

NONVIOLENT DAILY NEWS

from INNATE

All the news that will fit on two sides!
(Plus International Issues Supplement)

Belfast,
12th November 1993

DOVES AFTER THE HAWKS

27 people died as a result of the troubles in Northern Ireland in October, pushing up the total for the year to 66 at the end of the month (of these 36 were killed by loyalist paramilitaries and 28 by the IRA). The death of 10 people on the Shankill Road in Belfast on 23rd October and 7 people at the Rising Sun pub in Greysteel sent fear and revulsion reeling around the North - apart from other attacks and killings. Once again people took to the streets in hundreds or thousands to express their rejection of violence and yearning for peace.

These events are literally too numerous to chronicle here. But here is a mention of a few upcoming events, including what promises to be a 'biggie', a trade union-sponsored 'Community day for unifying peace' on Thursday 18th November;

- COMMUNITY DAY FOR UNIFYING PEACE

Thursday 18th November. Sponsored by Irish Congress of Trade Unions (Northern Ireland Committee) and supported by employers' federation (CBI). A minute's silence in schools at 11 a.m. Rallies in Belfast, Derry and at least 10 other venues from 12.45 - 1.15, including a minute's silence at 1 pm. Bells and horns are invited to sound for the end of the time at 1.15. Also likely to have a couple of minute's silence in the Republic.

- Every Saturday; 'Time for hope' vigil at City Hall, Belfast, 1 pm every Saturday.

- Thursday 16th December; Candlelit procession and prayers around 4 Belfast churches, beginning 7pm, ending 8.40 - details from PAGE, phone Belfast 232864.

(See also 'Comment' article for those receiving this as a mailing - available INNATE)

CHRISTIAN NONVIOLENCE PACK LAUNCHED

The Fellowship of Reconciliation and Pax Christi have launched their new pack looking at Christianity and nonviolence. 27 pages long, it's suitable for group or individual study and includes information, experiential exercises and bible studies. Available priced £1/IR£1 in Ireland or £2 to people outside. People in North should get it from; FOR, 224 Lisburn Road, Belfast BT9 6GE; people in the Republic should order from Pax Christi, 52 Lower Rathmines Road, Dublin 6. Outside Ireland send UK£2 to FOR at the Belfast address above.

NEW PEACE, JUSTICE COALITION IN NORTH

A new coalition meets for the first time in early December aimed at peace, justice and cross-community groups (with sub-committees possible on/for religious peace groups, cross-community programs, peace education, women's issues, prisons, human rights issues, and nonviolence). It is proposed that the full coalition meet twice a year but sub-committees meet as often as they wish. The first meeting is on Saturday 4th December from 10 am - 4pm at Friends Meeting House, Frederick Street, Belfast. £3 charge for costs inc. lunch. Details; Ann McCann or Tiffany Danitz at Belfast 663465 (Fredheim, 224 Lisburn Road, Belfast BT9 6GE).

WHAT PUT THE PEP IN QPEP?

The Ulster Quaker Peace Education Project (QPEP), based in Derry, is coming to the end of its second and final 3-year phase in 1994. The impact of its work is being evaluated by the Charities Evaluation Service. Recommendations are that its provision of conflict resolution and prejudice reduction workshops should continue, as well as its in-service training for teachers. It is currently initiating a peer mediation project in two primary schools in Londonderry. QPEP is now exploring options and potential funding sources for 'son/daughter' of QPEP. Watch this space!

A very informative annual report for 1992-3 is available, price £1.50, from; Ulster Quaker Peace Education Project, Magee College, Northland Road, Londonderry BT4 8 7JL, phone 0504 - 265621 ext. 5225.

TORKEL OPSAHL TRIBUTE

A packed gathering in the Canada Room in Queen's University, Belfast, paid tribute to Torkel Opsahl on 7th November. The chair of the Opsahl Commission which reported in June, he was a renowned Norwegian human rights lawyer with a long record of service to different humanitarian causes; he died of a heart attack, in his early sixties, in September. The tribute in words and music pinpointed his many qualities including that of being an excellent listener and a gentle and humble man.

Meanwhile, a second edition of "A Citizen's Enquiry - the Opsahl Report on Northern Ireland" will appear at the end of November; this will include the revealing opinion poll results commissioned on the report itself. The second edition will be priced at £9.99 and available in the shops or from Initiative '92, 37 Lisburn Road, Belfast BT9 6AA (phone 0232 - 241992), postage £2.45 extra within UK.

JUSTICE AND CONFLICT RESOLUTION FOR YOUTH

The Peace People's Justice worker and Global Nonviolence assistant are offering a program on justice issues and conflict resolution for young people. If anyone is interested in the 90 minute program please phone the Peace House at Belfast 663465.

