

UPDATE

National Newsletter of
Veterans
Against
Nuclear
Arms

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Signs of the Times

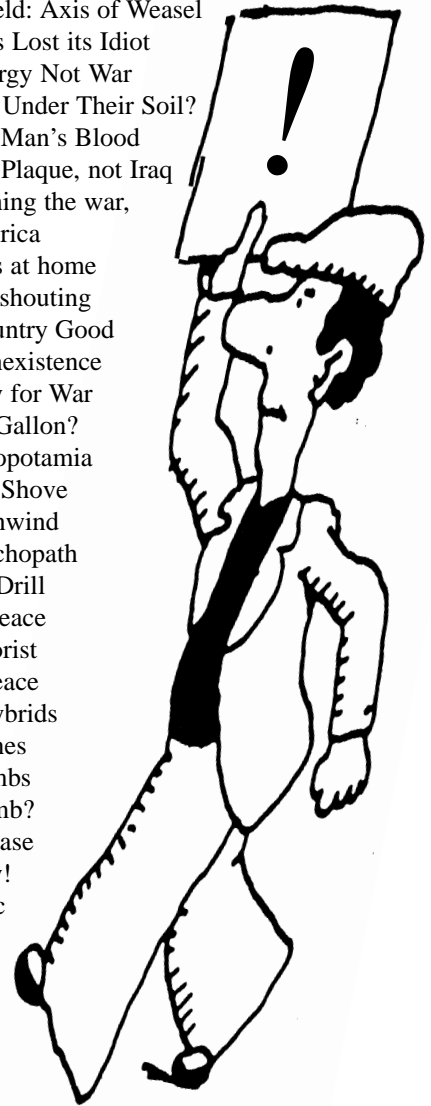
Here are some of the signs seen at the Washington DC peace march on February 15, 2003:

- Drunken frat boy drives country into ditch
- How did our oil get under their sand?
- Daddy, can I start the war now?
- He *is* a moron, and a bully
- Draft dodgers shouldn't start wars
- Consume – Consume – Bomb – Bomb
- An eye for an eye leaves the whole world blind (Gandhi)
- Mainstream white guys for peace
- Don't waive your rights while waving your flag
- I asked for universal health care and all I got was this lousy stealth bomber
- America's problems won't be solved in Iraq
- Bush: "Why should I care what the American people think? They didn't vote for me"
- Bush does for Christianity what Bin Laden does for Islam
- War is a Dick Thing, Peace is a Heart Thing
- George Dubya: Weapon of Mass Distraction
- Weapons of Mass Destruction: Look Under the Bushes
- If War is the Answer, We're Asking the Wrong Question
- Killing Innocent People is the Problem, Not the Solution
- Save America, Spare Iraq, Make Texas Take Him Back
- Tame the Tyrant in the Mirror, Then the one in Iraq
- George Bush Couldn't Run a Laundromat
- Bush is a Servant of Sauron. We hates him!
- There is No Path to Peace - Peace IS the Path
- Has Anyone Seen our Constitution lately?

Here are some of the signs that were spotted at a peace march in Vancouver on February 15, 2003:

- Bush Blair listen the entire planet is against you
- The moron wants the war on
- Bush you have not made your case. Stay home with dad.
- No more American terrorism
- Bush & Bin Laden both kill civilians
- Absolute power corrupts absolutely
- Don't let the peace process get bushwhacked
- Jeep, it almost makes you nostalgic for Kissinger
- No to war, No to Saddam, Yes to people's power
- War is not a good idea. I choose peace. I am not alone.
- It is the job of the thinking people
Not to be on the side of the executioners
- Let children grow up, not blow up
- What colour is the terror alert in Iraq?
- War is terrorism with a bigger budget
- Holy wars are never rational
- Bravo France, Russia
- War = Terror
- Weapon inspectors into USA
- Canada say No to Bush's war

- If You are not Outraged you are not Paying Attention
- Smart Bombs Don't Justify Dumb Leaders
- We Have Guided Missiles and Misguided Men
- Who's the Unelected Tyrant with the Bomb?
- Peaceful Solution! Not Daddy's Retribution!
- Sorry Dubya - Have a Pretzel Instead
- Cheney, Bush, Rumsfeld: Axis of Weasel
- A Village in Texas has Lost its Idiot
- Make Alternative Energy Not War
- How Did Our Oil Get Under Their Soil?
- Rich Man's War Poor Man's Blood
- Relax, George. Fight Plaque, not Iraq
- While you were watching the war,
Bush was raping America
- Regime change begins at home
- Stop whispering start shouting
- Pretzel - It Does a Country Good
- Nonviolence, Not Nonexistence
- Our Grief is Not a Cry for War
- How Many Lives per Gallon?
- Don't Mess with Mesopotamia
- When Bush Comes to Shove
- All Humanity is Downwind
- My President is a Psychopath
- Born to Kill, Born to Drill
- Let's try Preemptive Peace
- Honk if you're a Terrorist
- Beat the Bushes for Peace
- Real Patriots Drive Hybrids
- Faster Trains Not Planes
- Drop Names, Not Bombs
- Who Would Jesus Bomb?
- Stop mad cowboy disease
- War is so 20th century!
- Go Solar, Not Ballistic
- Drop Bush not bombs
- Books Not Bombs
- Make Soup Not War
- Draft the Bush Twins
- Brains Not Bombs
- Make Tea Not War



**Veterans
Against
Nuclear
Arms**

Since Mary Kitley's retirement, all VANA dues cheques and donations should be sent to:

Shayle Duffield,
RR#1 Z-46, Bowen Island, BC, V0N 1G0

Ontario/Quebec members will continue to pay their dues locally with the collection being set to Shayle, as above.

Outrage Spreads in Arab World

By Emily Wax, *Washington Post* Foreign Service.

