



# Science for Peace

UNIVERSITY COLLEGE, UNIVERSITY OF TORONTO, TORONTO, ONT. M5S 1A1 (416) 978-6928

## Bulletin

Vol. 6, No. 4, April, 1986

### President's Corner

As far as we know, the first outstanding scientist to devote his talents to the design and development of weapons was Archimedes. It is said that the Romans besieging Syracuse expressed dismay whenever one of Archimedes' engines of war such as a new model of a catapult came into view. "here comes that damned geometer again," they are reported to have grumbled. When the city was taken, a Roman soldier killed Archimedes, so the story goes, but not for his contributions to the war effort of the enemy. The soldier is reported to have given him an order which Archimedes, engrossed in a problem, ignored.

There was a time when a scientist could feel justifiably proud for contributing to the security of his city or country by solving problems related to defence. For the meaning of defence was unambiguous, and so was the identity of the enemy who came to the gates or invaded the country, looting and killing. The defenders fought these enemies. If they succeeded, the enemies were driven away; looting and massacres stopped for a while.

There was a time when professional warriors looked askance at weapons that killed at a distance. The knight did not regard the bow and arrow as a "fair weapon". The sword knew where it struck, the arrow did not. But fair play was no match for technology. Fire arms came to stay. For some time artillery was used almost apologetically. Throughout the eighteenth century cannon were placed to the left of the main body of fighting men to indicate that it was not to occupy a place of honour. It was Napoleon who promoted artillery to "Queen of Battle". But already in the seventeenth century rationalizations of this new terror weapon appeared. A Captain Michael Mieth in the service of the Emperor wrote in 1683:

*Before the discovery of gunpowder, both the Indies were in the jaws of hellish Satan and in the very darkest obscurity, more like cattle or wild beasts in customs and beliefs than like reasonable creatures of the Great God. Gunnery has been the only means by which the command of Christ could be performed (Luke 14:23- 'Urge them to come in that My*

*(Cont. on page 4)*

Toronto, Ontario

April 1, 1986

To the Members of Science for Peace:

### O F F I C I A L N O T I C E

is hereby given that the Annual General Meeting of Members shall be held on May 10, 1986 at 2 pm in the Combination Room, Trinity College, at the University of Toronto, 6 Hoskin Avenue, Toronto, Ontario M5S 1A1.

To be considered are reports of the executive officers, including the annual financial report and recommendations from the Board of Directors, and such other matters as the members may choose to present for discussion. Election of the Board of Directors for the year ending March 31, 1987 will close the Annual General Meeting.

Immediately following the Annual Meeting of Members, the new Board will organize and elect the executive officers for the year.

John Dove, Secretary

## Demise of a 'useful thing'

Your headline *Egad, Nothing's Sacred Any More, Singer To Drop Sewing Machines* (Feb. 19) makes light of a story which is most unfunny and risks misleading the hurried reader about what is really happening. As the copy proceeds to tell us, Singer is getting out of sewing machines the better to devote its energies to the military business.

Mahatma Gandhi described the Singer sewing machine as "one of the few useful things ever invented." Modern instruments of war, of the kind

which Singer now produces, are in contrast utterly useless and sheer waste. They are either never used (though themselves using scarce resources which could be put to productive ends) or, if used, are capable of wasting the world.

The real story here is less how Singer is moving with the times and more how the times have done in Singer.

Mel Watkins  
London, England

THE GLOBE AND MAIL, SATURDAY, MARCH 15, 1986

# Newsworthy

Michael Lanphier represented SFP at an information meeting sponsored by the Soviet Peace Committee in Moscow March 15-16. His notes on the meeting are available in full from the national office. Some interesting items from the report:

The (USSR) Inst. of US - Canada Studies is closely linked with the decision - making powers within the USSR. There are 300 employees, 2/3 of whom are professionals. One section only deals with Canada - about 20 people. The Soviets perceive Canada in its sub - or sub-subcontracting status *vis a vis* the USA and see many involvements between the two countries as not subject to political decision.

The USSR was not invited to participate in France's Eureka program - question: are there military spin-offs expected?

Problems of inspection and verification re chemical weapons: USSR has only public "factories" which are open for inspection. US and western Europe use "private business" contractors - there must be agreement to declassify "industrial secrets" before equal access for inspection would exist.

## NOMINATING COMMITTEE REPORT

At the board meeting March 25 the nominating committee made the following interim report. It is published here at the request of the committee so that members may make additions or corrections before the final report is made to the AGM.

