

NONVIOLENT DAILY NEWS

Number 17

from INNATE

Belfast,
16th March 1994

All the news that will fit on two sides!

130 MONITORS FOR SOUTH AFRICA

Around 130 people are going from Ireland to South Africa during the election period there to act as monitors and observers (the terms 'monitors' and 'observers' are usually interchangeable but can be used to mean particular, and different, things). About 100 of these have been recruited and trained by ARSO, the Agency for Personal Service Overseas (30 Fitzwilliam Square, Dublin 2, phone 6614411) but are going through different programmes including UN Volunteers and the European Parliamentarians Association for South Africa. 25 people will be going with the Department of Foreign Affairs in Dublin including a dozen from the Dail and Seanad. Another 3 are going with EMISA, the Ecumenical Monitoring Programme in South Africa. Some are going for two months, others for one month; most are from the Republic but some are from the North.

Over 5,000 foreign observers are expected in South Africa for the elections, with possibly twice as many monitors from South Africa itself - but with a massive country and 9,000 or more voting stations they will all be needed, and more. Tasks will vary according to where people are positioned, and the agency they are with; some will be more strictly observing the elections while others will act more as peace monitors who may have the opportunity to be involved in communication and mediation.

WHILE IN BELFAST.....

INNATE's conference on observing takes place on Saturday 26th March in Belfast. The focus will be mainly on observing in Northern Ireland, drawing on experience of observing in Portadown and Belfast, but there will also be an important opportunity to learn from international experiences. Input will include; Norma McKeown, community relations officer, Dungannon; Brian Lennon, Portadown; Noel Sinnamon on being an observer; Iain Atack, former volunteer and current trainer with FBI/Peace Brigades International; Noreen Christian, recently returned from working with EMISA in South Africa.

The day runs from 10 am - 3.45 pm in the Friends Meeting House, Frederick Street, Belfast. Included will be a choice of workshops to get to grips with this area of work in more depth. INNATE's strategy is to see if there is the basis for sending observing in Northern Ireland off 'into orbit' with an independent entity to provide and train observers. "Observing: a new response to community tensions" is open to anyone interested (fees £4 and £2 unwaged) but please book using the booking form or phone Belfast 647106.

IFOR 75th ANNIVERSARY - A CELEBRATION

The whole Corrymeela, Ballycastle, site has been booked for the weekend 9 - 11 September and FOR (Fellowship of Reconciliation in Northern Ireland) has issued an open invitation to all peace and nonviolence organisations to come and share in celebrating. FOR in England, Wales and Scotland are coming. It is hoped that Pax Christi and INNATE members and groups will be strongly represented. A study weekend using the FOR/Pax Christi Christian nonviolence pack will be a particular focal point for teenagers. The whole company will look back and look forward at the Christian peace movement and it is hoped to be joined by David Atwood, general secretary of the IFOR. Further details, including cost and preliminary booking form, from; FOR, 224 Lisburn Road, Belfast BT9 6GS, phone 0232 - 660194.

FRIENDS OF THE EARTH: PEATLAND CAMPAIGN AND OTHER ISSUES

March 22nd sees the launch of the Peatland Campaign Consortium which is made up of key Environmental Organisations in Northern Ireland who have got together to fight to protect our special Peatbogs in the Province. To see how you can help, why not come along to a talk presented by BBC gardener Geoff Hamilton in Stranmillis College, Belfast on Tues. 22nd March at 7.30 pm, price £2.50 and £2 concession.

For those of you who are interested in issues closer to Belfast such as Air Pollution and Better Transport, come along to the regular Belfast Friends of the Earth meetings, at IVS, 122 Great Victoria Street, the first Tuesday of every month, or call the FOE office and ask for Paula. FOE, 56 Bradbury Place, Belfast BT7 1RU, ph 0232 - 311555.