A shuddering sense of outrage at President Bush and the U.S. fell over the Arab world on March 30 as TV networks and newspapers reported a U.S. air assault that Iraqi officials said killed 58 people at a vegetable market in Baghdad. "Monstrous martyrdom in Baghdad," said a huge headline the *al-Dustur* newspaper in Amman, Jordan. "Dreadful massacre in Baghdad," read a banner headline in Egypt's mass circulation *Akhbar al-Yawm*. Photos of two young victims of the blast covered half its front page.

"Yet another massacre by the coalition of invaders," read the headline in Saudi Arabia's popular *al-Riyadh* daily. "Mr. Bush has lost us. We are gone. Enough. That's the end," said DAA Rashwan, head of the comparative politics unit at the Al-Abram Center for Political and Strategic Studies in Cairo. "If America starts winning tomorrow, there will be suicide bombing that will start in America the next day. It is a whole new level now."

The anger was a clear sign that U.S.-Arab relations, despite the Bush administration's campaign to win hearts and minds, was at a low point. "Bush is an occupier and terrorist. He thought he was playing a video game," said George Elnaber, 36, the Arab Christian owner of an Amman supermarket. "We hate Americans more than we hate Saddam now."

The popular al-Jazeera satellite TV network broadcast the funerals of those killed at the market. It repeatedly showed pictures of severed body parts and wounded toddlers bandaged and crying in hospital beds." Those pictures have showed that America's war is not only against the Iraqi regime and the Iraqi army, but also

against the Iraqi children and elderly. "How can we trust them now?" said Mahmoud Sahiouny, 19, a Syrian computer science student in Beirut.

The U.S. has said it is investigating whether its forces caused the market blast Friday in a mainly Shiite neighborhood of Baghdad. Many Arabs said the bloodshed was clearly the fault of the U.S. A group of women using computers at a Cairo internet café displayed their e-mails containing pictures of funerals, wailing women, mourning men and the bodies of children in cradle-sized coffins.

"This is a media war, and America will realize sooner or later that we Arabs have a million alternatives now," Rana Khoury, 20, a political science student at American University of Beirut. "What really hurts is when I turned to American stations,



Of the 35 on this bus, only five survived. Dr. Dhiya Sultani, said "many of the people on the bus were decapitated."

Source: Robert Collier, "Hundreds in Iraqi Town's Hospital. Some Apparently the Victims of Cluster Bombs," *San Francisco Chronicle*, April 3, 2003.

they were talking about the humanitarian aid that the allies are providing for the Iraqi people. They didn't even mention those who were massacred." The outrage was also felt in Syria, which suffered war casualties when a U.S. missile accidentally hit a busload of civilians Monday in Iraq about 100 miles from the Syrian border." I was watching what was happening and I found myself cursing for the first time in my life," a 17-year-old student named Lama told the Reuters news agency. "I felt I wanted to kill, not only curse." In Cairo, some residents with long ties to the U.S. said that bomb-



"We don't do body counts"
General Tommy Franks,
U.S. Central Command

But www.iraqbodycount.net does. This site tracks the date, time, location, target, weapons used, number of deaths and sources on all the war-related, civilian deaths in Iraq.

ing civilians made them lose all hope that relations could return to normal.

"It is as if you are watching a horror movie," said Summer Said, a journalist for the *Cairo Times*. "I thought, at first, okay, maybe it isn't a war for oil. Maybe America does want to help. Now, it's genocide to me. Is the American government trying to exterminate Arabs?"

"This war is affecting civilians primarily. I did not expect to see civilians bombed and I feel exceedingly angry," wrote Ezzat El Kamhawy, a respected Egyptian novelist. "This war can only harm the future of democracy in the area.... What is happening does not implicate the future of Arabs alone but the future of America herself."

Some of those interviewed said they hated leaders like Osama bin Laden but now they were ready to fight and believed that attacks on the U.S. would be justified. "For every man they kill, there will be 4 or 5 who want revenge for this person's life. They can't just kill people and have it be forgotten," said Ali Sabra, 43, a building attendant in Cairo. "America is our enemy now. They have millions of Muslims praying against them every day."

Source: *Washington Post*, March 30, 2003. <www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/articles/A48367-2003Mar29.html>

Eminent German Historians Predict U.S. Defeat

By the German Social Democratic Party (Sozialdemokratische Partei Deutschland)

Well-known German military experts are convinced that the allies would never occupy Baghdad because historically no invading army has ever achieved this. They said there were two possibilities for the allies to secure Baghdad and Basra: destroy them totally or starve them out.

Memories of Stalingrad

Professor Manfred Messerschmidt, chief historian at the Research Centre for Military History (University of Freiburg) until 1988, who retired in 1999, is considered Germany's top military history researcher. He believes it probable that the allies will be defeated if the Hussein regime holds on to power. The conquest of Baghdad is impossible unless the allies intend to burn and destroy the capital totally. World War II, and especially the 900-day siege of Leningrad, showed that street fighting always leads to complete destruction and the most horrible human losses.

A City of Millions cannot be secured

Even the German *wehrmacht* had originally hesitated to conquer the major Russian cities, until Hitler ordered that they must either be totally destroyed or starved out. In Leningrad, as well as in Stalingrad, this concept did not work. A city of millions cannot be secured. At best, invading forces can hole up in certain locations. When streets are filled with rubble and ash, even tanks cannot move.

Conquest of Baghdad would be a precedent

The working group for research into the causes of war at the Institute for Political Science (University of Hamburg) has a website and an archive devoted to a global view of the events of the second world war. Should the Americans and British succeed in conquering the city of Baghdad this would mean a historical precedent because until now no army has managed this under comparable circumstances.

A similar view is held by Gerd Krumeich, Professor at the University of Dusseldorf and chairman of the working group for military history. In 1870, during the German-French war, Paris capitulated only because the French army and its Emperor had already surrendered and the supply situation of the city had become catastrophic. The Russian population in the beleaguered cities of Leningrad and Stalingrad retained the hope of military support. This is not to be expected in Iraq, but "Faith moves Mountains."

