



UPDATE

The National Newsletter of
Veterans Against Nuclear Arms (VANA)

Editor: Walter Josephy



President's Report

Fellow VANA members:

Welcome to our biennial convention. We are holding a telephone Conference Call Convention this year which connects VANA branches right across Canada from Halifax to Vancouver.

Your national executive in consultation with several VANA branches decided against holding a regular convention. We believe that our declining energies and our financial resources can be better used in the struggle against the worsening nuclear weapon threat. At the same time we saw the need for the formal convention process of reviewing past operations, involving and empowering members through the elections of their executive, and, in a country-wide forum, of considering our future course. Hence, the Conference Call Convention.

At our last convention, 29 September to 1 October, 2000 in Winnipeg, our main concerns were the impending threat of the U.S. breaking the Anti Ballistic Missile (ABM) Treaty and the continuing threat of the massive stockpile of nuclear weapons, still on hair-trigger alert, described very thoroughly by our guest speaker Bob Aldridge. Since then, the world situation and nuclear weapons threats have seriously worsened.

Consider the following:

- ◆ On President Bush's inauguration day, 20th January 2001, Russian President Vladimir Putin suspended the dismantling of nuclear warheads under the Start II treaty with the United States.
- ◆ On May 1st 2001, President Bush announces that the U.S. will build a missile shield and thus break the Anti Ballistic Missile Treaty.
- ◆ On 11 September 2001, terrorists destroy the World Trade Center and damage the Pentagon in America's biggest and most shocking experience of terrorism.
- ◆ On 7 October 2001, the U.S. begins bombing Afghanistan.
- ◆ October 2001: The 342-page Patriot Act is issued. It greatly reduces rights and liberties in the U.S. including right to due process - a trial by one's peers, to face one's accuser as well as view the evidence against oneself, and to have an attorney. The act greatly increases police powers to investigate, seize and detain. A similar set of laws is introduced in Canada.
- ◆ Following September 11, Israel felt free - in the name of "anti-terrorism" - to strike militarily at Palestinian targets. This provoked suicide bombings and the situation rapidly became far worse and remains so.
- ◆ On 13 December 2001, terrorists attacked the Indian Parliament launching the very serious, India - Pakistan six-month, nuclear war crisis.
- ◆ On 8 January 2002, the Pentagon's Nuclear Posture Review was presented to Congress. It named seven countries as potential targets for nuclear attack, including Russia and China, and in four potential nuclear weapon use scenarios, includes a China-Taiwan conflict. All of these realpolitik possibilities have never been so belligerently defined before.
- ◆ Saturday, June 1, 2002, Washington: The Dept. of Energy announced resumption of production of Plutonium pits, halted in 1989.
- ◆ Increasingly in the late summer of 2002, Iraq has been threatened with invasion by the Bush government. Bush has repeatedly said that this attack and "regime change" will go ahead even without UN authorization.
- ◆ President Bush announces a new, and lawless, U.S. policy of making "pre-emptive strikes" against nations considered to be a threat to the United States.

Message from the New Editor of the VANA Update

Walter Josephy

121 Buell St., #65
Ottawa ON K1Z 7E7

Fax & Voice:
(613) 729-5363

Email (text):
<ad642@freenet.carleton.ca>
Files:<wjosephy@magi.com>

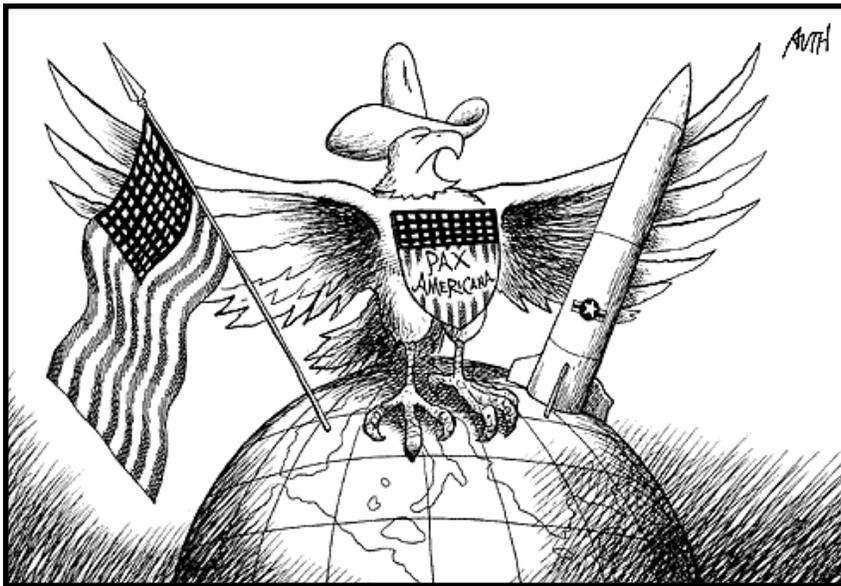
We hope that Cec Muldrew will soon be back in fine fettle. Meanwhile, I have agreed to be an editor for the VANA Update, which is part of COAT's magazine, *Press for Conversion!*

I invite you to send me whatever material you would like to see published.

This is done in the kind of fighting spirit which keeps our small and di-

minishing gang of WWII warriors more or less upright. I hope that we can still continue to make our voices heard in the cause of sane policies for an increasingly out-of-control world.

Having a "little" President in the White House whose vision, if you call it that, is limited to the length of his nose and who produces black-and-white cliché answers in a very complex world must encourage us to cry out, even in despair.



