



UPDATE

The National Newsletter of
Veterans Against Nuclear Arms (VANA)

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Peaceful Pursuits: A New Concept of Security

By Cec Muldrew, Editor, VANA *Update*

Security through military strength is impossible. Weapons of mass destruction, nuclear, chemical and biological are or soon will be available to many nations. And as we saw on Sept. 11th, even an aircraft can be a terrorist weapon. If one of the hijacked planes had flown into one of the three nuclear power plants at Indian Point on the Hudson River, 40 miles from New York, the containment dome would have been shattered. The jet fuel fire would melt the steel supports as it did in the World Trade Centre. The three melt downs would form super hot balls of lava and burn down into the water table and to the Hudson River. The ensuing billows of radioactive steam

and clouds of mass death greater than the combined output of Hiroshima, Nagasaki, Three Mile Island, and Chernobyl, would have changed the face of America and a good part of the rest of the world. Our technological civilization is vulnerable.

The only hope for the future is in co-operative international action legitimized by democracy and the establishment and enforcement of international law.

The recent report *To Secure a Nation* by the Council for Canadian Security in the 21st Century advocates the opposite! It recommends an increase of Canadian contributions to NATO, the military alliance. This is the wrong way to go.

The UN was ready and should have taken the necessary steps to re-

spond to the terrorist attacks of Sept. 11th. It had 12 resolutions ready for just such an occurrence but the Security Council, on which the U.S. has a veto, had to initiate them. International law, that we in Canada have accepted since 1945, does not recognize the right of unilateral or group retaliation or vengeance. We must work with the UN to undermine the roots of hate and despair out of which terrorism arises.

Strategies of prevention must address the root causes of conflicts, not simply their violent symptoms. An example is the trade in diamonds banned by the UN. Diamonds are mined illegally and used to buy small arms.

The *UN Millennium Report* of September 2000, deals with prevention (see the next page for excerpts).

Taxes for Peace: Here's How to Do It

- ◆ Complete your Income Tax Form down to Balance Due.
- ◆ Calculate 7.4% of your Net Federal Tax.
- ◆ Make out a cheque for this amount to Conscience Canada Peace Tax Fund in Trust and send it to Conscience Canada (see below).
- ◆ Write a letter to Paul Martin, Minister of Finance, telling him you wish to have your taxes supporting peace rather than killing. Indicate that you have directed the military portion of your income taxes to the Peace Tax Fund in Trust — make seven copies of this letter.
- ◆ Send your completed Income Tax Form, your cheque to the Receiver General for the balance due, less 7.4% of the Net Federal Tax and a copy of your letter to your local Tax Centre.
- ◆ Send the original letter to the Minister and a copy of it with your cheque to Conscience Canada.

IF YOU WORK FOR PEACE



STOP PAYING FOR WAR.

- ◆ Send copies of your letter postage free, or e-mail, to:

- John Reynolds, leader, Canadian Alliance <reynoj@parl.gc.ca>
- Gille Duceppe, Leader, Bloc Quebecois <ducepp.g@parl.gc.ca>
- Alexa McDonough, Leader, NDP <mcdonough@parl.gc.ca>
- Joe Clark, Leader, PC <clark.j@parl.gc.ca>
- Svend Robinson, MP <robins@parl.gc.ca>
- your MP at:

House of Commons, Ottawa, ON, K1A 0A6
Note: Revenue Canada can take the money from your pension or income cheques, but you can ask for your money back from Conscience Canada.

Conscience Canada, PO Box 8601, Central PO, Victoria, BC V8W 3S2.

**Veterans
Against
Nuclear
Arms**

Membership in Veterans Against Nuclear Arms is \$20, plus membership to local branch or \$20 to:

VANA, Box 3B8, R.R.#1, Tantallon, N.S. B0J 3J0

In your giving, remember the Defence Research & Education Centre (DREC).

A tax receiptable way of contributing to peace. Please send to:

DREC, Box 3B8, R.R #1, Tantallon N.S. B0J 3J0

UN: Prevention is the Best Medicine

Prevention of Conflict

National issues don't seem to be served by preventing a conflict in another part of the world. It is easier to react when something happens than in order for something not to happen. Kofi Annan, Secretary General of the UN, says "Prevention is a challenge of political leadership." With skilled handling, conflict can bring about change and growth.

The failure of the United Nations in several peacekeeping missions was not only the fault of the United Nations, but of many of the 189 countries that were unwilling to support UN actions. Countries refused to provide forces for peacekeeping missions, so they failed. Many financial UN assessments are not paid, limiting missions.

Preventive Diplomacy

Preventive Diplomacy is often a confidential, behind the scenes, series of high level contacts - best applied early. And results are often not easy to observe. The Security Council has primary responsibility for Preventative Diplomacy. It can undertake fact-finding missions, impose sanctions or dispatch a peacekeeping mission. The Secretary General or special representatives engage in Preventative Diplomacy. Civil society (NGOs) can also play a role - "Citizens Diplomacy."

Preventive Deployment

Preventive Deployment provides a "thin blue line" in areas of tension or between highly polarized communities. It was first used by the UN in Macedonia in 1991 against Albanian guerrillas. Deployment along the border was successful.

Preventive Disarmament

UN peace agreements demobilize forces and destroy their weapons. The UN buys back small arms from civilians or provides community development. An example was Albania in 1999. A district returned 5,770 weapons and 100 tons of ammunition, and in return some 100 villages were connected by telephones and provided with street lights.

Preventive Peacebuilding

In addition to traditional peacekeeping, the UN does electoral assistance, and establishes governance, human rights and the rule of law. Other strategies include preventive humanitarian action and preventive development activities. Conflict prevention is a less costly option than military action, humanitarian aid and reconstruction.

