

# Nuclear disarmament Time is running out

It is 1989. You are the commander of a battery of Soviet Intermediate Range Ballistic Missiles. Your radar screen spots several objects rising out of West Germany and flying at great speed directly for the heart of Soviet Russia.

From their plotted speed you know they can only be American Pershing II missiles. They have already been in the air for more than a minute; they will arrive at their targets in less than four. You have approximately 30 seconds to decide whether or not to launch your own SS-20's.

If you don't, your homeland will most certainly be destroyed, but you are plagued by doubts. The computers have made mistakes before and electronic equipment is as prone to break-downs as any other piece of hardware. You remember a horrifying incident in the late 1970's when a flock of geese were mistaken for American bombers.

All attempts to reach a higher command have failed—other frightened commanders are crowding the airwaves. If you are to get your missiles off the ground you must decide now . . .

By GARY SYMONS

The situation of a man given 30 seconds to decide whether the world as we know it shall continue to exist or be destroyed in a nuclear war may sound too insane to be real, but it is a situation we could be faced with if the U.S. deploys their Pershing II and Ground Launched Cruise Missile (GLCM) systems.

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The only hope that the planned deployment will not go ahead is if the arms control talks in Geneva somehow succeed. At the moment this seems highly unlikely. Several proposals have been brought forth, discussed, and flatly discarded, and the arms race seems no closer to an end. In two months the deployment of new American nuclear missile systems will almost certainly go ahead amid a storm of world-wide protest. At the centre of that storm are the Pershing II and the Cruise missiles, the subjects of innumerable rallies and protests.

One aspect of the controversy is the deployment of newer, more advanced weapons by the U.S. which will trigger a like response by the Soviets, thus causing another runaway arms race—the others have to do with the weapons themselves.

## The Pershing II

The high speed of the Pershing II missile allows it to reach targets in the USSR from West Germany in five to eight minutes, and has raised fears that the danger of accidental retaliation by the Soviets will be greatly increased.

According to Beth Richards, director of the Canadian Disarmament Information Service (CANDIS), there have been 147 false nuclear alerts in one 18-month period in the U.S. On some occasions American aircraft were airborne and on their way to Soviet targets before being recalled. There is no reason to assume that the situation in the USSR is any different.

If and when the Pershing II is installed in

Western Europe, the leaders of the Russian military will have a far shorter reaction time. An article written by Metta Spencer for CANDIS stated "If they are to fire before the Pershings hit, the Soviets will have to install faster missiles that are launched by computers the instant radar picks up incoming missiles. There is no time for checking."

## The Cruise Missile

Even more hotly contested than the Pershing II is the development of the GLCM or Cruise missile. The Peace movement's greatest fear is that once the Cruise is deployed, any further attempts at nuclear arms control or reduction will be destined to fail. In a paper prepared for the 'Science for Peace' organization, the authors note that "The danger of building an arsenal that cannot be measured by the Soviet Union is the danger of destroying any confidence that either superpower has in its ability to monitor the strength of the other."

Another concern raised is if the Soviet Union detected one or two cruise missiles they could never be sure that there weren't 5,000 more flying at them undetected. "The temptation," writes Metta Spencer, "will be to fire first and ask questions later."

## Peace Movement

The deep concern over further deployment of nuclear weaponry is the basis of the rebirth of the once dormant peace movement, especially in Europe where the danger of nuclear devastation is most critical.

In West Germany, where 75.5 percent of the population was recently polled as being against the planned deployment under any circumstances, the nation has been preparing for a "hot autumn" of protests and demonstrations to culminate in the October 22 International Day of Protest.

In the U.K., women's protest groups have been blockading nuclear missile bases. In the United States a protest rally in New York City drew a crowd of one million people last

year, and here in Canada, protest has been on the federal government's proposed testing of the American cruise missile in Cold Lake, Alberta.

The eventual goal of the movement is to force both the East and West Blocs into bilateral disarmament, especially in the European Theatre, but current protests have centred largely around the planned deployment of the new American missiles.

## Canada

Because of our involvement in the development and testing of the American cruise missile the peace movement in Canada has focused on that issue—their message to the government being the Canadian nation should in no way become involved with the production, development, or testing of nuclear weapons.

Prime Minister Trudeau himself, in a speech to the Second UN Special Session on Disarmament on 18 June 1983, outlined a new two-part policy on nuclear disarmament. The first part consists of "a strategy of suffocation," including a comprehensive test ban, a halt to the flight testing of all new strategic delivery vehicles, a cessation of the production of fissionable material for weapons purposes, and a limitation of military spending for strategic weapons.

In direct contradiction to his own policy, Trudeau has come to an agreement with the U.S. to help develop and test a new nuclear warhead delivery vehicle, namely, the cruise. This, says David Kraft, an organizer for the Toronto Disarmament Network, is "completely inconsistent with Prime Minister Trudeau's stated concern with the Cold War."

In Canada the proposed testing has become the central issue, and the slogan of the peace movement, "Refuse the Cruise," reflects this emphasis on Canadian involvement. Activists in this country will be taking direct action to stop the testing in a court-case brought against the government by Operation Dismantle and 26 other peace groups.