'POWER-SHARING AND THE ADMINISTRATION OF POWER'

This is the title of a discussion taking place on Saturday 20th November from 2.15 pm - 5.30 in the Benburb Centre, Co Tyrone, organised by the Green Party in the North. All are welcome, and voting on preferred options will occur at the end of the day. Creche/playgroup available on request. Phone 0232 - 711795, or contact Green Party, 537 Antrim Road, Belfast 15.

YOUTH FOR PEACE FAST

The annual Youth for Peace fast will take place for 72 hours from noon on 22nd December to noon on 25th December, at Belfast City Hall during the day and Fredheim at night. It will be in aid of a third world project, Peace People camps, and YFP ongoing work. The slogan 'No talk costs lives', already adopted as YFP slogan for the year, may be more generally adopted as a slogan for the Community of the Peace People. 0232-663465.

SECTARIANISM DOCUMENTS

"Sectarianism - a discussion document" is the interesting book recently produced by a working group set up by the Irish Inter-Church Meeting. 159 pages, 24, postage 79p extra. Also published was a fascinating study of the historical linkages between religion and politics ("Roots of sectarianism in Ireland") by Joseph Liechty (51 pages, £1.95, postage 36p extra) and a short pamphlet on how evangelical Christians should look at differences with the Roman Catholic Church (8 pages, 50p, postage 19p extra). (Postage prices only within UK) Available from; Irish Inter-Church Meeting, 48 Elmwood Avenue, Belfast BT9 6AZ, phone 0232 - 663145.

INTERNATIONAL PEACE FOREST

This is a symbolic action which aims to draw attention to nonviolent solutions to international conflicts by setting a precedent for international cooperation regarding resource management. It was formed at the time of the Gulf War. 5,000 trees have been planted in the North so far. A travelling international workcamp will be happening from 19th - 29th November, aiming to involve a wide range of people and groups. Contact; Tim O'Donnell, c/o PAGE, 103 University St, Belfast BT7 1HP, phone 0232 - 232864; George Thompson, IVS, 122 Great Victoria Street, Belfast 2, phone 0232 - 238147. In the Republic contact; Jean & Peter Perry, Co Cork, 028 - 20232, or Sam Taylor and Trevor Stoddart, Gortnankark, Tobarpheadair, Galway.

PEACE PLEDGE UNION ON NORTHERN IRELAND

The PPU in Britain issued 2 compilation pamphlets this year on Northern Ireland; "Northern Ireland: nonviolent perspectives" and "Northern Ireland: looking through the violence". They are priced at £2.50 and £2.95 respectively (postage 25% extra, both inc. post £5.50); PPU, 6 Endsleigh Street, London W6LH 0DX.

DENIS BARRITT

The death of Denis Barritt at the end of August truly marked the end of an era, as someone active in peacemaking from the 1930s right through to the start of the 1990s. Apart from his work on social welfare and voluntary groups, he was one of the few to address the latent problems of the North in the early 1960s. In the peace and nonviolence arena he was most identified with the Fellowship of Reconciliation which he co-founded in Ireland in 1949. His involvements were many. This writer will remember him for taking part in an action which was risky, only 3 years ago. He died aged 78.

COMMENT

with Nonviolent Daily News

Belfast
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VIOLENCE UPSURGE PEACE UPSURGE?

Once again we have seen the cycle of violence and reaction in Northern Ireland. The upsurge in violence in October left 27 people dead, including 10 on the Shankill Road in Belfast and 7 in Greysteel, Co Derry. It has led to a characteristic upsurge in peace vigils, rallies and protests. A prominent cleric remarked that "There are that many doves in the air we need an air traffic controller!"

Set against all this peace activity, too, is the desire that 'regular' peace and reconciliation work, which may be laying foundations or building bricks at a slow but sure pace - or at least tackling questions that matter - does not suffer from the rampant 'doveism' that is about currently. Standing on the streets can, in certain circumstances, achieve something; there are other things it cannot achieve. The doves may not have been particularly well organised but they have certainly been in evidence.

While the IRA has continued its attacks on the British Army and the RUC (and on contractors to them) the most worrying trend has been the upsurge in loyalist violence. Loyalist paramilitaries have killed more people this year than the IRA, usually people simply because they were Catholics - or in the case of the Rising Sun bar in Greysteel, including a Protestant and seriously injuring his wife. This notwithstanding, the IRA's Shankill bomb was a monumental blunder in both military and political terms for them; a bomber was killed, and another seriously injured, but it figuratively put a bomb under the proposals coming from the dialogue between John Hume and Gerry Adams.

Public opinion can have an effect on paramilitaries. In particular, when people's disgust of violence threatens their own support then paramilitary groups are likely to respond by halting, as a temporary measure and sometimes permanently, that kind of activity. There are cultural constraints operating in Northern Ireland which mean that an awful day in Belfast is a quiet day in Sarajevo. One prominent action this time was a previously organised Peace Train which ran the weekend after the Shankill bomb and which carried hundreds of people and floral tributes from Dublin to Belfast. Others were locally organised marches, vigils and services at the location of killings.

