

# Vets critical

(CUP) — Canadians must propose alternatives to the cold war mentality of the federal government's white paper on defence, says the national chair of Veterans Against Nuclear Arms.

"The federal government and presumably the cabinet have not come to the conclusion that war is obsolete," said Halifax resident Giff Gifford, who criticized the white paper during a recent visit to Vancouver.

Gifford, an air squadron leader in the Second World War, veteran of 49 bombing missions in Europe, and recipient of the Distinguished Flying Cross, said the white paper confronts Canada with a choice between a permanent arms race and an approach to international security relying on negotiation and the world court.

Alternatives to the white paper include looking at "non-provocative" defence postures, which involve specific weapons systems and deployment strategies.

"Heat-seeking anti-tank and anti-aircraft missiles are not threatening in the same way that tanks are," said Gifford, who was the director of the schools of social work at Dalhousie and the University of Manitoba before retirement.

He said Canadians should support the Palme Commission's proposal for a 300-kilometre-wide denuclearized zone in central Europe. And Canada itself should negotiate with other northern countries for a demilitarized zone north of 70 degrees.

In terms of the United Nations, Canada should support expanding peace-keeping forces into a border patrol force, for countries fearing attack. Under these conditions, Canada would maintain lightly equipped, easily transportable troops for worldwide duty, instead of the more heavily equipped, relatively immobile troops in Europe, which Gifford called "an investment in World War Three".

Also, in support of the U.N., Canada can work for an international verification agency, to ensure compliance with arms control agreements and reassure nations in times of international tension.

For Canada's own verification duties, Gifford advocated withdrawal from the American-controlled North American Aerospace Defence Command (NORAD) for independent operations of the North Warning System.

"We need to assure both the U.S. and the U.S.S.R. that they won't get any surprises from our territory," he said.

The cost of independence from NORAD would be less than buying one nuclear sub, said Gifford.

DSU, CFS and SUNS

## National Week of Action Campaign

January 18-22 1988

### Tentative Agenda

**MONDAY** — International Students' Day. Interview on CKDU with Njoroge Karanja from the International Student Centre. Debate by Sodales in the Green Room of the SUB.

**TUESDAY** — Minorities Day. Interview on CKDU with Rocky Jones. Tour of TYP House by representative of N.S. High School Counsellors Association.

**WEDNESDAY** — Provincial Government Accountability Day. Meeting with Edmund Morris, Minister of Higher Education and Vocational Training. Rm. 318. Interview with Edmund Morris on CKDU.

**THURSDAY** — Student Aid Day. Free "Bursary Bags" of popcorn in the Grawood for lunch. Free "Student Aid" Kraft Dinner in the Garden Cafeteria. NDP announcement in Province House concerning problems with Student Aid system. Interview on CKDU with representative from Student Aid Department. Special drink prices at Grawood with Student-saver Card.

**FRIDAY** — Accessibility Day. Interview with Dave Shannon, a physically challenged Dalhousie Law Student. Representative from University Administration to spend part of their day in a wheelchair.

## Missa Night '88

The Malaysian-Indonesian-Singaporean Students' Association (MISSA) will be presenting its annual cultural extravaganza, **MISSA Nite**, on 23 January '88, to be held in the McInnes Room of the Dal SUB.

**MISSA Nite '88** will be featuring the art, culture, and folklore of the mystical regions of Southeast Asia. Audiences will also be treated to a feast of exotic and tantalizing cuisines from this region. The highlight of the year's performance is a full-costume Malay Wedding Ceremony. Also included in the evening's program are the Bam-

boo Dance from the Philippines, Malindo Dance, a Malay candle dance coupled with the song Bengawan Solo of Indonesia, a Thai-Indonesian song group, plus many others. The menu for the evening features a specially prepared ceremonial rice dish, which is usually served whenever there is a wedding. Other dishes include Beef Rendang and Acar, a sweet-sour-spicy vegetable salad. There will also be a traditional fashion show to follow. For more information and reservations, please contact Steven Yao at 422-3429 or the International Students Centre, 424-7077.

## Dal profs study Soviet defiance

VANCOUVER (CUP) — Two researchers at Dalhousie have received \$24,250 to conduct an independent assessment of the Soviet defence budget.

Political science professor David Jones and economist Murray Trott were the big winners among ten researchers receiving grants from the Canadian Institute for International Peace and Security in Ottawa this summer.

"The topic is of value to the West in general — our own debates on what we should spend for defence are always based on what the Russians are spending," said Jones, who teaches in the Centre for Foreign Policy Studies.

Jones said many Canadians, especially those in the peace movement, complain the federal government simply accepts Pentagon estimates of Soviet military spending as correct.

"I think it is dangerous to rely on only one source on which we are then going to base our (defence) policy," said Jones, who added that even the CIA and the Pentagon disagree on how much the Soviets actually spend.

Jones believes there are important peculiarities and distortions in Soviet defence budgets which may have historical precedents in the military spending of Czarist Russia.

For example, there about 400,000 soldiers in the

Soviet construction corps who are engaged in building railroads and apartments.

"The problem is that perhaps 40 per cent of what we would call civilian goods come from the so-called defence industries," said Jones.



Another researcher based at Dalhousie, Kornel Buczek, received \$10,000 to study the evolution of both seismic verification technologies for arms control and Canadian policy on nuclear test bans.

The eight grants, totalling \$54,350, are intended to develop a Canadian perspective on arms control and defence issues.

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