Tony Auth

It is obvious from even this brief survey, that we are in a very dangerous and turbulent period of world history. From VANA's point of view, I think that we need to recognize two very important factors in these events.

The first factor, is the increasing breakdown of international law. Afghanistan was bombed by the U.S. without any authorization by the UN Security Council and in open defiance of the UN Charter. This lawless, reckless and ineffective example of how to deal with terrorism certainly made it easier for India to escalate its smoldering dispute over terrorism with Pakistan, into a blazing, six-month-long nuclear crisis.

The threats of war uttered by President Bush against Iraq are clear violations of the supreme document of international law, the UN Charter. Article 2 of the Charter states: "All Members shall refrain in their international relations from the threat or use of force against the territorial integrity or political independence of any state, or in any other manner inconsistent with the Purposes of the United Nations." All U.S. treaties are "the supreme Law of the Land" under Article VI clause 2 of the U.S. Constitution which, by his oath of office, President Bush has sworn to "preserve, protect, and defend." Bush's defiance of the UN Charter is therefore, inescapably, a defiance of the U.S. Constitution and makes a mockery of his presidential oath.

To us veterans, the UN is a very precious war-preventing and peace-

making organization which has literally been paid for with blood. We can speak out very strongly and effectively in defence of the UN and the supreme laws of its noble Charter. Such legal issues, in these turbulent times, are of the greatest importance in warning the public about current dangers. The le-

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gal issue of nuclear weapons is the first key issue stressed by Sir Joseph Rotblat in his Convention keynote message.

The second important factor, is the increasing destruction of civilization by nuclear weapons even before they explode. There has been an enormous degradation of civilized thinking caused by the grand terrorism of the strategic nuclear weapons threat for the past fifty years. This degradation among the public has been manifest by a numb despair about these weapons and a pervasive fear about a darkened future. Polls in every country show that the public would like to be rid of these weapons. Among those in power who wish to retain them, the degradation is manifest in deeply cynical thinking. This degraded thinking has been well described by Robert McSorley who said: "Once you accept the threat or use of nuclear weapons, all other evil

is minor."

This degradation is now spreading into new areas by the threat of the tactical use of nuclear weapons by terrorists. The terrorist attack on 11 September 2001 was a lightning flash that revealed to America the cliff-edge along which America has been sleepwalking for the last fifty years. America has looked over the edge of that cliff into the abyss and recognized for the first time the enormous and real threats of total destruction. Because if four hijacked passenger planes can do so much destruction, then what might terrorists with nuclear weapons in their luggage do? To prevent this obvious and real threat, a willing surrender of many liberties is being justified, together with a big increase in police powers to spy and detain. This process is likely to accelerate, and if there is ever a terrorist attack using nuclear weapons, the public will cry out in fear and anger, insisting on greater security. Even more liberties will be lost, and the public will be led to welcome

the imposition of a severely repressive police state in the name of security.

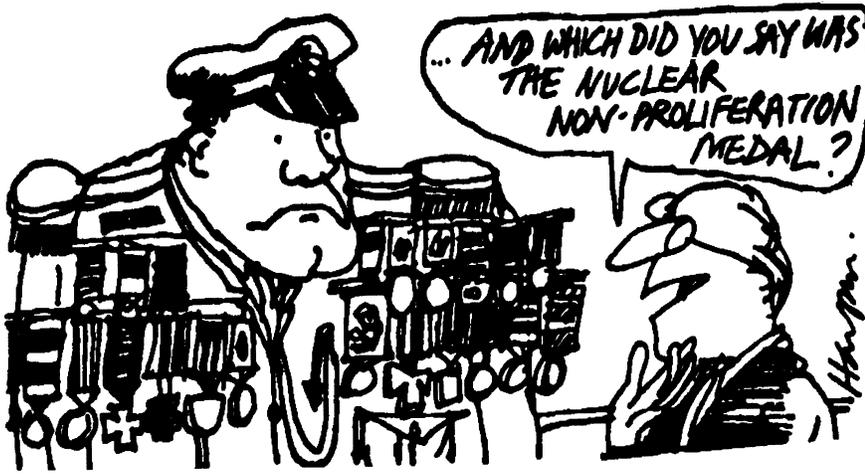
The logic of this process can not be escaped, regardless of what president is in power. The possibility of portable

nuclear weapons in the hands of terrorists, necessitates a police state.

The anti-nuclear weapon movement, of which VANA is a part, can very effectively campaign that the inescapable price of retaining nuclear weapons for our "defence," is the progressive destruction of civilization by these monstrous weapons, even if they are never used. There is already plenty of evidence to support such warnings. This ongoing destruction, is a moral issue on which VANA members can speak with great authority and credibility. The moral issue of nuclear weapons is the second key issue stressed by Sir Joseph Rotblat in his Convention keynote message.

It is against this threatening background that our organization has continued its struggle for the abolition of nuclear weapons.

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VANA Actions

What have been VANA's actions in the past two years since our last convention? To best answer this, VANA actions have been grouped below under various headings.