Sanctions

Sanctions offer the Security Council an important instrument to enforce decisions without using armed force. For



example a ban on arms trade, financial restrictions, cutting off travel, closing missions or blocking access to fuel. But sanctions that enjoy success in disarmament may worsen a humanitarian crisis and cause smugglers to benefit economically. Poor civilians are often the victims.

Sovereignty and Humanitarian Intervention

Both must be supported but may be in conflict. Many countries need a real and sustained intervention to help end their cycles of violence. Intervention should be applied fairly and consistently, irrespective of region or nation. All states support conflict prevention and humanitarian aid in principle, but support is often qualified by national sovereignty or

internal opposition. What about Chechnya, Iraq and Cuba? An international security force would be more able to act. Canada has been advocating the establishment of an International Commission on Humanitarian Intervention which will increase human security.

Rapid Response Force

In the Security Council's Stand-by Arrangement, more than 80 countries have identified over 800,000 troops that could be available for service. However states can still decline to participate. On-call experienced and well qualified military officers and lists of civilian police, judicial and penal experts and human rights specialists would be needed. More and steady funding is needed for permanent peace activities as a core function of the UN. States must summon the political will to support a Rapid Response Force.

New Info. Gathering & Analysis Entity

This would accumulate knowledge about conflict situations, distribute it, analyze it and form long term strategies

The International Law Commission of the UN has 34 experts to encourage the development of international law and codify it. There are more than 2,000 international treaties, more than 500 concluded by the UN and deposited with the Secretary General.

More than 40 eminent diplomats and senior UN officers are currently assigned by the Secretary General as special envoys or advisors to head peace building missions, track evolving situations and act as moderators. The UN, along with civil society organizations and multinationals, has formed a "Global Compact." On January 8th 2002, an Advisory Board was appointed from NGOs, labour and business to bolster support for nine key principles of working conditions, environment and human rights.

UN Millenium Report, September 2000.

More on Peaceful Pursuits

By Cec Muldrew

Reform of the UN

The UN enjoys widespread popular regard around the world. The University of Maryland polled Americans in September 2000. In percent of spending, they advocated tripling UN funding, and reducing spending to the Pentagon and military aid, very different than Congress figured. But the UN is neither democratic or representative. The use of the veto by the five permanent members of the Security Council must be constrained. A Parliamentary Assembly of elected members to democratize the UN would represent the people better and deal with global issues such as environment. The UN's efforts to provide for refugees, and the provision of basic needs such as food, health, shelter and education on a very low budget has been miraculous.

Technology

Technology is benefiting the Third World. WebMD has 10,000 medical websites to hospitals and clinics throughout the developing world. An Info Tech Service trains users. The website www.netaid.org takes donations. In 1999-2000, \$12 million was raised for poverty.

Human Security

Dr. Lloyd Axworthy, after six years as Foreign Minister said "A shift has occurred in what it means to be secure, a shift to the security of the individual." Canadian policy formulated human security, and Axworthy introduced it to the UN. We have witnessed genocides and mass displacements where sovereignty has protected the perpetrators, not the millions of victims. Foreign policy has to change to protect civilians. Another shift that has occurred is the involvement of civil society, which, with its mass protests, will bring about changes to human security.

Kofi Annan says, "Ensuring human security in the broadest sense is the UN's cardinal mission. The means to achieve that mission lie in genuine and lasting prevention. Democratization, establishment of the rule of law, and respect for human rights are cardinal ingredients."

World Law

World law is concerned with the behaviour of countries. Individuals would be tried by the International Criminal Court (ICC), which now has 52 of the 60 ratifications needed to come into force, and countries could try their own citizens. World law needs:

- (1) a system of laws that all must obey;
- (2) a system of courts and judges to interpret and enforce the law; and
- (3) some kind of international police force to investigate breaches of the law and bring offenders to trial.

We have international laws now, and a World Court, and hopefully soon, the ICC. The World Federalists of Canada are sending representatives to countries in Africa and the Caribbean to help them with ratifications. A major problem is that the U.S. is in opposition, but all its allies and NATO (except Turkey) support the ICC. Senator Helms legislation, the American Service Members Protection Act, would suspend military aid and training from countries supporting the ICC.

World Government

If we had World Law, we could have world government. It would be a federation of countries just as Canada and the U.S are federations of provinces or states. A basic principle of World Federalism is subsidiarity, which means decisions are made at the lowest level where people can make the decision – municipal, provincial, federal then global. Countries would not lose sovereignty except on global issues such as peace, security and the environment.

Already we have, in addition to world law, world institutions that are working well, such as the Universal Postal Union, telephones and aviation. World government could provide us with Common Security, one international military force, in place of the 180 plus we have now. When the European union formed, it was estimated that they could set up Cooperative Security at a cost estimated at about 10% of the total military costs.

The UN is still the only global institution with universal membership. The expansion of the rule of law is the

foundation of social progress. There will be problems in achieving world law and world government, but none as serious as the risk of blowing up the world, which is where we now headed.

Defence Spending

It is not possible to conclude if money is being well spent until we have an agreement about the big picture. What form of security should we be working toward. Shouldn't Canada's role emphasize peace building and peace keeping? This is the time to start thinking strategically and fit our defence policy into new international priorities. Defence spending should work toward building a global cooperative or common security framework. While we continue to work at conflict resolution and methods of conflict prevention, we should be training personnel to be peace builders and structure our military to join the Rapid Response Forces of the UN, and move toward military equipment which could be part of a Common Security structure.

