

# NONVIOLENT DAILY NEWS

from INNATE

Number 20

Belfast,

All the news that will fit on two sides!

8th September 1994

## CEASEFIRE!

The ceasefire announced by the IRA on 31st August is a courageous decision by the republican movement. To what extent they felt they could gain more by non-violent means, and to what extent it was due to war-weariness, is uncertain - and it doesn't matter, if the moment is grasped. The ceasefire came about not through the republican movement being ignored and repressed but through a process of contact and dialogue. It is clear that militarily there was a stand-off between the IRA and the British forces; continuation of this road would lead to additional deaths for no perceivable gain and some perceivable loss.

An IRA ceasefire in itself certainly does not make for 'peace'. But it is a welcome departure which it is hoped will be copied by the INLA and by paramilitary forces on the loyalist side.

Meanwhile for nonviolent, peace, and reconciliation groups a new vista opens up; the possibility of doing more in-depth work at a contact level, and the building up of alliances which were difficult and often impossible before. (A more detailed analysis is being sent to the international peace media; available from INNATE on request).

## CHERNOBYL C.P. OUTDOES UN

With the despatch of 5 ambulances to Belarus, the Chernobyl Children's Project has now sent more medical aid than the United Nations (\$1.5 million compared to around \$1 million)! This year CCP welcomed 250 children, for the first time taking some effected children from Russia as well as Belarus; the children were hosted in 17 different centres in the Republic. In addition, 113 children came to SW Ireland through the separate organisation named Friends of the Children of Chernobyl.

The Chernobyl Children's Project has a multi-faceted approach, including medical aid and campaigning, publicising the ongoing disaster of the Chernobyl accident in 1986, and the likelihood of a further disaster with the deteriorating state of the cement sarcophagus built around the exploded reactor ("The next Chernobyl will be Chernobyl", they say). The reactor itself is in the Ukraine but Belarus, north of Chernobyl, received 70% of the radioactive fall-out.

Children brought on visits to Ireland, all of whom suffer from radiation-linked illnesses and are picked in consultation with hospitals and orphanages in Belarus, receive more than a holiday; as well as possible medical care here, they receive loving care and a possible boost to their immune system which could literally add years to their lives.

Donations of money and medical aid are welcome; Chernobyl Children's Project, 8 Sidneyville, Bellevue Park, St Luke's, Cork. Phone/Fax 021 - 506411.

## CHURCHES PEACE EDUCATION

Changes are afoot in the Elmwood Avenue, Belfast, office of Churches' Peace Education Programme; Norman Richardson having left. The Programme now has Eigid Lenane with responsibility for Peace Education in Secondary Schools, whilst Sarah Bennett is concentrating on the Primary sector.

Forthcoming titles include; "Power to heal" - creative approaches to everyday conflicts (Secondary); "More power to heal" - meeting the challenge of peace and



reconciliation in the adult world (Secondary); "People who need people" - a series of stories designed for Primary School which explore inter-personal and inter-community relationships.

For more information on resources, materials etc, please contact; Churches Peace Education Programme, Inter-Church Centre, 48 Elmwood Avenue, Belfast BT9 6AZ, phone Belfast 662992.

#### IFOR CELEBRATES 75 YEARS

On October 1st and 2nd, the International Fellowship of Reconciliation will celebrate 75 years of active nonviolence and reconciliation, with celebrations in Amsterdam and Alkmaar. Speakers on "Challenges for reconciliation in today's world" on 1st October are Mairead Maguire and Sulak Sivaraksa, the renowned Thai Buddhist social activist. The IFOR is a multifaith movement of 140,000 members worldwide.

Closer to home, a 75th anniversary celebration conference is being held at the Corrymeela Centre, Ballycastle, from 9th - 11th September; this includes a youth conference as well as an adult one, and around a hundred people in all will gather from Ireland, Britain, and a few from further afield. Those connected with IFOR in Ireland are INNATE, the Peace People, and the FOR group (whose address is 224 Lisburn Road, Belfast BT9 6GE, phone 660194 on Tues and Thurs a.m.)

#### COMMON GROUND (the original!)

Mention of the Pat Finucane Centre's publication "Common Ground" in the last Nonviolent Daily News may have been misleading to those who have known another "Common Ground", this being "The magazine of alternative living" (and originally 'North West Newsletter' indicating its geographical stronghold). Anyhow, the older publication celebrated 100 issues in the summer and continues to be a fascinating and useful read for alternativists, organic growers and smallholders et al. Subscriptions to this are available at £12 for 6 issues to; Common Ground, Smutternagh, Knockvicar, Boyle, Co Roscommon, phone 079-67094. Of course the next question is, what the common ground between "Common Ground" and "Common Ground".....

#### PEACE BRIGADES INTERNATIONAL

The FBI Sri Lanka Project European training takes place at Kiloranny House, Coleraine from 7th - 19th September. The next FBI Ireland country group meeting is on October 2nd, at 6.30 pm at 61 Lower Camden Street, Dublin (Comhlamh offices). Contact; Melissa at Dublin 838 9440 or Christine at Dublin 497 7128.

#### PEACE PEOPLE YOUNG MEMBERS GROUP

With Youth for Peace catering for up to 18 year olds, the Peace People have set up a young members group for 18 - 30 year olds to encourage this age group to get involved. The Peace People also have a new fax number (0232 683947) and are now contactable by electronic mail (peacepeople@gn.apc.org). Peace People, 224 Lisburn Road, Belfast BT9 6GE, phone Belfast 663465.

#### JUST BOOKS CLOSED

Just Books, Belfast's only 'alternative' bookshop, closed earlier in the year after a decade and a half.

#### WRI WOMEN NOT ATTENDING BEIJING 1995

The War Resisters International Women's Working Group will not be attending the United Nations Conference on Women in Beijing in 1995. The reasons include; the illegal military occupation of Tibet, Chinese government attacks on women's rights, and repression of autonomous civilian initiatives, independent women's groups not sanctioned by the government will not be allowed to attend the conference. The full statement is available from INNATE or from; WRI, 5 Calverton Road, London N1 9DX, ph 071 278 4040. They have asked for help in distributing the statement.

ENCLOSURES for those receiving this as a mailing include; - WRI Triennial Conference leaflet, Viver e Resistar (Brazil, 10 - 17 December) (WRI address above); - White Poppies for Peace leaflet (PFU, 6 Endsleigh Street, London WC1H 0DX, ph 071 387 5501); - Aland support guarantee/Dublin GND (? Grestfield Avenue, Whitehall, Dublin 9, ph 01 837 4899); - Details of a book on Quaker experience of non-official political mediation, by Sue and Steve Williams; - and locally, PACE workshop on 'Exploring ways of working with groups' on 24th Sept. (PACE, 103 University Street, Belfast BT7 1HP, ph Belfast 232864). Details on all these from addresses given or INNATE.....

- - - This newsheet is produced by INNATE (not 'INMATE' as one correspondent indicated!), 16 Ravensdene Park, Belfast BT6 0DA, phone Belfast 647106.  
Material for the NEXT ISSUE should arrive by 30th September and the end of each month.