One cannot conquer a major city cleanly

Evidently the Americans had not calculated that certain parts of the Iraqi population would provide some support for Saddam Hussein. Nobody knows for sure how strong the dictator is. The enormous technical superiority of the allied troops and their control of the air is of no use at all in street-fighting. One cannot conquer a major city "cleanly." One effect of the bombardment is that the population will support the dictator all the more. Nothing united the German population around Hitler more than the allied bombs.

This is an odd phenomenon which can also be noted with other criminal historical regimes.

The military historian Bernhard Kroener, of the University of Potsdam, has a clear opinion about the desired conquest of Iraqi cities: "If there is resistance, a major city cannot be conquered in principle." There are no historical examples for this. Paris in 1940 and Rome in 1944 were not defended and only for that reason was a military occupation possible. And the former Vietnamese capital of Saigon was indeed conquered, but not by "foreign" invaders, but by Vietnamese.

House-to-house fighting cannot be won

Kroener believes that the awareness of Europeans has changed. A bombardment like the allied attack on Hamburg with its 30,000 dead in two nights is now quite unthinkable. Nor is street fighting in Baghdad. There are no alternatives. If the allies try to seal Baghdad off completely they will need a lot more troops and will have to count on a siege lasting months or even years. The current advance on the Iraqi capital was apparently based on the idea that the population would quickly abandon the regime. This is an error according to Koerner. Even if the population remains passive it would suffice if the elite troops can organize the resistance in order to defend the city. If the regime of Saddam Hussein cannot be destabilized and the leadership cannot be eliminated then defeat is preprogrammed.

Mao Tse Tung as recommended reading

Kroener recommends to British and American militaries a reading which, though old, nevertheless describes well how Iraqi commandos will behave in the defence of Baghdad: the collected works of Mao Tse Tung. The guerilla fighter moves within the sympathetic population like fish in water.

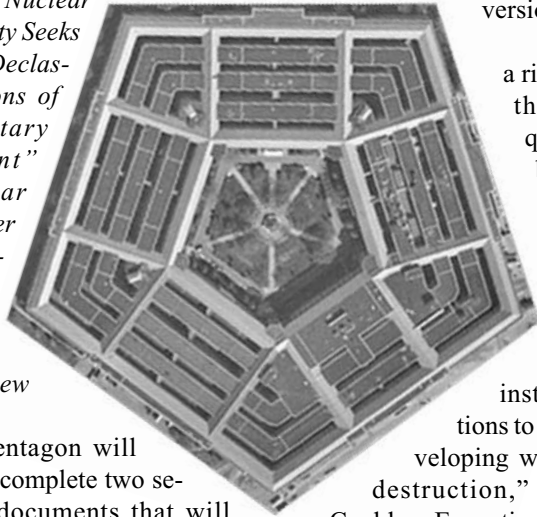
German military people must no longer say anything about the Iraq war. This applies to the press office of the Bundeswehr as well as the Research Office for Military History, now located in Potsdam. Former soldiers like retired Brigadier General Helmut Harff, first commander of the German troops in Kosovo and today chairman of the Commission for Defense Economy within the Association of German Industry, are more open. Hauff confirms the views of German military historians. "It is not possible to govern Baghdad by military means. This will lead to house-to-house fighting lasting for years, a regular terrorist guerilla war." This could already be seen in the relatively small city of Mogadishu in Somalia. At that time, the Americans withdrew because opinion at home reversed itself.

Source: *Telepolis*, March 26, 2003. <www.spd-heiligenhaus.de/antikriegsseite.htm>

Note from Update editor: The source of this article, *Telepolis*, has a good reputation for truth and responsibility. I translated this commentary because I thought it relevant and interesting. I cannot personally vouch for its accuracy, but since the various authorities quoted are clearly eminent persons, I did not hesitate to include it. It throws a new light on the Iraq disaster, *Walter Josephy*.

Secret Pentagon documents call for "usable" N-weapons

Alliance for Nuclear Accountability Seeks Release of Declassified Versions of New "Military Requirement" for Nuclear Bunker Buster and "Implementation Plan" for Nuclear Posture Review



The Pentagon will soon complete two secret documents that will spur development of a nuclear "bunker buster," according to senior Bush Administration officials who recently met with leaders of the Alliance for Nuclear Accountability (ANA).

Dr. Dale Klein, Executive Director of the U.S. Nuclear Weapons council, a joint panel of top Department of Defense (DOD) and Department of Energy (DOE) leaders, told an ANA delegation that the Pentagon is working up a "new military requirement" for a Robust Nuclear Earth Penetrator (RNEP), to be issued in "one month or months."

A separate report, delivered by DOD to Congress late last month cleared the way for the release of \$15 million in dedicated funding for RNEP research and development but fell short of containing a full military requirement for RNEP.

In addition, Dr. Klein told ANA representatives that an "Implementation Plan" for the Administration's controversial Nuclear posture Review (NPR) was nearly finished. That statement was confirmed to ANA by high-ranking staff at DOE's National Nuclear Security administration. The NPR expands potential nuclear targets from two countries to seven, including Iraq and North Korea, and prioritizes the destruction of "hardened, deeply buried targets" by nuclear bunker busters. Both documents are expected to be labeled "secret," but ANA is already working with Members of Congress to seek declassified

versions."

Taxpayers have a right to know that the Pentagon is quietly pursuing a brave new world of more 'usable' nuclear bombs and warheads at the same time it forcibly

instructs other nations to abstain from developing weapons of mass destruction," explained Jay Coghlan, Executive director of Nuclear Watch of New Mexico (NWNM), a group that monitors DOE weapons laboratories."

These plans send a dangerous, contradictory message to the world about the military value of nuclear weapons," added Marylia Kelley, who lives across the street from DOE's Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory and has directed Tri-Valley Communities Against a Radioactive Environment for two decades. "They must be viewed in the context of implementing the policy shift to 'pre-emptive' strikes made public in leaked reports about the Bush Administration's nuclear posture. The result could further destabilize an already volatile world."

