



Turning Point

Physicians for Global Survival (Canada) • Médecins pour la Survie Mondiale (Canada)

INSIDE

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"Because of our concern for global health, we are committed to the abolition of nuclear weapons, the prevention of war, and the promotion of non-violent means of conflict resolution and social justice in a sustainable world."

1985 NOBEL PEACE PRIZE



"En raison de nos préoccupations pour la santé mondiale, nous sommes déterminés à faire interdire les armes nucléaires, à prévenir la guerre, à promouvoir des moyens pacifiques de résolution de conflit et à instaurer la justice sociale dans un monde viable."

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Prevention of Nuclear War

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

"We must create and convey our own images of helping, understanding and caring..."

by Allan Connolly M.D.

It is just a year now since the US-UK led invasion of Iraq and it has been a very intense year for me personally. I have grappled with many issues and had opportunities for thoughtful discussions with medical students, other physicians and peace activists. I am left with the deep conviction that we must and can do more to counter the violence that is being waged in the name of achieving security.

We are seeing the term "security" being used to justify war and intolerance. But true global security can only be accomplished through peaceful means. As governments and media bombard us daily with thoughts and images of violence, it would seem that they are taking advantage of citizens' fears to win support for war, or at least to win our silence. As fear permeates our society, global security is eroded.

Through repeated exposure to images of violence I believe we lose a sense of tolerance and opportunities for dialogue and to understand events from the perspective of others.

Faced with such obstacles, is there anything that we can do to maintain our compassion and to work for peace and social justice? I believe there is.

Citizens are dealing with enormous issues and making efforts to better understand one another. I've seen people respond in compassionate ways when confronted with violence—reaching out with renewed empathy and attempting to bridge differences. We must create and convey our own images of helping, understanding and caring. Remaining convinced that there are alternatives to

violence helps us avoid falling into the trap of the aggression that can come of fear.

We all have a role - indeed a responsibility -- in this challenge. As a physician, I see a special role for those in the medical profession through their own commitment to healing and health. Physicians can offer a clear analysis and diagnosis of the current situation, help dismantle the fear that escalates violence, and free hearts and minds to deeper understanding.

There is a history in medicine of physicians speaking out on issues of social justice and global peace. Take for example, the birth of IPPNW. At the height of the Cold War and poised on the brink of nuclear war, a group of Soviet and American doctors took a leap of faith. They reasoned that their common interest in survival was more powerful than the ideological divides between them. They believed that their obligation as physicians included a common commitment to the prevention of nuclear war.

Led by co-founders Drs. Bernard Lown of the United States and Evgueni Chazov of the Soviet Union, the doctors sounded a medical warning to humanity that nuclear war would be the final epidemic; that there would be no cure and no meaningful medical response. IPPNW was born - now a world-wide network educating citizens and policy makers about the risks posed by nuclear weapons, war and violence. A Nobel Peace Prize winning organization offering non violent alternatives to address conflict and work for a sustainable world of peace and justice. PGS, now in its

President's Message

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24th year, continues in that tradition.

We must see our work in broad terms and add our voices to those who speak for peace. We can encourage all citizens to do the same and, together, strengthen cooperation and understanding among individuals and nations. We can provide viable alternatives to conflict and aggression.

The threat of terrorism does not have to be a destabilizing, omnipresent fear that controls us. It is, in fact, this paralysis that keeps nuclear weapons - the ultimate terror - with us. I offer a challenge: for physicians and all citizens to commit to take back our world.

To create a world in which we don't need to threaten one another with mass slaughter and the end of civilization. To forge a new 'people-power' so we are no longer held hostage by fear, and by the demands of policy makers seeking power and

Lettre du Président

Il s'est écoulé tout juste un an depuis l'invasion de l'Iraq dirigée par les É.-U. et le R.-U. et l'année a été des plus intenses pour moi, personnellement. J'ai été confronté à de nombreux défis et j'ai eu l'occasion d'avoir des discussions réfléchies avec des étudiants en médecine, d'autres médecins et des militants pour la paix. Je me retrouve avec l'intime conviction que nous devons et que nous pouvons en faire davantage pour contrer la violence qui fait rage au nom de la sécurité.

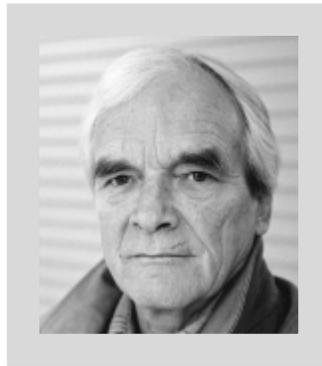
On entend utiliser le terme " sécurité " pour justifier la guerre et l'intolérance. Toutefois, ce n'est que par des moyens pacifiques que la vraie sécurité mondiale peut être instaurée. Tandis que les gouvernements et les médias nous bombardent d'idées et d'images empreintes de violence, il semble qu'ils soient en train de profiter des peurs des citoyens pour les rallier à la guerre

revenge. Instead, let us - one step at a time — create a global security and sustainability for future generations.

Terror is in the mind; it is not a tangible, material thing. Education and action can free us from its grip. True security can be achieved globally. Through our thoughts and deeds we can contribute to global health for all.

Many of you are involved in such initiatives locally, nationally and internationally. Your participation is so important. I invite you to read the articles in this edition of *Turning Point* to learn about PGS activities to promote peace, and how you can participate. It is only through working together that we can succeed.

—Allan Connolly M.D.



ou, pour le moins, pour gagner notre silence. La peur s'infiltré ainsi dans notre société et la sécurité mondiale s'en trouve érodée.

Face à cette exposition répétée aux images de violence, je crois que nous perdons notre sentiment de tolérance ainsi que des occasions de dialoguer et de comprendre les événements du point de vue d'autrui. Face à de tels obstacles, n'y a-t-il pas quelque chose que nous puissions faire pour maintenir notre compassion et œuvrer pour la paix et la justice sociale? Je crois que si.

Les citoyens sont confrontés à des défis monstrueux et ils font des efforts pour mieux se comprendre les uns les autres. J'ai vu des personnes réagir avec compassion face à la violence - ils cherchaient à tendre la main avec un regain d'empathie et à aplanir les différences. Nous devons créer et transmettre nos propres images de solidarité, de compréhension et de sollicitude. Si

Turning Point



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nous restons convaincus qu'il existe des solutions de rechange à la violence, nous pourrions éviter de tomber dans le piège de l'agression qu'engendre la peur.

Nous avons tous un rôle à jouer - voire même une responsabilité - à cet égard. En tant que médecin, je considère que la profession médicale a un rôle spécial à jouer de par son engagement pour la guérison et la santé. Les médecins peuvent offrir une analyse et un diagnostic clairs de la situation actuelle, ils peuvent dissiper les peurs qui nourrissent la violence et libérer les cœurs et les esprits pour qu'ils puissent mieux comprendre les choses.

Dans la profession médicale, on a l'habitude de se prononcer sur les questions de justice sociale et de paix mondiale. Prenez, par exemple, la naissance de l'Association internationale des médecins pour la prévention de la guerre nucléaire (IPPNW). À l'apogée de la Guerre froide et acculés au bord de la guerre nucléaire, des médecins soviétiques et américains ont fait un acte de foi. Leur raisonnement revenait à dire que leurs intérêts communs en matière de survie dépassaient leurs divergences idéologiques. Ils étaient convaincus que leurs obligations de médecins incluaient leur engagement pour la prévention de la guerre nucléaire.

