VANA NEWSLETTER - BC BRANCH



October er 2001 Vol. 12, No. 8

Box 319, 916 W. Broadway, Vancouver, B.C. V5Z 1K7

Letter from your Executive

Dear Fellow VANA Members in BC:

The 11 September events were a huge shock.

As with John Kennedy sAs with John Kennedy s assassination, people will always remember how the news reached a itit on my car radio onit on my car radio on the way to the Vancouver airport to the way to the Vancouver airpo

SecuritySecurity will only be found in dealing with the Security will only be found in dealing with the severe wo desperatedesperate and horribly misguided attacks. The place to start dealing withdesperate and horribly misgu about eight miles north of the Worldabout eight miles north of the World Trade Center disaster, on the Eastab Nations Organization world headquarters. The UN is still our best hope for peace.

MoreMore on VANA s support for a UN Charter and law-based responseMore on VANA s support for a UN Charter meeting, meeting, Ed Shaffer meeting, Ed Shaffer circulated his draft of a VANAmeeting, Ed Shaffer circulated his draft discusseddiscussed and amended it. It has discussed and amended it. It has since been sent out very widely, and appear and all those involved in putting this together.

The The article below: This War is Illegal by Prof. Michael Mandel is of great importance. The article below: This War is is involved in a war which is just as lawless as was the bombing of Yugoslavia. is involved in a war which is just as lawle thethe rule of International Law through the UN. Our call for the Canadian Gove for for International Law and the UN Charter (as set out infor Interna

OurOur Our comOur comrades in Veterans For Peace have added to their long record of anti-militarism/war actiputting a full page ad in the putting a full page ad in the New York Times. It isputting a full page ad in the New York Nees, Nees, to President George Bush. It was first cNees, to President George Bush. It was first circulated by publishing it in The New York Times. Inspired, a Japanese mother of four teamed up with the leading rescue worker from the Kobe earthquake disaster toworker from the Kobe earthquake disaster to rally ordinary Japanese peoult appears below.

Our Our next Our next regular general meeting willOur next regular general meeting will be on 22 October 2001 atat 1:30 p.m. David will report briefly on meetings he has attended in Winnipeg, Victoria, Ottawa and Toronto. Then we will hold a general discussion on War & Terrorism and Toronto. Then we will hol and actions should be in this new situation.

Remembrance Remembrance Day, 11 November, is on a SundayRemembrance Day, 11 November, is war-charged war-charged atmosphere, war-charged atmosphere, our banner s messagewar-charged seenseen more than ever. Seen more than ever. We will assemble as usual at the NW corner of Victorys a.m. We strongly urge everyone to be there to show the world that veterans want peace

OurOur chosen role in tackling the world sOur chosen role in tackling the world s worst problems does notOur c willwill be a VANA Fund-Raising Banquet on Wednesday November21st at thewill be a VANA Fund-Raising B AvenueAvenue and Oak St, Vancouver. Reception at 5:30 p.m. Dinner at 6:00 p.m. Cost: \$25./head After thethe dinner, VANA National President, David Morgan, willthe dinner, VANA National President, David Mo afterafter being lightly roasted. A bright and cheery event as winter closesafter being lightly roasted. A br or Phone Ted Powis 604-922-8998

Finally: keep sending in your news, information, articles, writing, questions, beefs and bouquets. Best wishes,

Ed Livingston President, (604-730-6990, Fax: 604-730-6931 e-mail:<phcl@netcom.ca>

Cynthia Llewellyn Secretary, Ted Powis, Treasurer,

David Morgan, News Letter, 604-985-7147, Fax: 604-985-1260 e-mail:dmorgan@web.net, 240 Holyrood Road, North Vancouver, BC, V7N 2R5; Bas Robinson, Membership Coordinator At Large: Emil Grieshaber, Joyce Lydiard, Ed Shaffer

VANA Statement on Terrorism

(September 27, 2001)

VANAVANA (Veterans Against VANA (Veterans Against Nuclear Arms) extends its most heartfelt VANA (Veterans thethe victims of the recent terrorist attacks in New York City and Washington. We, as veterans, the victims of the phorrorshorrors of war and the grief, pain and sufferings caused by such acts. horrors of war and the grief, pain and suffer urge the police to apprehend the perpetrators of these crimes in the most expeditious manner.

While While backing police action, we While backing police action, we oppose a military response, which While backing pare response could provoke a retaliatory attack, which could are sponse could provoke a retaliatory attack, which could ananever spiralling cycle of violence, an ever spiralling cycle of violence, leading to an ever spiralling cycle of violence that terrorism begets terrorism holds true.