VANA branches have worked with other Peace organizations: Canadian Network to Abolish Nuclear Weapons (CNANW), End the Arms Race (EAR), Coalition to Oppose the Arms Trade (COAT), Canadian Peace Alliance (CPA), Project Ploughshares (PP), Council of Canadians (CC) and the World Federalists (WF). (Space precludes a detailed report of branch activities, but below is a representative sample of a far bigger list. Please pardon omissions and errors)

- ◆ VANA has been a member of the CNANW since its founding. VANA Ontario's Connie Gardner has recently represented VANA at almost all of CNANW Ottawa meetings, making very detailed and thorough reports.
- ◆ In January 2001, VANA approached Senator Doug Roche, former Chair of CNANW, with a plan to invite Dr. Bruce Blair, President, and Admiral Eugene Carroll of the Center for Defense Information, Washington, to come to Ottawa, and meet with Senators, MPs and hopefully the PM, regarding the issue of Canada, and the U.S. National Missile Defense system. Unfortunately, this plan was not feasible due to scheduling problems.
- ◆ VANA Saskatchewan now meets monthly & jointly with Ploughshares. It may soon contribute to "League of Peaceful Schools." pro-

grams. February 01

- ◆ VANA Alberta, together with PP, brought Denis Halliday, to Edmonton the weekend. April 2001
- ◆ VANA took part in EAR's "Global Cop" meeting in Ottawa, during NATO ministerial meetings, and also in the COAT's "No to NATO Festival of Creative Non-Violence" march and meeting, 5-7 October 2001
- ◆ VANA New Brunswick: Judd Corey Organized a public meeting to discuss the "War on Terrorism," December 2001
- ◆ VANA Manitoba: Is now working with CC, CPA and WF. December 2001
- ◆ VANA Saskatchewan met jointly with Ploughshares to concentrate on opposition to Air Shows and to oppose belligerent role for CAF in Afghanistan. January 2002
- ◆ VANA has produced public exhibitions on Hiroshima & Nagasaki
- ◆ VANA Winnipeg presented a public "Hiroshima & Nagasaki" exhibition, borrowed from Columbia U., Missouri. In June 2001, Cec Muldrew sent 680 videos and 680 21-page information packages on the Hiroshima-Nagasaki Exhibition to all the secondary schools in Manitoba. Another 20 were sent to VANA groups, to peace organizations and to libraries.
- ◆ VANA British Columbia presented a public "Hiroshima, Nagasaki & Since" exhibition, at the Vancouver Public Library main branch, 1-14 July, 2001. From the 148 names in our comments book we hope to form the nucleus of a

successor organization to VANA called "Canadians Against Nuclear Arms" or "CANANA." Cec Muldrew in Winnipeg has made a start on this too. This exhibition, half of it from Japan and half produced in Vancouver, was then sent to Winnipeg.

- ◆ VANA Winnipeg presented The Hiroshima, Nagasaki & Since exhibitions at the Winnipeg Centennial Library (3 weeks), at the Grand Park Mall (1 week) and lastly, at the Teacher's Resource & Training Centre in September 2001.
- ◆ VANA BC presented "Hiroshima, Nagasaki & Since" exhibitions at Langara College (18-22 March 2002) and at Douglas College (9-20 September 2002) followed by workshops with students. This exhibition will next be presented at the University of Victoria (Probably 21 October-2 November 2002 TBA)

VANA has Petitioned Ottawa:

At the time of the last convention in Winnipeg our VANA Appeal, a petition to Ottawa calling on the Government to "Return Canada's foreign and defence policies to a full respect for, and full compliance with International Law and the UN Charter," was circulating widely and had attracted wide union support from the CAW, VDLC, BCFed and BCTF.

Following 11 September 2001, our petition was modified and called on the government to;

1. Call for the perpetrators of all crimes against humanity, including those of 11 September 2001, to be brought to justice by international police action and tried before the International Criminal Court, or its interim equivalent, all under the auspices of the United Nations Organization, and
2. Return Canada's foreign and defence policies to a full respect for, and full compliance with International Law and the UN Charter.

Libby Davies, NDP MP, will be reading a copy of this petition to Parliament this fall.

Articles, Reports, Letters

VANA members have produced many articles, reports and letters.

- ◆ The Physicians for Global Survival newsletter carried an article by Alan Phillips on Nuclear Winter in December 2000.
- ◆ Alan Phillips, David Morgan and Steven Starr encouraged Toon, one of the original authors of the first study in North America of Nuclear Winter, to update the report in April 2001.
- ◆ In September 2001 two reports: "Forgotten Dangers," & "Launch on Warning," were issued by Dr. Alan Phillips

The following six articles were sent widely to the media by David Morgan:

- ◆ "Canada, Bombing and Famine Relief in Afghanistan," 17 October 2001.
- ◆ "VANA Does Not Celebrate War - A tribute to the UN," sent to CBC & all major press op eds, 11 November 2001.
- ◆ Remembrance Day Lesson Plan for Schools, sent widely on E-mail. Many replies including one from Australia.
- ◆ "Why is Canada following America's reckless march to war?" 20 Feb 2002. Besides media, this was sent to all Liberal, Bloc & NDP MPs.
- ◆ "Compare Gorbachev's & Bush-Putin's "N-Abolition" 19 May 2002
- ◆ "President Bush Plans a War of Aggression," 17 July 2002

Besides the above, VANA members have written a great many letters to the press and to politicians, and have also given interviews and made open-line presentations on radio and television.

Al Rycroft reports a total of 21,000 visits to VANA's "16 N-Crises of Cold War" report on his website.

Mary Kitley Resigns

Mary Kitley has resigned after many years of faithful service to VANA, keeping the books, keeping track of us all and playing a major role in holding VANA together. Many, many thanks Mary, we shall miss you.