1. We recommend that the executive operate in such a manner as to separate clearly the roles of policy-making and administration;
2. That in addition to the BOD, a council be established consisting principally of past board members. The Council would constitute a "talent pool" for the board. Council members would be welcome at all board meetings;
3. That each Chapter nominate at least one member of the BOD, and that the following Chapter officers stand for the BOD for 1986-87:

Y. Joshi, ST.F.X.; Philip Ehrensaft, Michael Horwood, Quebec; G.P. Semeluk, Margarida Krause, New Brunswick, David Roulston, Cynthia Folzer, Frank Thompson, Waterloo. Chapter officers to remain on the Board are M. Pearson, Quebec; Israel Unger, New Brunswick; A.B. Mingarelli, Ottawa; James Gardner, Waterloo; George Spiegelman, Luis Sobrino, Michael Wallace, B.C.; Eric Fawcett, Toronto.

All Nominations should be sent to Committee Chairman Lynn Trainor, Physics Dept., U. of Toronto, or to the national office.

## Exploding the bomb

(Known nuclear tests, 1945-1985)

	United States	Soviet Union	Britain	France	China	India
1945	3	0	0	0	0	0
1946	2	0	0	0	0	0
1947	0	0	0	0	0	0
1948	3	0	0	0	0	0
1949	0	1	0	0	0	0
1950	0	0	0	0	0	0
1951	16	2	1	0	0	0
1952	10	0	0	0	0	0
1953	11	4	2	0	0	0
1954	6	7	0	0	0	0
1955	18	5	0	0	0	0
1956	18	9	6	0	0	0
1957	32	15	7	0	0	0
1958	77	29	5	0	0	0
1959	0	0	0	0	0	0
1960	0	0	0	3	0	0
1961	10	50	0	2	0	0
1962	96	44	2	1	0	0
1963	43	0	0	3	0	0
1964	29	6	1	3	1	0
1965	29	9	1	4	1	0
1966	40	15	0	6	3	0
1967	29	16	0	3	2	0
1968	39	13	0	5	1	0
1969	29	15	0	0	2	0
1970	33	13	0	8	1	0
1971	15	20	0	5	1	0
1972	15	22	0	3	2	0
1973	12	14	0	5	1	0
1974	12	20	1	7	1	1
1975	17	15	0	2	1	0
1976	15	17	1	4	4	0
1977	12	18	0	6	1	0
1978	16	27	2	8	3	0
1979	15	29	1	9	0	0
1980	14	21	3	13	1	0
1981	16	21	1	12	0	0
1982	18	31	1	6	0	0
1983	17	27	1	7	2	0
1984	17	27	2	8	2	0
1985	15	8	1	8	0	0
Total	799	570	39	141	30	1

Since 1962 British underground nuclear tests have been conducted jointly with the United States in Nevada.

Source: U.S. Natural Resources Defense Council

Toronto, March 25

### MESSAGE TO MIKHAIL GORBACHEV, GENERAL SECRETARY OF THE COMMUNIST PARTY OF THE SOVIET UNION:

The initiatives taken by your government to stop and reverse the arms race and particularly to prevent the development of new weapons have raised the hopes of humanity. The negotiation of a comprehensive test ban preceded by the withholding of further tests and accompanied by a willingness to consider new approaches to verification represents, in the view of the undersigned, the key to reversing the drift to disaster that threatens us all.

We hope that pending a considered response by the Western democracies, you will not be provoked to change your course by the refusal so far by the United States to resume negotiations for a comprehensive test ban, which is essential to end the arms race.

George Ignatieff  
John Polanyi  
Anatol Rapoport

# Letters

Ottawa

There is a good article, "Star Wars and Security", by R.M. Bowman in the IEEE Technology & Society magazine, Dec., 1985, Vol. 4, #4, pp 2-13.

The author, who is highly qualified, presents an analysis of its ineffectiveness on technical grounds, and its contribution to further instability.

- J. Scrimgeour

(The SFP national office will copy the article for you upon request.)

Washington, D.C.

I've read *Science for Peace* with great interest and find it of tremendous value in offsetting the insane viewpoint of our Reagan administration. How grateful I am (and everyone should be) to A.R. and the Board and all the members.

- E. Linson

Mauai, Hawaii

### HAWAIIANS ASK CANADA NOT TO SHELL THEIR SACRED ISLAND

I want to reinforce my feelings against the frequent bombings of Kaho'olawe Island. It is bad enough that Kaho'olawe is bombed by the American military, but the continued military participation of several foreign RIMPAC nations embarrasses our American government and angers many people of my county and throughout the state. Please stop the bombing of Kaho'olawe by foreign governments and work toward an early cessation of the bombing of Kaho'olawe by our own forces.

Letter to Pres. Reagan  
by Hannibal Tavares,  
Mayor, County of Maui

Dundas, Ontario

I've just read through your BULLETIN (march edition). What a great source of information. Congratulations.