Sous la direction des co-fondateurs, le Dr Bernard Lown, des États-Unis, et le Dr Evgueni Chazov, de l'Union soviétique, ces docteurs ont lancé un cri d'alarme médicale à l'humanité en annonçant que la guerre nucléaire serait la dernière épidémie et qu'il n'y aurait aucun remède ni aucune réponse médicale significative. C'est ainsi qu'est née l'IPPNW, maintenant devenue un réseau international qui éduque les citoyens et les décideurs sur les risques que posent les armes nucléaires, la guerre et la violence. L'IPPNW est lauréate d'un Prix Nobel de la paix qui offre des solutions de rechange non violentes pour résoudre les conflits et œuvrer pour un monde viable de paix et de justice. L'AMSM, désormais dans sa

24e année d'existence, perpétue la tradition.

Nous devons voir notre travail en termes généraux et ajouter notre voix à celles des militants pour la paix. Nous pouvons encourager tous les citoyens à faire de même et, ensemble, nous pouvons renforcer la coopération et améliorer la compréhension entre les personnes et les nations. Nous pouvons fournir des solutions de rechange viables aux conflits et à l'agression.

La menace du terrorisme ne doit pas se transformer en peur déstabilisante et omniprésente qui nous contrôle. En réalité, c'est cette paralysie qui maintient les armes nucléaires, cette terreur ultime, parmi nous. Je vous lance un défi et demande à tous les médecins et à tous les citoyens de s'engager à reprendre le contrôle de notre monde.

Pour créer un monde dans lequel nous n'avons pas besoin de nous menacer les uns les autres de massacre collectif et de mettre fin à la civilisation. Pour créer un nouveau "pouvoir des peuples" afin de ne plus être les otages de la peur et des exigences des décideurs politiques assoiffés de pouvoir et de vengeance. Il nous faut plutôt, une étape après l'autre, créer une sécurité et une viabilité internationales pour les générations à venir.

La terreur est dans la tête. Il ne s'agit pas de quelque chose de tangible ou de matériel. L'éducation et l'action peuvent nous libérer de cet étai. Nous pouvons instaurer une véritable sécurité à l'échelle internationale. Par nos pensées et nos actions, nous pouvons contribuer à la santé mondiale pour tous.

Vous êtes nombreux à participer à de telles activités à l'échelle locale, nationale et internationale. Votre participation est tellement importante. Je vous invite à lire les articles qui se trouvent dans le présent numéro de *Turning Point* pour vous renseigner sur les activités de l'AMSM qui font la promotion de la paix et pour savoir comment vous pouvez y participer. Il n'y a que grâce à notre collaboration que nous pouvons y arriver.

—Allan Connolly M.D.

Peace Works— an Innovative Approach

by Joanna Santa Barbara, M.D.

Ernest Guevarra, formerly an international student representative for IPPNW chose to begin his professional career in an area of his homeland severely affected by political violence. Rural populations in Mindanao, the southernmost large island in the Philippines have been repeatedly displaced by violent encounters between the national army and Muslim secessionist militia. For his action in trying to organize health services for distressed, displaced people, Ernest won a human rights award. He has devoted the funds from this to founding a group of health workers providing grassroots services in situations of violent conflict and in a framework of peace and health. The group is intended to provide mutual support and also has a strong interest in advancing knowledge in the area. Since evaluation research is particularly lacking, the group has begun with a focus on this approach.

The group had its first meeting March 26th to April 6th in Mindanao, in a rainforest setting in the hills above Davao City. A remarkable and diverse group had been selected as the first "partners". Besides Ernest, there was Nelson Martins, an East Timorese physician. In the struggle for national independence, he had served the guerilla forces. Now he runs a national tuberculosis campaign. Karegeya Kashaka is a Rwandan physician. A former child soldier in Uganda, he now works in a number of ways to help women victims of rape during and after the genocide, and to abolish the use of torture in Rwanda. Leonel Ortiz is a "health promoter" in Chiapas, working in the framework of the Zapatista alternative health care system.

My husband Jack and I were fortunate enough to be invited as advisers. Jack's expertise in evaluation was useful and I offered knowledge of the "peace through health" framework and of assessment of peace work. Other advisors were Nicola Kaatsch, from
continued on page 7

Opposing Missile Defence

Out of deep concern that Canada might join the US's misguided ballistic missile defence program, individuals representing several organizations, including PGS, came together in early 2004 to form the Canadian Campaign to Oppose Missile Defence (CCOMD). The Campaign adopted as its overarching goal 'to prevent Canadian participation in missile defence by effectively conveying opposition from a broad spectrum of civil society'.

The Campaign's first objective 'to write, release at a press conference and publicize in the media an open letter endorsed by Canadians of national prominence by mid-March' has been met. English and French letters to Prime Minister Martin outlining the very serious problems with the missile defence system and signed by a host of prominent Canadians, were released on March 19. Well known Canadians such as singers Bryan Adams, Richard Desjardins and Sarah McLachlan, authors Joy Kogawa, Pierre Berton and Robert Munsch, film maker Alexandre Trudeau, son of former prime minister Pierre Trudeau, John Polanyi Nobel chemistry laureate and a number of politicians signed on. All Canadians are urged to show their concern and sign on to the letter at www.ceasefire.ca. The letters are published here.

The Campaign is developing plans to place missile defence clearly on the agenda of candidates and politicians over the pre-election, election and post-election period. The Campaign and its staff person (hired for the next 8 months) will work to coordinate certain activities and share resources and information across Canada with groups working locally to raise awareness about missile defence. The Canadian Campaign will also work to oppose missile defence internationally by coordinating certain efforts with partners and networks in other countries. More information on the Campaign as it develops and how you can be involved will be available through the PGS website www.pgs.ca or the office.

Open Letter to Prime Minister Martin

We, the undersigned, are deeply alarmed that our government continues to pursue Canadian involvement in the development of the U.S. missile defence system.

Canadian involvement in U.S. missile defence would undermine decades of Canadian efforts to rid the world of nuclear weapons. It would represent our acquiescence and willingness to become an active participant in a permanent nuclear future. As such, it would directly collide with the wishes of the Canadian people who have expressed overwhelming support for nuclear disarmament.

It would require the reversal of a 30-year Canadian policy opposing the weaponization of space. The Bush administration's plans for missile defence expressly include the placement of space-based weaponry. The most recent U.S. budget specifies an intent to develop a space-based missile "test bed," beginning as early as 2005.

While we understand the government's desire to improve Canada-U.S. relations, we firmly believe that the political and economic benefits of Canadian integration in missile defence would be far outweighed by the long-term negative consequences for global security, and for Canadian sovereignty over future foreign affairs and defence matters.

The pursuit of missile defence is enormously expensive, with current expenditures in the range of US\$8-12 billion per year and climbing. It is based on unproven technology and has dangerous implications for strategic stability. A new global arms race is a likely consequence, as existing nuclear powers seek to maintain a credible deterrence by strengthening their retaliatory arsenals of missiles and warheads.

By devoting vast resources to developing a missile shield, the United States is ignoring the real causes of insecurity and is likely to aggravate existing grievances. Security for us all would be much better served by rejuvenating multilateral efforts to stop the spread of nuclear weapons and uphold international law, and by addressing the root causes of conflict and terrorism such as civil strife, global inequality, and environmental degradation.

As a good neighbour, Canada should be working to convince the U.S. that true and lasting security cannot be achieved through military might. No missile shield could ever ensure the safety of North America. If the front door is closed, someone will find a way in through the back.

True security can only be achieved by establishing relationships of mutual respect and co-operation, free of exploitation, with nations and peoples throughout the world.

That is what we, as Canadians, have always believed and proudly stood for. And that is the kind of Canada that we want now and in the future. Mr. Martin, we implore you -- and all Canadians -- to keep Canada out of missile defence.

