President's Corner

I am truly honored to have been elected President of Science for Peace. The choosing of a political scientist for this role perhaps conforms to the normative definition of a scientist as one "who possesses knowledge in any department of learning."

My special "department of learning" is diplomacy and defence, applied and honed during 33 years in the foreign service of Canada. During this service I have become convinced that science and technology, intertwined with military contractors, may be lucrative for business, but deadly for security and peace. At a time when our entire planet is a potential battlefield and we are tempted to pursue military operations into outer space, it behooves Canadian scientists to combine their research efforts with those of scientists throughout the world seeking surer paths to security and survival than those that lead to the "peace of the grave."

"Canadians recognize," said Prime Minister Mulroney to the UN General Assembly Oct. 23, 1985, "that there is no greater goal, no more compelling duty, than the quest for peace. We shall not rest until our security can be assured without tens of thousands of nuclear weapons. Above all, we shall not rest until we have secured the future of our children."

I believe that the task of educating the public about the consequences of nuclear war has to go on. But awareness of the fatal consequences of radioactive leaks or explosions or of the instability of the nuclear deterrent is not enough. We have to use our expertise to stop the arms race which is fuelled by scientific and technological innovations.

A close examination of the competitive process of accumulating nuclear weapons in the arsenals of the superpowers reveals that this activity is constant and largely senseless. It has no real or long term objective and sometimes may be even contrary to established law and existing treaty obligations. The change in leadership in the Soviet Union has put a new opportunity in our way to explore the possibilities of putting restraints on this mindless process. Instead of "sharing the burden" with the United States for starting a new race of the arms race (through support of the binary chemical weapons program - ed.), Canada should press for a creative dialogue to end the threat of nuclear, chemical and biological warfare.

Disasters in the operation of nuclear power plants are timely reminders of the need for research in improving the systematic monitoring of radioactivity, at least to the standards now in operation in Sweden. This, Canadian scientists could do.

In order to reduce the risk of war by accident or miscalculation, Canada could establish a crisis management centre, located as we are on the missile route between the two nuclear superpowers.

Instead of Star Wars, Canadian science has the capability of contributing significantly to "Star Peace". Canadians' experience in such activities as world-wide reconnaissance through satellites, seismic sensors, oceanography, geodesy and meteorology, could contribute invaluable research to counter the new trend toward "Fortress America".

One of the most disturbing trends is the retreat being led by the United States from internationalism at a time when the global infrastructure of communications, finance and trade all make the interdependence of nations an imperative. The choice before Canada is whether to contribute to world law and order as we have done in the past, thus being a "middle power", or to become the "ham" in a superpower sandwich. - George Ignatieff

AGM Highlights

OFFICERS FOR 1986 - 87:

- George Ignatieff, president
- John E. Dove, secretary
- John Valleau, treasurer
- Raymond Kapral, chairman, and
- Derek Paul, nominating committee

IN MEMORIAM:

- Alva Myrdal and Olof Palme of Sweden
- K.A.C. Elliott, Montreal, early supporter and member of Science for Peace

A MOTION OF THANKS:

To Mr. and Mrs. Frank Hsu, of St. Clair Copy & Printing, for their outstanding assistance with the production of printed materials for Science for Peace, especially for the

BULLETIN.

ON THE CHANGING FACE OF EDUCATION PROGRAMS:

Terry Gardner, Science for Peace education director for the past three years, reported that lectures, radio programmes and seminars in Toronto - all initiated by the national office - have become programmes of the Toronto Chapter. Patterns established by the Toronto members are underway on many campuses across Canada and are led by local groups. Principal need from the national office will most likely be for coordination and servicing of chapter-originated programmes in the coming years.

ADVISORY COUNCIL ESTABLISHED

The Council will consist of past members of the Board of Directors and constitute a "pool of talent" upon which the Board can call for expertise and assistance.

COMPLETE RECORD OF THE MEETING

Complete minutes and reports of the officers are available upon request from the national office.

WHAT'S THE WORD FROM OUR ARMS NEGOTIATING TEAM?

NOT Good, Mr. President...

- THEY WANT US TO CUT THE NUMBER OF OUR MISSILES BACK TO THEIRs

NO WAY, TELL THEM WE'LL AGREE TO CUT THE NUMBERS OF OUR MISSILES BACK TO THEIRS...

- IF THEY AGREE TO CUT THE NUMBER OF THEIR MISSILES BACK TO OURS

The University of Toronto, June 6, 1986

Vol. 6, No. 6
Now, the CW “Deterrent”

NGO FORUM ON CBW PROHIBITION
22 May, 1986 at UN Headquarters:

"Over the last five years more progress seems to have been made in the Conference on Disarmament in Geneva in the negotiation of a Treaty to eliminate chemical weapons than in any other area."

Toronto, 10 May, 1986
The Prime Minister
The Secretary of State for External Affairs
The Defence Minister

We strongly urge that Canada vigorously resist acceptance by NATO Defence Ministers’ Meeting May 22 and 23 of U.S. manufacture of binary chemical weapons. Scientific opinion strong that such weapons would drastically reduce probability of agreement on treaty banning chemical weapons due to near impossibility of verification. Recent statements by Gorebchev and PRAVDA and recent progress at ad hoc committee on CW give hope time ripe now for advance towards...treaty. Essential not to squander possibility of progress.

