

Dr. Strangelove :a horror story

by Wes Oginski

"This is an unabashed plea for help," said William Mandell, American author and an authority on modern Russia. He addressed an audience at the U of A over a conference line hook up between Edmonton and Berkeley, California.

Mandell was heard over the telephone on Thursday, October 29, as one of many guest speakers heard or brought to Edmonton for Nuclear Disarmament Week.

"We need your help to save us, yourselves and the world," he said.

Mandell continued by listing current U.S. activity in the arms race. This includes the implementation of the B-1 long range bomber program and neutron bombs, building Stealth Cruise missiles (a nuclear weapon) and the nuclear powered Triton submarines, which also have nuclear strike capacity.

Admiral Eugene Carrol, a one time Pentagon official who now works for the Public Center for Defense Information, spoke over the same phone hook up as did Mandell. He said that the U.S. alone is not responsible for the recent escalation of the arms race.

"If I criticize the U.S. and raise questions with our problem," he said, "it in no way absolves the United Soviet Socialist Republic of their share of the problem."

"What I think our role tonight is, is to change our mind of what the threat of nuclear war is in light of splitting the atom," Carrol said.

"The greater problem I see here in Washington D.C.," he added, "is the U.S. decision to create a nuclear warfare capability."

"The drive for nuclear war capability will feed the arms race."

The aim of Disarmament Week was to present the dangers and possibility of a nuclear war. The theme of Thursday's seminar was Canada's involvement in the nuclear arms buildup.

Canada has a lucrative market in the third world. It is one of the top ten suppliers of arms to these countries, but Canada does not sell nuclear weapons.

Instead, information and expertise are given for the development of nuclear reactors. This makes way for sales of Canadian uranium and the transfer of Canadian nuclear technology and CANDU reactors.

In the early 1970s, Canada sold CANDU reactors to India, and soon after India conducted a test of a nuclear bomb. The development of such a bomb would need the technology of the reactor.

Ernie Regher of Project Ploughshares suggested that the Canadian defense industry may influence Canadian foreign policy, and influence why Canada is more involved in producing arms and not peace keeping devices like surveillance satellites.

"Canada currently sells about \$700 million a year in arms," he said. "One of the justifications of selling arms to the U.S. was this would help Canada pay its balance of the payments (back to the U.S. as part of the Hyde Park agreement)."

The Hyde Park agreement was made between the United States and Canada during the Second World War. Canada could not keep up its arms production to the allied powers, so it agreed to trade other materials between itself and the U.S.



On Saturday, October 24, about 200 people congregated at City Hall to usher in UN Week

photo Martin Beale

That agreement still exists in a modified format. Canada was a major supplier of arms to the U.S. during the Viet Nam years. Today Canada supplies many component parts for U.S. military equipment and arms.

Unfortunately the agreement has turned on Canada. The incentive to develop and make domestic materials has been diminished according to Regher, since the manufacturers have to build to U.S. specifications.

This means many defense contracts are short term agreements. They do not employ people forever.

As well, many Canadian industries do not have the basic technology to build the U.S. components, so they must buy the basic production infrastructure from the Americans.

The Hyde Park agreement does not guarantee any contracts, so like any other, Canadian companies compete against the

U.S. companies for business. To bring down the costs of the Canadian bids, the Canadian government subsidizes firms through the Defense Industry Program (DIP).

A part of Regher's presentation was a slide show on Canada's involvement in the arms race.

The slide show's plea was, "All of us are important in bringing about social change...swords or ploughshares — the choice is ours."

...or how I learned not to love the bomb

"We (the United States) have the capability to destroy the Soviet Union five times over," said Carrol, "and that's when the Soviets have the first strike."

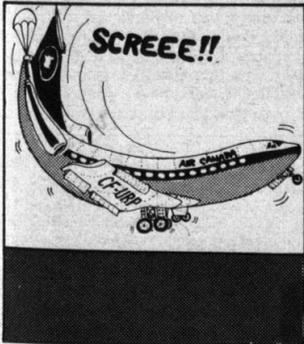
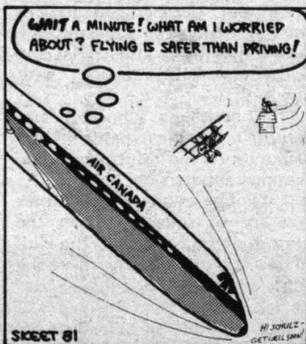
There is relatively little Canada can do as a middle power to provide specific agreements in the disarmament question. Yet may of our decisions would be influential.

Project Ploughshares, an organization sponsored by the Canadian Council of Churches, explores problems in disarmament and underdevelopment at home and in other countries.

BAT



par SKEET et Nielsen



single state) must not exercise control over nuclear weapons outside the zone;

There must be effective means of verifying compliance with the conditions of the nuclear free zone;

Member states of the zone must enter into agreements with nuclear weapon states providing guarantees by the latter not to use or threaten to use nuclear weapons against member states;

Member states of the zone should prohibit the use of their territories for the transit of nuclear weapons (although the question of the rights of passage through territorial seas has not been satisfactorily resolved).

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Canada would face some unique difficulties because of its close ties and existing agreements with the United States, a major nuclear power.

To be a NWFZ, Canada could have no nuclear weapons on its soil, not allow transit of nuclear weapons through its territory, stop production of parts for nuclear weapons systems, and not

support systems of nuclear weapons operations inside or outside of Canada.

One of the important agreements to be affected, besides arms and component production, would be the North American Air Defense Command (NORAD). The use of tracking systems in Canada for targetting would have to be phased out, and the use of Canadian Aurora long-range patrols would have to stop feeding targetting information to US hunter-killer subs for strikes against the Soviet nuclear weapons submarines.

The joint training exercises for NORAD would have to phase out the use of nuclear weapons in Canada.

Systems like the Distant Early Warning (DEW) line would still be used. The DEW line was set up between 1953 to provide early warning of Soviet bomber attack. Later it was augmented by the Ballistic Missile Early Warning System in 1962. Both systems have been upgraded.

These systems act as passive surveillance of Canadian Airspace. Neither system can provide sufficient information to aid a strike.

It's been done before

The existence of the Tlatelolco Treaty, Antarctic Treaty and Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons Treaty are examples of NWFZs.

Tlatelolco Treaty prohibits nuclear weapons in Latin America. It is not enforced in 22 countries. Argentina, Brazil and Chile have not signed, but are bound by inspection with the Atomic Energy Agency. Five other countries have not signed,

including Cuba.

All forms of military activity are prohibited by the Antarctic Treaty. The agreement, reached in 1961, provides that the Antarctic will be used only for peaceful purposes.

Nuclear weapons are limited in operation in space and on seabeds as set by the UN Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons Treaty.



FACTS

Interesting facts on military spending:

- more than \$30 million is planned to be spent in Canada on new military equipment and maintenance in the 1980s.
- Canada is the world's ninth largest arms exporter.
- two weeks of military spending, about \$20 billion, would provide adequate year-round food, water, education, housing, and health for everyone on earth.
- today's bombs are smaller and have ten times the capacity to destroy than the Hiroshima bomb. The Hiroshima bomb had the capacity to kill 200,000 people.
- the third world spends five times more on arms imports than on agricultural equipment, despite severe food shortages.
- *There's No Life Like It* Canadian military recruitment campaign costs \$4 million a year.
- there have been 150 conventional wars since World War II.