Enclosed is a notice for your April edition. So far I've received responses from Science for Peace-Toronto, B.C. and Brock. If you could encourage your members in other chapters to respond before the end of April, there would be an even greater S4P presence in the finished book.

- Christine Peringer  
Peace Research Institute-Dundas

(CPRI-Dundas is compiling a resource book of Canadian peace group activities. If you have lost the questionnaire you were sent, write freely a description of what you are doing and send it to CPRE-Dundas, 25 Dundana Ave., Dundas, Ont. L9H 4E5

# PEACE

NO. 1  
NOVEMBER 1985



To our readers:  
The first issue of PEACE has now met with its readers. It is published by the Chinese People's Association for Peace and Disarmament as a medium for exchanging information, deepening understanding, and strengthening relations between the CPAPD and non-governmental organizations and peoples in different countries, who devote themselves to peace and disarmament.

- The Editors

Write for information or for a subscription to PEACE to P.O. Box 188, Beijing, China or to 12-A Wanshou Rd. Beijing.

## Bookshelf

Walter Dorn, I.S.M A Bibliography - a compilation of sources of information about the international satellite monitoring agency. From the National office.

Franklyn Griffiths, Through the Oneway Glass: Mutual Perception in Relations Between the U.S. and S.U., prepared for the meetings of the III World Congress of Soviet and East European Studies in Washington, D.C., 1985.

Distributor for Anatol Rapoport's new book in Canada is Frye Publishing Suite 104, 1565 Willson Place, Winnipeg, Man. R3T 4H1. Telephone: (204) 284-9278.

Eric Fawcett submits that the SANA-New Zealand report, New Zealand's Military Establishment: Current Realities, is a model of what Science for Peace - Canada might do. Copies of the report can be made for members by the national office.

Arnold Simoni, Regional Conflict Resolution - Background Paper, March, 1986. From the national office.

From Council for a Livable World Education Fund, 20 Park Plaza, Boston, Mass. 02116 U.S.A., free of charge, Jerome Grossman, The Politics of Star Wars.

George Ignatieff, A Strategy for Survival, text of the Brockington lecture delivered at Queen's University, Kingston, March 1986.

Anatol Rapoport, War Without Hatred. Address for Psychologists for Social Responsibility, Kingston.

From the Stanley Foundation conference report on The United States, the United Nations and the Future:

"The group (1985 conferees) believed that the strongly anti-UN policies of the early Reagan years had a profound effect on the Hill (U.S. Congress), triggering an unleashing of years of pent-up congressional frustration with the United Nations' perceived anti-Americanism, its extravagances and inefficiencies and the abuse meted out to Israel in its plenary bodies. As the overwhelming vote in favor of the Kasse amendment demonstrated, erosion of support for the United Nations now includes many moderates and liberals of both parties - parts of the political spectrum that have been strongly internationalist in the past. If the United States is to avoid losing the United Nations to opponents of multilateralism in the United States, and to opponents of the United States in the United Nations, the administration now has no alternative to aggressive and constructive leadership."

Copies of the complete report are available free of charge from the Stanley Foundation, 420 East Third St. Muscatine, Iowa 52761, U.S.A.

RE M I N D E R - -

### Conference on

### ACCIDENTAL NUCLEAR WAR

MAY 26-30, 1986

UBC, VANCOUVER



- The ACTIVIST V2, #2

## Chapters

Science for Peace Ottawa, as announced in the March BULLETIN, is sponsoring awards at the annual Youth Science Fair this year. Judges are Angelo Mingarelli, James Neelin and Wm. McGowan, all officers and members of the chapter. Like New Brunswick they offer both a junior and a senior prize.

The two chapters will extend their experience to the establishment of national prizes next year. It is reported that there will be a Science for Peace Month in the Youth Science Fairs calendar for 1986-87. Other chapters or individual members interested in this project should contact either of the chapters at the addresses listed on page 4.

1986 officers of the B.C. Chapter are George Spiegelman (president), Luis Sobrino (1st vice president), Michael Wallace (2nd vice president), Colin Bell (treasurer), Frank Nezil (secretary), Vera Webb, (membership secretary), Jim Foulks (EAR liaison).

The chapter is involved in the hosting of the May International Conference on Accidental Nuclear War (See flier that accompanied the March BULLETINO and in conducting a nationwide survey of materials and teaching aids available for the publication of a Canadian counterpart to the esteemed U.S. Peace and World Order Studies: A Curriculum Guide. CIIPS is funding this study. (The questionnaire enclosed with the last BULLETIN should be filled out and returned, as requested - PLEASE, asks Dr. Bell, project director.)