There is a danger in peace activity being purely reactive. There are many trends and differences in the 'peace movement' - a term I try to avoid using if possible. Brendan McAllister, a prominent activist, has analysed the differences in the following, pithy way;

"The peace movement is divided.

There are 'Confronters' who believe in 'taking the war to the terrorists'. They are a comparatively recent element in the peace movement who believe that paramilitaries can be embarrassed out of their behaviour.

There are 'Big Bang Theorists' who believe that if one can mobilise the people in a big enough, and significant enough action, the fighting will have to stop.

There are 'Relaters', usually people with longer experience in the peace movement who believe in the importance of building relationships across the community so that trusting networks can be established as a foundation for lasting peace.

There are the 'Pray-ers' who believe, primarily, in bringing it all to God. Many people have all of these impulses pulling within them but since they pull in different directions they ~~cause tension~~ and division in the peace movement."

Brendan McAllister then went on to differentiate between "anti-violence" and "non-violence".

More generally those who believe in a nonviolent approach find that some of the most basic aspects of such an approach - respect for all - respect for all life etc - are widely rejected. For believers in nonviolence, anyone talking to anyone about solutions without violence, and everyone talking to everyone, has to be part

of the solution. But when different people talk in Northern Ireland it is often seen as being part of a betrayal, part of a sell-out to the enemy, and the enemy - being 'the enemy' - is not worth talking to anyway. This was how the talks between John Hume and Gerry Adams (respectively leaders of the constitutional nationalist SDLP, and the pro-republican Sinn Fein) were generally seen outside of the Catholic community.

It could perhaps be pointed out from a nonviolent point of view that the process in which this dialogue between Hume and Adams took place, and how it was revealed or not revealed to the public, left a lot to be desired. But it was still dialogue about a way forward, and a process forward.

What is needed is an inclusive process not just with politicians at a macro level but with local people, community groups and others at a micro level, to thrash out over a period of time a way forward. There can be no security or victory for anyone through the barrel of a gun. The only lasting security for the people of Northern Ireland is through arriving at a situation where the neighbourly qualities which so many possess can apply to all, and where none will feel excluded.

There have been heightened hopes and fears over the last couple of months. Our task is to use that in a positive way. There is always a danger in saying something is 'the last chance for peace' because if it fails then the result is more despondency and hopelessness. But perhaps there is a mood which can be channelled in a useful direction; a great leap forward would be too much to expect, but a step in the right direction would put us on a path to a better future for all the people of the North.

- Rob Fairmichael.

INTERNATIONAL ISSUES

Belfast, 12th November 1993

SUPPLEMENT

LIVING WITH CHERNOBYL

The film "Black Wind, White Land - Living with Chernobyl" was shown on RTE in mid-October when it broke viewer ratings. It looks at the effects of radiation on the people and children of Belarus, where 13,000 men died so far from the clean up operation and 800,000 children are affected by 'Chernobyl AIDS'. The film runs for 50 minutes and was produced by Dreamchaser Productions in Dublin and presented by Ali Hewson. It is available on videotape at IR£20 from Irish CND (all profits go to the Chernobyl Childrens Trust). Irish CND, 8 Sidneyville, Bellevue Park, St Lukes, Cork (021-506411).

MAKING NUCLEAR WEAPONS ILLEGAL

The aim of the World Court Project, plainly and simply, is to get nuclear weapons declared illegal. This campaign has been gathering momentum. In the Dublin area, Dublin CND, Bartwatch, and Pax Christi have been cooperating on the project. Irish CND has also been involved more generally. The project aims to get the International Court of Justice (The World Court, situated at the Hague) to give a judicial opinion on the legality of nuclear weapons. It also aims to mobilise world public opinion so that nuclear weapons join chemical and biological weapons as crimes against humanity. 'Declarations of Public Conscience' forms are available in English or Irish from the World Court Project, 7 Crestfield Avenue, Whitehall, Dublin 9, phone/fax 01 - 374899. The British address of the World Court Project is; 67 Summerheath Road, Hailsham, Sussex BN27 3DR, England.

PBI TAKES OFF

Peace Brigades International (PBI) is now meeting regularly in Dublin. PBI provides volunteers for nonviolent protective accompaniment for individuals and organisations in countries where they are threatened because of their work for human rights and peaceful social change. It is currently involved in Guatemala, Sri Lanka, and with indigenous peoples in North America. The PBI group in Ireland is developing a support network for volunteers in the project countries, including Melissa Butcher who is working as a PBI volunteer in Sri Lanka. The next two meeting dates are December 6th and January 10th. For further details contact Jer at 01 - 838-3535, or Donna at 01 - 874-6498.

