

March planned

# Cold Lake to Edmonton

by Gilbert Bouchard and Tanya Morrison

A coalition of local disarmament groups have formed a committee to organize a massive Easter peace march from Cold Lake to Edmonton's city hall.

David Schiff, a visiting professor and contact person for the Cold Lake-Edmonton Anti-cruise Easter March Committee, commented on the organization's goals: "The committee is a temporary organization organizing one event only, the 293 km Cold Lake/Edmonton peace march."

Schiff continued by mentioning that the march "is to demonstrate a committed opposition to Canadian cooperation in allowing the testing of the cruise in Alberta. You don't march 12 days unless you are committed."

The committee also hopes to foster local participation and community involvement, Schiff elaborated on the need to "break the tradition of peace demonstrations, start a new tradition of peace demonstration with more local involvement with local press and local ordinary people getting together and presenting their views. Break the stereotype of the typical demonstration."

Letters have been sent to many communities along the route of the march and response by local press and clergy has been encouraging. Schiff was pleased with the support of the religious organizations and mentioned that

much of the housing during the march will be in church halls.

Churches involved include the United Church, the Roman Catholics, and the Ukrainian Orthodox Church.

Due to the length and the difficulty of the march Schiff expects only a core group of 50 people to march the total distance; "It's difficult to cope with more than 50 people, a nucleus of 50 or so will march the whole way, but people will join in along the route." Schiff expects the largest number of people to join in the last leg of the trip from Namao to city hall.

Schiff would expect the committee's supporting organizations to drum up most of the support for the rally at City Hall at the end of the march. These groups include:

- Coalition for Nuclear Disarmament
- ENUF
- Edmonton Peace Council
- U of A CND group
- Youth for Peace
- Families Against the Bomb

The march commences with a rally and vigil at Cold Lake on Tuesday, March 22 at six p.m. and arrives in Namao on Saturday April 2. The march terminates at City Hall with a rally 3:30 p.m. Sunday, April 2, at City Hall.

A workshop to organize and brief prospective marchers will be held on the weekend of March 18-19-20. The committee has planned



Anti-cruise demonstrators: Another march planned, the most ambitious yet.

Photo: Bill Ingles

other activities including a panel discussion/debate on March 15, with Gord Kapland, Leslie Green, and Fred Nelman speaking.

For further information contact David and Pauline Schiff at 433-7774 or Fiona McGregor at 432-7051. The committee will man a table in SUB this Friday between 11 and 2 p.m. and tables in CAB and Hub the following week. The next meeting of the committee will be held tentatively on March 15, at 5 p.m. in room 280 SUB.

# Superpowers blamed

by Ken Lenz

"Imperialist war preparations by both superpowers are the cause of inflation, unemployment, and the constant state of warfare throughout the world," according to Peggy Morton, spokesperson for The People's Front Against Fascist and Racist Violence.

Morton spoke on 'The Economics and Politics of Imperial War Preparations' at a meeting of the People's Front held at the University just before reading week.

"The People's Front was organized in 1980 by the Communist Party of Canada (Marxist-Leninist) to address democratic issues and fight against oppression throughout the world," said Morton.

The organization believes that the war preparations throughout the world in no way contribute to either peace or economic stability.

"Fifty million people are involved in organized war preparations including half that number in armed forces all over the world."

We do not believe that any of the arms-producing nations have any notion of either patriotism or of defense," said Morton.

"The bourgeoisie have always profited from war and the rich in Canada are once again selling out Canada for money."

The People's Front also believes that the root cause of inflation is imperial war preparations.

"Canada has kept military spending at least three per cent above the Consumer Price Index and has also increased spending on the F-15 (a military aircraft) from \$2.8 billion to five billion over three years."

"Military spending provides only about half as many jobs as spending on social and educational programs. This situation is further compounded by the nature of military products which contribute no social benefits to society," said Morton.

"Twenty-five per cent of Canada's tax budget goes to paying off the interest on the \$100 billion dollar deficit."

"When the deficits cannot be covered by taxes the money must come from one of three sources:

- \* raising taxes
- \* cutting back on health, education and social welfare programs.
- \* increasing the money supply (which leads to further inflation)"

The People's Front also questions Canada's role as a peacemaker in international affairs.

"In Israel the Canadian government is not used to keep the peace but to maintain control of the land which the Zionists take over."

"Canada is also notorious for looking the other way to American atrocities during the Vietnam War as a member of the International Control Commission," said Morton.

"The reason the superpowers continue to support warfare throughout the world stems from the imperialist need for a constant redivision of borders and spheres of influence."

When asked what she believes is the definition of peace used by the superpowers Morton replied, "The imperialist nations mean maintaining the status quo where they dominate all the countries of the world and supporting limited warfare to divide and redivide the power throughout the world."



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