Sign the letter online at: www.ceasefire.ca

Lettre au premier ministre du Canada, le très honorable Paul Martin

Monsieur le Premier Ministre,

Nous tenons à exprimer notre profond désaccord avec la décision de votre gouvernement d'associer le Canada au développement du système antimissile des États-Unis.

Ce bouclier antimissile est présenté comme un système défensif. Or, il n'en est rien. En fait, le bouclier antimissile ouvre la porte à une prolifération et à une diversification d'armes et relance la course aux armements, conventionnels et nucléaires. Car lorsqu'un pays sera perçu, même à tort, comme étant totalement ou partiellement à l'abri d'une attaque nucléaire, d'autres pays chercheront à développer leur arsenal et de nouvelles armes permettant de contourner le bouclier. Déjà, le 19 février dernier, la Russie annonçait avoir testé, avec succès, le prototype d'une nouvelle arme hypersonique capable de pénétrer n'importe quel bouclier antimissile (Guardian, 19 février 2004).

Depuis 1997, les documents officiels du Commandement spatial des É.-U. expriment clairement que l'objectif pour le début du 21^e siècle est le déploiement dans l'espace de systèmes d'armements capables d'atteindre très rapidement toute cible dans l'espace ou sur Terre. Le bouclier antimissile fait partie intégrante de ces systèmes. D'ailleurs, le plus récent budget des É.-U. prévoit le développement, dès 2005, d'un banc d'essai pour des missiles dans l'espace et l'Aviation des É.-U. a révélé, en février 2004, des projets précis d'armes à déployer dans l'espace.

Nous nous élevons contre le détournement d'énormes ressources collectives qu'entraînera la décision de participer au bouclier, alors que les besoins en matière de santé, d'éducation, de logement, d'environnement et de développement international durable sont criants. Nous croyons fermement que la véritable sécurité passe par le respect des droits humains le plus fondamentaux, une distribution plus équitable des richesses et un monde plus juste. C'est là le type de société que nous voulons, pour nous et nos enfants.

Au cours de la dernière année, la population québécoise et canadienne a clairement exprimé son refus de la guerre. Nous sommes indignés de constater, Monsieur Martin, que votre gouvernement ait tenu un vote sans avoir au préalable organisé une vaste consultation publique sur une question aussi importante pour tous et toutes. D'autant plus, que cette position renverse la politique canadienne d'adhésion aux régimes internationaux de non prolifération, de contrôle des armements et de désarmement des dernières décennies. Comment peut-on justifier autant de précipitation dans une voie potentiellement suicidaire pour la vie humaine elle-même ?

Aussi, Monsieur le Premier Ministre, nous vous demandons de refuser toute participation du Canada au bouclier antimissile.

Pour signer la lettre, veuillez consulter le site web suivante:

<http://fiiq.qc.ca/echecalaguerre.htm>

Mayors for Peace

In October 2003 the World Conference of Mayors for Peace agreed to launch an Emergency Campaign to Ban Nuclear Weapons. Mayors for Peace, an organization led by the cities of Hiroshima and Nagasaki, explores ways that cities can work together to create international public demand for the abolition of nuclear weapons. It also seeks ways to address other problems that threaten peaceful co-existence from hunger to poverty to refugee, human rights and environmental issues. At present there are 562 member cities in 108 countries and regions.

As President of Mayors for Peace, Hiroshima Mayor Tadatashi Akiba said:

"The world without nuclear weapons and beyond war that we have sought for so long appears to be slipping deeper into a thick cover of dark clouds that they fear at any minute could become mushroom clouds spilling black rain. This is because the nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty, the central international agreement guiding the elimination of nuclear weapons, is on the verge of collapse....."

The goal of the Emergency Campaign is to gather a strong delegation of mayors and NGOs representing cities and citizens from around the world to participate in the NPT Review Conference that will take place in New York in April/May 2005. Over the next 12 months Mayors for Peace will be seeking support for the campaign. Mayor Akiba will visit Vancouver, Edmonton, Calgary, Ottawa and Montreal later this month on his way to the 2004 NPT Preparatory Committee Meeting in New York.

PGS members in a number of Canadian cities are approaching their mayors to ask if s/he would consider joining Mayors for Peace. More information on this can be found at <http://www.pcf.city.hiroshima.jp/mayors/english/>

18 years in prison ends

Mordechai Vanunu is released

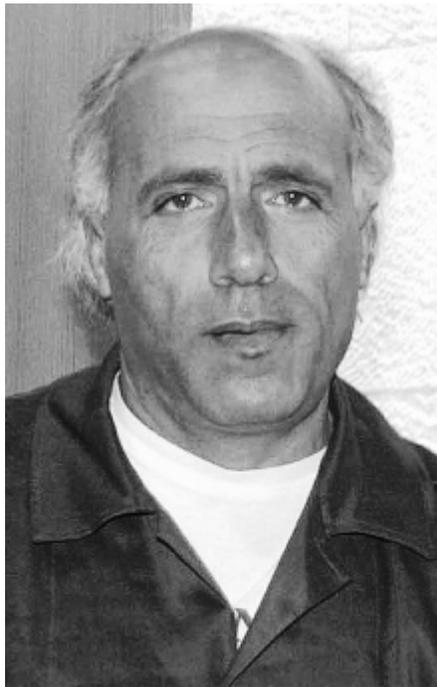
Israeli nuclear technician, Mordechai Vanunu, was released after spending 18 years in an Israeli prison. For almost 12 of those years he was kept in solitary confinement.

On April 21, Vanunu walked out the door into Shikma prison's entry yard after 18 years of "cruel and barbaric" treatment in prison for telling the truth about Israel's secret nuclear arsenal. A roar erupted from hundreds of demonstrators outside the locked main gate. Supporters at the gate were jostled by detractors behind, some shouting "Kill Vanunu!"

Moving deliberately past the press, surrounded and trailed by officials and guards, Vanunu walked to the gate. Holding both hands high with the signs of victory and peace, he stepped up to the bars to acknowledge his supporters.

His brothers Asher and Meir accompanied Vanunu out the door, and rejoined him as he returned to the forest of cameras and microphones.

Vanunu made a statement in



English. "I have no more secrets to tell; I want to leave Israel but they are restricting me. My treatment was cruel and barbaric; I was punished hard because I am became a Christian. I am a symbol of survival of the human spirit of freedom. I don't want to harm Israel. Open the Dimona reactor for inspection.

I want to go to the United States and marry and have a life."

Vanunu then responded to ques-

tions for several minutes. Given the extreme restrictions placed on Vanunu's actions, Meir looked concerned that his brother might talk himself back into prison.

Asked about being a hero, Vanunu replied, "All those who stood behind me and who supported me for 18 years are the heroes."

And he told the press, "I want President Bush, and Tony Blair, Gerhardt Schroeder, and Putin to [work] for my release from Israel."

In September 1986 Vanunu, who was a technical assistant not a high-level scientist, travelled to London and gave to the Sunday Times photos of Dimona, Israel's bomb factory (clandestine but not a military secret). On September 30 he was lured to Rome, beaten, drugged and kidnapped back to Israel by Mossad, the secret agency of Israel. Following a secret trial, he was sentenced to 18 years imprisonment.

Despite having served his full sentence, the Israeli government is placing severe restrictions on Vanunu's movement and contacts outside Israeli and with foreigners inside the country.