Since 1995, VANA's policy has been that Canada should get out of NATO and NORAD because of their basic military training and actions. We would encourage working toward Cooperative Security and eventually Common Security with the European Union, the Middle and Far East, the Organization of American States and Cuba, The Pacific Rim and the Circumpolar Countries.

When we attach our military forces and equipment to a Common Security arrangement we would be part of an international body of career peacemaking and peacekeeping personnel. Common Security bases could be set up regionally. Each country would be assessed a share of the cost. Hopefully, countries would use the left over part of their military budgets for social programs and provide the UN with increased funds.

What about the other tasks our forces have been called on to perform? Specially trained personnel would form a Coast Guard for surveillance, a National Police Force for domestic requirements, and specially trained organizations formed for Search and Rescue and Disaster Relief.

A Look at the U.S. of A.

Military Terror

“Many voices condemn the ghastly deaths in the towers. But does anybody think that the USS New Jersey can lob Volkswagen-sized shells into Lebanese villages – Reagan, 1983 – or set loose “smart bombs” on civilians seeking shelter in a Baghdad bunker – Bush, 1991 – or fire cruise missiles on a Sudanese pharmaceutical factory – Clinton, 1998 – and not receive some day, their share in kind?” Back in 1967, Martin Luther King said “My government is the world’s leading purveyor of violence.” Noam Chomsky has long been remarking that the industrial-banking-political-military conglomerate that rules the US is the most powerful terrorist organization in world history.

Jordi Pigem, *New Internationalist* (Jan./Feb., 2002)



Rejecting treaties & laws

The United States refused to sign the Kyoto international treaty on climate change, and treaties on chemical or biological weapons. It will not ratify the Nuclear Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty and the Treaty to Ban Landmines. It is almost the only nation that hasn't ratified the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child. It spurned the UN Summit on Racism and the UN Conference on Small Arms and Light Weapons. It refused to participate in the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development-sponsored talks in Paris in May 2001, on ways to crack down on offshore and other tax and money-laundering havens. It rejects the International Criminal Court because its personnel might become subject to its jurisdiction. It is also the only nation to oppose in July 2001, the UN Agreement to Curb the Flow of Illicit Small Arms. Prisoners of War captured in Afghanistan and taken to Guantanamo Bay, Cuba, are classified as “unlawful combatants,” a term not recognized by international law. It ran up the biggest debt with the UN. With its policies of Missile Defence, ending the Anti-Ballistic Missile Treaty and the militarization of space it has angered almost the rest of the world, even many of its allies.

Military Spending

Mr. Bush's \$2.13 trillion budget calls for an 11.6% increase in defence spending to \$379 billion in 2003. The 2003 U.S. budget proposes new tax cuts reducing federal revenues by \$591 billion in the next 10 years. They stack on top of last year's 10 year \$1.35 trillion tax reduction, which overwhelmingly targets business and wealthy Americans.

Something has to give with spending increases and revenue decreases of this magnitude. And something does. Even with a cumulative \$300 billion dip into Social Security and Medicare trust funds, the Bush administration projects a \$106 billion deficit this year and deficits for the next two years.

Without using the trust money, supposedly in a “lock box” for retiring baby boomers, the deficits for the next three years would be very much higher. Departments such as environment, labour and highways will all have their programs and budgets slashed. What will survive is a \$73.5 billion 10 year farm subsidy proposal against imports as from the Canadian Wheat Board.

Frances Russell, “Bush Revives Deficit Finance,” *Winnipeg Free Press* (22/02/02)

Arab Oil

“America's key interest in the Arab states is built on access to oil. Oil drives the American economy and the U.S. spends enormous sums of money guaranteeing access to it — \$30 billion to \$60 billion (US) a year according to the business oriented Cato Institute.”

David Suzuki, *Finding Solutions*, Fall 2000.

Central Asia

The task of the encircling U.S. bases now shooting up on Afghanistan's periphery is only partly to contain the threat of political regression — the longer term role is to project U.S. power and U.S. interests into countries previously beyond its reach. Uzbekistan and Kyrgyzstan now have permanent American bases. More airfields are under U.S. control in Tajikistan and Pakistan.

Military assistance is planned for Kazakhstan and Georgia. According to Human Rights Watch, these deals have been cut despite well documented concern about authoritarian governance, a chronic lack of democracy, torture of political prisoners and often non-existent press freedom across central Asia.

Simon Tisdale, *The Guardian* (16/01/02)

Somalia

Assisted by the Pentagon, Hollywood released *Black Hawk Down*, a fictionalized account, filled with falsehoods, of the tragic U.S. raid on Somalia. The operation, in which there were up to 10,000 casualties, was an undeclared war against an Islamic population. Several oil companies were positioned to exploit Somalia's rich oil reserves.

OnLine Journal
(3/01/02)

Warning to Europe

U.S. Deputy Secretary of Defence, Paul Wolfowitz, warned European allies that his country was ready to act outside traditional alliances in its fight against terror, and hinted that it would take a dim view of anyone trying to sit on the fence. He said NATO needed "a military transformation agenda" in order to develop its capacities in counter-terrorism.

AFP Global Network 2002

Innovative Warriors

Concept design teams met last year to plan for the Objective Force Warrior. Innovative technologies would allow soldiers to engage and destroy the enemy at longer ranges with greater precision, better communication devices, advanced situation awareness software, chem-bio detection and protection, advanced weapons and protection. "Oak Ridge Building Future Soldiers," *Oak Ridge* (26/2/02)

Military Training

Congress introduced a bill last fall called "Universal Military Training and Service Act," which if passed, would require all males 16-22 to receive military training for a period not less than six months who could be subject to recall in a major conflict.

