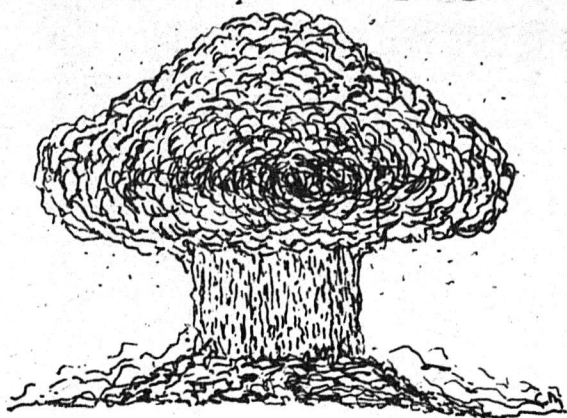


First strike nukes desirable?



by Kevin Gillese
Will Vancouver disappear...and with it the entire North West Coast of Canada and the United States?

The question is a serious one for a group of seven people currently travelling across Canada, representing the views of a larger Canadian/American West Coast group known as the Pacific Life Community.

The seven were in Edmonton on Monday to speak of the \$40 billion American military project named TRIDENT "which is intended to give the United States first-strike nuclear capabilities."

They explained that what the Trident project entails is the creation of a small fleet of submarines, to be larger, faster, and quieter than any in the world today. Each sub is to carry ten Trident missiles; each missile is to have a striking range of 6000 miles and each is to possess multiple nuclear warheads; each detachable

warhead is to be capable of executing evasive airborne action while maintaining a strike accuracy of *within 300 yards of the target area.*

The enormous increase in target precision is, of course, where the determining of a 'first-strike capability' comes from. If ICBM silos could be plotted for destruction with accuracy, for example, then it theoretically becomes possible to have an 'unanswerable first strike'. And 300 yard precision on target strikes makes silo strikes possible.

David Jackman, a speaker

for the group, explained that the initiation of a project to ensure first-strike capabilities is a radical departure from previous American nuclear policy.

"The policy in the past has been one designed for retaliation. That is, the United States has not had anywhere near the potential for initiating a nuclear war with any hopes of 'success' but have merely maintained enough defense weapons to ensure that, in the case of a war, it would be capable of effectively destroying the other side. But Trident is not a defense weapon."

Mr. Jackman outlined his Community's objections as being threefold: "Firstly, we disagree with the American attitude of basing this thing so close to Canada with the actual entrance passage lying in a Canadian (and American) strait, and not consulting or even paying any attention to the Canadian government or people.

Secondly, we think that serious environmental damage may result from such a base."

Thirdly, we disagree with the whole philosophy behind first-strike and believe the money, a colossal sum, could be better spent elsewhere."

Mr. Jackman cited the Nuremberg Judgement, a series of principles adopted by the United Nations following the Nuremberg War Trials, which stated: "To initiate a war of aggression is not only an international crime; it is the supreme international crime..."

He also added that the obvious increase in risk of war is of perhaps even more immediate concern than an ethical examination of such: "If deterrent makes some sense, possessing first-strike capabilities in hair-trigger situations between major powers does not."

The group of seven will end their journey in Ottawa about the middle of December. At that time, Stuart Lessatt, Conservative MP for New Westminster and the opposition's defense critic, will bring a resolution before the House of Commons.

Mr. Jackman said that the purpose of the resolution will be "to inform the House about Trident, obtain a clear position from the government as to where they stand in regard to Trident, and ask that the government directly protest the American implementation of 'first-strike' capabilities as represented by their Trident project."

Students awash in dorm

DENVER (CPS-CUP) - Students at Steven F. Austin University in Texas are awash in dorm problems.

The plumbing system in their Dorm 13 broke down and puddles of water are steadily rising in the halls and rooms. Residents are bothered by more than just wet feet, however.

The pools of water have become breeding grounds for mosquitoes.

"They ought to fix it or stock it," complained one student.

Although school officials and plumbers have visited the watersite several times, no one has yet figured out where the water is coming from. In lieu of a solution, school officials have laid down several sheets of plywood as a bridge and handed out a half-dozen cans of bug spray.

"We don't have any malaria

or yellow fever around here," the University physician assured the students. "They've had some cases of encephalitis in Houston, but there haven't been any around here yet and that would be the only worry at the present time."

So far the students are making the best of a wet situation. "This is your lake," reads one sign in the dorm. "Keep it clean."



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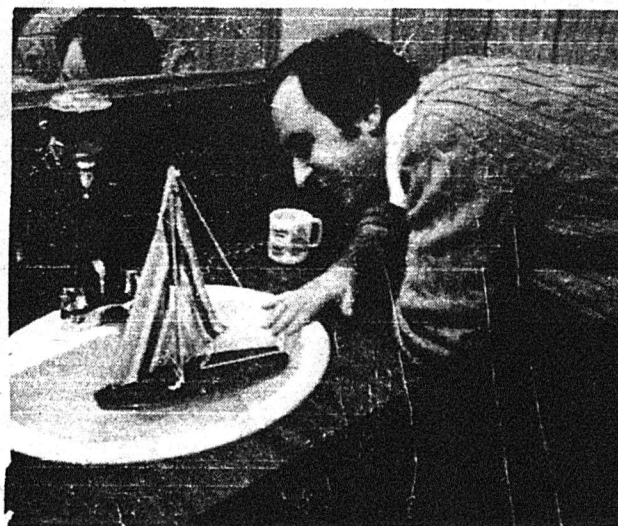
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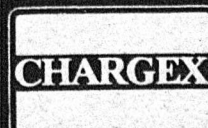
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