VANA Newsletter

With a membership scattered across this earth's second biggest country, our newsletter is vital to VANA's survival as an organization. Our warmest thanks therefore go to Cec Muldrew who has edited and produced the *Update* so well for the past six years. Cec is passing the torch on the newsletter and the new editor will be Walter Josephy. Thanks Walter for shouldering this vital task. We can also thank the Coalition to Oppose the Arms Trade (COAT), which carries the VANA newsletter in the pages of its quarterly *Press for Conversion!*

VANA Dues

If you did NOT get a ballot in the mail in mid-September, for you to vote for your VANA exec, it means that you are not in good standing with your VANA dues and (after a generous period of grace) you will no longer receive the *Update*. To avoid this calamity, mail your \$20 dues cheque, payable to VANA, to:

Ted Powis, Treasurer,
603 - 1745 Esquimalt Avenue,
W. Vancouver, BC, V7V 1R7.

The VANA Website

<http://vana.ca/>

VANA's website has been up and running for one year, for which Ian Cameron deserves our warm thanks. The website is divided into VANA and DREC sections and under Statements of Purposes for each organization, has "click-on" headings for these VANA sections: VANA Media Alerts, *Update*, Newsletter, Branch Newsletters, Current News, Discussion Forums, Join Us, History of VANA, National Executive, Speakers' Bureau, Upcoming Events, Donations.

Click-on headings for DREC sections cover: Research, Articles, Discussion Forums, Gifford Scholarship Fund, Board of Directors, Recommended Articles, Tax Deductible Donations.

This website has great potential for spreading our message and deserves far more intense planning and regular use than I have given it. I admit to failure in this area, and commit to perform better in future.

Conclusions and Looking Ahead

We are now moving through a very troubled and even dangerous historical period. For the young and middle-aged people of Canada, the sudden onset of international lawlessness and violence is unfamiliar and must be bewildering and confusing. VANA members have lived through such events in the 1930s and 1940s and our judgments and our balance can be of great value to our fellow Canadians. We must try and make these qualities available to our society. They are very much needed. How can we best do this? I see three ways:

First, we must continue as an organization. VANA must go on. Our good name continues to spread and we are widely respected. Speaking as members of VANA we have special status plus the help available in an organization. As individuals outside VANA we lose much of this. Therefore: continue.

Second, we should take Sir Joseph Rotblat's advice about how to



put the nuclear issue back on the public agenda, guiding our approach on legal and moral principles. Arguments based on the lawlessness and the fundamental evil of nuclear weapons, coming from veterans, can resonate strongly with a public which we know, in the main, already opposes nuclear weapons.

Third and last, we must build a successor organization. Already, in Vancouver and Winnipeg, the seeds of Canadians Against Nuclear Arms (CANAs) have been sown. There is at present no organization in Canada open to the public and dedicated to the abolition of nuclear weapons. The fertile plowed field is there. We must cherish our seedlings and help them grow and spread.

Respectfully and with warmest regards,
David Morgan,
VANA President

Veterans Against Nuclear Arms Conference Call Convention 5 October 2002

Agenda

1. Call to order 9:00 Vancouver time by Chairperson David Morgan
2. Registration: As each branch joins the call, the VANA branch president announce the names of members present.
3. President's welcome & review of conference procedure
4. Approval of Agenda:
5. President's Report by David Morgan, President. (A summary of his report in the kits) Discussion & questions.
6. Treasurer's Report by Ted Powis, Treasurer. (A summary of the financial statements in the kits) Discussion & questions.
7. Membership Report by Bas Robinson, Membership Coordinator (A summary of membership statistics in the kits) Discussion & questions.
8. Elections of Officers: The results of the elections which took place in September will be announced. The new or acclaimed VANA executive members are congratulated.
9. Convention Theme: "Where do we go from here?" The Chair reminds members of Rotblat's key points and invites members to consider ways that they can be adapted to VANA's energies and resources. Summary of discussion by Chair.
10. Resolutions: The resolutions received, in the kits, will be debated and voted on.
11. Other business
12. Chair's concluding statement
13. Adjournment of VANA portion of Convention

The following resolutions have been received and in some cases edited:

1. Canada's conformity with International Law

Whereas the UN Sanctions on Iraq, enforced and maintained principally by the USA and UK, have resulted in the premature deaths of 750,000 Iraqi children, making a mockery of the UN's humanitarian purposes, and

Whereas the U.S. and UK regularly carry out lawless patrols and air strikes in the US-designated "No Fly Zones," in Iraq, totally outside any mandate by the UN Security Council or by other international law, and

Whereas the U.S., in response to the terrorist attack on New York, has carried out lawless and indiscriminate air attacks on Afghanistan, that are in no way covered by the UN Charter, especially by Article 51 on self-defence, and that these attacks have resulted in at least 3,000 civilian deaths, and

Whereas Canada has actively supported this lawlessness, therefore

Be it Resolved that in future Canada acts in full conformity with the UN Charter and only supports and participates in actions mandated by the United Nations and sanctioned by International Law.

2. Review of VANA's "Beyond Deterrence" and NATO reports

Whereas VANA's positions increasingly appear to be ad hoc, although relevant to current affairs, and

Whereas "Beyond Deterrence" and "NATO, Canada and Nuclear War," remain relevant and sound documents, therefore

Be it Resolved that "Beyond Deterrence" and "NATO, Canada and Nuclear War," be reviewed and updated and that a committee be struck for this purpose.

Resolutions



3. Canada and NATO

Whereas Canada, a NATO member, has been asked to join the NATO Nuclear Planning Group, and

Whereas three NATO members are nuclear armed, and it is VANA policy that Canada belong to no nuclear-armed alliances, and

Whereas NATO, with Canadian Air Force involvement, carried out the lawless seventy-eight-day bombing of Yugoslavia in 1999, in total defiance of NATO's own Charter and also the UN Charter, to which it is subordinate, therefore

Be it resolved that Canada now withdraw from NATO without delay.