Files from the International Peace Bureau "The U.S. Campaign to Free Mordechai Vanunu"

Nuclear Apartheid Spawns Proliferation

by Ronald McCoy M.D., President, IPPNW

The uncovering of an international black-market in nuclear technology in a world, threatened by state and non-state terrorism, should persuade all governments that humankind is edging closer towards global nuclear suicide. Abdul Qadeer Khan, the 'father' of Pakistan's nuclear weapons, which gave Pakistan nuclear parity with India in 1998, was pardoned by the Pakistani government after he confessed on television that Khan Research Laboratories had been selling nuclear secrets to Iran, Libya and North Korea over the past fifteen years. The head of the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA), Mohamed El-Baradei, has called it "the

tip of the iceberg" and has warned that nuclear proliferation is a mortal danger and that "we risk self-destruction."

Investigations have revealed a wide, clandestine network, that has unwittingly involved a legitimate Malaysian company, Scomi Precision Engineering (SCOPE), which had manufactured 14 parts for centrifuges that have multi-purpose industrial uses, which also include uranium enrichment for the production of nuclear weapons-usable uranium. It has been established beyond doubt that the company was unaware that its products were being shipped to Libya for use in its now abandoned nuclear weapons programme. However, the

episode underscores the need for greater vigilance by manufacturers, in determining the intent of their customers, and increased transparency by purchasers in declaring the destination and eventual application of dual-use technology.

There are many lessons to be learnt. Both the pardoning of Pakistan's 'national hero' and the muted response of the US administration reveal a mutual desire to avoid the destabilising of President Musharraf's government, an important ally of the US in the so-called "war on terrorism." It also sends a disturbing signal about American and Pakistani attitudes toward proliferation and shows up the

Peace Works:
continued from page 3

Germany (ways of assessing psychosocial well-being of war-affected children) and Carlo Panelo of the Philippines (assessing health interventions). A current IPPNW student representative, Proochista Ariana, was the co-organizer with Ernest. This group of nine worked hard with each other for six days. We sought shared understanding of the meanings of "health" and "peace", coming as we do from very different cultural settings. We all agreed that our relationship with Nature is part of our understanding of health.

Each partner in turn described the conflict setting in which he worked, the nature of his projects, and how he would evaluate health and peace. The group worked to further shape project ideas.

There was strong consensus on project approaches that are highly participatory, with consultation at all phases with the stakeholder community. There were interesting moments of disagreement, as when it was proposed that nonviolence be part of the "guiding principles" of Peace Works. Nelson and Leonel, both of whom have worked in relation to armed groups, disagreed. They accepted



"Peace Works" group, Mindanao, Philippines

however, that Peace Works would "promote nonviolence".

Each partner will receive a small grant to carry out his evaluative work, and well-defined timelines were contracted to accomplish this.

After a week of hard work, the group had a final event. Ernest had arranged for a group of remarkable Mindanaoan musicians to sing for us. Sitting around a campfire, under an almost-full moon, we listened to excerpts of an extraordinary opera they have composed and performed throughout the Philippines and beyond. "Salima" is the story of a little girl whose family is displaced by the war. Through the wonderful voices of the musicians,

and their guitars, drums, gamelan gongs and ukulele, we felt Salima's terror and sadness, and wept with her pleading for an end to war. The musicians wept while they sang.

We were all deeply moved. Nelson spoke to us all, recalling his own childhood of displacement and poverty after the political murder of his father. He had thought violence was the answer. Now, after long talks with Jack, he saw the importance of nonviolence. The two men embraced and from there we all, health workers and musicians, moved into a circular embrace, as Nelson taught us the song and dance used by warriors as they go off to their struggle.

double standards by which much of international diplomacy is practised all over the world. The other lesson is that strategic allies of the US receive special treatment. For example, the war on Iraq was waged on the spurious grounds that it possessed weapons of mass destruction. The conclusion by the former US chief weapons inspector in Iraq, David Kay, that Saddam Hussein "got rid" of his chemical and biological weapons long before the invasion, underlines the point that Iran, Libya and North Korea posed a far greater threat than Iraq.

The failure to detect the existence of an international black-market in nuclear technology for fifteen years has revealed weaknesses in the NPT, designed to prevent the spread of nuclear weapons technology. It has rocked the international community,

particularly the United States. In a speech at the National Defence University in Washington on 11th February 2004, President Bush outlined his continuing counter-proliferation strategy, calling for an expansion of the Proliferation Security Initiative (PSI) and announcing a US proposal to limit the number of countries permitted to produce nuclear fuel. The PSI, made up of another 'coalition of the willing' - Australia, Canada, France, Germany, Italy, Japan, the Netherlands, Norway, Poland, Portugal, Singapore, Spain, the United Kingdom and the United States - will share intelligence, track suspect international cargo, search planes and ships, and seize weapons, missiles or equipment that raise proliferation concerns. There is no reference to the UN Convention on the Law of the Sea

(UNCLOS) or the rights of freedom of navigation on the high seas and innocent passage through territorial waters without interference. The implications of this omission would be that some states may infer they have a right to interdict ships even when such a right does not exist. This lack of legal clarity could result in unjustified interdiction actions and international tensions over their legality, that could escalate into military conflict.

In addition, the PSI envisages direct action against middlemen, suppliers and buyers involved in proliferation networks, by shutting down laboratories, seizing their materials and equipment, and freezing their assets. A UN Security Council resolution is being proposed, which will require all states to criminalise proliferation, enact strict export controls, and

secure all sensitive materials within their borders.

In order to close a loophole in the NPT and prevent governments from developing nuclear weapons under the cover of civilian nuclear programmes, there is a proposal that states may have reliable access to fuel at reasonable cost for civilian nuclear reactors, provided those states renounce uranium enrichment and plutonium reprocessing, which are the two main paths to producing weapons-grade fuel. The forty nations of the Nuclear Suppliers Group will also refuse to sell enrichment and reprocessing equipment and technologies to any state that does not already possess full-scale, functioning enrichment and reprocessing plants. All states with civilian nuclear programmes will have to sign the IAEA's Additional Protocol, which will require them to declare a broad range of nuclear activities and facilities and submit to challenge inspections by the IAEA.

This nuclear fuel initiative is yet another extension of nuclear apartheid. The United States and the other nuclear weapon states will continue to exert their hypocritical righteousness and exceptionalism to possess and produce nuclear weapons, while denying other states access to the same weapons. It also reflects a discriminatory, pernicious "rogue state" approach to proliferation, instead of viewing non-proliferation as a global challenge, requiring global cooperation. It approaches the fuel issue exclusively from the viewpoint that it is a problem in non-proliferation. It is likely to prove counter-productive and stimulate the development of new sources of fuel supply.

The IAEA has made an alternative proposal to create an international, multilateral organisation to control the production of all nuclear fuel in the world, giving members of the organisation ownership and control over how it is used. The Bush administration has rejected the proposal because it would clearly stifle ongoing US plans to develop new nuclear weapons.

The international community is right to be concerned about the spread of WMD technology, but it must also seriously question the rea-

sons for proliferation in a world that is threatened by militant religious fundamentalism and political extremism, fanned by the sense of injustice among the dispossessed and disempowered. Apart from material gains, Khan was also moved by his perception that the development of Muslim nuclear arsenals would correct the military imbalance between the West and the Muslim world.

We live in a disorderly, unequal world where security is still defined in military terms, where the rule of force is overtaking the rule of law, and where ethics and social justice are drowning in a sea of market forces. Time is running out for a world, increasingly menaced by a culture of violence and war, in an age where amoral science and technology claim neutrality and ignore the consequences of their actions in producing more and more destructive nuclear, biological and chemical weapons.

