

INNATE NONVIOLENT DAILY NEWS

All the news that will fit on two sides!

Belfast, 12 December 1990

INNATE SETTING UP WORKING GROUP ON OBSERVING

A working group is being set up to look at the application of observing as a nonviolent response to situations of potential violence in Northern Ireland and elsewhere. INNATE already has the experience of providing observers and is keen to develop the potential of this approach in helping to defuse situations of potential violence. Currently information and resources are being sought internationally on experiences of observing around the world. Anyone interested in being involved in the working group on observing (which it is hoped will pull information and ideas together in the shape of a report) please contact INNATE Belfast networking group (address at end).

APPEAL FOR PALESTINIAN CENTRE FOR THE STUDY OF NONVIOLENCE

INNATE is appealing to members and others to contribute towards the work of the Palestinian Centre for the Study of Nonviolence based in East Jerusalem. PCSN's newsletter has asked for financial help with publishing a booklet in Arabic of Gandhi's sayings on nonviolence and civil disobedience and for their Library on wheels service travelling to villages and refugee camps. The acting director of PCSN is Nafes Asseily (Mubarak Awad, the original director, was deported in 1988). ALL CONTRIBUTIONS WELCOME (a collection was held at the INNATE 'Back to the Basics' conference in November to which other contributions will be added). Please make cheques payable to INNATE and enclose a note earmarking it for PCSN to arrive not later than 14th January. Photocopy of the PCSN newsletter available from INNATE.

FAMILIES AGAINST INTIMIDATION AND TERROR (FAIT)

This is now up and working away, including a large branch in Derry. Formed to oppose punishment shootings and forced exiles, the impetus in FAIT is coming largely from the families and friends of people who have been intimidated by paramilitaries. As well as the main committee and the branch in Derry there are other sub-groups and they are trying to set up a branch in West Belfast. Further information about FAIT is available by phoning Belfast 660194 (mornings) or writing c/o Fredheim, 224 Lisburn Rd, Belfast BT9 6GE.

PERSONAL PREPARATION FOR NONVIOLENCE TAPE

'Personal preparation for non-violence - a tape for peacemakers' is the title of a new audio tape produced by Diana Lampen, based on yoga and meditation techniques to create a sense of 'centredness' and inner calm but not needing any previous experience to use it. Just the present for yourself or the weary activist in your life! Copies are £3 post free, with profits to the Two-Thirds World, from Diana Lampen, 58 Abercorn Road, Derry BT48 6TQ (phone Londonderry/0504 265839).

CAMPAIGN FOR PEACE IN THE GULF

Following the Peace People's Annual Assembly at which a resolution calling for a peaceful settlement of the Gulf Crisis was passed unanimously, a demonstration against war in the Gulf was held near the Cenotaph in Belfast on 2nd December. The participants have continued to meet each Saturday until Christmas in Belfast city centre to collect signatures and give out leaflets.

And following another development where Service Civil International called on local branches to hold an International Day of Action on December 21st to draw public attention to the realities of the Gulf situation, a Campaign for Peace in the Gulf has come together involving a number of different groups and individuals. It will be picketing at Belfast City Hall on Friday 21st December after which a letter will be delivered to the US Consulate. An information evening on the Gulf is being organised for 8th January. Further information from Kelly Johnston (Peace People, phone Belfast 663465) or George Thompson (IVS, phone Belfast 238147).

COMMUNITY RELATIONS COUNCIL PUBLICATIONS

Useful recent publications from the Community Relations Council include "A guide to peace and reconciliation groups" (52 pages) and "Training for community relations; a guide to trainers" (27 pages). Contact; Community Relations Council, 6 Murray Street, Belfast BT1 6DN, phone Belfast 439953.

