

# Between the Lines

Nuremberg Actions, P.O.Box 13, Boulder Creek CA 95006

JULY 1991 #11

## ONGOING OIL WAR REPORT

Apparently what most Americans want to do about the Oil War is pretend it's over and forget the horrifying moral implications as soon as possible. And, as many suspected, the qck support for the war faded just as fast when the troops started heading for home. According to a Gallup poll in late April, only 36% of Americans believe that the Gulf War was a victory for the United States. Turnout for Stalinesque parades of veterans and war machines in Washington and New York drew such poor attendance that fatuous media reports actually included people in office buildings along the parade route to increase the numbers. (By this plan, should we assume that all employees of the San Francisco Federal Building who looked out the window were active participants in political protests outside?)

We must not turn our backs. Huge numbers are still dying, with children by far the most vulnerable. Continuing sanctions are a major cause. Environmental devastation is unbelievable, and efforts to stem it have been largely unsuccessful. It is quite likely that the speed with which Americans averted their eyes in the case of Panama that led the Pentagon and the White House to assume our acquiescence this time.

## DEVASTATION OF ONGOING SANCTIONS

On June 20th, the Washington Post reported that "In the assessment of Iraqi officials and Western relief officials, with restraints on food and medicine still in place because of UN economic sanctions, Iraq faces the possibility of an epidemic of thousands of child deaths". Gerard Bise, medical director of the International Red Cross said that if the situation does not improve, "more than 100,000 children will die" by the fall.

A New York Times report on June 24th stated that there are "severe shortages" of infant formula. Government rations are 3 cans a month, one third of the "minimum nutritional need of an infant". Hospitals are diluting formula by half to stretch supplies. Official policy is that malnutrition alone will not get someone admitted to a hospital. "If we admitted all these cases, the hospitals would be full in one day," said Dr. Amera Ali at the Ibn Baladi Hospital in Baghdad. In addition, the report said, "Most Iraqi cities are pumping one tenth of the chlorinated water they were a year ago."

Sanctions are meant to target civilians. In Iraq, as with any country, those at the top have the most. As clearly stated in Out Now's War Watch Weekly #9: "The Bush administration has said again and again that it wants sanctions to stay in place until Saddam is gone. The policy, in other words, is to kill hundreds of thousands of children in the hopes of provoking a coup".

## WHAT YOU CAN DO:

The UN Security Council will next consider sanction renewal in August. Local peace groups are urged to immediately take the following steps:

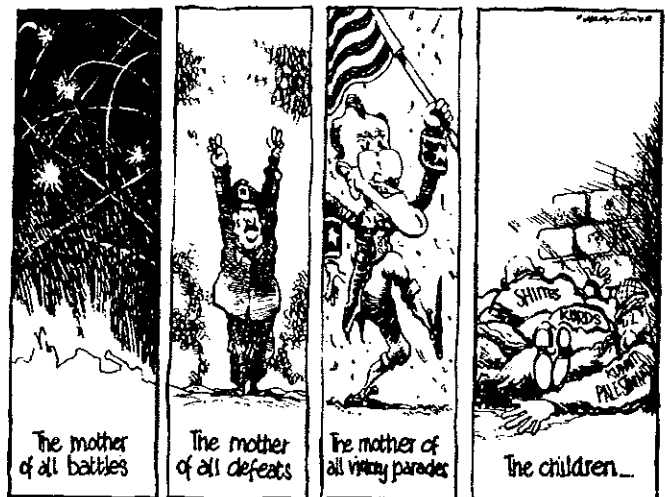
\*\* Call your local public TV station and ask them to rebroadcast Bill Moyer's June 18th program on the Gulf War

\*\* Call Congresspersons and ask them to speak out against the embargo's murderous impact on Iraq's children

\*\* Approach local church, medical and public health leaders and ask them to speak out

\*\* If your local paper is not covering Iraq adequately, ask for a meeting to complain. Increased coverage by the New York Times and the Washington Post makes it 'respectable' for them to give the story prominence.