Fifty-eight years after the atomic bombings of Hiroshima and Nagasaki and fourteen years after the end of the Cold War, the nuclear weapon states still refuse to comply with their treaty obligations to disarm and the world continues to be threatened by their nuclear arsenals and the possibility of nuclear war or nuclear terrorism. The Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT) is in danger of unravelling because the NPT is not only about nuclear non-proliferation. It is also about the elimination of nuclear weapons. The increasing threat we face today from proliferation stems from the stalemate in nuclear disarmament, because non-proliferation and disarmament are two sides of the same coin.

During the Cold War, nuclear proliferation was driven by the doctrine of nuclear deterrence and the race for nuclear supremacy between the United States and the Soviet Union. Today, proliferation is being driven by the new nuclear and military policies of the United States, as articulated by the Bush administration in its 2002 Nuclear Posture Review and its National Security Strategy.

These new policies envision a permanent nuclear arsenal, a major expansion of the role of nuclear weapons, a new triad of capabilities

that combine nuclear and conventional offensive strikes with missile defences, and a new nuclear weapons complex for the design, development, manufacture and testing of new warheads. In other words, any conventional war waged by the US could escalate into a nuclear war.

Moreover, by rejecting the Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty, the United States has signalled the beginning of the end of the non-proliferation regime and the start of a second nuclear age, as more and more states will choose to oppose nuclear apartheid and nuclear double standards. This could result in a dangerous nuclear free-for-all. The 1996 Canberra Commission on the Elimination of Nuclear Weapons enunciated the axiom of proliferation: The possession of nuclear weapons by any state stimulates other states to acquire them.

The world is a gloriously diverse and complex place, in need of a far greater understanding of the politics of culture and the culture of politics. Western attitudes to the East have long been shaped by its history of imperialism, and Western images and perceptions of the Arab and Muslim world are largely created by Western polemics. Many parts of the Arab and Muslim world are still submerged in the depths of obscurantism and religious misinterpretation and are disengaged from the modern world.

The pseudo-simplicity of the "war on terror" cannot be allowed to go uncontested. The merchandising of neoconservative politics by the mainstream Western media continues to shape American foreign policy in ways that betray the great traditions and ideals of a great country. The solution to nuclear proliferation lies not in more discriminatory policies or the unilateral, pre-emptive use of illegal force, but in doing away with double standards and complying with treaty obligations and international law.

(This article was originally written for the main English-language newspaper in Malaysia, where Dr McCoy lives.)

Cluster bombs in Iraq: Perceptions of risk

by Titus Peachey

Unexploded cluster munitions are one of many ordnance challenges that create dangers and risk for people living in Iraq. The ordnance, and hence the risk, is not evenly spread throughout the country. So both the perception and reality of risk vary widely throughout the country.

The Iran-Iraq war in the 1980's produced thousands of minefields. The

In the years between the Gulf War and the attack on Iraq in 2003, US and British forces carried out air strikes on selected military target areas. It's impossible to know, but it is likely that these strikes also resulted in some unexploded ordnance.

In the recent war US and British forces dropped nearly 2 million cluster bomblets on Iraq, likely resulting in several hundred thousand unexploded bomblets.

All of these wars, also produced unexploded bombs of many types, along with artillery shells, grenades, rockets, and mortars. In addition, there are enormous stockpiles of unused or abandoned ordnance left behind by a now disbanded Iraqi Army.

These stockpiles of ordnance present an enormous challenge. A conservative estimate is that there are 600,000 tons of ordnance abandoned in Ammunition Supply Points (ASP) throughout Iraq. Many of these areas are large and some are unsecured by fencing or guards, leaving them vulnerable to looting. One such area is a reported 35 sq. miles in size. Some ordnance experts spoke with concern about the Coalition troop rotations and reduced force size. With reductions in numbers, there will be some pulling

back into areas that can be secured, potentially increasing the number of ASPs that will be poorly secured.

There is also much abandoned ordnance which the Iraqi Army left behind in battle positions, in mosques, schools, and other facilities that would normally be used by the civilian population.

Unexploded cluster munitions are thus one part of a huge ordnance risk problem in Iraq. We single them out for special attention not because they always pose the greatest risk, but because over many years in many wars, they consistently produce large numbers of casualties both during wars, and long after wars have ended. Secondly, there are no international

protocols in effect that specifically address their use. Thirdly, their large numbers, small size, and high dud rates (10%-30%) make their use especially reprehensible. Finally, we believe the casualties caused by cluster munitions are preventable. An immediate moratorium on the production and use of cluster munitions is warranted, followed by a serious look at which specific munitions should be banned from further use.

Cluster strike visit Deebaga/ Makhmoor

(Southwest of Erbil... northern Iraq)

by Titus Peachey

We visited a cluster strike area south of the Green Line, which was hit by BLU-97s during the recent war. This is along the border area between Iraq and Kurdistan, and was defended by Iraqi troops. The land is relatively flat with some rolling hills, and is used for agriculture and sheep herding.

The clearance team showed us maps of two cluster bomb footprint areas that they had outlined. One bomb footprint was roughly 100M X 100M, and the other was more like 200M X 150M. When the clearance team arrives at a site, the team members collect all the debris, especially the "spiders" from the individual bomblets. The "spiders" are the plastic clips that come off the end of each bomblet. Counting the "spiders" enables the team to know how many bombs were dropped, which helps them to determine the "dud" rate or failure rate.

The CBU-87 cluster bombs which carry the BLU-97 bomblets each carry 202 bomblets. In the one cluster footprint we visited, the clearance team had counted 119 holes from the impact of exploding bomblets, 41 unexploded bomblets on top of the ground, and 6 unexploded bomblets that were buried. This accounts for 166 of the 202 bomblets, and indicates a failure rate of at least 23%, with some 36 still unaccounted for.

continued on page 10

Photo: Menmonite Central Committee



Size comparison between BLU-97 cluster munition and pop can.

Mines Advisory Group, working in northern Iraq (Kurdistan) since 1992, reported having demarcated more than 3,000 minefields by February, 2004. Many more mine fields exist in other parts of Iraq, both from the Iraq-Iraq war and from the Gulf War in 1991.

The Gulf War left behind tons of unexploded ordnance, both from the Coalition forces and from the Iraqi Army. Coalition forces dropped an estimated 34 million cluster bomblets on Iraq and Kuwait during the war. Even a 10% dud rate (conservative for the type of submunitions used), would have resulted in several million unexploded bomblets at the end of the war.

Convictions, Action and People-power: a privilege of citizenship

By Kim Boucher

“Don't underestimate what conviction can do,” says Gerald Vandezande.

At 70 years old, Mr. Vandezande has a wealth of experience working for peace. Having grown up in Nazi-occupied Holland, he saw his parents and others risk their lives to help people in danger.

“It was a powerful example; an affirmation of life and the need to protect fellow citizens. It showed me that faith can be translated into deeds of justice.”

He also remembers the August 1945 atomic bombings of Hiroshima and Nagasaki.

“Those memories of World War II and post-war remain inscribed in your mind and heart. It must never happen again.” He is deeply concerned about ballistic missile defence and weapons in space.

Gerald came to Physicians for Global Survival in 2002. “Building relationships and supporting organizations like PGS— I'm proud of it. I couldn't begin to do what you people do, but I can take part through financial support...”

“Having been sick myself, I appreciate what doctors can do. Through your work, I see that doctors can also give part of their lives to peace, stability and justice. There's a connection between health care and our responsibility to people in need



Photo of Gerald Vandezande, C.M.
courtesy Citizens for Public Justice

around the world. There's a responsibility to international peace, and not seeing issues in isolation.”

When it comes to action, Gerald Vandezande is an example to all who care about working for a sustainable world. Over the years, Mr. Vandezande has become a respected voice for social justice. He supports many non-profit organizations and has taken on leadership roles.