4. Canada and NORAD

Whereas NORAD is, and any new command for North American continental defence will be, nuclear armed, and

Whereas it is VANA policy that Canada belong to no nuclear-armed alliances, therefore

Be it resolved that Canada withdraw from NORAD and not join any command for North American Continental defence.

5. Militarism and Air Shows

Whereas public Air Shows in Canada with a military component openly glorify war and militarism and use such shows as a marketing tool to sell weapons and normalize warfare, and

Whereas the public and especially young people are vulnerable to such cynical, pro-war marketing campaigns, therefore

Be it resolved that VANA oppose and protest all public Air Shows with a military component or presence.

Note: These five resolutions were received from the VANA Saskatchewan Branch on 26 August 2002.

VANA

Membership Coordinator's Report

Before presenting some statistics on VANA membership, I need to outline the procedure for gathering the numbers and distribution of paid and unpaid members across Canada.

All membership fees are submitted to Mary Kitley at the VANA Nova Scotia office. These fees are either sent to her directly or are first collected by a branch treasurer and then forwarded on to her. Mary maintains statistics on membership and faxes them through to me so that I can present them at VANA exec meetings. A summary of these statistics appears in the two tables below.

The "Comparative VANA Membership" table shows the numbers of paid and unpaid members during the past four years. The steady decline in total membership is primarily due to deaths and incapacitating illness of members.

Comparative VANA Membership

Year	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002*
Paid	258	247	233	219	218
Unpaid	153	169	154	164	156
TOTAL	411	416	387	383	374
Paid (%)	63%	59%	60%	57%	58%

(*For 9.5 months)

Breakdown of Current Members by Province

Prov.	Paid	Unpaid	Total	%Paid
BC	70	43	113	62%
AB	11	11	22	50%
SK	14	1	15	93%
MB	5	16	21	24%
ON	95	50	145	66%
QC	9	2	11	82%
NB	6	4	10	60%
PEI	1	0	1	100%
NS	6	26	32	19%
NWT	0	1	1	0%
UK, USA	1	2	3	33%
TOTAL:	218	156	374	58%

The continuing large number of unpaid members is of concern to the executive. It has been the practice to carry these members for at least two years. If delinquent members renew their fees they are "forgiven" the unpaid years and are considered "paid up."

In conclusion, I would like to express my appreciation for the excellent service provided to VANA by Mary Kitley over many years. We shall miss her.

Respectfully submitted,
Bas Robinson, VANA
Membership Coordinator



Defence Research and Education Centre General Comments

- The Income Tax Department in Ottawa questioned our change in year end from December 31 to October 31 - effective October 31, 1999. (I called Ottawa and wrote a letter explaining our situation.)
- We regret to advise you that Mary Kitley has resigned from her position with DREC and VANA. She will remain in her position until our year-end audit has been completed - i.e. 31 October 2002.
- We will transfer the accounting books and records to Vancouver, effective 1 November 2002.
- I will update our financial balances at 30 September 2002 during our telephone Convention on 5 October 2002.
- Fund raising campaigns for both VANA and DREC will be required in 2003.
- We have stopped preparing budgets for the last two years as estimates were difficult to predict.

The Defence Research and Education Centre Ltd.,
T.E. Powis, Treasurer,
#603-1745 Esquimalt Ave,
West Vancouver, BC
V7V 1R7
4 September 2002

Financial statements are excluded from this issue of the *Update*, but will be sent to any VANA member on request.



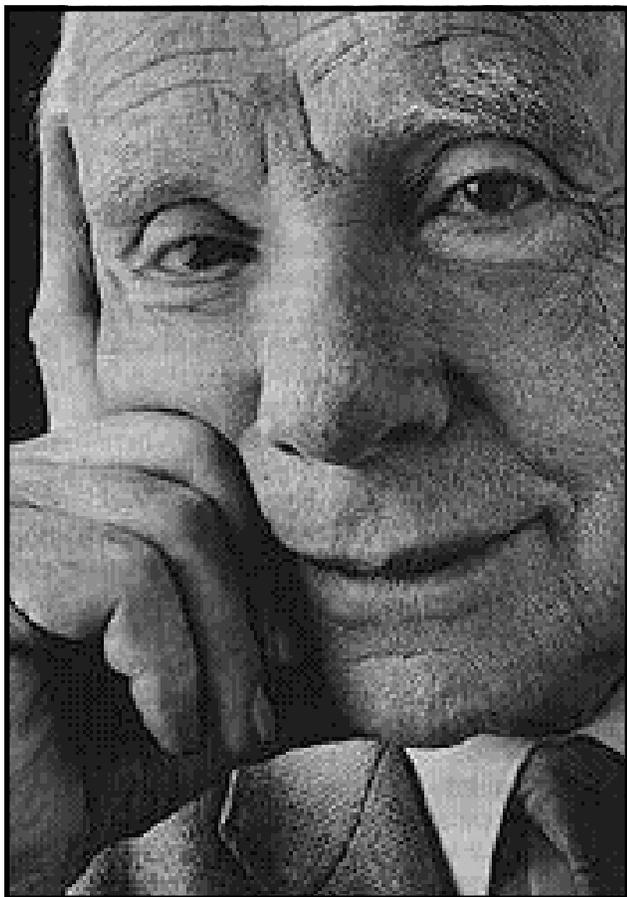
Joseph Rotblat's Convention Keynote Message:

Introduction

Joseph Rotblat was one of the many physicists who worked on the atomic bomb during WWII to offset the possibility of Hitler dominating the world if Germany got the bomb first. When it was discovered in 1944 that Germany was not even close to producing an atomic bomb, many of the scientists working on the bomb in America began questioning the purpose of this project, but only one scientist quit work on principle. His name was Joseph Rotblat.

