

Between the Lines

Nuremberg Actions, P.O.Box 13, Boulder Creek CA 95006 August 1991 #12

A LETTER FROM BRIAN WILLSON

Having just returned from a trip to Haiti and Cuba, Brian wrote this letter on July fourth to the people of Nuremberg Actions who still carry the vision forward, as he prepared to make a journey to Iraq.

Dear People,

It seems nearly impossible that the people's vigil at the Concord Naval Weapons Station against the weapons of death has continued on a daily basis for over four years. It also seems nearly impossible that four years ago this coming Sept. 1, the horrific Naval train assault against people of conscience at CNWS occurred. The assault was against all people of conscience, everywhere. And at a deeper level yet, it assaulted all life, because all life is in sacred inter-connection, despite many being unconscious of this fundamental reality.

And the fiery deaths continue around the world, and CNWS continues to function as perhaps the world's most 'productive' death camp, having furnished the majority of the lethal weapons used to murder people in the Pacific, Asia, the Middle East, and Latin America since World War II, to include the slaughtered Iraqis in 1991. And for those people not killed by bombs or bullets, another 100,000 die every day for lack of food, 40,000 of whom are children under five. This is equivalent to a daily Hiroshima, year round.

And the American Way of Life (AWOL), and its mystique, continues to mesmerize the majority of people in the United States, and, it seems, more and more people around the world. And this phenomenon is occurring as the AWOL model, the Western capitalist, consumptive model, is rapidly deteriorating from any angle one honestly examines it from.

In the last four years, I have travelled to and through 32 states meeting and talking to many groups and individuals while observing the best I can the psyche and status of the health of our culture and society. In the same period I have travelled to a total of 16 countries, touching the ground and meeting with people in parts of Asia, Europe, the Middle East, the Caribbean and Central America, as well as Canada, attempting to better understand the global village, politically, culturally, economically, socially, ecologically.

The majority of the people of the earth and Mother Earth herself, I believe, are anxiously awaiting an historic, unprecedented awakening, an ecological and apocalyptic awakening of the Western mind, where consciousness, and existence itself, seems teetering on the brink of extinction.

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UNMASKING CONCORD: WHY WE ARE HERE

Jennifer Viereck

For years, the Concord Naval Weapons Station has been one of the best kept secrets in the Bay area. It is the largest shipping center on the west coast for conventional and nuclear weapons, and in its varied capacities, it moves weapons back and forth all around the urban bay area and in and out of the region by truck, train, ship and barge.

The location was chosen in 1942 for its remoteness from populated areas, and access to rail lines and deep water channels. Today, it sits in a densely populated area, less than a mile from a hospital, schools, convalescent homes and residential neighborhoods.

SUPPLYING THE PACIFIC

First of all, Concord's job is to supply the Pacific fleet and all US bases in the Pacific, including Korea, the Philippines and Panama's Southern Command. In Panama, administration and surveillance for the wars in Central America and the drug war in Latin America are centered. Concord supplied 80% of all arms used in Southeast Asia, most of the arms used in Korea and 25% of the arms used in the Gulf War. Because the buildup in the Gulf was so rapid, air supply was vital, but half of Concord's six ammunition ships were in the Gulf before the shooting started.

Concord also transports military aid and foreign weapons sales to countries around the Pacific on Navy ships or loads commercial vessels contracted for the purpose. All ships that have been documented carrying weapons to El Salvador have been commercial vessels. This is less conspicuous when entering a port without a US base.

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TRANSFORMING CONCORD THROUGH NONVIOLENT LOVE

**Sunday, Sept. 1 at 12:00 noon
Concord Naval Weapons Station vigil**

A prayer service for peace, and prayerful nonviolent direct action, commemorating the 4th anniversary of the assault on Brian Willson, and calling for an end to weapons shipments which are murdering civilians.

**Sponsored by Nuremberg Actions, Bay Area Pax Christi,
Bay Area Religious Peace Action. 415-655-8933**

A Letter from Brian Willson, continued from Page 1

The fact is that all life, organic and inorganic, on this planet is interconnected in a mysterious, sacred fabric. Each of us individually, all of us collectively, are part of this sacred fabric. If we would only humble ourselves enough to grasp this truth, an enlightenment promises to liberate us from our bondage to our arrogant greed and materialism, liberate us from our suicidal and omnicidal path.