Jon Dougherty, *WorldNetDaily.com*, 2002



Military Science

An invitation-only conference, "Scientists Helping America," is bringing together 200 specially selected individuals to focus on areas where the US military needs help.

Leonard David, Senior Space Writer, *Global Network* (29/01/02)

The Disappeared

Since September 11, up to 2000 people have been detained without trial, or charge, or even legal rights. This is an example of U.S. government anti-Arab racism and anti Islam intolerance. Victims may be kept in solitary confinement away from their families, and shackled for months on end and tried in secrecy.

"The Disappeared," *independent.co.uk*

New Military Strategy

According to an account of a speech at Citadel Military College, reported on National Public Radio, President George W. Bush spoke of the new U.S. military strategy for total management of the planet. President Bush said that any nation taking exception to that role will be met "not just comparative retaliatory force, but devastating force."

Karen Talbot, *Holding the World Hostage*

Strategic Influence

The Pentagon set up an Office of Strategic Influence (OSI) with a secret multi-million dollar budget and a staff of 15. This office will coordinate activities ranging from public press releases to secret "information warfare" in friendly as well as unfriendly countries, military officials said. In the past, such secret operations included the spreading of inaccurate or misleading information. The announcement caused an uproar in Congress and OSI may be closed.

New York Times (25/2/02)

[Editor's Note: The U.S. has since decided to close this office.]

Shadow Government

President Bush dispatched a shadow government of about 100 senior civilian managers to live and work secretly outside Washington. Without an invulnerable backup command structure, a nuclear detonation in the capital "would be game over." The centre, hardened against thermonuclear blast operates around the clock, like the U.S. Space Command burrowed into Cheyenne Mountain and the U.S. Strategic Command in a comparable facility under Offutt Air Base in Nebraska. Staff Writers, *Washington Post* (01/03/02)

Why is Canada Following America's Reckless March to War?

By David Morgan, President of VANA.

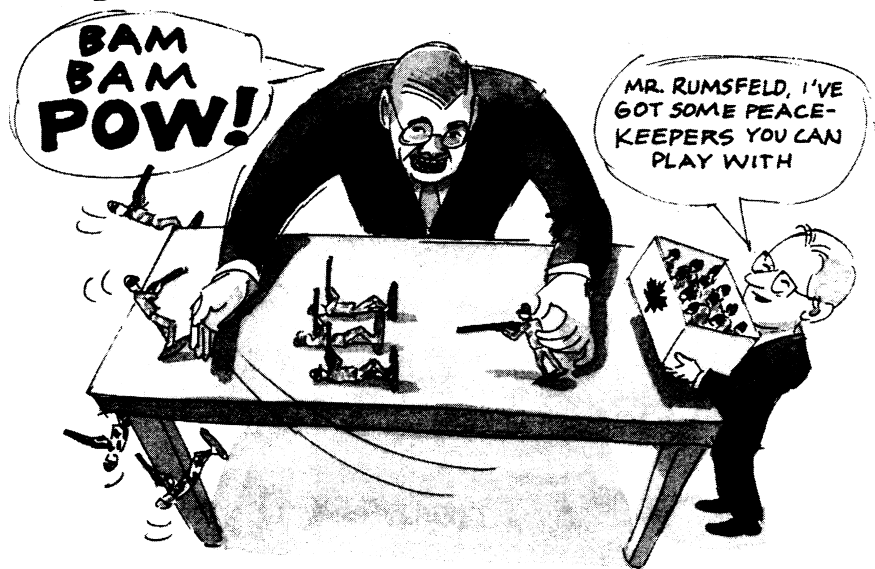
It is no big secret that President George W. Bush is eager to attack Iraq.

It also does not take a crystal ball to predict that Canada will be "on side" if this attack goes ahead. In fact Canada, with four warships in the Gulf - Arabian Sea area, and its record of supporting the sanctions on Iraq (described as "genocidal" by a high UN official who quit his UN career because of them) and also of supporting the past three years relentless U.S./U.K. air strikes on Iraq, is already securely on side. Canada's media have been far too polite to inquire why our four warships were needed to deal with Afghanistan's non-existent navy, or to hint that they may be part of the preps for Desert Storm II. Canada's media are securely "on side" too.

But why is Canada following America's reckless march to war? This is a question we should have been asking about four years ago, because this march did not begin with the presidency of George Bush. It began during Bill Clinton's term, first with the cruise missile attacks on Khartoum and Afghanistan and then with the bombing of Iraq that began, heavily, on 16 December 1998 (Operation Desert Fox), and has continued, less heavily but relentlessly, to the present day. All of these attacks were made without a shred of coverage by international law or the U.N. Charter; all were promptly supported by Canada.

But it was the U.S.-contrived and led NATO bombing of Yugoslavia that began on 24 March 1999 (a pivotal date in history) that fully exposed the reckless march to war by the United States. Canada's eager and shameful participation in this bombing, which continued for 78 days, also marked this as a pivotal date in Canadian history.

For it was on this date that Canada, together with the U.S. and NATO, broke the UN Charter of 1945, the Nuremberg principles of 1946, NATO's founding document of 1949, which subordinates itself to the UN Charter, NATO's Founding Act of 27 May 1997 on Mutual Relations Cooperation & Security between NATO and the Russian Federation, and even



No wonder Prime Minister Jean Chrétien is flustered when pressed about Canada's willingness to join the U.S. in an attack on Iraq. He is in the position of a foolish man who turns his back on law and order, joins a gang and suddenly finds out with dismay that he is expected to follow the violent whims of the gang leader.