JOBS AND THE ENVIRONMENT

Earthwatch will be hosting a seminar on "Jobs and the environment" on 20 May 1994, to be held at the offices of the European Parliament, Molesworth Street, Dublin. The seminar will address the numerous issues surrounding job creation and environmental protection, focussing on establishing an effective dialogue between various sectors concerned with sustainable employment. The programme will be opened by the Minister for Enterprise & Employment, Ruairi Quinn, and will include speakers representing the government, the environment, the unemployed, industry, trade unions, women and development. Contact: Earthwatch, Harbour View, Bantry, Co Cork, tel. 027 - 50968.

MEDIATION NETWORK

The Conflict Mediation Network (CMN) are changing their name and address. From 1 May they'll be known as the Mediation Network (N. Ireland) and be based at 74 Dublin Road, Belfast 2 (next door to Relate). The phone number will stay the same; 438614. CMN's director, Brendan McAllister, says the name change is necessary because Conflict Mediation Network is too much of a mouthful for people to remember. The move to new offices will allow for the expansion of CMN's programme over the next three years.

LANDMINES CAMPAIGN

In the last 15 years it is possible that 1 million people have been killed by anti-personnel mines, and half as many again maimed. They cause major problems for people wanting to work the land, and for refugees wanting to return home. Pax Christi is among many bodies now calling for the banning of the sale, transfer, and export of such mines, and for them to be made illegal in international law. In Dublin, Pax Christi Ireland's campaign will be launched on Tuesday 29th March with a press conference at 11 am in Buswells Hotel; speakers will include Pieter van Rossem of Pax Christi Netherlands, and Rae McGrath of the Mines Advisory Group, Britain. In Belfast there will be a meeting with Pieter van Rossem at 7.30pm on Tuesday 29th March in Corrymeela House, 8 Upper Crescent, and a press conference the following day, Wednesday 30th, at 10.30 am, also in Corrymeela House. All interested are welcome to attend any of the above; further details from the respective organisers; Pax Christi at Dublin 965293, and INNATE at Belfast 647106.

UNARMED STRUGGLE / BEYOND THE FIFE AND GUN

The Peoples Peace Talks public meetings organised by the Peace People continue. On Monday 21st March the topic is "The unarmed struggle - Nonviolence; The way forward for republicanism?", taking place at 7.30pm in Glonard Community Hall, West Belfast, with speakers Alex Attwood, Pat Lavery, Pat McGeown and Ciaran McKeown. The following week the session is in East Belfast and the topic "Beyond the fife and gun - Nonviolence; the way forward for loyalism?", and speakers are Glen Barr, Ciaran McKeown, and representatives from the UUP and DUP. Details; phone the Peace People at 0232 - 662455.

DENIS BARRITT REMEMBERED

Almost sixty people, including Monica Barritt, attended an evening on 17th February, organised by FOR, to celebrate the peacemaking and other work of Denis Barritt, who died last August. The meeting started with a short version of the video Pete McGuinness had made of Denis speaking at the 'Memories of a peacemaker' workshop at the 1990 INNATE conference, and continued with different people sharing memories from the 1930s through to the 1990s. A record was kept of the evening. Contact; FOR at Belfast 660194.

PAX CHRISTI BRITAIN - CONFERENCE ON NORTHERN IRELAND

"Truth - the way to peace?" is the title of this conference on 25th and 26th March in London. Further details and booking; Pax Christi, 9 Henry Road, London N4 2LN, phone 081 - 800 4612.

PAX CHRISTI INTERNATIONAL ROUTE takes place in the Netherlands this year, 31 July - 7 August. The theme is 'Multicultural society' and there are lots of different options (sailing, cycling, walking etc). Contact; PCI, 52 Lr Rathmines Rd, Dublin 2, ph 965293.

Produced by INNATE, 16 Ravensdene Park, Belfast BT6 0DA, ph 647106. The INNATE coordinator will be away 8th April - 9th May; for urgent business contact Belfast 716925.