

gateway

Thursday, December 2, 1982

You may either win your peace or buy it...

...win it, by resistance of evil; buy it, by compromise with evil.

John Ruskin

Haig Cruises but denies ambition

by Allison Annesley

General Alexander Haig, former U.S. Secretary of State, made clear Tuesday, his militaristic viewpoint regarding the nuclear arms race.

In a press conference preceding his \$45 a plate luncheon address hosted by sports baron Peter Pocklington, Haig spoke briefly about politics and the arms race. Meanwhile, peace demonstrators representing various groups including the Anti-Haig Coalition, carried placards and yelled slogans such as "Gretzky, yes-Haig, no" outside the Westin Hotel, where Haig was appearing.

Haig declared nuclear systems "important to maintain balance and to maintain a deterrent (to war)." He displayed particular suspicion for the Soviet Union, whom he accused of "disturbing nuclear balance" by the deployment of SS20 missiles in the 1970's.

Said Haig, "We are putting peace at risk by giving the Soviets nuclear advantage" and thereby undercutting arms control.

Haig is very wary of newly named Soviet leader Yuri Andropov, whom he described as tough, ruthless, and effective. General Haig also suggested that Russia had been operating under Andropov's leadership since the beginning of the late leader, Leonid Brezhnev's, "advanced state of deterioration."

On Soviet disarmament, Haig is skeptical. "It was only when we made a commitment in 1978 to revitalize our nuclear military threat that they began asking for discussions on disarmament."

In reference to the deployment of nuclear missiles in Canada, which he

views as "necessary", Haig claimed, "All the Western World, especially NATO countries must be responsible." Haig added that Canada would not have to bear the risks of deployment.

Haig also supports the deployment of nuclear missiles in Europe and said that Western European leaders must take the lead (in helping to maintain nuclear balance.) Haig claims support from the British, Italian, and German governments and says that European deployment "will be on schedule."

When asked why he continues to advocate heavy U.S. re-armament when that country is already ahead in the arms race, Haig denied that this is the case. According to Haig, the Soviet Union has six times the arms maintained by the Western World. The statistics, he said, "are less frightening in strategic areas but the trend is frightening."

Says Haig, "We have to work together in a system in which we have shared advantages, shared burdens, and shared risks."

Economically, Haig is optimistic: "Western intellectuals are wrong when they predict that the standard of living will go down (during re-armament). I think it will go up."

The former NATO Commander-in-Chief denied rumors that he would be running in the 1984 U.S. Presidential election.

The Pocklington Financial Corporation revealed that Henry Kissinger is tentatively scheduled to appear in Edmonton in early April. Former Israeli Foreign Minister, Abba Eban is also slated to appear soon.



Former U.S. secretary of state, Al Haig, spoke in Edmonton Tuesday

photo Ray Giguere

Haig haters shout obscenities

by Shauna Peets

Alexander Haig's arrival in Edmonton this week attracted not only the city's business elite but a group of hostile demonstrators.

Tuesday morning about 40 demonstrators representing two groups marched in front of the Westin Hotel where Peter Pocklington was hosting a luncheon with Haig as speaker.

Demonstrators chanted, "Yankee war monger hang", "get out of Canada", and "Haig no, Gretzky yes."

The Peoples' Front was one group present. Spokesperson Peggy Morton explained the nation wide group, is opposed to both superpowers but supports the struggle for freedom and democracy in Canada as well as foreign countries. The Peoples' Front is also against military alliances, such as the Warsaw Pact, NORAD, and NATO. Haig was NATO Commander in Chief under Gerald Ford.

The Peoples' Front believes that strategic arms negotiations "are a forum for the two superpowers to justify their arms build-up and war preparations. Under the hoax of maintaining the 'balance of power' and 'equilibrium', each one accused the other of upsetting the balance of power. Each one presents its own war preparations as 'defensive' and merely a response to the war preparations and arms build-up of the other."

Needless to say, this group opposes cruise missile testing in Canada.

The Peoples' Front blames the "greedy" Canadian bourgeoisie for supporting and contributing to the war effort. Morton called Pocklington a "traitor of the country who is going to sell Canada for bucks."

Chris Frazer, chief spokesperson for the second group represented, the anti-Haig Co-alition wasn't as vindictive as Morton. Frazer claims he has respect for Pocklington, though he is critical of Pocklington for having sponsored Haig's luncheon speech. Frazer accused Pocklington of "not being a lover of democracy."

Frazer and fellow anti-Haig activists represent a co-alition consisting of the Edmonton Peace Council, Chilean Exiles Community, Young

Communist League, Edmonton Working Women, The Co-Alition for Nuclear Disarmament, and others.

This Coalition opposes what they think Haig represents, aggressive military policy. They blame Haig for approving the Israeli invasion of Lebanon, supplying U.S. military aid to El Salvador; the 1972 bombing of Hanoi after the UN peace accords had been signed; and for "having instrumental in the 1973 overthrow of Chilean President Allende."