Of much importance to him is making connections with politicians and the media. His book *Justice, Not Just Us: Faith Perspectives and National Priorities*, discusses how to engage policy makers about issues of social justice in a constructive way. The book is available through Citizens for Public Justice, where Gerald worked for 35 years.

Mr. Vandezande understands that it takes everyone to create change. In addition to providing valued financial support to PGS, he

speaks out by writing letters to the editor of his city's newspaper and to the Canadian government.

“It's a positive way to take action. I don't see it as a burden. I experience it as a privilege of citizenship. Letter-writing is an effective way to develop ‘people-power.’ ”

“It's easy. I start by encouraging people in their work. I might not always agree with their strategies, but understanding the spirit in which people work goes a long way. I try to affirm and encourage, and then offer alternatives. I also try to connect my letters with recent headlines.”

It's also important to look for good news in the newspaper. When he sees a column that promotes peace and justice, Mr. Vandezande telephones the journalist and leaves an encouraging message. “Saying thank you is crucial. Politicians and the media are in a difficult position. When we see them taking positive action, they need our support.”

While his efforts for diverse aspects of social justice have been recognized nationally - he was appointed as a Member into the Order of Canada in 2001, Gerald wants people to know that ordinary people can create effective change.

“I think of justice as having many steps. This is one of them. But I don't want people to back away from taking action because they don't have formal recognition like the Order of Canada. Conviction and values make the difference. It's important that we live for others, and not just ourselves.”

For more information about how to engage politicians and the media in issues of social justice, please visit www.pgs.ca and click on 'Support PGS.'

Cluster Strike... continued from page 9

One ordnance expert indicated that they have found failure rates as high as 50%. In context, I took this to be a rare exception, yet this is the first time I have heard such a high failure rate quoted.

These cluster strikes were on

rolling agricultural land, some of which had been newly planted in wheat. The area was not heavily populated, although there was a small settlement of displaced people nearby. The clearance team was aware of one shepherd who was killed by an unexploded bomblet following the attack.

We walked across the fields and saw perhaps 8-10 unexploded BLU-97s on top of the ground. We also saw several that the de-miners had found, still buried and awaiting demolition. One of the areas where we found bomblets had been newly plowed and planted. The farmer knew

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Conflict and Health

The 3rd Annual MORE conference co-presented by Physicians for Global Survival

By Liam Brunham, Student Rep to PGS Board

In March more than 200 Canadian and American medical students, health professionals and members of the community attended an exciting student-organized conference in Vancouver to consider the role of conflict in the health of individuals, communities and populations. Speakers to plenary sessions and workshops included such notables as Dr. Noam Chomsky, professor of linguistics and philosophy at Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT), Dr. Mary-Wynne Ashford, former co-president of IPPNW and Dr. Robert Mtonga, president of the Zambian IPPNW affiliate. Highlights of the conference can be found at <http://med.ubc.ca/conflictandhealth> Dr. Mtonga delivered a particularly moving talk, discussing the history of violence in the Congo, and focusing

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Cluster Strike: *continued from page 10*

that the area contained bomblets, but wanted the field plowed and planted anyway. The plow turned up some bomblets, which the farmer then moved, placing them in a ditch. This is very risky, and the farmer is fortunate that he was not injured or killed.

Titus Peachey is the Director of Peace Education, Mennonite Central Committee U.S. He was in Iraq in February. Website: www.mcc.org

Iraq Body Count

Go to: www.iraqbodycount.org

This is a human security project to establish an independent and comprehensive public database of media-reported civilian deaths in Iraq resulting directly from military action by the USA and its allies. It also provides important comment and analysis on the current situation in the country.

specifically on the role of small arms. He evoked a frightening picture of the effect of decades of violence on the nature of society in the Congo. One powerful message was the role of western complicity in both allowing and fuelling the atrocities in this African nation. He left us with the message that silence is not golden; a stark reminder that our country is often intimately linked with the violence and therefore health conditions in distant countries, and that we bear a responsibility to be part of the solution.

Dr. Mtonga's presence at the

conference provided a realistic and much appreciated internationalist perspective that was critical to beginning to understand the global scope of the theme that we had chosen. As students, we learned as much from his lectures and workshop as we did from informal time spent socializing with him in the days leading up to the conference. We hope that this interaction may aid in future collaboration between Canadian students and Dr. Mtonga's group in Zambia.

(Ed. note: Dr Mtonga's participation was made possible through PGS funding from the Dept. of Foreign Affairs and International Trade (DFAIT), Peacebuilding and Human Security Division.)

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International Peace March—March 20, 2004 **Report from the Street**

By Alan Brown

[Alan Brown is an active PGS member. Here, he provides a first-hand account of Montreal activities to mark the first anniversary of the US-UK led invasion of Iraq.]

I was part of a group that went out into the streets of Montréal on March 20 to mark the first anniversary, plus one day, of the illegal and cruel American and British bombardment and invasion of Iraq.

We were only about 7,000 protesters this time, down quite a bit from last winter's demonstrations of 150,000 and then 200,000 marchers. The issues are not as clear cut as the « NO TO A WAR IN IRAQ » slogans last year. But issues there were - the placards and the speakers emphasized them:

- * End the Occupation of Iraq
- * End the Occupation of Afghanistan
- * End the Occupation of Palestine
- * No to Canadian involvement in US Ballistic Missile Defence

« Le collectif de l'Échec à la guerre », once again, did a wonderful job of organizing the demonstration and coordinating the participation of about 70 groups. A big mobile float led us with mics, music and space for

the speakers; lots of original placards (mostly not polite towards Bush, Blair, or even our own Paul Martin) for those individual activists who didn't have their own; peacekeepers (hardly needed) and the chant leaders (greatly heeded!). The wonderful « Raging Grannies » belted out their songs on the steps of Christ Church Cathedral. An animated young theatre group of about 30 angels all dressed in white, with big wings and carrying plastic rifles over their heads, danced among us as a metaphor on « fighting for peace »

We marched, announced before and covered after by helpful police cars, from Square Dorchester, along the very busy but narrow shopping street, Ste-Catherine, giving us lots of visibility to the intrigued passers-by. We then headed down to the wide Boul. René-Lévesque and back to the front of Le Complexe Guy-Favreau (a federal building) to complete the afternoon's protest with many exciting speeches, songs and entertainment by our very involved « Artistes pour la Paix », some allied syndicates, and the other great pacifist groups.

MEDICAL EDUCATION IN KURDISTAN IRAQ

Using peace and conflict impact analysis

by Dale Dewar MD

In November 2003, a medical team went to Iraq and delivered 35 hours of continuing medical education in lecture, small group and workshop formats with 395 physicians, most of whom work in rural settings. The topics covered included, among others, emergency burn care, asthma in children, hypertension and reproductive health.

Knowing that Iraqi Kurdistan physicians have been triply embargoed with respect to materials, equipment and information for the past fifteen years and knowing that "rural" always means less service, the Canadian physicians could only imagine the struggles of their Iraqi rural colleagues. With financial assistance from Toronto Monthly Meeting (Quakers), and academic support from the Dean, University of Saskatchewan and the Society of Rural Physicians of Canada, Care to Care was composed of Karl Stobbe MD of Beamsville Ontario, Len Kelly MD of Sioux Lookout Ontario and Dale Dewar MD and Bill Curry BA of Wynyard, Saskatchewan.

The continuing medical education team in Iraq



The children we met were always open and cheerful.