Twelve years later Rotblat helped Bertrand Russell launch the Pugwash Movement, an informal international association of scientists dedicated to the cause of peace. This work earned Dr. Rotblat Nobel Peace Laureate in 1995.

When Dr. Joseph Rotblat, spoke at UBC on 1 March 1997, VANA members asked him if he would be an honorary member of our organization. He graciously agreed.



Letter from Nobel Prize Laureate and Honorary VANA member Sir Joseph Rotblat

From: "London Pugwash Office"

Mon, 2 Sep, 2002

Dear Mr. Morgan,

Thank you for the letter of 20 August. It was good to hear from you again.

I am very glad to hear that your organization is planning to take up the call "Where do we go from here?" at the convention on 5 October.

The situation with regard to the nuclear issue has worsened since my Washington D.C. talk. It looks now more

"The Nuclear Issue: Where do we go from here?"

The keynote speech to the International Physicians for the Prevention of Nuclear War (IPPNW) and Physicians for Social Responsibility (PSR), 15th World Congress, The Summit for Survival, Washington, DC on May 4, 2002, by Sir Joseph Rotblat. (A summary of the 11-page transcript)

- The drive for the elimination of nuclear weapons is not going well; indeed, it is going very badly.
- The situation is grim; the way things are moving is bound to lead to catastrophe. If there is a way out, even if seemingly unrealistic, it is our duty to pursue it.
- The use of these weapons may become a routine part of military strategy, according to the recently disclosed Nuclear Posture Review.
- After the collapse of the Soviet Union, the great majority of people came to the belief that either the nuclear threat has disappeared altogether, or that the deterrent effect of existing nuclear arsenals will take care of the threat. Neither of these beliefs is justified.
- I urge the renewal of a mass campaign to put the nuclear issue back on the public agenda, and I propose that it be based mainly on legal and moral principles.

The U.S. government should immediately take these steps:

- ratify the CTBT;
- retract its notice to withdraw from the ABM;
- reject any notion of weaponization of space;
- take its nuclear weapons off alert;
- adopt a no-first-use policy;
- all this in preparation for the implementation of its commitment to nuclear disarmament, under the terms of the Non-Proliferation Treaty.

In the campaign that I am urging, to put the nuclear issue back on the public agenda, we should make use of the very arguments and tactics employed by President Bush in the actions against terrorism:

- He had to build up a coalition of many countries. We must show the contradiction between Bush's willingness to break international agreements and his need for international support.
- He also had to build up a moral case for the campaign, by presenting the terrorists as evil men.

We must show the morally bankrupt policy of N-weapon use and threatened use. This is the ultimate evil. Our appeal must be to the public, rather than to cynical politicians.

likely that the Bush Administration will resume testing of nuclear weapons; in which case China will also resume testing and possibly also India and Pakistan. A new nuclear arms race will ensue. We must take action to prevent this.

Do not allow age and flagging energies (which also apply to me) to prevent you from the pursuit of this important task. I wish you all success in your endeavour.

With warm personal greetings.

Yours sincerely,
Joseph Rotblat

VANA National Executive Report

Our National Executive in Vancouver continues to speak out on issues, writes letters and holds regular meetings.

Our finances had reached a very unsatisfactory situation, which required us to arrange with the Defence Research and Education Centre (DREC), that they pay the \$300 a month charged for administrative services. David sent out a letter requesting donations and renewal of memberships. There was a fair response and now our current assets are \$3,331.

Our paid-up membership has been dropping rapidly in the last few years and now stands at 148, with 210 unpaid. Telephone contacts will be made to remind branches to encourage payments.

A bequest is coming from the estate of Earl Doe and a donation was made in memory of VANA BC member Joyce Lydiard. The executive will send condolences.

Suggestions were made concerning the newsletter, *Update*, and it will be a topic for the Convention.

VANA should encourage "the renewal of a mass campaign" to abol-

ish nuclear weapons as called for by Joseph Rotblat, our honorary member. David will contact other organizations and put an item in *Update*.

The Canadian Network to Abolish Nuclear Weapons (CNANW) requested assistance for a research paper on the implications for Canada and NATO of the U.S. nuclear weapons policy review. The executive agreed on a \$200 contribution.

A letter will be sent in support of Israeli soldiers refusing duty in occupied Palestine, and also an e-mail to Gush Shalom, which has wide circulation.

The VANA Executive meets at 9:30am on the second Monday of each month in the Vancouver Unitarian Church.

Our D.R.E.C. Executive meets every few months in Toronto.

Its finances are in good shape with current assets of \$13,345, including \$1,925 in the Gifford Scholarship fund.

Results of the nationwide fund raising campaign deemed to be very successful, with nearly \$8,000 donated

to D.R.E.C.

Agreed to pay VANA's administration costs of \$300 a month.

Continues to put items on the website, as does Ed Schafer in Victoria.

Encourages members to use the web site. It can be easily found on the internet, and now computers are available in libraries, community centres, schools and many homes. Just type in the address www.vana.ca There are two sides of the website, one for VANA and its advocacy and lobbying and the other side for D.R.E.C. and its education and research activities. You will find interesting articles, newsletters, and a place to express your ideas and read those of others. For help, call on Dave Williams, our expert, by e-mail at diwilliams@rogers.com The costs of using Dave Williams are being covered by D.R.E.C.

Discussed the costs of *Update* and the possibility of branches downloading copies from the website and distributing them to their members.