Although a few city policemen stood by, protestors were loud and

sometimes obscene. As noon-hour approached, the number of passers-by increased, and were offered propagandist literature from protestors. Some bystanders were not sure of who Alexander Haig was, and many of those who had heard of him, could not understand why protestors were demonstrating.

The well-organized group of demonstrators achieved their goal. They received attention from Edmontonians and made them aware of their objections the policies of Haig, and ultimately those of the American government.

UBC researches arms

VANCOUVER (CUP)—Still shaken by a bomb threat, the University of B.C. chemistry professor gulped his coffee and reached for a cigarette.

"I'm looking for information," Mel Comisarow said. "My research interests overlap with the U.S. department of defense. I'm here to find out about programs for funding."

He spoke over the chants of anti-war demonstrators, whose slogans echoed through the halls of Robson Square. They were protesting last week's Pentagon-sponsored seminar on the defense industry, which organizers described as a chance for "companies and universities to compete for research and development contracts."

"I see no reason why UBC should not do research for the U.S. department of defense," Comisarow said. "There is no classified research at UBC. Or if there is, I don't know about it."

The seminar took place behind closed doors, but on the outside Robson Square swarmed with protestors and police. A hastily-organized rally at noon drew 300 people, and they sang and chanted as police filmed the participants.

Inside, CBC reporters demanded to know why they could not film the seminar. TV cameras bore down on organizer Michael Clark, who took an uncomfortable step backwards as he

explained.

"All the military speakers from the U.S. have asked that they not be filmed," said Clark, who works for the B.C. ministry of industry and small business development.

"I didn't pursue their exact motives," he said later at a press conference. "There is an internal video-tape that the U.S. army is taking. We don't even get to see that."

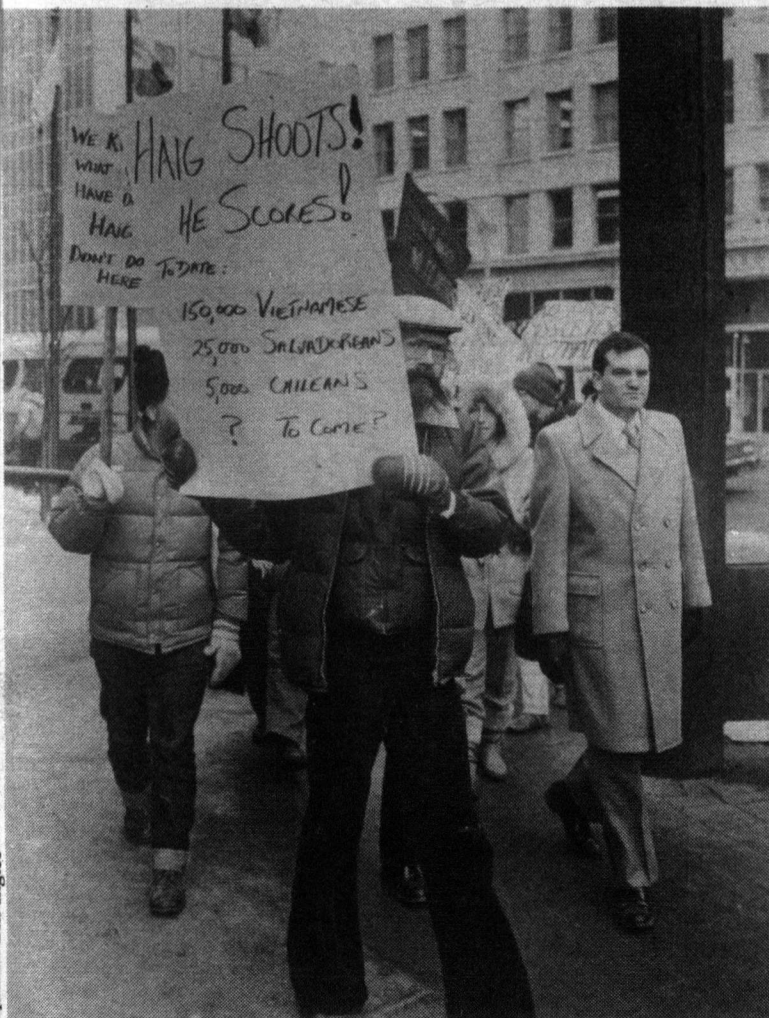
He said the conference was the first of its kind and allowed delegates to meet with officials from the U.S. army, navy and air force on a one-to-one basis.

"Canada is the only country whose defense industry is considered part of the U.S. mobilization base," Tom Chell, Canadian assistant undersecretary of state, told the suit-clad delegates.

U.S. defense department official Marvin Stearn addressed potential customers with a friendly American drawl. He urged delegates not to fear the Pentagon's complicated bureaucracy.

"You've got to focus in on the items that you think you are most competitive in. The only way you can market effectively is to touch flesh with people who know who you are. You must make us realize that you have a personal and financial commitment to the program."

At the first coffee break delegates continued on pg. 2



Demonstrators against Haig, Tuesday, shouted sayings like F--- off.

The Gateway will only be coming out once next week. Look Wednesday.