, claim to be an intelligent advocate for world peace at all.

My advice to the Leftists at Greenpeace is to stick to their sea-life and ozone-layer preservation campaigns. At least here they can legitimately claim to have a following among a majority of intelligent Canadians.

The "ignorance" is Honke's right

by Emmanuel Papachristou

In his column, "Greenpeace Should Stick To Whales," Chris Honke describes Greenpeace as "Unjustifiably righteous, pathetically naive and misguided." Furthermore, he associates intelligence with his point of view and ignorance or "foolishness" with the point of view of Greenpeace and its supporters.

As well as being self-righteous, Honke's comments show a mind closed to any views other than those already held within its narrow confines.

Honke believes that the responsible possession of nuclear weapons by the U.S. is the reason for the peace that has existed between the States and the Soviet Union. Typical of this writer's inability to see both sides of the coin is the fact that he

never addresses Hiroshima or Nagasaki in his assessment of the U.S.'s supposed responsible possession of nuclear weapons. To him, Hiroshima and Nagasaki seem to represent no more than a point of reference for superpower relations. The loss of hundreds of thousands of lives due to questionable U.S. strategy plays no role in his defence of nuclear weapons.

As well as omitting Hiroshima and Nagasaki in his argument in support of nuclear weapons, Honke also minimizes the importance of the revitalized relations between East and West and of the freeing of the Soviet satellites. Instead, he argues that the removal of nuclear weapons would only threaten these positive changes. This is the usual rhetoric that claims the Eastern

bloc fell because of pressure from the West.

I hope I am not breaking Honke's heart when I say that communism fell because of the weight of its own inefficiencies and not because we in the West willed its destruction. Furthermore, I would like to dispel his belief that the greatest threat we "angelic" Westerners face is the "demonic" Communist states.

Honke should spend less time worrying about the Reds and more time worrying about the oceans of red ink into which our economies are sinking. I don't necessarily believe in the policies of Greenpeace, but ignorant, self-righteous, and closed-minded conservatives like Honke do nothing to help the cause of those in the Right that have real concerns about the state of society.

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