Canada's own National Defence Act, by waging an aggressive war against Yugoslavia.

This pivotal change was confirmed by Defence Minister Art Eggleton "If the cause is 'just' and allies are willing, Canada is ready to go to war again for humanitarian reasons, even if the action defies international law and the United Nations Charter." (*Globe and Mail*, 2 Oct. '99, A14). Canada's long and proud tradition of peacekeeping and support for the UN came to an end. Jean Chrétien's government turned Canada's back on the U.N. and started to march to Washington's drum.

The Presidency of George Bush and the terrorist disasters of 11 September did not "change everything;" they just speeded everything up. Suddenly Canada is expected to be "on side" in an endless war. Fifty potential enemies have been lined up, the first of which are Iraq, Iran and North Korea. No wonder Prime Minister Jean Chrétien is flustered when pressed about Canada's willingness to join the U.S. in an attack on Iraq. He is in the position of a foolish man who turns his back on law and order, joins a gang

and suddenly finds out with dismay that he is expected to follow the violent whims of the gang leader. It is high time for Canadians to think very hard about where this prime minister and his government are leading us.

In 1945, at the end of the bloodiest war in history, the United Nations Organization was set up, in the words of its charter, to: "...save succeeding generations from the scourge of war..."

With its Security Council to maintain peace and security, its Economic and Social Council to promote worldwide progress in economic, social, cultural, educational and health fields and its promotion of a growing body of international agreements and law, the UN was a brilliantly designed peace-promoting and war-preventing machine. For all its faults, it is still our best hope.

Neither George Bush nor Jean Chrétien have come up with anything better. Canadians must now demand that our government stops following America's reckless march to war, and returns to a respect for international law and the UN Charter.

Source: Written on February 20, 2002.

Canada and the U.S.

DeNeen Brown in the *Washington Post* Foreign Service (23/2/02), writes: "In a world significantly altered since Sept. 11, Canada has been under pressure from the United States to tighten its borders, increase military spending and even integrate itself into the continent's military defence by joining the Pentagon's proposed 'continental command' to be headed by a U.S. four-star general."

Lloyd Axworthy responds "The more we tie ourselves to U.S. decision-making, the more we will inevitably compromise the ability of the Canadian government to pursue approaches that reflect our distinctive views of the world and Canada's place in it."

Frances Russell in the *Winnipeg Free Press* (2/11/01), writes: "When U.S. President Bush declared war on terrorism, freedom-loving people and nations responded. Then the U.S. retreated into unilateralism while becoming more insistent that other people and nations play only by its rules and be made over only in its image. Canadians are uniquely positioned to give American friends some answers to why they are, if not hated, certainly resented."

And Ms Russell gives three separate issues

just that week:

"U.S. trade bureaucrats are pounding Canada with sustained ferocity. The U.S. imposed an extra duty of 12.6% on Canadian softwood lumber exports. It came on top of the 19.3% tariff inflicted earlier that year. That same day, Canadians learned the Americans are gearing up to once assault the Canadian Wheat Board and our wheat exports."

At the root of both of these longstanding trade wars is American determination to stamp out anything that hints

of public enterprise (the CBW) or public ownership (the forests) as an affront to free markets and therefore a subsidy. All the while the U.S. conveniently forgets that it has some of the most lavish subsidy programs in the world for its agriculture and anything remotely connected to its defence industry.

On the same day, a bill was introduced in the U.S. Senate to pressure Canada into sacrificing a big slice of its national sovereignty to give up its own immigration, refugee and custom laws and simply adopt those of the U.S. paving the way for a North American perimeter. If its closest neighbour and friend feels bullied, what about the rest of the world?"



Short Shots: What's Next? NASA's Hyper X

In the Fall Issue of *21st Century - Science and Technology*, Marsha Freeman, associate editor, writes of a Hypersonic Program. This into-space-with-wings program combines aircraft and rocket technology to devise a system that will carry more weight, at less cost, into space.

If a space vehicle could take off from an airport runway instead of a special space centre it would be far safer and much cheaper (it costs \$5,000 to put a pound on the shuttle). Today, 88% of the take-off weight is propellant. The space shuttle carries 1.3 million pounds of liquid oxygen in its 15-story-tall external tank along with 223,000 pounds of liquid hydrogen fuel. For 50 years countries have been

working on this space plane project. The U.S., Europe and especially Russia have developed expertise in design and advanced engines.

Today's turbojet aircraft are limited to speeds of about Mach 3 — a Mach is the speed of sound, about 760 miles per hour at sea level. Above that, the turbine blades overheat. A ram jet, having no moving parts can compress air, inject fuel and obtain thrust to about Mach 6 (about 4,500 mph).

Scramjets are now being tested. These do not compress the air, but ignite fuel as the air passes through at supersonic speed taking the space vehicle (Hyper X) to hypersonic flight. Rockets would be needed for the last leg into space.

Request to VANA members

All VANA members are now receiving copies of *Press for Conversion!*, the quarterly magazine of the Coalition to Oppose the Arms Trade (COAT). Although VANA is paying COAT for the space used, we are not paying for the subscription costs of VANA members. It would be nice if VANA members could make donations to COAT. (A coupon and envelope are enclosed.)

UN Millennium Report

- ◆ It costs as much to arm and train one soldier as it does to educate 80 children
- ◆ It costs as much to build one modern bomber as it did to wipe out smallpox over a 10-year period
- ◆ It costs as much to build the latest nuclear submarine as it does to build 450,000 homes.
- ◆ To build 11 radar-evading bombers (US\$24 billion) as it would to provide four years of primary education for the 135 million children currently not in school.