PAX CHRISTI CONFERENCE - 'TOWARDS AN UNDERSTANDING OF NORTHERN IRELAND'

Over 70 people from 8 countries attended the Pax Christi International seminar 'Towards an understanding of Northern Ireland' which took place in Belfast in November, organised by the Irish section of Pax Christi, mainly by the Belfast branch. A number of people took part in the preliminary 4-day experiential programme where they lived with host families in Belfast, Derry, Enniskillen and Portadown. A report of the proceedings will be available shortly. Further information from; Sylvia Thompson, 26 Wheatfield Gardens, Belfast 14, phone Belfast 716925.

'INTERNATIONAL PARTNERSHIP: ALTERNATIVE TRADE IN THE 1990s'

The 1991 conference of the International Federation for Alternative Trade takes place in Kilkenny from April 23rd - 28th, 1991, hosted by Traideireann (PO Box 20, Athlone, Co Westmeath, ph 0902 75509). The IFAT network has 28 members in 15 countries run on non-profit lines and committed to the advancement of change in world trading structures. The conference is wide-ranging in its scope and structure; details are available from the conference organiser - Carol Bergin, New Orchard, Kilkenny, phone 056 - 63733.

BACK TO THE BASICS OF NONVIOLENCE

INNATE held a successful one day conference on this topic in Belfast in November. Sue Williams' excellent 'Personal view of nonviolence' keynote address will be printed in the next issue of Dawn Train. Participants had a choice of 7 workshops and over 30 people attended. Denis Barritt's workshop on 'Memories of a peacemaker' was videoed and it is hoped to use clips from this to interest mainstream media in covering Denis' memories of peacemaking since the 'thirties.

GLOBAL PEACE SERVICE CONFERENCE FOR BELFAST IN MAY

The emergent Global Peace Service network, a Christian based international group committed for nonviolent service in struggles for justice, human rights and liberation, in situations of conflict, social tension and natural disaster, is holding a retreat style conference to plan its work further at St Clement's Retreat House, Belfast, from 19 - 26 May, 1991. Sylvia Thompson (address under Pax Christi above) has the details or you can contact directly co-organiser Margareta Ingelstam, Vikavägen 3, 161 40 Bromma, Sweden.

ELIAS EADY VISIT

Elias Eady, former director of the school for peace at Neve Shalom, will be visiting Northern Ireland the first two weeks of February as a guest of the Peace and Reconciliation Group, Derry. He is currently working with Palestinians and Israelis in Tel Aviv and Jerusalem. While here he will lead various workshops on conflict resolution etc., and will speak to an INNATE-organised meeting in Belfast on the situation in Israel and Palestine. Further details about his visit from; Eileen Healy, Peace and Reconciliation Group, 18a London Street, L'derry BT48 6RQ, phone 0504 - 369206.

SOCIAL/ALTERNATIVE DEFENCE

It is hoped to do more work on alternative defence in the Irish context during 1991. There is a lot of resource material available. Contact; Rob Fairmichael, 16 Ravensdene Park, Belfast BT6 0DA or Sean English, 2 Poplar Square, Naas, Co Kildare.

CONFLICT MEDIATION NETWORK

NICMA (the Northern Ireland Conflict and Mediation Association) has changed its name to CMN (Conflict Mediation Network). The goal of the network is to promote the positive handling of conflict - and one way of managing disputes is through mediation. This is a process where people not involved in a particular conflict help other people work together to deal with their dispute; CMN is encouraging the view that conflict is opportunity for growth.

A roadshow on conflict resolution (showing ways of dealing with everyday life conflict - neighbourhood disputes, and at school or work) is being prepared for 1991. The full-time volunteer at CMN is now Amy Coursen, replacing Debbie Fuller. Contact; CMN, Room 304, Bryson House, 28 Bedford Street, Belfast BT2 7P2, phone Belfast 438614.

Nonviolent Daily News is produced by the Belfast networking group of INNATE (an Irish Network for Nonviolent Action Training and Education), 16 Ravensdene Park, Belfast BT6 0DA, phone Belfast 647106. Short items welcome for possible inclusion!