(Most of the above material was taken from War Watch Weekly, June 28, 1991.)



## WHAT REALLY HAPPENED TO THE OIL

According to Peter Bergel's editorial in the May 1991 Oregon PeaceWorker, "There are 518 oil wells on fire in Kuwait. Daily, they burn the equivalent of 12 to 16 Exxon Valdez oil spills into the air. (3-4 million barrels).

"Another 12 to 16 Exxon spill equivalents were dumped into the Persian Gulf during the war. According to Pacific News Service reporter Randy Thomas, US forces have been unable to staunch the oil leaks, resulting in an additional Exxon spill equivalent oozing into the Gulf every three weeks or so.

"Thomas says the reek of crude oil is so strong at Abu Ali, Saudi Arabia, that it causes an immediate headache. The effect on wildlife has been much more severe. Some 20,000 birds have died while only 160 have been rescued. Half the Saudi coast, including half its wetlands, have been oiled.

"Gen. Norman Schwartzkopf described seeing the oil fires as "like going to the gates of Hell." According to ocean biologist Dr. Sylvia Earle...this is an apt description. She observed a "gray atmosphere", the temperature of which had dropped about 10 degrees due to screening of the sun's rays by the oil smoke.

"The mass media passes on the GI joke that the Kuwaiti weather report varies from "smoky to partly-smoky", but that's about all we hear about this unprecedented environmental tragedy, which-in one way or another- is likely to affect not only the entire Middle East, but the whole globe."

## MILITARY OIL USE

\*\* The US Dept. of Defense is the single largest consumer of oil in the world.

\*\* In 25 minutes, a single seater F-15 jet can burn 625 gallons of fuel, more than the average US motorist uses in a year.

\*\* An aircraft carrier will put away that much fuel in under 7 minutes.

\*\* The military consumed about 200 million barrels of oil in 1989, enough energy to run the entire US urban mass transit system for 14 years.

\*\* The military is far more dependent on oil than the rest of US society, getting 79% of its energy from oil versus only 34% for the US as a whole.

\*\* A body bag requires 3 cups of oil to produce.

From Gar Smith's article "The Military's Oil Addiction" in the February 1991 Earth Island Journal, via the May 1991 Oregon PeaceWorker.

## AMERICAN PEACE TEST 1991-1992

American Peace Test (APT) has coordinated protest and direct action at the Nevada Nuclear Weapons Test Site since the mid-eighties. From June 21st through 23rd, people from the Paiute and Shoshone nations, radiation survivors and atomic veterans and reps from many peace and anti-nuclear groups gathered for the annual APT Body of the Whole meeting. They were there to set the agenda for the upcoming two years and agree on a working structure to fund and implement it.

Veterans Witness: from Nov. 9-11, 1991, the Alliance of Atomic Veterans and APT are asking veterans and supporters to come together at the Nevada Test Site for a celebration, Veterans Day Rally, and nonviolent direct action. They are calling for an end to nuclear weapons testing, justice and medical care for veterans and support for Western Shoshone land rights, from whom the test site was illegally taken. See enclosed flier.

Solidarity Actions with Tahiti: On March 1 and 2, 1992, local groups and communities are encouraged to hold solidarity actions or informational events to support the annual protest in Tahiti against French nuclear testing. Sug-

gestions: visiting French Consulates or Embassies, or travel agencies who encourage French tourism. Support is expected in other nations as well.

10 Day Comprehensive Conference, Action and Healing Ceremony: Tentatively Oct. 4-13th, 1992 to include an international conference, peace camp and nonviolent action at the test site, one day international healing ceremony for the earth and her peoples as well as welcoming the Walk Across America and European Peace Pilgrimage groups on Oct. 12, the 500th anniversary of Native Carribeans discovering Columbus looking for nutmeg on the beach. Details of this event have been proposed by the Nevada Desert Experience, the Western Shoshones and American Peace Test. The overall concept is being presented now to the Global Anti-Nuclear Alliance meeting in Stockholm, Sweden in the hopes of gaining their participation.