ItIt should be noted It should be noted that U. S. Congressional committee reports have revealed that the pursuedpursued a consistent policy of backing pursued a consistent policy of backing terrorist groups in many parts of overthrewoverthrew the democratically-elected governmentoverthrew the democratically-elected government of Guat inin the 1970s. At that time it in the 1970s. At that time it organized the a ChileanChilean army, who refused to participate in a Chilean army, who refused to participate in a coup against that co ItIt has backed and still harbours those It has backed and still harbours those Cuban exiles who It has backed and still har aidaid to the Nicaraguan contras and the terroristal to the Nicaraguan contras and the terrorist elements in the Honduras them, them, including Americanthem, including American nuns. It supported the Taliban in Afghanistan in the war again and put Osama bin Laden on its payroll.

MoreMore recently, it has backed the so-called Kosovo More recently, it has backed the so-called Kosovo Liberation A Serbia Serbia and Macedonia. The Serbia and Macedonia. The U. S. bombed civ Serbia and Macedonia. The U. innocent innocent civilians collateral damage. It has imposed, through its sanctions, the terror of hunge people people of Iraq, which according to the Unitedpeople of Iraq, which according to the Unitedpeople of Iraq, which according to the Unitedpeople of Iraq, which accord resulted in the deaths of five thousand children a month States States is, directly or indirectly, responsible for the deaths of countle States is, directly or indirectly, responsible for the deaths of countle States is, directly or indirectly, responsible for the deaths of countle States is, directly or indirectly, responsible for the deaths of countle States is, directly or indirectly, responsible for the deaths of countle States is, directly or indirectly, responsible for the deaths of countle States is, directly or indirectly, responsible for the deaths of countle States is, directly or indirectly, responsible for the deaths of countle States is, directly or indirectly, responsible for the deaths of countle States is, directly or indirectly, responsible for the deaths of countle States is, directly or indirectly, responsible for the deaths of countle States is, directly or indirectly, responsible for the deaths of countle States is, directly or indirectly, responsible for the deaths of countle States is, directly or indirectly, responsible for the deaths of countle States is, directly or indirectly indirectl

WeWe are also concerned that the war on war also concerned that the war on terrorism may be a cover for U.S MiddleMiddle East oil and to move against governments and organizations who Middle East oil and to move againg globalization onglobalization on the world. This war furthermore is globalization on the world. This war furthe

ItIt is an obscenity that It is an obscenity that at the It is an obscenity that at the dawn of a new millenni povertypoverty and vulnerability should remainpoverty and vulnerability should themselves, themselves, bad for development and economic themselves, bad for development and economic themselves, bad for development and economic themselves.

AA military A military response will both increase poverty and provide more candidates for A military response therefore therefore ask the Prime Minister to therefore ask the Prime Minister to inform President Bush that C response. Instead we askresponse. Instead we ask that Canada turn the war against terrorism intor byby proposing that the United Natiby proposing that the United Nations establiby proposing that instituteinstitute a world-wide poverty elimination program to be financed binstitute a world-wide poverty military budgets. This is the only realistic response to the threat of terrorism.

On the Heavy Side: Three N-Facts;

(Source: Brookings Inst. website: http://www.brookings.org))

I. Number of secret Presidential Emergency Facilities built for use during and after a nuclear war:- more than 75

II.II. Total number of II. Total number of US N-weapoII. Total number of US N-weapon tests, 1945-1 Department of Energy

III. First and last test:- July 16, 1945 ("Trinity") and September 23, 1992 ("Divider")

This War is Illegal.

October 9, 2001 By Michael Mandel

(Michael Mandel, professor of law at Osgoode Hall Law School in Toronto, specializes in international criminal law.)

A well-kept secret about the U.S.-U.K. attack on Afghanistan is that A well-kept secret about the U.S.-U.K. international law and the express words of the United Nations Charter

Despite Despite repeated reference to the Despite repeated reference to the right of self-defence under Article 51 apply here. Article 51 gives a state the right to repelapply here. Article 51 gives a state the right to repel an attackapp measure until the UN Security Council can take steps necessary for international peace and security.

The The Security CThe Security CounThe Security Council has already passed two resolutions condemning announcing announcing a host of measures aimed at combating terrorism. These include measures for the legal suppression of terrorism and its financing, and for co-operation suppression of terrorism and its financing relating to terrorism. The Security Council has set up a committee toto monitor progress on the measures in the resolution and has given all states 90 days to to monitor progress on the

Neither resolution can remotely be said to authorize the use of military force. TrNeither resolution of preambles, preambles, abstractly "affirm" the inherent right of self-defence, but they do preambles, abstractly "affired Charter." They Charter. They do not say military action against Afghanistan Charter. They do not say military could could they. That's because the right of unilateral self-defence does not included that they can be also stopped.

