

War over?

University study reveals Canada - Pentagon ties

MONTREAL (CUP) - The Pentagon gave Canada \$34 million for research during 1967-71, more than half the amount granted to all foreign educational and non-profit organizations, a report on Canadian involvement with the American military says.

And some 348 companies in Canada received direct military contracts from the U.S. department of defense during that time.

Entitled "How to Make a Killing", the 250-page study was conducted by seven students at McGill University under the direction of political science professor S.J. Noumoff. The group calls itself "Project Anti-War".

The report quotes a US Air Force publication as saying that granted funds are always used to achieve maximum contribution to the new knowledge essential to the continued superiority of the air force operational capability, and it is assumed that grantees and principal investigators will always direct their efforts to this end.

McGill University received \$831,415 from the Pentagon from 1967 to 1971 and more than \$663,000 was for prime military contracts. The rest went toward basic scientific investigation.

In developing the study, Project Anti-War referred to American and Canadian government records, and wrote to private corporations, inquiring whether they had received Pentagon contracts.

Four companies that replied they had nothing to do with the Pentagon were found to indeed have contracts. They included Canadian General Electric, North American Rockwell and Canadian Westinghouse, whose parent companies do extensive work for the defence department; and Okanagan Helicopters, which received contracts valued at \$23,000.

The Canadian government itself is also extensively involved in the war industry, subsidizing production of materials destined for use by US forces in Indochina.

The study shows that the department of trade and commerce awarded a total of \$458,643,906 to 154 companies in Canada "to develop and sustain its (the defense industry's) technological capability for the purpose of defense export sales arising from that capability".

Of the 154 companies receiving grants, 45 are American-owned, and they obtained \$224,492,428 or 47 percent of the total.

Not only does the Canadian government fund American companies for war research to be used in the US, but it also pays one-half the cost of new equipment used for plant modernization.

The Canadian government also prints two catalogues listing military supplies available from Canadian industry. "Canadian Defense Commodities" is published by the department of trade, industry and commerce, and "Canadian Defense Products" is printed by the department of defense production.

"Presence in the catalogue" the study analyzes, "does not necessarily mean that sales have been made, but it indicates the willingness and potential for producing the advertised equipment."

The "Production Sharing Handbook" - also published by the department of defense production - provides explicit information on how to obtain American defense department contracts. Most contracts are placed with Canadian Commercial Corporation, a crown corporation which acts as an intermediary between the American government and the Canadian producer.

Project Anti-War, pointing out that its study is preliminary and only indicates minimum amounts, says the other \$30 million awarded by the Pentagon to foreign educational and non profit organizations for research during the same period of time, went to 56 other countries.

The list includes such so-called neutral countries as Austria, Finland, Sweden and Switzerland,

along with the pro-American Bolivi, Brazil, France, Greece, Israel, Japan, South Korea, South Africa, Spain, Taiwan, and the United Kingdom.

After Canada's \$34 million, Norway tops the list with \$9 million in grants.

"But it is not a question of how much," a Project Anti-War spokesman said, "one dollar is too much."

During their research, project workers discovered that classified Canadian data is often available publicly in the US, even if the evidence is widely dispersed or contradictory.

Originally the group had found, through its own research, that 237 companies had received direct military contracts from the Pentagon. On October 3, the group released that information to the public in Quebec City, in conjunction with the International Assembly of Christians in Solid-

arity with the Vietnamese, Laotian and Cambodian peoples.

Twelve days after that press conference, and 33 days after the group mailed the original request for information to the Canadian department of trade, industry and commerce, the department sent the research group a list of 211 companies which it had previously withheld on the grounds that such action would harm the "competitive positions of the companies involved".

The letter accompanying the list explained: "This listing contains the names of all Canadian companies who over the past six years (1966-71 inclusive) received unclassified contracts for defense equipment through the Canadian Commercial Corporation which came under the umbrella of Canada/US department of defense of any of its branches." The new listing included 111 companies which the group had not even found in its own research

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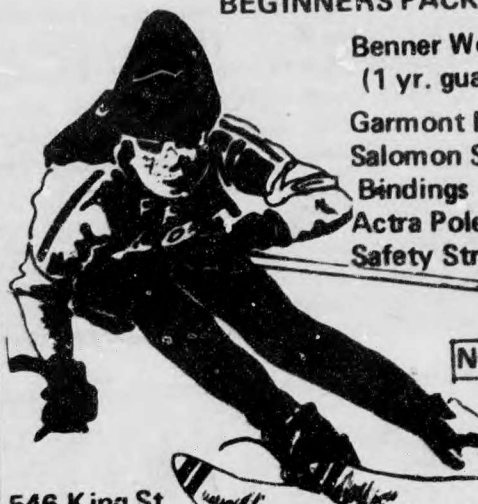
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