"When a project is situated in a conflict-prone region, it affects or is affected by the dynamics of peace and conflict." When Care to Care was preparing to leave for Iraq, a copy of Peace and Conflict Impact Analysis (PCIA) was received. This remarkable document, written originally in 1996 by Canadian Dr. Ken Bush and now being developed further by international agencies, is a response to the need to measure this kind of impact. It divides questions into Risk Assessment, Application Issues and Impact Analysis. The Risk Assessment tool was applied to Care to Care and a preliminary attempt was made to apply the Application and Impact analysis tools. PCIA has been updated to a workbook format and is inviting user response. More information can be found at <http://pcia.fewer.org/>.

Risk Assessment

In order to illustrate the PCIA tool, the following questions (*in italics*) from Risk Assessment were answered by Care to Care:

What are the risks to the project participants? Are there minimally predictable political, legal and security structures in place? Is the

opportunity open or closed?

The risk was deemed to be low. Iraqi Kurdistan was selected particularly because, while it had suffered attacks and sanctions, a political infra-

structure had developed. Hostilities had decreased; there were no overt American troops in the area of the project. Because of continuing tensions between two major political rivals, the Talibani and the Barzani, the project situated itself in areas controlled by each and visited both Ministers of Health. The opportunity to travel for the project was wide open; the physicians in Iraqi Kurdistan are some of the brightest people in the country but feel entirely disempowered by the politicians and militarists. This is a country where the people want war to stop!

Does the project have the right mix of the right resources?

"Care to Care" was composed of three rural Associate Professors of Family Medicine and one support spouse. All three physicians have had experience in research, teaching and curriculum development at the faculty level. The spouse had health care administration training. One team member was female.

Material resources? Two laptops, one LCD projector and some Merck Manuals as gifts. Care to Care could've used more electrical plug adapters and another laptop (or at least have two laptops that would recognize the LCD projector). The team survived due to its ingenuity.

Does the lead organization have experience (or comparative advantage in the region)?

An offer to help with internal travel was accepted from Dr. Lance De Foa, a rural physician from Wawa,

Ontario, and a volunteer with "Helping Hands", an NGO working in Iraqi Kurdistan associated with North West Medical Teams International (NWMTI).

Thus, through the auspices of NWMTI, Care to Care met with Deans of Medicine, Ministers and Deputy Ministers of Health and Regional Health Directors, and it was with their placard that we traveled through military check-points. Travel in Iraqi Kurdistan would be impossible without an internal partner.

What are the project's tolerance levels?

The personnel had exceptional tolerance for uncertainty and a high degree of adaptability to respond to changing conditions. On the other hand, they had a low tolerance for questionable security and little desire to risk life or limb. Had security become a concern at any time, the project would abort itself.

The team members shared an ability to teach a wide range of topics and each had a high tolerance for changing physical conditions as well as the ability to both be good team members and self-motivators.

Does the proposed project....

Further questions in the workbook invite projects to assess their personal support, and the degree of political support at the community, regional, and national levels both in Canada and in the partner-country. Pointed questions ask about levels of involvement of women, and of minorities, and about the benefits of the project to children, women and minorities.

Conclusion:

As Care to Care plans to return to Iraqi Kurdistan in April 2004, we look forward to the opportunity for further application of the Peace and Conflict Impact Assessment tool. While the Care to Care Project itself is largely limited to Continuing Medical Education, PCIA provides a context to measure the broader social and political impact upon peace and conflict.

4th World Summit of Nobel Peace Laureates

The 4th World Summit of Nobel Peace Laureates was held in Rome from 27th to 30th November 2003, at the invitation of Mikhail Gorbachev and Walter Veltroni, Mayor of Rome. Based on the theme, Ethics in Politics, Economics and Science, the Summit reflected worldwide concerns that the world is moving towards an uncertain future, marked by endless conflict and environmental degradation. IPPNW was represented by President Dr. Ron McCoy.

At its conclusion the Summit issued the following Final Statement:

We are the first generation making decisions that will determine whether we will be the last generation. We have an ethical responsibility to future generations to ensure that we are not passing on a future of wars and ecological catastrophe. For policies to be in the interest of humanity, they must be based on ethical values.

We express our profound anxiety that current policies are not creating a sufficiently secure and stable world for all. For this reason, we need to reset our course based on strong ethical foundations.

Compassion and conscience are essential to our humanity and compel us to care for one another. Cooperation amongst nations, multilateralism, is the logical outgrowth of this principle. A more equitable international order, based on the rule of law, is its needed expression.

We reiterate our conviction that international politics need to be reformed to address effectively three critical challenges: ending wars and violence, eliminating poverty, and saving the environment.

We call upon everyone to join us in working to replace the culture of war with a culture of peace. Let us ensure that no child is ever again exposed to the horrors of war.

Recent events, such as the escalation of the conflict in the Middle East, bloodshed in Afghanistan, Iraq and Chechnya, as well as in parts of Africa and Latin America, confirm that

problems with deep economic, social, cultural or religious roots cannot be resolved unilaterally or by armed force.

International terrorism is a threat to peace. Multilateral cooperation and the promotion of human rights under the rule of law are essential to address terrorism and its underlying sources.

The threat of weapons of mass destruction remains with us. We call for an immediate end to the newly resurgent arms race, which is being fueled by a failure to universally ratify a treaty banning nuclear testing, and by doctrines that lower the threshold of use and promote the creation of new nuclear weapons. This is particularly dangerous when coupled with the doctrine of pre-emption.

For some to say that nuclear weapons are good for them but not for others is simply not sustainable. The failure of the nuclear weapons states to abide by their legal pledge to negotiate the elimination of nuclear weapons, contained in the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty, is the greatest stimulus to their proliferation.

Nuclear weapons are immoral and we call for their universal legal prohibition. They must be eliminated before they eliminate humanity.

We support the treaty to ban landmines and call for effective agreements to limit conventional weapons and arms trade. Trillions of dollars have been spent since the end of the Cold War in developing military approaches to security. Yet, the daily lives of billions remain bereft of adequate health care, clean water, food and the benefits of education. These needs must be met.

Humanity has developed sophisticated technologies for destruction. Appropriate social and human technologies based on cooperation are needed for survival.

The international community has a proven tool, the universality of the

***4th World Summit....
continued on page 15***

PGS supporters supply valuable feedback to improve peace efforts

By Kim Boucher

Recently, PGS distributed a questionnaire to donors to get feedback on our membership program. It is early yet, but we're receiving very thoughtful feedback (125 returns to date with more coming in daily). The following responds to questions many of you asked.

I donate when I can, and wish I could do more.

What else can I do that won't take up too much time?

Your financial contributions are very important, as they allow PGS to maintain and further our programs. However, there are also other things you can do in addition to donating:

- All PGS donors are encouraged to get involved with their nearest local PGS chapter. This will help you to meet like minded people, discuss the issues, and organize local events and campaigns.
- You can also join our online discussion forum, a great way to stay informed and discuss ideas.
- You can make a big difference by contacting your elected representatives, writing letters to the editor of your local newspapers, and participating in radio call-in shows.
- Attend events in your community to demonstrate your support for peace initiatives.
- Spread the word: discuss the issues with your family, friends and colleagues. Share PGS mailings with others.

I support PGS's work and believe you have a commendable mission. With such a difficult mission, it can be difficult to know how effective your programs are. How can I know if we're making a difference?

The PGS mission, "to work for the abolition of nuclear weapons, the prevention of war and the promotion of non-violent means of conflict resolution and social justice in a sustainable world," is a long-term and challenging task. It is important to work toward this goal through smaller, achievable steps. It is also important to take the time to recognize and celebrate accomplishments as they come. It is these small steps that will take us to our long term goal.