Those taking part in the October 22 campaign "Walk for Peace," will probably be involved in the largest international political demonstration in history. The protest will be held simultaneously in major cities throughout Europe and North America. Twenty-six Canadian cities will be involved.

Although the level of participation is difficult to estimate, the TDN expect "several million" to join the protest on an international level. Locally, David Kraft, one of the volunteer organizers for the TDN, said that since opposition to the cruise is on the ascent in America, they are expecting a rise in participation in Toronto. The most recent Toronto peace march, held last April, drew a crowd of 20,000, while a simultaneous protest in Vancouver became the largest single political rally in Canadian history with 80,000 participants.

It is believed, by TDN organizers, two factors will make this weekend's rally a great success—an increase in interest and awareness of the nuclear issue (especially since the government decision to allow American testing of the missiles in Canada), and an expanded network of organizations involved in promoting the event.

More than 50 different organizations, including labor, educational, religious, ethnic, and women's groups will be involved in the October 22 protest.

Demonstrators will begin to assemble at 10:30 a.m. at University Ave. just north of Queen and will begin their march at 11:30, finishing at Queen's Park sometime before 1 p.m. After the walk there will be a rally in the park and a licensed benefit dance at St. Lawrence Market North, featuring local bands L'etranger and Alta Moda.

Asked whether she thought the demonstration would have an effect, Wendy Wright, of the TDN, said she felt confident that "Demonstrations and protests do work. For example, Richard Nixon didn't send nuclear weapons into Vietnam because of public protests and pressure. It shows that if enough people will act, we can be a conscience for the government."

## economic costs of the arms race

—Every 60 seconds the world spends \$1.3 million for military purposes, and 30 children die for want of food and medicine.

—The current world military budget is \$660 billion per year.

—The cost of one new nuclear submarine equals the annual education budget of 23 developing countries with 160 million school children.

**York Association for Peace**  
Contact: Prof. Michael McNamee, 667-3431 York University 4700 Keele St. Downsview M3J 2R5  
Members: About 200 York faculty and students.

The Y.A.P. is a group of students and faculty at York University consisting of about 200 members. Primary purpose is to educate people about nuclear issues.

**Lawyers for Social Responsibility**  
Contact: Lorne Sabsay 667-3141, Osgoode Law School, York University 4700 Keele St. Downsview M3J 2R5  
Members: about 50, including Osgoode law students and faculty.

Its three functions are: outreach (to similar groups), education of the public, and legal research. The group plans to write a paper on the relationship between the cruise missile and the Charter of Rights. LSR hopes to form a province-wide network of lawyers to lobby the government about pertinent issues.

## Local Peace Directory

**North York Action for Disarmament**  
Leader: Ann Adelson 225-5935 40 Annendale Dr., Willowdale M2N 2Y1  
Members: about 50

North York Action seeks to educate the public and lobby the government of the municipality.

**Educators for Nuclear Disarmament**  
Leader: Dorothy Peebles 225-4661, 239 Bogart Ave., Willowdale M2N 1L2  
Members: teachers and principals in Toronto

Educators helps teachers and administrators develop ways of educating their students about peace. It organizes workshops for Professional Development Days. It plans curricula for students, and sponsors conferences.

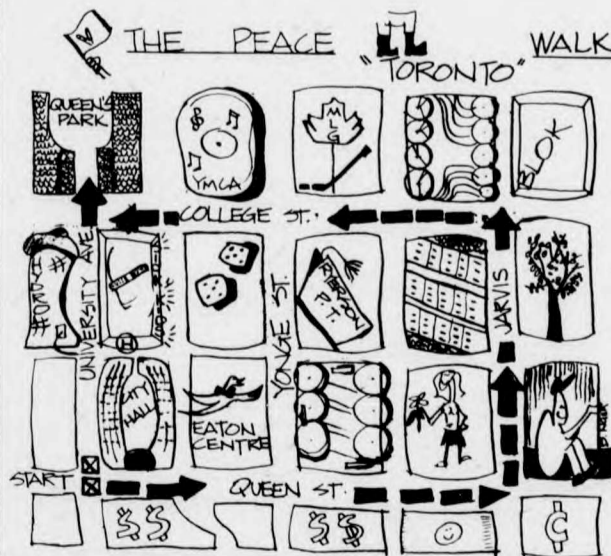
**Toronto Disarmament Network**  
Leader: Anne Adelson 977-0732 10 Trinity Square, Toronto M5G 1B1  
Members: it is a coalition of 40 disarmament groups.

TDN organizes demonstrations (it helped organize the one to be held Saturday), canvasses, referendums, and showings of films. It holds regular meetings about twice a month.

**Canadian Disarmament Information Service**  
Contact: Beth Richards 585-2255 10 Trinity Square, Toronto M5G 1B1

CANDIS provides information on the disarmament movement for peace groups and the public. It advises activists and arranges news conferences for their events. It publishes the Peace Calendar, which describes disarmament events across the nation. CANDIS plans to carry a banner in Saturday's demonstration.

## Where to walk for peace



Additional research JULIA STEINECKE