/S/ George Ignatieff John Valleeau
John E. Dove

On motion of the meeting of the Board of Directors of Science for Peace, 10 May, 1986.

Brussels (Reuters-CF) Defence Minister Erik Nielsen, Canada’s representative at the session (meeting of NATO defence ministers), made a strong plea for NATO unity, urging all members to help Washington “share in the moral burden” of the decision.

Stephen Strauss, The Globe and Mail: “The US navy began its binary program with the 225-kilogram Btgye bomb in 1965. It was halted in 1969 after 6000 sheep were accidentally killed in the Dugway testing ground in Utah.”

ON THE US CHEMICAL ARMS PROPOSAL:

"It is deemed prudent by all NATO countries that the US increase or modernize its chemical capability for the maintenance of deterrence and peace." - Harvie Andre to the House of Commons.

The Geneva Treaty on chemical weapons outlaw use but not research or deployment.

"INSIDE INFORMATION":

"The threat of a Soviet invasion of North America via the Arctic is not as remote as some people think….And our potential opponent has more than arrows in his quiver." - Lt. Gen. C.H. Belzile at Mobile Command HQTRS, St. Hubert, Quebec.

Chernobyl

It is significant that the reactor accident was detected through the Swedish radio-active air monitoring system. The Swedish system is unique and has no parallel in Canada. It detects airborne radioactivity in a routine way all over the country and at an exceedingly high level of sensitivity.

In 1982 Sweden proposed an international radio-active data exchange, envisaging a world-wide system of radio-active monitoring stations as an arms control verification measure connected with a possible Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty. But what was proposed as an arms control measure clearly now has an important dimension in public health and safety. Despite the monitoring which is already done by provincial health authorities, Canada does not possess continuously operated nation-wide systems and has no monitors of sensitivity comparable to the Swedish. Perhaps it is timely now for a Canadian pilot project.

- Derek Paul

“BW”

London, Ont. 12 May

I am currently working on a contract with the Verification Section of Arms Control and Disarmament (Dept. of External Affairs). The contract, entitled “Collateral Analysis and the Verification of Compliance with the Obligations of the Biological and Toxin Weapons Convention which came into force in 1975 prohibits the development, production, stockpiling and acquisition of biological and toxin weapons. However, there is no practical restriction on research.

- Tim Brac

Multiple Choice

U.S. Dept. of Energy spokesman Jim Boyer said the recent US nuclear test was planned for one of three reasons: to test systems designed to guard against accidental or unauthorized detonation; to make sure weapons in the US strategic stockpile were still in usable condition; or to test a new design. He would not specify which.

(Washington, Reuter)
Letters

Vancouver

Our AGM was held in Calgary in April and I am now "past president". It was a very important and worthwhile experience to be president of PSR for the year and a half, but I feel glad to hand on the reins to others. Obviously I will still be very much involved but in a different way.

A lot of new things are happening with PSR. For example we changed the name to Canadian Physicians for the Prevention of Nuclear War. There is now an office in Ottawa, an executive director, and Jan Van Stolk, our new president in Edmonton, will be able to work closely with others there who have an incredible amount of energy to go with their ideas.

Dorothy Goresky, M.D.
Dartmouth, April 26

Last winter we had our first nuclear submarine visitor of the year—an repeat visit of the SSBN Von Steuben—carrying 16 Trident I missiles with a total of 128-100 kiloton warheads.

It was a strange experience to be on a residential street (part of Shearwater CFB married quarters), peering across and down through the thick fog to the dim shape of the submarine, less than 200 m away. Especially as there was not a soul in sight.

Had I been a terrorist with a powerful anti-tank gun, there wouldn’t have been anyone to stop me hitting the hull with a good chance of blowing the rocket fuel up and scattering the reactor and warheads all over the harbour!

Dartmouth May 11

Nuclear powered subs have been coming here since 1965. Since 1980 a small "sub watch group" has welcomed 29 nuclear powered attack submarines, 17 nuclear powered ballistic missile subs, and various nuclear weapons-capable surface ships. The sub power plants are in the 10-20 MW range, carrying a 7-10 year supply of uranium fuel. Many of the subs can carry small nuclear warheads for torpedos and the ballistics carry either 16 Trident I or 16 Poseidons. The Trident (range 7000 km) carries 8-100 kiloton independently-targetable warheads.

I question whether the sub power plants are as well protected against accidental releases of radioactivity as the CANDU stations. The missiles—each with many tons of propellant and implosion explosives in each warhead—are clearly not ideal neighbours for a nuclear reactor, nor ideal things to welcome in an urban area.

For more information, write

John Osborne
5 Blink Bonnie Terrace
Dartmouth, N.S. B2Y 2G9

Ottawa, 17 April

Dear Sirs:

We are very impressed by your support of the Soviet peace initiatives expressed in your letter to the General Secretary of the Communist Party Mikhail Gorbachev. It is very important to develop close and productive cooperation in the struggle for peace between peoples all over the world who are in fact preoccupied with the destinies of peace on earth.