“War is not caused by weapons; these are simply implements used in war. Real and sustainable peace is therefore not obtained simply by abolishing armaments. For the basis of war is injustice and the foundation of real peace is justice and equality.”

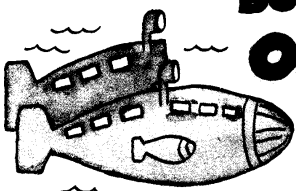
**Julius Nyerere,
former president of Tanzania**

For every soldier the average expenditure is \$22,000. For every school-age child, the average public education expenditure is \$380. One new nuclear submarine equals the annual education budget of 23 developing countries with 160 million school-age children.

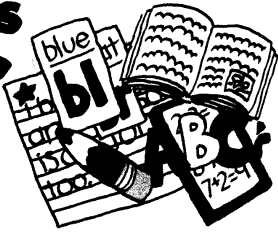
\$3 Billion

BUYS

or



1.5 Seawolf SSN-21
Nuclear Submarines



a Head Start for
800,000 Children

- ◆ Every minute, about 50 children are lost to hunger and curable diseases, while \$1.7 million is spent on the military.
- ◆ At the current rate, the entire UN system could run for two centuries on one year's outlay of the world's military spending.

In 1999, the world's power brokers spent an estimated \$719 billion of our money to run their military machines or armed forces' of which more than two-thirds (\$520 billion) was spent by Europe and North America alone. <www.un.org>

Armed conflicts are not the only threats to a country's security. Today, hunger, malnutrition and disease kill as many people in two days as the Hiroshima bomb. In the long run, the world can continue to pursue the arms race or achieve social and economic development. It cannot do both.

Eighty percent of military spending is on conventional weapons and weapon systems. Eighty percent of military spending is done by the industrial nations — US (50%), France and UK (10% each), Germany, Russia and Japan about 4% each. About \$30 billion in arms transfers are to the developing countries.

The devastation of nuclear weapons is rivaled by the death and destruction possible with chemical, bacteriological and conventional weapons. These are called weapons of mass destruction. Chemical weapons, such as nerve gas, can cause almost instantaneous death. Biological weapons, based on microbial or other living organisms or toxins, can cause slow, painful death to thousands if used in densely populated areas. The world arsenal of conventional weapons was recently estimated at 140,000 main battle tanks, 35,000 combat aircraft, 21,000 helicopters, 1000 major surface warships and 900 attack submarines.

The UN has control of nuclear, chemical and biological weapons, but not small arms and light weapons. Small arms are portable, up to anti-aircraft and anti-tank guns, and portable launchers of anti-aircraft missiles. Firearms kill some 700,000 a year.

UN Millennium Report, September 2000.

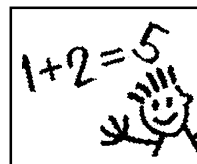
Comparative expenditures

Military expenditures per soldier (US \$)



World:	31,480
Developed:	123,544
Developing:	9,094

Education expenditures per student (US \$)



World:	899
Developed:	7,675
Developing:	143

Health expenditures per capita (US \$)



World:	231
Developed:	1,376
Developing:	22

Source: Preventing Deadly Conflicts, Carnegie Commission on Preventing Deadly Conflicts, New York, 1997.

UN Disarmament Votes

There were 20 disarmament resolutions during the General Assembly's Fall Session, 2001. The following list indicates the number of times that each country voted *yes* to these resolutions:

Security Council:

China	15
Russia	11
France	8
UK	8
USA	3

Conference on Disarmament:

The voting pattern among the 66 members of the Conference on Disarmament was quite different. The number of times that the Latin America and Africa countries voted *yes* to these 20 disarmament resolutions was generally in the high teens:

Cameroon	20
Columbia	20
Mexico	19
Syria	17
Ireland	12
Bulgaria	10
Canada	9

Nuclear Resolutions:

The number of *yes* votes by Security Council members to the five nuclear weapons-related resolutions: China, France & UK (4), Russia (3), USA (1)

Nuclear Test Ban Treaty:

Votes on the Comprehensive Nuclear Test Ban Treaty: *Yes*: 161 *No*: 1 (U.S.)

Peaceful Pursuits: A Success Story

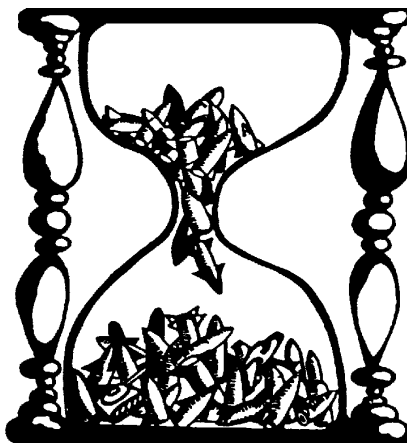
On December 1, 1948, President Jose Figueres of Costa Rica abolished the army. The army handed over the keys to the main barracks. Invited diplomats and journalists sat in silence – they thought he was crazy. The Latin Americans guests represented countries ruled by military dictators like neighbors Nicaragua, El Salvador and Guatemala. The military budget was transferred to education. Military barracks were converted into cultural centres, schools and museums.

Figueres nationalized the banks and introduced wealth taxes. He gave everyone the right to vote. Later, he nationalized the utilities and railways, extended social security, free medical care and housing subsidies. Costa Rica has a high literacy rate, good social

programs and has cultivated a peaceful civilized spirit for two reasons - education has fostered such an attitude and without weapons, the only weapon is reason.