Several speaking tours are also being planned, and Between the Lines will continue to publicize APT events as details become clear. For additional information contact APT, PO Box 26725, Las Vegas NV 89126 (702) 386-9834

## NUCLEAR NUGGETS

\*\* 75 square miles of land at the Nevada Test Site are thoroughly contaminated with plutonium, cesium, strontium and other radioactive debris.

\*\* US taxpayers pay \$2 million per day to keep the test site active.

\*\* Over 650 tests have been detonated at the Nevada site, and half of all underground tests have resulted in leaked radiation, contaminating groundwater, soil and atmosphere.

\*\* As of April, 1991, 1910 known nuclear tests have been conducted world wide. 16 million people are known to be victims of radiation (including nuclear reactor accidents). This does not include low-level victims, who may not show symptoms for years.

\*\* All 118 signatories to the 1963 Limited Test Ban Treaty support a comprehensive test ban. Only the United States and Great Britain (which also tests in Nevada and is tied to US policy) stand in the way. American citizens hold the key to a nuclear free world.

## ACTION SUGGESTION:

If you are concerned about these facts, and have ever been to Las Vegas or are planning to go, you might want to call the Las Vegas Tourist Information Office's toll-free number and ask them such questions as:

- \*\* If I've been to Las Vegas, should I see a doctor?
- \*\* Are nuclear tests a radiation problem for travellers?
- \*\* Are other parts of Nevada such as Reno safer?

Tourism is a primary source of income and jobs in Nevada.

CALL 1-800-522-9555 OR 1-800-777-8342.

## JUNE 15TH ANNIVERSARY

On June 15th, about 75 people gathered at the Concord Naval Weapons Station vigil site to celebrate the 4th anniversary of Nuremberg Actions. Daniel Zwickel played music while activists shared an impressive array of donated food, augmented by Food Not Bombs.

Walter Hugueta, the coordinator of CRECE, updated everyone on El Salvador and stressed the importance of staying aware and active during this critical time of negotiations and discussions of future US aid. He advised stressing to your government reps that you do not want any part of your taxes aiding the current oppressive regime in El Salvador.

Karen Parker, an international attorney from the bay area discussed issues of illegal US behavior before, during and after the actual blitzkrieg of Iraq. A Commission of Inquiry has been initiated by Rams Clark and others to look into war crimes in the Gulf. Public hearings are set for New York, Cairo, Amman, London, Montreal, Manila, Algiers, Sydney, San Francisco and other cities.

Musicians Maxina Ventura and Francisco Hererra played guitar, sang and addressed the crowd, as individuals added personal messages, photos and other materials to Nuremberg Actions' birthday card to the base, a 10 foot banner titled Shared Visions of Peace and Justice.

At 12:30, base commander Captain Richard Owens arrived in civilian clothes to accept the banner. He thanked the group for their commitment to nonviolence, and for including him. As David Hartsough handed him the rolled-up scroll, Abraham Zwickel announced that it was his diploma, signifying graduation to a higher form of problem solving and releasing him from involvement in wars.

## AMNESTY FOR RESISTERS NOW

Jeff Paterson, the first GI to refuse service in the Gulf is seeking immediate assistance in a National Campaign for Amnesty for War Resisters. The literature states:

"The government says that the war is over, but thousands of soldiers are still AWOL, hundreds of court-martial are pending, and dozens of military resisters have already been sentenced to as much as six years in the brig. The government says that we should support the troops. We say support those who refused to fight..."