- Last year, there was much debate about whether Canada would join the US-UK led invasion of Iraq. I believe it is at least partially due to the public opposition and the work of organizations like PGS that our government opposed the war.
- In the past 12 months the peace movement has strengthened. Citizens are attending rallies, speaking out, and marching in the streets. Peace and disarmament are even becoming election issues. PGS supports the peace movement through information, education, and providing campaigns and tools to help make our collective voice heard.
- With the strong public opposition to ballistic missile defence, our government seems to be delaying a decision on whether Canada will join this military system. It is essential that we all speak out, and tell our elected representatives to keep Canada out of missile defence.

How are we doing? (% who rated PGS as commendable, good or satisfactory)

- Sending your tax receipt in a timely manner - 83%
- Credibility - 82%
- How we communicate our mission & objectives - 81%
- The information we provide about the issues and our work - 79%
- The effectiveness of PGS programs - 65%

What factors are most important in deciding if you will support a charitable organization?

- 91% - the organization's mission and objectives
- 69% - the organization's credibility
- 52% - the effectiveness of the organization's programs
- 35% - the availability of a tax receipt

Areas to work on:

- Explaining our membership program
- Demonstrating & showcasing how PGS programs make a difference
- Increasing public awareness about PGS and the issues (speaking at schools and to citizen groups, wider distribution of information, engaging the media)

I also financially support another organization concerned with issues of peace and social justice. Is it redundant to support that organization as well as PGS?

Just as there are many organizations concerned with environmentalism, the arts, and animal welfare, there are many organizations focussing on peace and social justice. In most cases, each addresses the issue from a different perspective.

PGS focuses on nuclear disarmament, war prevention and promoting peaceful means of conflict resolution. We are also quite unique in that we look at these issues from a public health perspective.

While PGS members do go overseas to witness conditions and meet with local counterparts, we focus most of our efforts in Canada: informing Canadians about the issues, educating about non-violent alternatives to address conflict, and collaborating with individuals, communities, other organizations and government to work for a more peaceful world.

Because PGS, and most organizations, takes a rather unique perspective it is not redundant to support multiple organizations concerned with peace and justice. Each contributes in different ways to creating a better world. It is important to decide what your interests are, and live out your values as best you can through daily activities and support of organizations like PGS.

Thank you to all who took the time to share your thoughts with us.

Toronto Chapter Activities

PGS Board member Mark Leith participated in a **live radio broadcast** in November with Mel Hurtig, a well-known Canadian publisher, author and activist and Prof. Bothwell of the University of Toronto dept. history and author of a number of books on

Canada-US relations. The programme concerned Canada-US relations and in particular the very dangerous consequences of Canada participating in missile defence.

The Toronto Chapter has started an **MD/MP programme**. Doug Alton MD and Mark Leith MD met with Toronto-area MP John Godfrey on Jan. 28, 2004 to discuss missile

defence. A strong opponent of missile defence John Godfrey now sits on the Privy Council making his public opposition to Canadian participation difficult. However, despite expressing reservations to PGS about speaking publicly, he did do just that following an open parliamentary vote on missile defence. Further MP visits are planned.

4th World Summit... continued from page 13

United Nations. Its work can and must be improved and this can be done without undermining its core principles.

We assert that unconditional adherence to international law is essential. Of course, law is a living institution that can change and grow to meet new circumstances. But, the principles that govern international relations must not be ignored or violated.

Ethics in relations between nations and in government policies is of paramount importance. Nations must treat other nations as they wish to be treated. The most powerful nations must remember that as they do, so shall others do.

Economic hardship is often the result of corruption and lack of business ethics, both internationally and locally. Through utilising more effective codes of conduct, the business community can contribute to protecting the environment and eliminating poverty. This is both a practical and moral necessity.

The scientific community has recently recognised the importance of establishing an ethical framework. Leaders

of States issued the Millennium Declaration at the United Nations and set forth common values of freedom, equality, solidarity, tolerance, respect for nature and shared responsibility.

From these values, a plan to address sustainable development and poverty, the Millennium Development Goals emerged. We urge all to join in implementation of these goals and prevent any retreat from specific commitments. Moreover, we share the principles of the Earth Charter and urge governments at all levels to support this important document.

For globalisation to enhance sustainable development, the international community needs to establish more democratic, transparent, and accountable forms of governance. We advocate extending the benefits of

democracy and self-governance but this goal cannot be achieved through coercion or force.

After a special session, the Nobel Peace Prize Winners have agreed that the death penalty is a particularly cruel and unusual punishment that should be abolished. It is especially unconscionable when imposed on children,

We affirm the unity of the human family. Our diversity is an enrichment, not a danger. Through dialogue we gain appreciation of the value of our differences. Our capacity to work together as a community of peoples and nations is the strongest antidote to violence and our reason for hope.

Our commitment to serve the cause of peace compels us to continue working individually and together on this path. We urge you to join us.

YES, I support the PGS campaign for peace and disarmament.

I enclose my cheque for \$ _____ payable to Physicians for Global Survival (Canada) OR

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IPPNW World 16th Congress in Beijing

IPPNW's 16th World Congress will take place at the Peking University Health Science Center from September 16-19, 2004. "Health Through Peace & Disarmament" will be organized by the Chinese Society of Radiological Medicine and Protection and the Chinese Medical Association. The Student Congress will be September 15 and 16.

Congress details, including the program, registration information, hotel accommodations, and post-congress tours, are available at the official Congress website www.chinamed.com.cn/ippnw. You may also contact the PGS office for more information. Early bird registration deadline is June 15.

Fond farewell

In April the Hamilton chapter of PGS bid a heartfelt farewell to Joy and Alan Phillips who are moving to Penn-



sylvania to be closer to family. They will remain active members of PGS, but it will be hard to imagine Hamilton without them.

PGS Board Meeting and AGM

The PGS Spring Board Meeting and Annual General Meeting will take place starting at 1pm, Friday May 14 to 2pm, Sunday May 16th in the Toronto Hospital for Sick Children's Board Room. A vote on amendments to the bylaws of the organization will

take place. More details can be obtained at www.pgs.ca or from the office.

Peaceful Schools International (PSI)



PSI was founded in 2001. PSI is a registered Canadian charitable organization and its head office is co-located with the Pearson Peace-keeping Centre in Cornwallis Park, Nova Scotia.

The mission of PSI is to provide support to schools that have declared a commitment to creating and maintaining a culture of peace. The vision of PSI is to build a global network of peaceful schools. PSI has approximately 100 member schools in a number of countries around the world.

At PSI, we believe that creating a culture of peace does not happen overnight nor simply because we wish for it. We need to teach our children and youth to "live well together." We need to teach peace and model peaceful ways of living together if we want our young people to become caring and compassionate citizens of the world.

PSI acts as a clearinghouse for innovative ideas, programs and resources; facilitates networking among peaceful schools; and provides education, training as requested.

For additional information please check out website: www.peacefulschoolsinternational.org

PGS has shared its 'Peaceful Childhoods' materials with PSI.

Impact of Militarism on the Environment

PGS Studentship results in new research report

As part of PGS's ongoing commitment to engaging medical students, a paid research opportunity for students was piloted with great success. Medical student Abeer Majeed surpassed expectations with the comprehensive report of her research studentship, *The Impact of Militarism on the Environment: An Overview of Direct and Indirect Effects*. The 42 page report examines wartime and peacetime environmental effects of military activities. It examines, among other topics, the environmental effects of weapons use, the environmental consequences of refugee creation, and consequences for the environment of resource diversion for military expenditures. A number of recommendations are outlined and the report concludes that "It is also becoming increasingly clear that a militarized economy, region, or indeed world, works in direct opposition to urgently needed initiatives on sustainable development."

The full report is available on the PGS website www.pgs.ca. If you do not have access to the internet, but would like a copy, please contact the PGS office.

PGS is currently developing plans for a 2004 studentship.