The The right of self-defence in international law is like the right The right of self-defence in international law is like you you to defend yourself when the law is not around, but you to defend yourself when the law is not around, but it do hands.

SinceSince the United States and BritainSince the United States and Britain have undertaken this attack without thethe Security Council, the Security Council, those who die from it will be victims of a crime against humanity, just the of the Sept. 11 attacks.

EvenEven the Security Council is only permitted to authorize the use of force Even the Security Council maintainmaintain and restore international peace and security." Now it must be clearmaintain and restore international attackattack on Afghanistan has nothing to do attack on Afghanistan has nothing to do withattack on Afghanistan has provoke terrorism. Even the Bush administration concedes that the provoke terrorism a combination of improved security, intelligence and a rethinking of U.S. foreign alliances.

CriticsCritics of the Bush approach have argued that any effectiveCritics of the Bush approach have argued the involve involve a re-evaluation of the way Washington involve a re-evaluation of the way Washington conducts its affair promoted violence for short-term gain, as promoted violence for short-term gain, as in Afghanistan when it supported Iraq when it supported the Shah.

The attack on Afghanistan is about vengeance and about showing how The attack on Afghanistan is about veng is being done is being done on the backs of seing done on the backs of people who have far less control over the souls souls who died on Sept. 11. It souls who died on Sept. 11. It will inevitably result in many deaths of civilians, both from from the disruption of aid in a country where million sunday Sunday were pure Sunday were pure PR, and so are the claims Sunday were pure PR, and so are the claims of "su seen seen them before, in Kosovo for example, followed by lame seen them before, in Kosovo for example, followed by lame seen them before, in Kosovo for example, followed by lame seen them before, in Kosovo for example, followed by lame seen them before, in Kosovo for example, followed by lame seen them before, in Kosovo for example, followed by lame seen them before, in Kosovo for example, followed by lame seen them before, in Kosovo for example, followed by lame seen them before in Kosovo for example, followed by lame seen them before in Kosovo for example, followed by lame seen them before in Kosovo for example, followed by lame seen them before in Kosovo for example, followed by lame seen them before in Kosovo for example, followed by lame seen them before in Kosovo for example, followed by lame seen them before in Kosovo for example, followed by lame seen them before in Kosovo for example, followed by lame seen them before in Kosovo for example.

ForFor all that has been said about how things have cFor all that has been said about how things have changedchanged is U.S. disregard for international law. Its decade-long bombing of Yugoslavia werebombing of Yugoslavia were both illegal. The U.S. bombing of Yugoslavia were both il Court. Court. It withdrew from it in 1986 Court. It withdrew from it in 1986 when the court condemned Washington fo itsits harbours and funding the contras. In that case, its harbours and funding the contras. In that case, the court reject Article 51 in defence of Nicaragua's neighbours.

ForFor its part, Canada cannot duck complicity in this lawlessness byFor its part, Canada cannot duck complicity of the NATO treaty, because that clause is made expressly subordinate to the UN Charter.ÿÿ

But, you might ask, does legality matter in a case like this? But, you might ask, does legality matter in a case no limit to international violence but the power, ruthlessness and cunning of the international legality of the UN system, tinternational legality of the UN system, the international legality of the UN system system.

(continued on page 4)

Illegal War (continued from page 3)

We'We are all at risk from what happens next. We must insist that WashingtonWe are all at risk from what ha necessity, necessity, rationality and proportionality and

The bombing of AfghanistanThe bombing of Afghanistan is the legal and moralThe bombing of Afghanistan is onon Sept. 11. We may come to on Sept. 11. We may come to remember that on Sept. 11. We may c

This just came in from Professor This just came in from Professor Christopher Black, a colleague This just care of the article::

DavidDavid - Prof Mandel is completely correct but he did not staDavid - Prof Mandel is co involvement is also involvement is also illegal under Canadian law. The Nationalinvolvement is also illegal use of Canadianuse of Canadian forces outside Canada exceptuse of Canadian forces outside Canada (which (which do not ap(which do not apply despite the propaganda) or in accordance wi actionaction which also does notaction which also does not apply. Thereforeaction which also does not a respect are illegal and should be disobeyed. Sections 30,31,32 33 of the Act apply.