Coghlan, Kelley and more than five dozen other activists from communities near nuclear weapons sites around the U.S. spent three days in Washington last month meeting with Congressional and Administration officials as part of ANA's fifteenth annual "DC Days." In addition to the RNEP military requirement and the NPR Implementation Plan, ANA also learned from senior Congressional staff that the Pentagon has drafted legislation to overturn the nation's current prohibition against the research and development of "mininukes."

Source: Media Release, Alliance for Nuclear Accountability, April 3, 2003. <www.ananuclear.org/usablenukespr.html>

Senate Committee Agrees to Lift Ban on Small-Scale Nukes

The U.S. Senate Armed Services Committee voted to lift a ban on research and development of low-yield nuclear weapons. A provision repealing the 10-year-old ban was included in the 2004 national defense authorization bill, which the Senate committee passed on May 9.

The bill must still pass through the House Armed Services Committee, and the full House and the Senate.

The 1993 Spratt-Furse Amendment prohibits R&D leading to production of low-yield nuclear weapons (less than five kilotons). The bomb dropped on Hiroshima was 15 kilotons.

The panel approved \$15 million to

Tumbler Charlie, Nevada, April 22, 1952.



develop a new nuclear bomb to penetrate and destroy underground bunkers. This redesign of an existing nuclear weapon, would be six times more powerful than the Hiroshima bomb,

The Los Angeles Times said.

The Senate committee authorized \$400.5 billion in military spending in fiscal year 2004, including \$9.1 billion for ballistic missile defense research, development and procurement. The panel also backed a provision requiring the Energy Department to "achieve and maintain the ability to conduct an underground nuclear test within 18 months, should it become necessary for the president to order such a test."

The committee was sharply divided on lifting the ban. "We have tried for 50-plus years to make these weapons unthinkable," Senator Jack Reed, a Democrat from Rhode Island, told *The New York Times*. "Now we're talking about giving them a tactical application. It's a dangerous departure."

Source: Agence France-Presse, May 10, 2003. <sg.news.yahoo.com/030510/1/3awan.html>

Using UN Resolution 377: "Uniting For Peace"

By Jeremy Brecher, historian and author of 12 books including *STRIKE!* and *Globalization From Below*.

The UN General Assembly is hovering on the edge of calling an emergency session to challenge the U.S. attack on Iraq. But U.S. opposition has been fierce. The world's "other superpower" global public opinion as expressed in the global peace movement can tip the balance if it concentrates on demanding a General Assembly meeting to halt the war on Iraq now.

Emergency General Assembly session on Iraq

A coalition of Arab, other Islamic, and developing countries has decided to ask for a special session on Iraq at the UN General Assembly. The Organization of the Islamic Conference Group (OIC) declared on March 31, that it is ready to take the Iraq war to the General Assembly. The OIC includes 57 UN member countries.

The General Assembly special session will be formally requested by Malaysian Ambassador Raetam MHD Isa, who heads the 115-member Non-Aligned Movement (NAM) of developing countries at the United Nations. The Malaysian Ambassador "plans to request the special session, in a letter to...the assembly's acting president" before April 9." The point of the request is to save the lives of Iraqi civilians," one Arab diplomat commented. However, according to UPI, "An informal tally shows that there are not enough nations aligned with the Arab states to bring the topic before the body.

Background

At a meeting March 24, Arab foreign ministers condemned the invasion of Iraq and called on the U.S. and Britain to immediately withdraw their forces without condition. The League's UN ambassador said, "We will ask that the invasion stop, that the invading

forces will be withdrawn, and that Iraq's sovereignty, territorial integrity and independence will be preserved."

The League requested and received a debate in the Security Council. But the decision was made not to submit a resolution against the war since a veto by the U.S. and Britain was nearly certain and the failure to pass such a resolution might be used to defend the war's legitimacy.

Under a procedure called "Uniting for Peace," the issue can be taken from the Security Council to the General Assembly where there is no veto. The procedure provides that, if there is a "threat to peace, breach of the peace, or act of aggression" and permanent members of the Security Council do not agree on action, the General Assembly can meet immediately and recommend collective measures to UN members to "maintain or restore international peace and security."



Resolution Content

The wording of a possible General Assembly resolution is under discussion. An OIC statement called for an immediate cease-fire, withdrawal of foreign forces from Iraq, and respect for the sovereignty and political independence of Iraq and its neighbors. However, the OIC is considering proposing a milder resolution in the General Assembly, expressing regret for the use of force against Iraq, in an effort to get support from more nations, notably European nations.

Other elements that have been

suggested for a General Assembly resolution include reassertion of the UN inspectors' authority over the disarmament of any Iraqi weapons of mass destruction; reaffirmation that all wars that are not purely self-defense against imminent or actual attack are illegal; and recommendations that countries, individuals, and civil society act to implement the resolution by means of nonviolent sanctions.

U.S. Opposition

The U.S. has been "aggressively lobbying governments around the world for the past two weeks to help head off an emergency assembly session on Iraq.

"We don't think a General Assembly meeting is necessary," a U.S. official said. "This type of session is only going to divide U.N. members."

Greenpeace has released the text of a communication from the United States to UN representatives around the world leaked by an "incensed" UN delegate. It stated, "Given the highly charged atmosphere, the United States would regard a General Assembly session on Iraq as unhelpful and as directed against the U.S. Please know that this question as well as your position on it is important to the U.S." It warned/threatened that "the staging of such a divisive session could do additional harm to the UN."

Worldwide Action

The following are a few recent examples of the arenas in which support for a General Assembly emergency meeting on Iraq is being generated:

Parliaments

Support for a General Assembly emergency session on Iraq based on Uniting for Peace has been expressed by parliamentary bodies around the world. The Russian Duma passed a resolution calling for General Assembly intervention in Iraq. So did the Senate Standing Committee on Foreign Affairs of Thailand.