### We demand the following:

- \*\* Drop all charges against war resisters
- \*\* Release all imprisoned resisters
- \*\* Honorably discharge all AWOL military personnel
- \*\* Grant all Conscientious objector applications
- \*\* Repeal all draft registration laws

### We encourage supporters of this campaign to:

- \*\* Call on Congress to enact a general amnesty
- \*\* Support resister defense committees
- \*\* Demand a congressional inquiry into the military's prosecution and harassment of resisters
- \*\* Contact local media to publicize this campaign:

letters to the editor, calls to radio and TV talk shows"  
The National Campaign for Amnesty for War Resisters, PO Box 42488, San Francisco CA 94142. (415) 824-0214.

## TO THE FILIPINO PEOPLE:

Nuremberg Actions joins many others to publish the following advertisement in the second largest Filipino paper, the Philippine Daily Inquirer, in early July when the Philippine Senate reconvenes. The Senate so far resisted the deal being cut by the US and the Aquino government, which violates the Philippine Constitution, but pressure is escalating rapidly. The current deal expires in September.

### A MESSAGE FROM THE UNITED STATES TO THE FILIPINO PEOPLE FOR THE REMOVAL OF THE US MILITARY BASES

We, the undersigned, call for the removal of the US Military Bases from the Philippines.

We condemn the threats by the US government and its Japanese ally (documented in the May 4th Washington Post and elsewhere) to cut off aid should the bases agreement not be renewed, as the crudest form of economic blackmail and intervention in Philippine affairs. We pay tribute to Filipino nationalists who through the years have worked for the realization of a truly sovereign Philippines.

We support the members of the Philippine Senate who presently stand for the dismantling of the bases. We urge them to resist all forms of pressure to retain the bases after September 1991.

We strongly oppose the US bases in the Philippines because:

\*\* They have fostered a relationship between the United States and the Philippines based on inequality, exploitation, and militarism. We desire a relationship which is equal, mutually beneficial, respectful of each other's sovereignty, and which builds on the friendship of our peoples.

\*\* To Americans, the billions of dollars spent to operate these bases and support the Philippine military could be far better spent on meeting human needs-- on housing, education, and health care in the United States, and on economic assistance for the Filipino people.

\*\* As many Filipinos have been insisting for years, the bases denigrate Philippine sovereignty, encourage US intervention in Philippine internal politics, promote sexual exploitation of women and children, and violate the Philippine Constitution, which prohibits the presence of nuclear weapons in the country.

\*\* For all peoples of the world, the bases function as a staging area for wars of foreign intervention and are part of a worldwide infrastructure for nuclear war. The removal of the bases would be a major step in halting the global arms race and in advancing the cause of international peace and justice.

We call on all fellow Americans, Filipinos in the US and peoples around the world to support Filipino aspirations for a bases-free and nuclear-free Philippines.

## TRACK RECORD:

July 1st, 1991 is the 1481st day of continuous resistance to US war crimes at the Concord Naval Weapons Station. Train activity this month was very high, 50% higher than last month and three times higher than November. We can only assume that weapons stockpiles that were dumped on Iraqi heads must be quickly replenished for the next victims.

We recorded a total of 22 train movements this month, with 215 deadly boxcars. 151 of these were type A (explodes on impact), 42 were type B (ignites on impact), 10 were dangerous or hazardous (bullets, landmines, etc.) and 12 were inert (rocket components not yet assembled, etc.) Identifiable weapons being shipped included Sparrow missiles, missiles with exploding projectiles, and crates of rocket motors. Few trucks were recorded because of lack of people to do it.

Several incidents of people throwing things or vandalizing the vigil site occurred, particularly over Memorial Day weekend. A bottle thrown by a vehicle entering the base broke the window on the support camper parked at the other side of the base entrance.

Following visits from several site 'alumni' in the last two months, staffing at the vigil is currently at an all-time low. Help is very much needed, either from people willing to stay a week or more, or to just come out during the day. Although the summer months are hot and unpleasant, the weapons are rolling now more than ever.