President Bush has referred to the 'New World Order'. This is no new world order at all. It is the same old order, the haves versus the have nots, but now directed by a unipolar, not bipolar world. The US seems completely in charge. The other 'pole', the Soviet Union, wisely declared the 'Cold War' over for them, and is now asking the US for economic help, under the illusion like so many in the world, that the United States actually has money. And the United Nations, as an attempt at creating a world organization for preserving peace, from the beginning was prevented from functioning in that capacity by the structure of the Security Council which grants veto power to five superpowers, including the US and USSR. Now, with the Iraqi slaughter sanctioned by superpower unanimity at the United Nations, and \$80 billion in bribes paid by the US to assure the votes, the UN has become a tool of the West, unmasked, and specifically the tool of the US. This bribed unanimous power enables more bully policies of the haves over the have nots, assuring control of finite resources for the wealthy under their illusion that the resources are infinite, and that ecological devastation as a result of wasteful consumption is a product of the imagination of negative thinking people.

So now all living things, and the entire ecological infrastructure that is absolutely required to support this fabric of life, is at the mercy of AMOL, or the Western Way. This Way knows no limits, knows no shame, and we know that it will destroy anything it perceives in its path. The Iraqi massacre taught us this if we were in doubt before.

The awakening of consciousness was never so needed as now. This radical, but nonviolent revolution, or transformation of ourselves needs to continue to deepen. Each of us must search for our truth, in the context of our sense of the 'commons', the larger community. We must seek that dimension of unconditional love that takes all risks necessary to broadcast to this planet, to our own community, a new message: that we are all sacred, all interconnected. As we deepen our search, we must share this process with as many people as we can who similarly are seeking another way. Your and my example will be important, as others' examples are, in turn, inspirational to you and me. Mutual aid, mutual cooperation, just may prevail if we dare to experiment with it on a daily basis ourselves.

My commitment to you, again, is to continue on this path of waging unconditional peace through the risky, nonviolent pursuit of justice for all people, for all life. This path for me possesses elements of faith. First, a belief that deep down, virtually everyone in the West, or among the oligarchy in the 'Third' world, no matter how materially comfortable, no matter how mesmerized, is experiencing an emptiness of the soul, a depletion of the spirit, of the deep meaning of life. That they don't allow themselves to feel that is another problem.

Second, I believe, as did Martin Luther King, that the "arc of the moral universe is long, but that it bends toward justice". And third, closely related to the second, I possess faith in the existence of an infinitely wise life force, including nature, that we each are part of if we would only choose to cooperate with it. It is similar to the Great Spirit articulated by the indigenous Native Americans. Martin L. King once said that each person with his or her god forms a majority of one.

So, my friends, I hope we see each other on this trail of continued experiments with love, with mutual aid, with risk taking. We will need, no doubt, to pick each other up at times. We will fall. But we will get up again, with each other's help. Find your tracks. Identify the train. Stand on your tracks, tall and firm, but with humility. Stand up to the train, however you have defined it. But proclaim an alternative vision, with your body, with your voice, and most of all, with your life. It is important that we see each other. And hug each other. Our survival is at stake.

With all my love, and solidarity,

Brian

REPORT FROM NICARAGUA

From Mark Coplan

The present political situation in Nicaragua is no more 'loco' than the economics, as they are closely related. The new government is full of economic experts, mostly graduates of Yale, Harvard and Oxford. The problem is that these fine institutions taught them to capitalize income and minimize output (overhead). Much like the management of Dow Chemical, General Electric, etc., they have learned the immediate benefit of increasing the income level of management by cutting the health benefits and income level of the workers.

In the case of the Nicaraguan government, the Ministers earn an average of \$5,500 (US) a month, while the average income of the people is between \$50 and \$200! In addition, the Ministers of government are making hundreds of thousands of dollars by manipulating government actions to benefit their personal empires. An example of this was the last monetary devaluation. The devaluation of the currency of 5 to 1 to the dollar was timed in such a manner that Antonio Lacayo, the Minister of the Presidency (Chamorro's son-in-law) earned over \$100,000 in the repayment of his government agricultural loans. All of the other coffee and cotton loans were due sometime after the cutoff date for repayment at the old rate, when their crops could be harvested. The manipulation of the economy is starving the poor and increasing the literally millions of dollars controlled by the leadership.

The people of Nicaragua continue to need your help, and the UNO government is known for selling international donations in the government supermarkets at exorbitant rates. It is obvious that the donations that are greatly needed to keep the Nicaraguan people from starving should be directed through the Sandinistas. Right now, we have to do more than just 'Let Nicaragua Live'; the people deeply need our help in order to survive. ☺

UNMASKING CONCORD, continued from Page 1

By playing such a key role in the supply of US bases and foreign governments, Concord helps perpetuate the corruption, economic injustice, prostitution, violence, drug use and the spread of AIDS that surround US bases abroad. U.S. presence, violations of sovereignty, and support of corrupt governments continues to cause major unrest and anger in many of these places. The Solomon Islands and New Zealand have banned nuclear Navies completely, but the U.S. continues to violate the Japanese and Philippine constitutions, which have similar statutes. With the minor exception of weapons for testing and to supply other local bases, all munitions at Concord are not for defense of the continental United States. By merely being at Concord, we know they are destined for export.