Science et Paix Quebec will hold its annual meeting in Montreal on May 14. Speaker will be Jocelyn Coulon. Details of time and place will appear in the next BULLETIN.

Many chapter members are among speakers at the April 21-23 Montreal conference on Illusions and Realities in the Nuclear Age.

Annual meeting of Science for Peace - Toronto will be at 8 pm April 17, at Trinity College at the University of Toronto, Toronto.

The chapter is hoping to publish papers delivered in its highly successful lecture and seminar series this year.

Secretary Arnold Simoni received a CIIPS grant for the preparation of the paper on regional conflict listed under BOOKSHELF this month. Awarded a Killam research fellowship for this year was Ian Hacking (U. of Toronto).

Two chapter presidents will be on sabbatical next year: James Gardner (Waterloo), Michael Pearson (Quebec).

## President's corner

house may become full.')

Paradoxically, rationalizations as well as gross distortions of reality are evidence that the voice of conscience is not yet dead. The contemporary admirers of Adolf Hitler who deny that the Holocaust ever happened thereby recognize the evil: if Hitler was a hero, he couldn't have condoned the slaughter. When reality is not distorted, the victims must be dehumanized. One way or another, one's admiration of or commitment to evil must be reconciled with remnants of human feeling.

The image of the adversary as an Evil Empire is a manifestation of the same need to reconcile deliberate preparations of the final holocaust with one's dormant but not yet extinguished responsibility as a human being, in particular as a scientist. In a recent exchange of views in Physics Today one enthusiast of Star Wars wrote:

....from our point of view, there is no such thing as a good political relationship with the Soviet Union....War is the norm, not the 'abnorm' for them.... They are convinced intellectually, politically, and theologically, that the only way for Mother Russia to be safe is for her to be totally in control of the world. All other peoples must be subservient to Mother Russia....The Soviet view comes centuries in the past and goes centuries into the future....

Once the adversary is dehumanized the voice of conscience is stilled. Or else one resorts to denial. Here is Colin S. Gray's comment on the contention that nuclear war would be a catastrophe unparalleled in human history:

Nuclear war may or may not be a catastrophe unparalleled in world history, but it is unlikely to be the functional equivalent of the cataclysmic biblical flood, notwithstanding the recent claim advanced by some scientists to the effect that nuclear war would probably trigger climatic changes that could be fatal to life on earth. The new apocalypse vision is of the nuclear winter. In the thirteenth and fourteenth centuries the Mongols and the bubonic plague were viewed in much the same eschatological terms in which many people today view nuclear war. These visitations from God were terrible, but mankind remained in business. As Herman Kahn sought to establish more than twenty years ago, catastro-

phes can come in different sizes  
....

Dehumanization of the adversary and distortion (or denial) of reality are not the only ways of coming to terms with conscience. There is a third way - simply shutting the world of people out of one's sphere of vision. One can escape into a modern equivalent of the monastery - the war research laboratory, a world as inspiring to a certain type of young, brilliant scientist of today as the world of fasting, prayer and ascetic self-denial must have been to the anchorites of another age. A vivid and frightening view of these devotees of death technology is given by William J. Broad in STAR WARRIORS, subtitled, "A penetrating look into the lives of young scientists behind our space age weaponry". These young scientists have cut themselves off from the world of ordinary human concerns. Broad writes:<sup>4</sup>

....The fabric of friendship extended even in the language they spoke. Classified projects led to classified jokes. After a while, the young scientists began to be cut off from the spontaneity of the outside world....It was like the Gulag...High-tech Gulags such as O group are seductive....The prisoners are there of their own accord, serving both science and war, creating in order to destroy, part of an elite, yet pawns in a terrifying game....

There is an account of how a young scientist and his girl friend drifted apart. It was weaponry that broke them up.

"My view of weapons has changed," Peter recalled. "Until 1980 or so I didn't want to have anything to do with nuclear anything. Back in those days I thought there was something fundamentally evil



about weapons. Now I see it as an interesting physics problem."

Success and proximity to power must have played a major part in the young scientist's conversion (or seduction). Peter's devices worked.

"All power corrupts," said Lord Acton. "Nothing falls like success," said Kenneth Boulding.

1) Cited in S. Vagts, A HISTORY OF MILITARISM, pp. 44 - 45.

2) Correspondence section in PHYSICS TODAY, February, 1986.

3) Wm. J. Broad, STAR WARRIORS, Simon & Schuster, 1985.

Dr. Hans Blumenthal has called my attention to errors in last month's column: Guillotín was misspelled as was l'egalite. All Accents were also missing. Apologies.

A.R.

## Science for Peace

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### EXECUTIVE OFFICERS:

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### REMINDER:

The Annual General Meeting  
May 10, 2pm, Trinity, U of T.