West Sees Glittering Prizes Ahead in Giant Iraqi Oilfields

By Michael Theodoulou in Nicosia and Roland Watson

The removal of President Saddam Hussein would open Iraq's rich new oilfields to Western bidders and bring the prospect of lessening dependence on Saudi oil.

No other country offers such untapped oilfields whose exploitation could lessen tensions over the Western presence in Saudi Arabia.

After Kuwait's liberation by U.S.-led forces in 1991, the U.S. monopolised the postwar deals, but the need to win international support for an invasion is unlikely to see a repeat.

Russia, in particular, and France and China all permanent members of the UN Security Council have high hopes of prising promises of contracts in a liberated Iraq from a U.S. that may need their political support.

President Bush has used the "War on Terror" to press his case for drilling in a protected Arctic refuge,

but predicted reserves in Alaska are dwarfed by the oil wells of the Gulf. Anthony Cordesman, of the Centre for Strategic and International Studies in Washington, said that the issue for the U.S. was as much the security of the Gulf as access to particular oilfields.

"You are looking down the line to a world in 2020 when reliance on Gulf oil will have more than doubled. The security of the Gulf is an absolutely critical issue."

Iraq has oil reserves of 112 billion barrels, second only to Saudi Arabia, which has some 265 billion barrels. Iraqi reserves are seven times those of the combined UK and Norwegian sectors of the North Sea. But the prize for oil companies could be even greater. Iraq estimates that its eventual reserves could be as high as 220 billion barrels.

Three giant southern fields — Majnoon, West Qurna and Nahr Umar have the capacity to produce as much as Kuwait. The first two could each

equal Qatar's production of 700,000 barrels a day.

Extraction costs in these giant onshore fields, where development has been held up by more than two decades of war and sanctions, would also be among the lowest in the world. Provided that the US can ensure stability in a post-Saddam Iraq, it would take five years, at most, to develop the oilfields and Iraq's prewar capacity of three million barrels a day could reach seven or eight million, industry experts said.

However, regime change in Baghdad will be of little value to international oil companies unless it is followed by a stable Iraq with a strong central government. Companies can't go in unless there is peace. To develop Majnoon, you need two to three billion dollars and you don't invest that kind of money without stability, one industry analyst said.

Source: *The Times*, July 11, 2002.

VANA Branch Reports

By Cec Muldrew, former editor of the VANA Update.

The Maritimes

Rev. Ron Mosley, recently remarried, is living half time in the States. He has distributed a lot of copies of the book *Rogue State — A Guide to the World's Only Superpower* by William Blum, to branches across the country. According to a blurb on the back cover, it is: "A vivid, well aimed critique of the evils of U.S. global interventionism, a superb antidote to officialdom's lies and propaganda." Ron suggests we order 10 copies at bulk discounts by phoning 800-497-3207, and distribute them widely. Cec Muldrew has ordered 10 bulk copies for Manitoba at a 40% discount.

Kell Antoft, one of VANA's founding fathers, had an excellent letter printed by the *Globe and Mail* entitled "Books not Bombs."

"Re: Afghan children going back to school: The reopening of schools for 1.5 million Afghan children is an enormously encouraging development in a world suffused by endless news of bombings, shootings, massacres and random acts of personal and organized terror. We can feel justly proud of Canada's contribution toward the UNESCO program which one hopes will overshadow any body counts attributed to our military snipers."

Robert Young of Fredericton, N.B., puts out little books of poetry. A couple of examples:

UNITED NATIONS

Conceived by love in bloody war,
"United Nations live,
To talk their problems out before,
The horrors wartimes give.

THE GROUP OF EIGHT

Beware the money changers world,
That serves the Group of Eight,
The human soul cannot be sold,
And slavery's out of date.

Ontario-Quebec

A meeting on March 26 at St. Andrew's Church was a slide presentation with Simona Powell of Doctors without Borders.

At a May luncheon meeting



about 60 gathered at the Sutherlands to be entertained by the Raging Grannies and hear a couple of speakers. James Kafieh, former head of Canadian-Arab Federation, had a solution to the current Middle East violence. It is regulated co-existence of the two peoples in a single state, helped by international political, economic, and moral pressures; and by stopping the arms trade to all sides. He joined VANA. Barry Zwicker said the activities of the U.S. are all designed to ease the flow of oil from Middle East and Caspian Sea sources to U.S. markets.

The Summer Picnic at 10 am on July 9th was held in the garden of Audrey Tobias. Peter Rosenthal spoke on Civil Liberties after September 11th.

The Annual General Meeting will be held on Tuesday, October 22nd at 7:30 in St. Andrew's United Church, 117 Bloor Sr. E. Toronto. A Co-ordinating Committee was set up to get views on the future and offers of help. Billie Mae Richards is head of the Nominating Committee. Members responses on how to continue are heartening. After discussion, a final decision will be made at the AGM.

Connie Gardner represents VANA in the Canadian Network for the Abolition of Nuclear Weapons (CNANW), which encourages us all to contribute to the present Department of National Defence Policy Review. Connie also edits, with assistance, the excellent Regional Newsletter.

The death of Dorothy Ross, after her stroke, saddens many. She was a key member of VANA for many years. She held the big summer picnic at her summer place for many years. She led the executive through difficult years, She co-ordinated the people and activities of the Co-ordinating Committee after proposing that committee. She will be greatly missed.