Petitions

A Greenpeace web petition at

<www.greenpeace.org> calling for a General assembly session has received 60,000 signatures worldwide. There is also a European-initiated petition at <www.ufp.ht.st>

Demonstrations

Many of the huge demonstrations around the world against the Iraq war have called for the General Assembly to meet under "Uniting for Peace." A Demonstration in Santiago, Chile urged Chile's President to back a call for the United Nations General Assembly to hold a special session to "adopt moral sanctions against Bush.

Religious Groups

A group of Italian Catholic associations (Azione Cattolica, Acli, Agesci, PaxChristi, MCL, Forum Terzo Settore), allied in the organization "Sentinelle del matting," petitioned the Italian government demanding that "the UN General Assembly be called to block, based on resolution 337 [Uniting for Peace], any action which does not comply with the UN Charter so as to bring peace." They appealed for "a cease fire which will put an end to the useless massacre in Iraq.

Women

International women's organizations, including MADRE, Women of Color Resource Center, Center for Women's Global Leadership, and the International Women's Human Rights Law Clinic joined other women's organizations worldwide to call for an emergency General Assembly meeting. "The resolve of many UN member states to stand firm against the U.S., reinforced by the call to enact Uniting for Peace, offer hope for a revitalized international system."

Source: *Counterpunch*, April 2, 2003 <www.counterpunch.org/brecher04022003.html>

The information in this article on Uniting for Peace is based on "A U.N. Alternative to War: 'Uniting for Peace'" by Michael Ratner, Center for Constitutional Rights and Jules Lobel, University of Pittsburgh Law School.

Read UN resolution 377 "Uniting for Peace" (Nov. 3, 1950): <domino.un.org/unispal.nsf/62c13fb98d54fe240525672700581383/55c2b84da9e0052b05256554005726c6!OpenDocument>

Stop the War Now!

Dennis Kucinich (D-OH), who leads opposition to the war in Iraq within the U.S. House of Representatives, issued this statement on the House floor, on April 1, 2003:

Stop the war now. As Baghdad will be encircled, this is the time to get the UN back in to inspect Baghdad and the rest of Iraq for biological and chemical weapons. Our troops should not have to be the ones who will find out, in combat, whether Iraq has such weapons. Why put our troops at greater risk? We could get the United Nations inspectors back in.

Stop the war now. Before we send our troops into house-to-house combat in Baghdad, a city of five million people. Before we ask our troops to take up the burden of shooting innocent civilians in the fog of war.

Stop the war now. This war has been advanced on lie upon lie. Iraq was not responsible for 9/11. Iraq was not responsible for any role al-Qaeda may have had in 9/11. Iraq was not responsible for anthrax attacks on this country. Iraq did not try to acquire nuclear weapons technology from Niger. This war is built on falsehood.

Stop the war now. We are not defending America in Iraq. Iraq did not attack this nation. Iraq has no ability to attack this nation. Each innocent civilian casualty represents a threat to America for years to come and will end up making our nation less safe. The seventy-five billion dollar supplemental needs to be challenged because each dime we spend on this war makes America less safe. Only international cooperation will help us meet the challenge of terrorism. After 9/11 all Americans remember we had the support and the sympathy of the world. Every nation was ready to be of assistance to the United States in meeting the challenge of terrorism. And yet, with this war, we have squandered the sympathy of the world. We have brought upon this nation the anger of



Dennis J. Kucinich

the world. We need the cooperation of the world, to find the terrorists before they come to our shores.

Stop this war now.

- 75 billion dollars more for war.
- Three-quarters of a trillion dollars for tax cuts, but no money for veterans' benefits.
- Money for war. No money for health care in America, but money for war.
- No money for social security, but money for war.
- We have money to blow up bridges over the Tigris and the Euphrates, but no money to build bridges in our own cities.
- We have money to ruin the health of the Iraqi children, but no money to repair the health of our own children and our educational programs.

Stop this war now. It is wrong. It is illegal. It is unjust and it will come to no good for this country.

Stop this war now. Show our wisdom and our humanity, to be able to stop it, to bring back the United Nations into the process. Rescue this moment. Rescue this nation from a war that is wrong, that is unjust, that is immoral.

Stop this war now.

Source: Speech in the U.S. House of Representatives, April 1, 2003. Dennis Kucinich website: <www.kucinich.us/speeches.htm>

Elmer Kennedy

Elmer, who died last December in Victoria, served with the RCAF in Canada and England and received his B.Sc. in Engineering from the U. of A. after the

war. Elmer gave his time and energy to many organisations including the World Federalists and UN Association. He was a keen and active philatelist and curler. He is mourned and missed by his family and VANA friends in BC.

Letter from Hyogo Council Against A & H Bombs, Kobe, Japan

VANA received a letter from The Hyogo Council Against A & H bombs in Kobe, Japan asking for endorsement of their stand in denying nuclear armed ships entry to their port.

Dear Friends,

20 February 2003

On 18 March, we will be celebrating the 28th anniversary of the nuclear-free "Kobe Hoshiki," a local government procedure banning nuclear weapons from the Port of Kobe. Last year's anniversary meeting received 120 messages from abroad, which was most encouraging for the citizens of Kobe, as well as the 300 participants at the meeting.

It would encourage us greatly if you were to send messages as we celebrate this year's anniversary.

As many of you know, the Port of Kobe insists that any warship entering the port must submit non-nuclear certification, that the ship is not carrying nuclear weapons. This is called "Kobe Hoshiki," or Nuclear-free Kobe formula. U.S. warships have been refused entry to the port for the past 28 years because of their policy not to confirm or deny the presence of nuclear weapons on board their ships. However, before the Kobe Hoshiki, 432 U.S. warships entered the port between 1960 and 1974.

As the U.S. rushes to war against Iraq despite massive anti-war protests all over the world, we are very alarmed about the possible use of nuclear weapons by the U.S. Now is the time for all of us to stand up and say no to war, no to the use of nuclear weapons. But Japan's Koizumi Cabinet has expressed its willingness to help the U.S. and this help is regarded as top priority. The government has already dispatched warships of Japan's Self Defense Forces, including the Aegis-class destroyer, to the Indian Ocean 14 times. In addition, the government is contriving to enact contingency legislation to give even more support to the U.S.