Under Nobel Peace Prize winner President Oscar Arias, the UN University was established there. Ex-President Rodrigo Odio says "Violence is in large measure a result of culture, and to reduce violence one must reduce all of the contributing causes."

More recently, Panama and Haiti abolished their armies. These days, wars are rarely fought between national armies. They spend most of their time beating up on their own people and usurping political power. Andrew Bounds, "Bull By The Horns," *New Internationalist*, Fall 2000.



The Anthrax Scare

Barbara Hatch Rosenberg, director, Federation of American Scientists' Chemical and Biological Weapons Program, speaking at Princeton University, said the FBI has known the suspect since October, but is dragging its feet because the suspect is a former government scientist familiar with "secret activities that the government would not like to see disclosed." The scientist worked at the U.S. military lab at Fort Detrick, MD.

Joseph Dee, *ABC News*, February 27, 2002 <abcnews.go.com/sections/us/DailyNews/uneasewithamerica020227.html>

Israeli Protests

The Tel-Aviv newspaper *Ha'aretz* reports on a huge pro-peace rally on the February 9, 2002. About 10,000 Jews and Arabs from all over Israel crowded into a Tel-Aviv Plaza. The paper printed many pages of statements critical of the occupation. Hundreds of black flags were raised to signify the military's immorality. 200 combat officers and soldiers refuse to serve in the army of occupation. The German magazine *Der Spiegel* says the officers will be demoted. Another 500 are signing a petition to demand an end to the occupation. The mood is clearly swinging in Israel.

<www.coalitionofwomen4peace.org> February 10, 2002.

Boot Power

Worldwide, there are about 23 million uniformed soldiers in 1995. The more insecure a state feels, the larger its 'security forces' tend to be. On this score, Israel is in a league of its own. But the U.S., France, Britain and Australia are next in line. In some countries, private security forces are similar in size to, if not larger than, their police or armed forces. Aotearoa/NZ suggests what a more self-confident state might really require.

People in uniform¹

(Thousands - selected countries)

Country	Police		Military ⁴	Police & military (per 1,000 citizens)
	Public ²	Private ³		
Israel	15	40	185	41
US	600	1,500	1,620	14
France	110	96	504	12
Britain	190	250	233	11
Australia	47	90	58	11
South Africa	146	180	100	10
Spain	119	25	210	9
Finland	12	3	32	9
Netherlands	38	13	67	8
Colombia	??	100	146	7
Belgium	15	7	47	7
Aotearoa/NZ	??	5	10	4

Notes: **1** "State of the World 1998," Worldwatch Institute; **2** late 1980s and 1990; **3** late 1980s; **4** high end of range estimates.

Source: *New Internationalist*, Dec. 2000 with data from the Stockholm International Peace Research Institute. <www.sipri.se>

VANA Executive and Branch Reports

Executive Report

Meetings were held on Jan. 14 and Feb. 11. David Morgan chaired, Regular attendees are Ted Powis - Treasurer, Basil Robinson - Membership, Cynthia Llewellyn - Secretary, Ed Shaffer and Ed Livingston. 2002 memberships are slow coming in — remember \$20 to National and \$10 to your Branch. The financial balance was only \$4,686. when the books were handed over to the auditor. There is still \$7,000. in the Gifford Educational bursary Fund. David's annual Soldiering

For Peace letter has been sent out to all members. The executive passed a resolution making our membership year coincide with our fiscal year, i.e. November 1 to October 31.

Work is progressing to get items on to the website <www.vana.ca> Please use it.

David received an email from Al Rycroft of Rycroft and Pringle, <SunshineCommunications.ca> stating "A few days ago, Yahoo ran a story linking my website, which contains your article "Sixteen Known Nuclear Crises of the Cold War." About 14,000 people have clicked on that page since then. By the way, I notice that the Federation of American Scientists also links to this page, which in total has now been 'hit' almost 21,000 times. Thanks for the wonderful and now well read content." David plans to put an updated version on VANA's website.

Ed Livingston presented an almost completed new VANA brochure and plans are being made to translate it into French.

Concordia University in Montreal is putting on an Anti-War Conference, March 1-3 [Note: it's been postponed until April]. They will be showing our VANA Exhibit — Hiroshima, Nagasaki and Since, which David will take with him as he will be taking part in the workshops. The Phy-



sicians for Global Survival in Montreal are also interested. The Exhibit will be shown at Langara College in Vancouver, 11-16 of March and other Colleges and universities are being contacted.

A number of Branches and individuals wrote to support Kobe, Japan in its resistance to nuclear weapons especially its nuclear-free port. This is the 27th year of that policy. David also emailed widely for VANA members to support The Physicians for Global Survival in opposing an attack on Iraq. David will also write to the Globe and Mail and other media re Canada's involvement in the war and integration with U.S. forces.

Several plans are being considered for the next VANA convention — probably something in Vancouver. Defence Research and Education Centre (DREC) Report

Present at last meeting — Ian Cameron - Chair, Audrey Tobias - Past Chair, John Sutherland - secretary, Dr. Alan Phillips, Dr. Terry Gardner and guest Dave Williams - Website consultant. The meeting was at the home of Audrey Tobias.

The Balance sheet shows total assets of \$13,725. A fundraising letter has been sent out. Plans are being made with Ryerson School of Journalism for a Gifford Memorial Scholarship. A discussion was held on setting up

guidelines for approval of financial outlays.

The setting up of the website is nearly complete. VANA Update and Branch Newsletters will be on it along with our Statement of Purpose, the VANA petition and other letters and upcoming events. Arrangements have to be made for facilitators in Vancouver and Toronto.