SUPPLYING THE BAY AREA

All Bay area military installations are closely interconnected. Administration for Concord shipments is handled by the Army, at the Oakland base. Concord supplies the munitions for training exercises and for all operations in this region, such as the P-3 submarine surveillance aircraft at Moffett Field. These planes are equipped with nuclear depth charges. Two of them crashed into each other and virtually vaporized off the coast around the first of the year. According to William Arkin of Greenpeace, Concord keeps 55 of these nuclear bombs on hand for the P-3s. Navy documents complain that Moffett has inadequate weapons storage, necessitating a frequency of trucking munitions through the busy East Bay that even the Navy is uncomfortable with.

Concord also conducts weapons assembly, engineering, testing, maintenance and disposal, which involves hauling munitions to and from Moffett Field in Sunnyvale, home of the Navy, NASA and Lockheed, Hunters Point, Lawrence Livermore Labs and numerous weapons contractors.

According to a base supervisor in 1987, 8,000 truck shipments arrive and depart from Concord each year, all using public highways in highly populated areas. Overall, Concord moves between 80,000 and 120,000 tons of weapons through the Bay area in an off-year. 60-80% arrive by truck, the rest by train on Southern Pacific Railroad, through Davis, Berkeley, and other communities. Many accidents have taken place over the years involving trains and trucks destined for Concord.

You may remember that when homeporting the Missouri and its Naval entourage was the big issue, we were all reassured that vessels do not carry arms while in port. Well, that's kind of a shell game. What usually happens is that they are off-loaded outside the Golden Gate Bridge for transfer to Concord by ship or barge. The exception is Tomahawk missiles. Because of certain logistical problems, these are off-loaded only at the piers in Alameda. When leaving, the process is reversed.

NUKES IN THE NEIGHBORHOOD

One of the greatest concerns about Concord is its place in the nuclear weapons network. Concord is one of the largest nuclear facilities in the United States. This is no big secret; the base's own publicity materials state that they "maintain and operate a classified ordnance facility to include contingency support at Naval Air Station, Moffett Field," and to "receive, store, maintain, etc. conventional ammunition, guided missiles, special weapons." 'Classified'

and 'Special' is military jargon for nuclear weapons. According to William Arkin, Concord houses, in addition to the 55 nuclear depth charges, 175 nuclear bombs for Navy and Marine Corps aircraft, 45 artillery warheads and 30 nuclear landmines.

In an unprecedented moment of candor, the government released information about its transport of nuclear weapons in order to shoot down Oakland's nuclear free ordinance. An Oakland Tribune article on Nov. 6, 1989 stated: "Justice Dept. lawyers contend that a 'nuclear-free' law passed by Oakland voters last year should be struck down because it would substantially disrupt and interfere with the military's network of supply, storage, transfer, repair and research of nuclear weapons. The law requires full public disclosure on the transport of nuclear materials before they can continue. Further documents compiled last month by the Oakland City Manager's office show that one of the nuclear routes was the now-collapsed portion of the Nimitz freeway, called the Cypress Structure."

Concord has two large specially fortified 'Alpha Areas', as they are called, where guards are authorized to shoot to kill. We've seen nuclear bomb convoys on several occasions going to the Alpha Area at the waterfront. I happened quite by accident to see three nuclear guided missiles being unloaded from such a truck on my way to the vigil.

TOXIC HAZARDS AND RADIATION IN CONCORD

Clearly the presence of such a nuclear arsenal at Concord makes it a major target in the event of nuclear war. But in the meantime, Americans are already dying. Frank Davenport, one person who worked in the older Alpha Area, Building 81, for 20 years, felt sure that his rare form of melanoma was caused by radiation exposure there. This variety has appeared in high numbers at Livermore as well.

According to Howard Moreland, an expert on nuclear bomb production, Building 81 is used to refurbish the tritium in nuclear warheads. This process is similar to putting air into a balloon, and some release is inevitable. When a County Health Dept. worker started mapping cancer cases in Pittsburg and Antioch, a distinct pattern was found that stopped abruptly at the eastern boundary of the station, downwind from Building 81.

In addition to radiation dangers, 70% of all toxic pollution in the United States is caused by the military. Heavy metals and other toxins have been dumped for years into the wetlands surrounding CNWS. The base was put on the Environmental Protection Agency's Superfund list in June of 1988. Protesters who entered one area of the base in 1987 were taken to a hospital and given a full toxic scrub. On a hot summer day in 1988, I was warned by a Marine to avoid cooling off in the lawn sprinklers because the ground water was hazardous to skin. An aqueduct carrying water to a million East Bay residents runs past both Alpha Areas, and other parts of the base as well.