If this legislation becomes law, all ports and harbours in Japan will be at the disposal of the U.S. Last year we were successful in preventing this law from going ahead. This year the Ordinary Diet session has already started and we are working hard to stop it again.

Strongly encouraged by your messages of support, we are making the utmost effort to spread Kobe Hoshiki to all ports and harbours in Japan in spite of much pressure from the U.S. to abandon our nuclear-free stand. The Kobe Hoshiki was mentioned as a shining example and a model to be followed by all states at the NGO's Millennium Forum at the UN in May 2000. This means that the attack on the Kobe Hoshiki is considered an attack on world opinion which seeks peace and nuclear disarmament.

Please send us a message of solidarity and encouragement for this year's meeting.

We shall work together with you to achieve peace in the 21st century. Let's make our voice heard against war, against the use of nuclear weapons.

With warmest regards, solidarity and support to your every effort for peace.

Shushi Kajimoto, General Secretary
Hyogo Council Against A & H Bombs,
Chamoto bldg. 6-7-6 Motomachi-dori,
Chuo-ku Kobe 650-0022 Japan.



www.mansell.com/pow_resources/pics_mise/kobebombs.html

Citizens of the Japanese port city of Kobe know all too well the horrible effects of war. This photo shows hundreds of bombs descending upon their city, on March 5, 1945.

Reply from VANA

Dear Mr. Shushi Kajimoto:

Many thanks for your letter of 20 February 2003 regarding your 18 March meeting to celebrate the 28th anniversary of the nuclear-free Kobe Formula, whereby your city has insisted that any ship entering your port must submit certification that it is not carrying nuclear weapons. This is an admirable record.

We note that your staunch opposition to visits by nuclear armed ships is now under pressure from the Koizumi Cabinet, whose plans to enact contingency legislation will put all ports and harbours in Japan at the disposal of the U.S. We strongly oppose this legislation.

Our organization has always opposed visits to Canadian ports by warships whose captains will "neither confirm nor deny" whether their ships carry nuclear weapons. We will therefore circulate a copy of this letter widely to peace organizations in Canada

On behalf of Veterans Against Nuclear Arms in Canada, please accept a strong renewal of the full support, solidarity and encouragement in maintaining the Kobe Formula, which we sent to you last year.

Yours truly,

David Morgan

National President, VANA.

Following the Bombs: *Eyewitness in Baghdad*

By Doug Johnson, reporting from Baghdad with the Voices in the Wilderness' Iraq Peace Team, a group of international peace-workers who remained in Iraq through the war, in order to act as eyewitnesses and to be voices for the Iraqi people in the West.

I'm overwhelmed and tired. For three days now I've concentrated on visiting injured civilians in hospitals and seeing bombed sites. This morning I accompanied April to the Al Kindi Hospital where we interviewed an extended family of 25 that had been living in six houses together on one farm just outside of Baghdad. At 6 pm yesterday, B-52s dropped cluster bombs on their farm, destroying all six houses, killing four and severely injuring many others. Even the farm animals were killed. We were told that yellow cylinders landed in their yard, and when they and the animals crept closer to investigate, the bombs detonated. The father of one of these families, Saaed Shalish, age 36 – a farmer, lost two sons but he has not yet been told. Doctors tell me that he's in critical condition.

I also met Ali Jasem, age 8, whose farm house was destroyed by a missile and whose father was killed from decapitation. Ali received surgery to remove shrapnel from his head. Later, April and I met Ishmel Shakir Kareem, age 60, who is a low income day worker who was a passenger in a car that was knocked over while driving through the Shallal Market area of the Al Sha'ab District of Baghdad. The bombing occurred at 1:30 pm yesterday, and I have just returned from the site. This is an impoverished area of houses and small shops far removed from any military targets. The bomb struck the median between the parkway, breaking nearly every window on the street, demolishing and burning a ramshackle autorepair shop, gutting a small diner and destroying the apartments above it. Sitting next to the bomb's crater in the median are a number of car remains. Crunched, mangled, and scorched car frames give testimony to the bomb's indiscriminate destruction. At the hospital, we were told that five died in that attack. On the street, however, people insist 15 or 16 had died.

I also met Hasem Hamid Shakir, age 26, who was injured in another bombing in the same district of Al Sha'ab. He sustained injuries to his left leg from quarter-size shrapnel that penetrated his car as he was driving. He claimed to have witnessed a whole family burn to death inside their car, and said a school was damaged by bombs. Today, I witnessed that site as well, and I can verify his story. A bomb was apparently detonated above a residential home next to a school, tearing apart the home's top floor with

shrapnel and breaking most of the school's windows.

I'm told that the U.S. media is claiming that Iraq is bombing their own people to frame the U.S., but I don't buy it. Bombs are dropping on Baghdad as I write this, and I'm willing to wager they're not Iraqi bombs. Let's get this straight. The U.S. is waging war on Iraq and has been for the last 12 and a half years. U.S. bombs are dropping everywhere. They have even broken windows in my hotel. These bombs are not that "smart."