Vigilers can help record weapons shipments, bring a sign to carry, or just bring a friend and spend a few hours keeping up the witness at the vigil site. First time vigilers and anyone considering blocking munitions shipments are encouraged to come on Thursday mornings when orientation and training are available.

### SUCCESSFUL SANTA ROSA EVENING

Sonoma Co. Taxes for Peace and Redwood Forest Friends organized a very successful information sharing evening and fundraiser in Santa Rosa on June 17th. David Duncombe and Jennifer Viereck spoke about the function of Concord Naval Weapons Station, Nuremberg Actions, and the personal experience of carrying on the vigil at the base. Isobel Cerney gave a rousing fundraising talk, bringing in about \$600. Special thanks to Friends House for their support.

Anyone wishing to invite Nuremberg Actions speakers to address their group are urged to contact the office at the address below.

This newsletter is published 10 times a year and is sent to Nuremberg Actions supporters who request it. Additional donations make it possible to distribute it more widely for educational purposes.

The goal of the newsletter is to support citizens' rights in calling for just, sustainable non-exploitive policies from government and business alike, through nonviolent, creative and responsible means. Submissions accepted to 20th of month. Editor and publisher: Jennifer Viereck

N.A. PO BOX 13, BOULDER CREEK CA 95006 (408) 338-9416

## CALENDAR

### AT THE TRACKS:

7/11---9:00 am Redwood Friends, Sonoma Co. Taxes for Peace  
Nonviolence discussion group with David Hartsough  
7/15---10:00 am Buddhist morning of meditation. Sitting and walking. Rides leave Berkeley Zen Center at 9:15, 1933 Russell St.

Every Thursday: orientation and blockade training from 9:00 am to noon.

\* \* \* \*

David Duncombe's trial has been moved up to August 7th, in the Mt. Diablo municipal court in Concord. We strongly encourage anyone interested to attend and show your support.

### IN THE BAY AREA:

7/2---7:30 pm Cuba: What's the Road Ahead? Slideshow and discussion, Venceremos Brigade. Capp St. Center, 362 Capp St. \$3-7. 415-436-7682

7/2---5-8 pm Peace Brigades International New Office Opening supporting work in North America, Central America and Sri Lanka. Food, artwork, music by Francisco Herrera 333 Valencia St., Suite 330. 415-864-7242.

7/2---7:30 pm Israeli-Palestinian Peace Prospects, with Michel Warshavsky, Unitarian Fellowship Hall, 1924 Cedar St. Berkeley. Sponsored by Palestine Solidarity Committee and International Jewish Peace Union. 415-861-1552 \$5

7/3---7:30 Israeli-Palestinian Peace Prospects, same as above, New College Theatre, 777 Valencia St. San Fran.

7/7---7:30 pm Cuba: What's the Road Ahead? See above, La Pena Cultural Center, 3105 Shattuck, Berkeley

7/13---Dance for Peace and Justice with Dr. Loco's Rockin' Jalapeno Band, 3543 18th St. San Francisco. To benefit The Palestine Solidarity Committee and The Association of Salvadorean Women. \$8-15. 415-861-1552 or 626-1875.

7/25---7:30 pm After the Battle, a film by Estela Bravo, interviews with Cuban and South African families who lost loved ones in Angola in the 80's. Discussion with Medea Benjamin and Kevin Danaher of Global Exchange. La Pena Cultural Center, 3105 Shattuck, Berkeley. \$5-10. 415-255-7296.

7/26---An Evening of Solidarity with Cuba, with Jorge Ruiz, First Secretary of Cuban Mission in Washington, M.C. Chuey Varela of KPFA, music and refreshments. Women's Bldg. 3583 18th St. San Francisco. \$3-10 415-826-6828

\_\_\_ Please send me more information about Nuremberg Actions

\_\_\_ Please send me the monthly newsletter Between the Lines.

\_\_\_ I enclose a donation of \$15 \$ \_\_\_ Other to cover costs.

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Organization \_\_\_\_\_