A Former U.S. Marine Sergeant's Letter to President Bush

Placed as a full-page ad. by Veterans For Peace in the The New York Times of October 9, 2001 Dear Mr. President:

I amI am a former Marine Corps sergeant who served his I am a former Marine Corps sergeant who served his count II have never I have never written such a letter before and I hope that it will somehow reach you through the bureaucrat filters.

LikeLike every other American, ILike every other American, I was appalled by the death and destruction we witnessed So sufferedsuffered a horrible attack and far too many of us have ssuffered a horrible attack and far too many of us carnage, ar nage, I know you too are suffering with the victims carnage, I know you too are suffering with the victims are assa well as your desireas well as your desire for active retaliation. I understand it well. It is ass well as your desire for a heinous criminal act.

AndAnd yet I would counseAnd yet I would counsel you to pAnd yet I would counsel you to proceed carefully. A violence.

Mr.Mr. President, you nowMr. President, you now have an historicMr. President, you now have an historic oppor economic andeconomic and military power to be feared. Youeconomic and military power to be feared. You country that can be trusted to follow the law, guided by wisdom and compassion.

II urge you to use all legal means at your disposal to determine who perpetrated this horrible crime and to bringbring them to trial before the appropriate find the ButBut I beg you, let not one more innocent lifeBut I beg you, let not one more innocent life-American, Israeli, Pales TooToo often our weapons have taken the lives of innocents. TheToo often our weapons have taken the lives of innocent inin reality it is manslaughtein reality it is manslaughter, if not in reality it is manslaughter, if not outright murder. Innocent lives? Innocent lives? Is that not also a form of terrorism? Will we rise above the level of those whoin YouYou have chosen to describe this as anyou have chosen to describe this as an act of evil. You have chosen to describe and and incite a lynch mob mentality, and incite a lynch mob mentality. What we need is compassion and cool reason to reason t

ItIt is criticallt is critical that we It is critical that we recognize not only the perpetrators' willingness to use violence, but historical context in which this atrocity and their self-sacrifice has taken place.

AsAs a former Marine, I know. what it means to be willing to sacrifice one's life for a cause one truly believes in.in. Is it not possible that these people were simply horribly cowardlycowardly and evil? If they see themselves as Davids fighting a Goliath out tocowardly and evil? If they see certainlycertainly need not agree with them. But we must understand this point of a lasting peace and avoid a world locked down and bereft of the rights and freedoms we cherish.

(continued on page 5)

Marine s Letter to Bush (continued from page 4)

Months ago we saw Months ago we saw unbearable images of a father and child helplessly pinned down in cross yourself, can you imagine that yourself, can you imagine that parent's anguish as he felt the life ebb from his son? If we actionaction which callously traps other families in cross-action which callously traps other families in cross-fire, human within us.

This moment of deep crisis is also a moment of immense opportunity. I urge you to move our world away from rom violence and suffering toward peace, freedom rom violence and suffering toward peace, freedom and abun letlet the voices of desperation be heard. Let us not repeat thelet the voices of desperation be heard. Let us not repeat the onon Racismon Racism in Durban, South Africa, but rather bring all voices to the Racism in Durban, South Africa telling the stories we do not want to hear.

We are truly We are truly a superpower, used to talking and expecting others to listen. Show the We are truly a superpostrong enough to learn to listen. I praystrong enough to learn to listen. I praythat youstrong enough to learn to list MayMay God give May God give you the wisdom to find the opportunity that liesMay God give you the wisdom to find II sincerely hope that future historians will look back at your I sincerely hope that future historians will look back at your I sense of reason that guided you in moving our world closer to justice and democracy for all.

Respectfully, Greg Nees Former U.S. Marine Sergeant

Lurching Towards Catastrophe

Bush and Blair Have Become Bin Laden's Recruiting Sergeants By Seumas Milne, *The Guardian*, October 11, 2001

This This is the fifth time since Tony Blair became prime minister that Britain and the US have taken milThis is actionaction-though not always together-action - though not always together - without anaction - though not always tog SierraSierra LeoSierra Leone and Sierra Leone and Afghanistan. In four cases, the attacks have consisted overwhelm aerialaerial bombardments; in three, the targets have been Muslim statesaerial bombardments; in three, the targets have be and and none of those under attack has been able to offer anything but token resist assaults assaults - such as the four-day Desert Fox operation nearly three years assaults - such as the four-day Desert Fox been a 10-year regime of relentless bombing raids and grinding economic sanctions.

FromFrom such a perspective, this conflict did not begin last Sunday or on SeptemberFrom such a perspective, this con thethe pattern of wars against dthe pattern of wars against developing cothe pattern of wars against developing of PresidentPresident Bush in his campaignPresident Bush in his campaign to drive Saddam Hussein from Kuwait. It was to sent sent to Saudisent to Saudi Arabia and the devastation of Iraq began - two of the three festering Muslim grid byby Osama bin Laden in his broadcast describing the New York and Washington atrocities as America tasting "what we have tasted".