Earlston (Earl) Doe died of cancer in Ottawa on May 31, with his family around him. He and his wife Elizabeth (Diz) were married while both were lieutenants with the Royal Canadian Navy during the Second World War. Earl had an interesting life: a world traveller with many careers after being awarded a Ph.D in Oceanography by New York University. He was very interested in VANA and left a bequest to us and asked that any donations in his name be made to VANA. A Quaker meeting was held in their meeting House on June 2 to remember his life. Our sympathies go to Diz, the children and the grandchildren at this time.

Manitoba

Those of us in Winnipeg have taken part in associated causes with other peace groups: Peace Alliance Winnipeg; the annual Peace March, the Hiroshima Ceremony which Margaret Maier M.C.ed; the Coalition Against War and Racism with protests; anti-racism day during which Cec Muldrew

spoke at the cenotaph, and workshops and a conference on G8.

Margaret is constantly writing letters and getting them printed in the community newspapers and phoning in to phone-in programs.

Cec did an hour with CBC radio on a phone-in program on bringing our forces home from Afghanistan and he writes letters and calls in to phone-in programs.

Dr. Dave Stewart subscribes to *Medicine, Conflict and Survival*, which has articles on war and nuclear issues. The editor states "Public health measures, appropriate development and respect for human rights are all aspects of the new discipline of Peace through Health that has been recently proposed."

Margaret and Cec are getting married in September.

Saskatoon members hold joint meetings with Project Ploughshares. They are proposing a Saskatoon Peace Conference in the fall.

John and Betsy Bury were involved with the Romanow Commission on health services.

VANA did not picket the Saskatoon Air Show this year. The Air Show was presented as a tribute to veterans, and this year as a special memorial to the four victims of friendly fire. Out of respect for the soldier's families, VANA did not protest this year's show. A sympathetic reporter did a good job in writing an article with Ben Smillie's picture titled "Group gives airshow rough flight — Sponsors targeted by veterans opposed to 'war show'."

Though getting older and smaller, the Branch believes that it is

send copies to the Minister of Defence and others, which they have done. The text of the article is from the Congressional Record, March 20, 2002. The article states "We must speak out now to protect this planet and challenge those who believe in a nuclear right." And closes with "Think peace. Speak peace. Act peace. Peace."

The Branch is writing the Minister of Defence and others, that we must not automatically follow-in-line with the self-appointed policeman of the world to do his dirty work.

British Columbia

After showing the "Hiroshima, Nagasaki and Since" exhibition at Simon Fraser University, there was a successful display at Langara College. As in the previous showing, a "Comment and Contact" book will be kept to add to the list of 148 potential Canadians Against Nuclear Arms supporters.

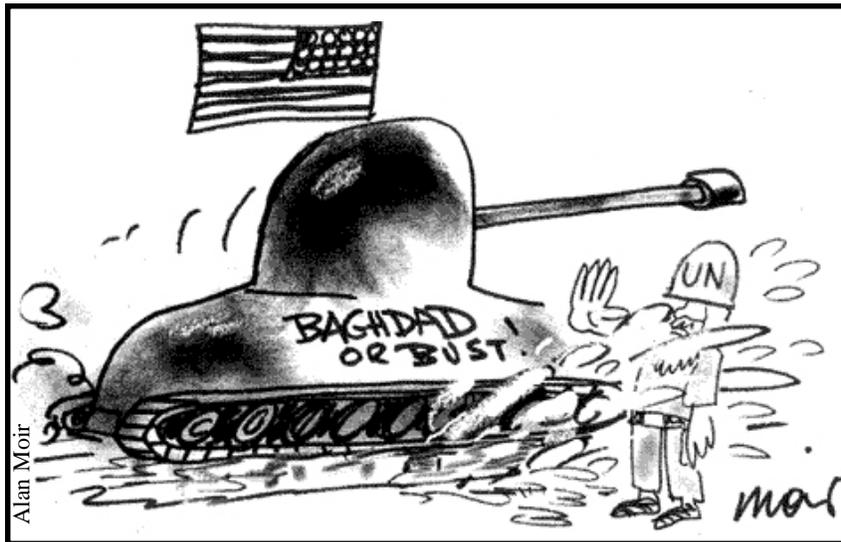
The March meeting welcomed David Cadman, president of the Vancouver UN Association, who spoke on the UN and the way the Chretien government and Washington have turned their backs on it.

Good attendance at the April meeting, addressed by Riadh Muslih on Iraq and the possibility of a U.S. attack.

A letter was sent to the Prime Minister regretting loss of four Canadian soldiers in Afghanistan, but questioning their presence there.

There was an interesting report at the May meeting by Barbara Cullen on her recent trip to the Middle East.

Many were shocked by the unexpected death of Joyce Lydiard, an active member and supporter of many peace organizations, including VANA, where she had been on the executive. She has served on the executive of End the Arms Race for the last five years and was one of the founders of Women's International League for peace and Freedom-Canada.



Saskatchewan

The local Peace Coalition continues its weekly vigil at the Vimy Memorial every Friday since Sept. 11th.

A March against War and Racism was held on April 20, with about 250 taking part. VANA members spoke: Cannon Colin Clay on the failure of religions to prevent war, and John Bury on the dangerous times we live in.

worth continuing and is preparing for the Convention.

Edmonton

At the March meeting the group voted unanimously the Branch would continue VANA work.

The Branch wrote to *Outlook* magazine about an article "A Call for Peace" by Congressman Dennis J. Kucinich requesting permission to

**Veterans
Against
Nuclear
Arms**

Please mail your annual \$20 dues cheque, payable to VANA, to:

**Ted Powis, Treasurer,
603 - 1745 Esquimalt Avenue,
W. Vancouver, BC, V7V 1R7**

In your giving, also remember the Defence Research and 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**