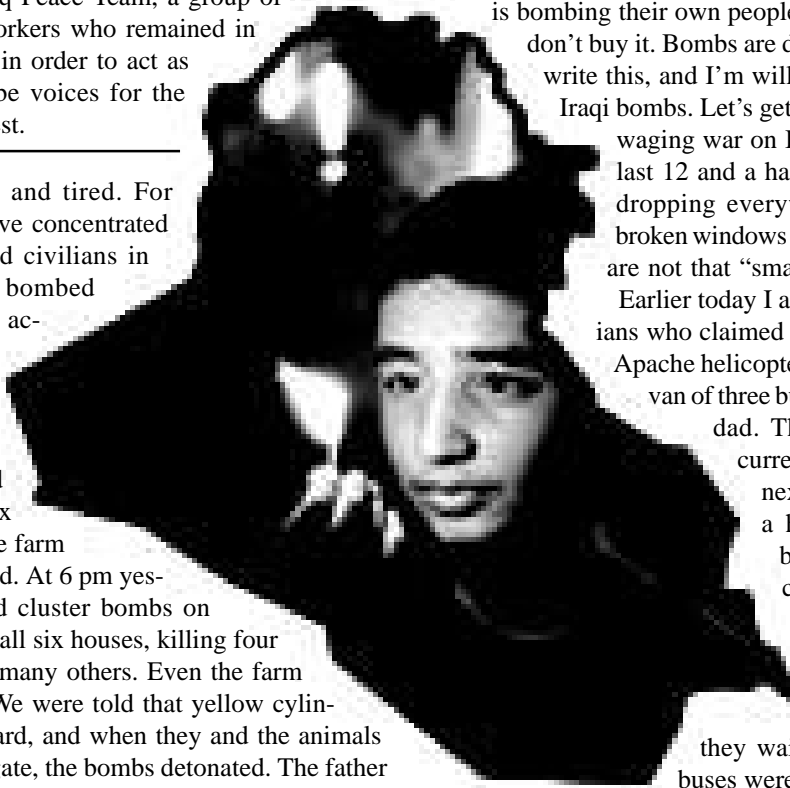
Earlier today I also met a number of Syrians who claimed to have been bombed by Apache helicopters while riding in a caravan of three busses from Syria to Baghdad. The attack, they say, occurred at the "160 K Station" next to a bridge. Allegedly a helicopter bombed the bridge, causing the vehicles to stop suddenly and collide with one another.

As they scrambled to exit the vehicles, the buses were bombed. As they waited to be rescued, their buses were bombed again. According to Abdul Malik Tutangi, age 45, 16 civilians were killed and 19 injured in the attack.

Yesterday, I visited another home destroyed by a U.S. bomb in a residential area. The home was a half block from a school and about three blocks from the hospital. Because of the weather, visiting this site was like walking on another planet. After the intense sand storm the day before, white powder seemed to linger in the air and settle in places almost like snow. Breathing became difficult. Visibility became null. My clothes stained from white specks. Windshields became blurry and smeared. The sky took on colors I've never seen before in my 43 years. Every Iraqi I've talked to says they've never seen anything like it. The sky was yellow on one horizon and orange on the other. Street lights radiated a fuzzy, phosphorescent green. I kept looking around, thinking "What is this? What's going on?" April and I speculated that the U.S. may be experimenting with a new weapon or messing with the atmosphere, and although this may sound outlandish, after enduring U.S. bombing for a weekend then seeing surreal colors in the sky, it's easy to imagine the two are connected.

Now that the sky is clear, bombing has intensified. Several large explosions have just shaken the building. It's funny, but you actually get used to it. The only affect it has on the Iraqis is that it pisses them off and they can't wait for the U.S. soldiers to arrive on the ground so that they can put up the fight of their lives.

Source: *Dissidentvoice*, March 27, 2003. <www.dissidentvoice.org/Articles3/Johnson_Baghdad-3-27.htm>
Iraq Peace Team: <www.nonviolence.org/vitw>



Military Integration Undermines Canada's Anti-War Position

By Steven Staples

Millions of Canadians applauded when the Prime Minister told Parliament that Canada would not participate in the war. It was an important political victory for peace supporters who had been working for months to deny the Bush Administration Canada's political support for the invasion of Iraq. But it did not take long for people to start asking questions after reading the fine print on the Prime Minister's decision. Why have Canada's considerable military forces in the Persian Gulf not been withdrawn? The government's response that the military is supporting the war on terrorism, not the war on Iraq, is less than satisfactory.

The contradiction between Canada's foreign policy and the facts on the ground, sea and in the air highlight a growing problem with our military. The Canadian Forces place a premium on being easily integrated with U.S. forces, and have been edging Canada into the arms of the Pentagon. Military integration is undermining the ability of the government to set independent foreign policies.

Military integration is the most advanced in the navy. For example, in 2001 the HMCS Vancouver, one of Canada's frigates, joined a U.S. Carrier Battle group led by the aircraft carrier USS John C. Stennis. The HMCS Vancouver assisted in defending the armada of ships and submarines in the Arabian Sea where the aircraft carrier proceeded to launch more than 10,000 bombing runs against Afghanistan. This level of deep military integration goes largely unnoticed while Canadian and American foreign policies are in agreement. But when those policies disagree as they have over the war on Iraq, the problem of integrated militaries becomes evident immediately. Today, Canadian ships and aircraft in the region are clearly playing a war role despite Canada's policy. Our three frigates have been permitted to escort U.S. warships up the Persian Gulf to Kuwait, our two Aurora surveillance planes are relaying information to the U.S. Fifth Fleet,

Credit: Cpl Shawn M. Kent



An "Amphibious Readiness Group" composed of U.S. and Canadian warships (Arabian Sea, Jan. 14, 2002). From top left: *Charlottetown* (Cdn. patrol frigate), *Iroquois* (Cdn. destroyer), *Bataan* (U.S. amphibious assault ship), *Decatur* (U.S. guided missile destroyer) and *Halifax* (Cdn. patrol frigate).

Despite Canada's so-called "anti-war position," the Canadian warships *Iroquois*, *Fredericton*, *Regina*, *Winnipeg* and *Montreal* protected U.S. warships in the Persian Gulf during the war. The first three are there right now, participating in the war.

and a handful of exchange soldiers are serving in U.S. and U.K. military units, including a unit laying siege to the Iraqi city of Basra and another aboard an AWACS air control plane directing the air war. Only Canada's three Hercules transport aircraft have been ordered to not transport war materiel. Policy incoherence would be an understatement. While the government's decision to not join the war is very significant politically, it makes little difference militarily. Had the government decided to support the war, Canada would have practically the same number of ship and planes conducting virtually the same missions as they are right now. The only possible addition would have been commandos and CF-18s, but certainly not troops.