ButBut none of the Anglo-American onslaughtsBut none of the Anglo-American onslaughts sinceBut none of the Anglo of of one of the poorest and most ruined countries in the world by the planet's richest and most powerful state, assisted as ever by its assisted as ever by its British satrap. For all the earnest assurances about pinpoint targeting, toll is already mounting, including the incineration oftoll is already mounting, including the incineration of a cruise missile as a cruise missile as they lay sleeping in a Kabul suburb. The almost comical futility of the military overlepitomized by epitomized by General Richardepitomized by General Richard Myers, US Joint Chiefs of State now have air supremacy over Afghanistan"

VANA MEMBERSHIP

Name: To renew your membership in or to join VANA, Name: To renew your membership in or to join VANA, please fill out the Name: To toto VANAt, to Ted Powis, Treasurer, #603-1745 Esquimalt, to VANAt, to Ted Powis, Treasurer, #603-1745 Esquimalt, W. Vancouver, Vanational office and \$10 to the branch. (You can use the enclosed addressed envelope)

Name:	Ph
Address:	
City_	

Oil Pipeline Across Afghanistan

(Thanks to Connie Fogal for sending this information) Congressional Hearings, 12 February 1998

Excerpts from Statement of John J. Maresca, V. President of International Relations, Unocal Corp

Mr.Mr. Chairman, the Caspian region containsMr. Chairman, the Caspian region contains tremendous untapped hydrod of of the scale, proven natural gas reserves equal more than 236 trillion cubic feet.of the scale, proven natural gas reserves may well reach more than 60 billion barrels of oil. So me estimates are as high as 200 billion barrels

OneOne major problem has One major problem has yet to be resoOne major problem has yet to be resolved: how where they are needed.

ButBut even if (proposed piBut even if (proposed pipelinesBut even if (proposed pipelines through Russia and Tur capacitycapacity to transport all the oil expected to flocapacity to transport all the oil expected to flow from the capability to move it to the right (rapidly growing Asian) markets.

One option is to go east across China, but this would mean constructing a pipeline of One option is to go east across justifust to right to reach Central China. In addition, there would have to be a 2,000-km connection to reach the population centers along the coast.

The The only other pos The only other possible rout The only other possible route is across Afghanistan, which has country has been involved in bitter warfare for almost two decades, and is still divided by civil war.

FromFrom the outset, we have made it clear thatFrom the outset, we have made it clear that construction of the pipeline of could not be gin until acould not be gin until a recognized government is in place that has the confidence and and our company, Mr. Chairman, and our company, Mr. Chairman, as you know, we have worked very closely with the atat Omaha in developing a training program for Afghanistan which will be open to bothat Omaha in development which will operate in both parts of the country, the north and south.

Unocal foresees a pipeline Unocal foresees a pipeline which would become partUnocal foresees a pipeline which would pipeline pipeline infrastructure in Turkmenistan, Uzbekistan, Kazakhstan and Russia. The 1,600 wouldwould extend south through Afghanistan to an export terminal that would bewould extend south through Afghanistan to an export terminal that would bewould extend south through Afghanistan to as shipping capacity of coast. This 42-inch diameter pipeline will have a shipping capacity of coast. This 42-inch diameter pipeline will have estimated cost of the project, which is similar in scope to the trans-Alaska pipeline, is about \$2.5 billion.

On the Light Side:

Another Pearly Gates story:

Two priests died at the same time and met Saint Peter at the Pearly Gates.

St.St. Peter said, "I'd like to let you guys in now, but our computer's down. You'll have to go backSt. Peter said, "I'd like about a week, but you can't go back as humans. What'll it be?"

The first priest says, "I've always wanted to be an eagle, The first priest says, "I've always wanted to be sayssays St. Peter, and off flies the first priest.says St. Peter, and off flies the first priest. The second process."

"No,"No, the computer's down. No records will be kept." "In tha"No, the computer's down. No records will be k wanted to be a stud."

"So be it," says St. Peter, and the second priest disappears.

AA week A week later the comA week later the computer is fixed, and the Lord tells St. Peter to recall the two plocating them?" He asks.

"The "The first one should be easy, Lord. He's somewhere over "The first one should be easy, Lord. He's somewhere over one may be difficult."

"Why?" asked the Lord. Because, said St. Peter, "he's on a snow tire, somewhere in North Dakota.