We think that our peaceful activity and your calls for an end to the arms race could help improve the world situation.

The Soviet Union will do everything possible to ensure to the people the possibility of working and living under conditions of enduring peace.

I. Liskin-Prollov
First Secretary
Embassy of the USSR
Toronto, 15 May

"...In assessing Canada’s role in this international crisis (the bombing of Libya by the US), the security of Canadian citizens becomes paramount. At the same time, however, we believe that the Canadian government has a wider responsibility to ensure that all peaceful means available, including the use of economic sanctions and the rule of international law, are exhausted before resorting to military action.

John N. Turner
Ottawa, 15 May

I appreciate your bringing to my attention your views on the United States’ military action against Libya, a matter of great concern to all citizens and particularly those of us who work for world peace.

...We felt a responsibility to speak on behalf of Canadians who were shocked by the action of the Reagan administration and who fear that this attack will only lead to further violence.

- Edward Broadbent

See May BULLETIN for SFP statement.
Speaking of human rights...

Bookshelf

William Epstein, "A Test Ban - Halting the Nuclear Arms Race". Reprint from the CHRISTIAN SCIENCE MONITOR, 23 April. (From the national office.)


William Keeney, "Peace Careers" from Spring 1986 issue of International Peace Studies Newsletter published by Center for Peace Studies, Univ. of Akron, Akron, Ohio 44325 USA. This is a look at an expanding field worldwide, with no reference to a place for scientists in the overview.


Union of Concerned Scientists, NUCLEUS, Vol. 8, No. 1, Spring 1986, "What Future for US Strategic Nuclear Forces?" Free from UCS Publications Dept., 26 Church St., Cambridge, Mass 02238, USA.

From the UN Dept. for Disarmament Affairs: The United Nations and Disarmament: 1945-1985, United Nations, Room 3161, New York, NY 10017 USA, or from your local bookstore.

Derek Paul, Chemical and Conventional Disarmament as Co-requisites of Nuclear Disarmament, paper delivered to the second All-Unions Conference of the Academy of Sciences of the USSR, May, 1986. From the national office.


This book makes readily accessible the best short selections available that represent a psychological perspective on the present situation of international conflict, on the conflict process and how it is and may be exacerbated or reduced, and on psychological and interactive processes that bear on the likelihood of war.

De-escalation

(Associated Press, 28 May)

TWO NUCLEAR SUBS RETIRED BY REAGAN

"President Ronald Reagan ordered the retirement of two nuclear submarines yesterday, keeping the US within the limits of the SALT II arms agreement with the Soviet Union."

SOVIETS TO ALLOW EMIGRATION OF 117

The Soviet Union has agreed to settle 36 divided - family cases by permitting 117 people to emigrate to the United States to join family members.

the Board 1986-1987

Christian Bay....Tichoony Brac
Cian Bencicoglia....Chandler Davis
Walter Dorm....John E. Dove
Philip Ehrensaf....Eric Fawcett
Myrman Fernandez....Cynthia Folger
James S. Gardner....L. Terrell Gardner
Mary L. Heberg....David Horwood
George A. Ignatieff....Raymond Kapral

Robert M. Korol....Margareta Krause
Michael Lapthier....Paul H. LeBlond
Robert Malcolmson....A.B. Magarelli
Peter Nicholls....David Parnas
Derek Paul....Michael Pearson
Anatol Rapoport....Janet Rossant
David Roulston....Norman Rubin
Louis Sobrinso....George Spiegelman
Gerhard Stroink....Frank A. Thompson
Lynn Trainor....Israel Unger
John Vallee....Michael Wallace

Philip R. Wallace

Advisory Council


NEXT ISSUE OF THE BULLETIN: SEPTEMBER

EXECUTIVE OFFICERS:

George Ignatieff, president
John E. Dove, secretary
John P. Vallee, treasurer

CHAPTER CONTACTS:

Science for Peace New Brunswick
Prof. G.P. Sameluk, Dept. of Chemistry, UNB, Bag Service #45222, Fredericton, N.B. E3B 6E2

Science for Peace Quebec
Prof. Philip Ehrensaf, Dept. de sociologie, Univ. du Quebec a Montreal, C.P. 8888, Succ. A. Montreal, Que. H3C 3P8 (514) 282-8413

Science for Peace Ottawa
Dr. A.B. Magarelli, Dept. of Mathematics, U of Ottawa, Ottawa KIN 9B4, (613) 231-5882

Science for Peace Toronto
Mrs. Phyllis Creighton, Dictionary of Canadian Biography U of Toronto (416) 978-6621

Science for Peace Waterloo
Prof. David Roulston, Dept. of Elec. Eng., U of Waterloo, Waterloo, Ont. N2L 3G1 (519) 888-4060

B.C. Chapter Science for Peace
Dr. Colin Bell, Dept. of Microbiology, UBC, Vancouver, B.C. V6T 1W5 (604) 228-3308