In March, U.S. Ambassador to Canada Paul Cellucci said that Canadian forces are making a greater contribution to the war than most of the 45 countries of the so-called Coalition of the Willing. Spain, an ardent supporter of the war, has committed only a medical ship and no combat troops. Denmark sent a single submarine.

Even more, Canadian soldiers' involvement with U.S. military forces could break our international treaty commitments. The list of agreements signed by Canada and rejected by the United States grows longer all the time. For example, Michael Byers of Duke

University has pointed out that the U.S. was violating Article 5 of the Geneva Conventions when Taliban prisoners were handed over to U.S. forces by Canadian commandos from Canada's Joint Task Force 2 in Afghanistan.

What will happen if a Canadian soldier serving with U.S. combat units in Iraq is ordered to lay land mines? Should he refuse? And if he doesn't, would this not be a violation of our commitments under the Land Mines treaty – a treaty that was championed by Canada but rejected by the U.S.?

The situation is untenable. Both the New Democratic Party and the Bloc Quebecois have called on the government to withdraw Canada's military force from the Persian Gulf region. This week peace groups have joined that call, heralding what could become a much greater outcry about the role of the Canadian Forces in the war.

The Canadian government has gone a long way to set an independent course for Canada under what was likely tremendous pressure to join the war. But these issues will persist as long as the Canadian military continues to pursue greater interoperability and integration with U.S. forces. The distinction between the Canadian military and the U.S. military could soon become as difficult to see as desert camouflage.

Source: *Toronto Star*, March 31, 2003.

Who Says Canada's Not at War?

Forget what we say. Look at what we do to aid and abet the U.S. war effort

By Richard Sanders, Editor, *Press for Conversion!*

Isn't it amazing how Canada can contribute so much to a war without being involved?

On March 25, in the midst of his rebuke for our "non-involvement," U.S. Ambassador Paul Cellucci admitted: "Ironically, the Canadians indirectly provide more support for us in Iraq than most of those 46 countries that are fully supporting us." In fact, Canada's military contribution puts us right after Britain and Australia in the "coalition of the willing." In some important ways we contribute more than Australia.

Yet the lie that Canada isn't involved has spread like wildfire through Canada and the United States (at least, as much as any information about Canada can permeate American consciousness). It is yet another example of a successful campaign conducted by the Canadian government to promote the myth of Canada as a world-class peacemaker. Behind the scenes, Ottawa is doing all it can to aid and abet the war.

Providing war planners:

For months, Canadian military planners have been working with U.S. Central Command (USCENTCOM), which is masterminding the Iraq war. USCENTCOM used to be located at MacDill Air Force Base in Florida. On Feb. 11, Canada disclosed that it had transferred 25 military planners from MacDill to the U.S. military's forward command post in Qatar in the Persian Gulf – the new command-and-control headquarters. The role they play is far more significant than having a few soldiers fighting on the ground; Canadians have helped to determine the war's strategy and are now helping to run it, from the inside – unlike many members of the "coalition of the willing."

Naval Protection:

Canada is leading a multinational naval task force in the Persian Gulf with about 1,300 Canadian personnel on

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three frigates. Our ships, as well as a multinational fleet of about a dozen other warships, are under the command of Canada's Commodore Roger Girouard, who reports to U.S. Vice-Admiral Timothy Keating. The fleet protects U.S. aircraft carriers, which serve as "platforms" for the air war against Iraq. We're there as part of Operation Apollo, in terms of our contribution to the war in Afghanistan, but Vice-Admiral Keating is the top naval officer in the war on terrorism, dubbed Operation Enduring Freedom, and the head of the U.S. Fifth Fleet, which is very much at war with Iraq.

Exchange troops:

There are at least 31 "exchange troops" – Canadians on loan to British and U.S. forces. Prime Minister Jean Chrétien has denied that any are engaged in fighting on the ground in Iraq. But newspaper reporters, including *The Globe and Mail's* Daniel Leblanc, say that at least six Canadians are in battle zones. And one Canadian is with the British 7th Armoured Brigade, which has engaged in heavy fighting near Basra.

AWACS:

Canadian Forces members are also part of crews on Airborne Warning and Control System (AWACS) aircraft. These state-of-the-art aircraft are the nerve centres that guide fighter jets and bombers so that they can deliver their payloads. Chrétien explains this away with a statement that the Canadians on AWACS oversee flights bound for various destinations: "They are covering many countries in their surveillance, not only one," the PM says.

Troops in Afghanistan:

By contributing between 1,000 and 2,000 troops to Afghanistan, Canada has freed up key U.S. logistical and

military assets, which can be redeployed to Iraq.

Equipment:

The United States is Canada's biggest military customer; Canadian military production is thoroughly integrated into the U.S. military machine, and last year we sold them an estimated \$1.75 billion worth of military goods. Many major components, such as aircraft engines for warplanes, are made in Canada. Although Canada claims to have one of the world's strictest sets of guidelines to stop the export of our military goods, none are set on military exports to the United States and no Canadian government permits are required.

Air space:

The use of Canadian air space by U.S. warplanes may not seem significant – but it is one form of support that Washington has specifically requested from other countries if they wish to be counted among the "coalition of the willing." U.S. aircraft carrying troops bound for Iraq regularly stop to refuel and change crews in Newfoundland. "We've been getting two or three flights a day, with probably 1,000 troops coming through each day," Gary Vey, chief executive officer of the Gander Airport Authority, told the *Ottawa Citizen*.

So how long can Ottawa get away with saying that Canada is *not* involved in this war?

The misrepresentation has been easy to perpetuate, because it feeds into the long-standing, widely held image the world has of Canada as peacemaker. This image is rooted deeply in our own self-image, too – so much so that although we take a leading role in the international weapons trade, and in supporting the Americans, we even seem to be fooling ourselves.

Source: *Globe and Mail*, March 31, 2003. <www.globeandmail.com/servlet/ArticleNews/TPStory/lac/20030331/cosanders/TPComment/TopStories>