No matter what your interest in life, or where your concerns lie, it is clear to all who peek behind the mask of CNWS that it is a place of deadly destruction to all forms of life, and humanity at home and abroad. From the tiny creatures of the marsh to the children of Iraq, millions of lives are affected by what goes on at the Concord Station. ☐

TRACK RECORD:

August 1st, 1991 is the 1512th day of continuous US war crimes at the Concord Naval Weapons Station. Sixteen train movements were documented between June 25th and July 25th, with the bulk of munitions being moved into the base, rather than outbound. Ninety four boxcars were recorded, 53 type A, (explodes on impact), 26 type B (ignites on impact), 3 Dangerous (bullets, landmines, etc.) and 12 inert (unassembled metal components, etc.). On the days when truck movements were recorded, 60% of them were missiles or rockets mainly inbound.

Those arrested for halting weapons shipments this month were Greg Getty, Woody Schwartz, Ruth Hartsough, Russ Jorgensen, Sunshine Appleby, Abe Zwickel, and Carrie Craig.

Jennifer Viereck will be representing Nuremberg Actions as an affiliate at the National Mobilization for Survival conference in Milwaukee, October 3-6. She will also be a candidate for the National Coordinating Council at that time. Send any concerns or ideas to her at the N.A. office.

DAVID DUNCOMBE BACK IN COURT

David Duncombe, who was on the tracks with Brian Willson when he was struck 4 years ago, has been arrested over 60 times for blocking weapons since that time. He served time last summer, and will be charged again at the Mt. Diablo Municipal Court in Concord, starting August 7th. Please attend if you are able. David has this to say about being at the tracks at CNWS:

"I came to the tracks four years ago to see what was going on and have come back once a week because I found that I was in the right place.

Nowhere stateside have I seen more clearly the breakdown of Constitutional democracy and international treaty obligation than at CNWS. Every munitions truck or train that goes by reminds me of this. So I have done what I must do with a sign or with my body.

We may not have stopped one bullet or bomb from ultimately finding its mark, or spared the life of one person in Nicaragua, El Salvador or Iraq, but we have given hope to the citizens of those nations that there are those in our nation willing to continue the example and work of Brian Willson, who first put his body between those weapons and the people whom they were intended to kill.

That is why I am still at the tracks."

This newsletter is published 10 times a year and is sent to Nuremberg Actions members 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 business and government alike, through nonviolent, creative and responsible means. Submissions accepted to 20th of month. Editor and publisher: Jennifer Viereck

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

CALENDAR

AT THE TRACKS:

- 8/7-8/? Trial of David Duncombe at Mt. Diablo Municipal Court in Concord. Willow Pass and Parkside.
8/8---9:00am Redwood Friends, Sonoma Co. Taxes for Peace
8/18---3:00pm Buddhist hour of meditation. Sitting and walking. Rides leave from Berkeley Zen Center.
9/1---12:00 noon TRANSFORM CONCORD THROUGH NONVIOLENT LOVE
4TH ANNIVERSARY OF TRAIN ASSAULT ON BRIAN WILLSON
Noon prayer service with direct action to follow. Also sponsored by Bay Area Pax Christi and Bay Area Religious Peace Action. Contact John Dear S.J. 415-655-8933

IN THE BAY AREA:

- 8/6---5:00pm Stop the War Against Iraq, End the Sanctions Now
Demonstration at UN Plaza, Civic Center SF 415-821-6545
9/14---12noon International Commission of Inquiry Hearing for War Crimes Tribunal Mission High School 415-821-6545
First hand testimony invited, more detail next month.
9/21---11:00am International Peace Festival with music, food and booths at Todos Santos Plaza in Concord 415-933-7850
Weekly vigil Thursday at noon: National Campaign for Amnesty for War Resisters, SF War Memorial, VanNess & McAllister

AT LARGE:

- 9/7-8--Abalone Alliance 10 Year Reunion at Diablo Canyon
Plant Celebration, March and action to commemorate 1981 Blockade. Diablo Project Office 808-543-6614
9/14---10:00am Stop the Restart at Rocky Flats, CO Rally at plant to stop restart of plutonium processing operations at Weapons Plant. Rocky Mt. Peace Center 303-444-6981
11/9-11---Veterans Day Witness at the Nevada Test Site
3 day camp, celebration, rally and nonviolent action.
All. of Atomic Veterans 602-768-6623, APT 702-386-9834

NUREMBERG ACTIONS BOOK PROJECT

The long-awaited book about the N.A. vigil is in the works. A visually oriented history/celebration, we hope to include brief statements from as many people as possible who have been involved over the years, given physical limitations. We strongly urge you to send statements, comments and anecdotes, photos, suggestions, art, music, etc. as soon as possible to The Book Project, c/o Hal Carlstad, 764 Coventry Rd., Kensington CA 94707. (SASE if you want materials returned.)

--- 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 _____