Support was sent to Kobe, Japan, for maintaining their city as a nuclear-free zone against the opposition of their government and the USA. Out of Country Connections

For years we have kept in touch with the Veterans For Peace (VFP) in the States and the Campaign for Nuclear Disarmament (CND) in the U.K. by exchanging publications and an occasional visit.

We all know that the U.S. has consistently and strenuously defended tight sanctions on water treatment chemicals and equipment to Iraq. Thomas J Nagy of George Washington University has unearthed documents from the U.S. Defence Intelligence Agency. The documents conclusively prove that the U.S. knew the human consequences. 6,000 children have died every month for 11 years. Nagy's research brings the whole strategy behind the sanctions to light and it is evil.

VFP raised \$120,000, and

teams of veterans went over and totally rebuilt four water treatment plants, providing 70,000 Iraqis with clean water. VFP has decided to rebuild two more. They have raised \$20,000, but need \$100,000. Donations (money orders or just your Credit Card Number) can be sent to Veterans for Peace, Inc., World Community Centre, 438 North Skinker, St. Louis MO 63130

The latest newsletter from Joyce McKay, secretary of the Blackpool and Fylde group of CND, who visited us in Winnipeg, reports on the successes of our Hiroshima, Nagasaki Exhibits. And VANA's efforts to start groups of Canadians Against Nuclear Arms (CANAs).

Branch Reports

British Columbia

There was a good attendance at the December meeting when Connie Fogal, well known activist lawyer spoke on "Bills C-35 and C-36. Protest at your Peril." These laws are a great concern to the peace movement

and VANA. The Branch is working on showings of "Hiroshima, Nagasaki and Since" at Langara College and possibly others. Marvin Brown, a VANA member from Nanaimo stirred up the press with a letter on "Canada has no business in Afghanistan." and he had a follow up interview. An excellent Newsletter was put out in January and beside being distributed, was put on the internet.

Edmonton

Good news that Bud Spanner is recovering well from a heart attack.

Saskatoon

Met jointly with Project Ploughshares in January and February. Will concentrate on opposition to the Air Show. Oppose belligerent attitude of Canadian Armed Forces in Afghanistan.

Manitoba

Cec Muldrew, on behalf of VANA, was asked to speak at the National Conference of Political Science Students held this year at the University of Winnipeg. Senator Douglas Roche and

Steven Lewis were speakers at the same conference. Much of what Cec said is in the first article of this Update. The Branch had amassed about 150 names from visitors to the Exhibits and sent out many emails, regular mails and made phone calls for a video night and discussion for CANAs. Many people responded that they were interested, but the turn out of younger people was very disappointing. After several short videos, three VANA members and half a dozen other people talked for about two hours. We may continue with an activity or two a year, working with other peace groups.

Ontario-Quebec

Dorothy Ross suffered a stroke and is seriously ill. Meetings are planned for March, May, July and October with a picnic in the summer. The Branch is considering the future and the possibility of members being more effective with other organizations and individual activities. Ross Smyth has had letters published in the *Montreal Gazette* and *Macleans* magazine about terrorism.

In Memoriam

Carl Birchard, Ottawa, Ontario. Our sympathies go to his wife Charlotte.

Peggy Hammer, 83, a feisty lady, as a journalist she held editorial positions in New York for 20 years and was a noted writer and published poet. She joined the RCAF in 1942 and for a year was the Section Officer at the Code and Cipher Centre in London, England. She was a founding and active member of VANA and was a National Board member. VANA's condolences go out to family and relatives in Nova Scotia.

E.I.Loomer, Nepean, Ontario. Served in RCAF Coastal Command 1940-1945.

Harry Rankin, 81, lawyer, long-time champion of the poor in Vancouver, City Councilor from 1967 to 1993, corporal in the Canadian Army First Division, Seaforth Highlanders, wounded twice in the Italian campaign, VANA member, very widely respected and loved, died following heart surgery February 26. The sample below is a good portrait of Harry in action.

Last year, an article in the *National Post* (March 17) "Did Canadi-

ans Steal The Treasures?" suggested that maybe the Seaforth's who captured a Nazi HQ in a palace during the battle for Rimini, in Italy, were responsible: "When a family member (a Count) returned to his ancestral home," the article stated, "many valuable heirlooms – priceless works of art, fine china, ornate furniture – had disappeared."

Harry replied: "I was in the Pioneer Platoon. Our infantry was spread on hills in front of the Palazzo Des Vergers, the palace you depict. Our infantrymen were a couple hundred yards in front of the palace receiving a helluva shelling, machine gun and mortar fire from the Germans up on the hill. We were in a desperate position.... We were carrying at least 60 lbs. of equipment each. Can you imagine us looting a palace to carry away treasures? Where in the hell would we have put them? How could we have carried them away? If this pinhead writer would have taken the time to try to visualize this situation, he would have known this was impossible.

The Count who came back was

an Air Force major in the Fascist military of Italy. This article attempts to rewrite history and reinterpret war in a most offensive way. It seeks to legitimate fascism consistent with the current restructuring of the world in that image – property before people. It personalizes the vandalizing of this fascist's property instead of visualizing the real casualties – smashed peasant huts and civilians lying on the roads wounded and alive, but with no care. I saw a civilian woman lying with her leg badly wounded turning green with gangrene. People are the casualties of war, not some fascist's stolen treasure. War itself is an atrocity. It is the slaughter of the innocent."

Our deepest sympathy goes to Harry's wife Connie Fogal, also a VANA member. Connie is the moving force behind the Defence of Canadian Liberty Committee, that has defended our rights in many court cases. A donation to her office 3570 Hull St. Vancouver, BC V5N 4R9 would help her and her work, for us, at this difficult time.