BALKANS SUPPORT AND INFORMATION

BALKAN SUPPORT GROUP, Belfast

A Balkan Support Group has been formed by IVS (International Voluntary Service/SGI) in Belfast. A public meeting is being held on 'An alternative view of ex-Yugoslavia' with Zedran Vucic on Thursday 18th November at 6 pm in Renshaws Hotel, University Street, Belfast. All interested welcome.

Meanwhile the aims of the group itself are 1) to support and network with indigenous Balkan peace and humanitarian groups 2) to provide education and awareness on the humanitarian and political situation there 3) fundraising to meet the above aims and to support cooperation in the region. The next meeting is Sunday 28th November at 1 pm in the IVS office. Contact; George Thompson, IVS, 122 Great Victoria Street, Belfast, phone 0232 - 238147.

VOLANTEERS NEEDED FOR THE BALKANS

The Balkan Peace Team is looking for volunteers with experience in nonviolent conflict resolution for a term of at least half a year. Supported by different international peace movement organisations, the Balkan Peace Team aims to work for the peaceful resolution of the conflicts and against human rights violations. The main task of the volunteers will be the identification of possibilities for dialogue between different groups, the provision of independent and non-partisan information, providing when requested workshops in mediation and nonviolent conflict resolution, and to act as third-party observers. The team will also consider nonviolent escorting. Contact; Balkan Peace Team, Christina Schweitzer, Lützowstr. 22, D-50674, Köln.

'A BOSNIAN PERSPECTIVE'

This is the title of Peter Emerson's story of travelling through Bosnia on a bicycle, and his proposal for a peaceful settlement. It includes illustrations and a chronology. 50 pages, £4.00. Available from the author Peter Emerson, Rhubarb Cottage, 36 Ballsillan Road, Belfast 14, or from the publishers, December Publications, 157 University Street, Belfast 7, or from bookshops.

BOYCOTT NESTLÉ!

Baby Milk Action is continuing to press Nestlé to give up its unethical pushing of formula milk as opposed to breast feeding in the third world - a policy leading to malnutrition, disease and death. Nestlé continues to give free milk to newborns in hospital; has been selling milk in Malawi, Nepal and elsewhere with instructions in foreign languages; has sent sales reps dressed as nurses into hospitals in the Philippines to persuade mothers to use Nestlé products. Boycott Nestlé - this is now easier with increasing use of their 'nest' symbol on their products. There are two Northern contacts for Baby Milk Action; Audrey Heaney, 4 Pineridge Road, Ballymena BT43 6Th, ph 0266 - 49953; Clare Moore, 9 Hughenden, Belfast BT15 5DB, ph 0232 - 230220. In the Republic, Baby Milk Action is looking for contacts and the nucleus of a new group; they will be holding a conference in Dublin in January. Contact the British address for details of the conference; Baby Milk Action, 23 St Andrew's Street, Cambridge CB2 3AX, phone 0223 - 464420.

THE NONVIOLENCE EDUCATION AND TRAINING PROJECT

This was established by the IFOR (International Fellowship of Reconciliation) in 1992 with the aims; to reach new groups on all continents with the message of the power of nonviolence; to deepen the capacity of existing groups to be active participants in peace and social change movements in their own settings. To this end, a wide variety of tasks are being undertaken including networking, responding to requests for training, establishing resources etc. Further details about the NVETP from; IFOR, Spoorstraat 38, 1815 BK Alkmaar, The Netherlands. FOR in Ireland is contactable at; 224 Lisburn Road, Belfast BT9 6GE, phone 0232 - 660194 (weekday p.m.)

CHURCH AND PEACE VOLUNTEER FOR GERMANY

Quaker Peace and Service is recruiting a 1-year volunteer to work for Church and Peace, a European network of congregations, communities etc who believe that witness for peace and reconciliation is an essential characteristic of the church. A young volunteer is sought (twenties) with good German, and should be a Friend or someone in close association with the Society of Friends. Closing date is 19th November so get your skates on if you're interested; Personnel Dept, Religious Society of Friends, Friends House, Euston Road, London NW1 2BJ, phone 071 387 3601 ext. 2241/40.

COALITION FOR PEACE AND RECONCILIATION IN CAMBODIA

The Coalition for Peace and Reconciliation in Cambodia has opened an office at the Center for Active Non-Violence in Phnom Penh. Their address is; CER, PO Box 144, Phnom Penh, Cambodia. Donations, however, should go to; 'CER', 87/2 Sukhumvit Road, Soi 15, Bangkok 10110, Thailand. Or copy of their newsletter from INNATE.

NONVIOLENT DAILY NEWS is produced by INNATE, an Irish Network for Nonviolent Action Training and Education, 16 Ravensdene Park, Belfast BT6 0DA, phone 0232 - 647106. Details on request. Or we'd welcome your news for inclusion.....