

Between the Lines

Nuremberg Actions, P.O.Box 13, Boulder Creek CA 95006 August 1992 #22

WILLSON & OTHERS BEGIN NEW FAST AT U.S CAPITOL

Dear Friends,

On September 1, 1992 we, S. Brian Willson, Jack Ryan and Scott Rutherford, will begin a 42 day water-only fast at the Capitol in Washington D.C. It will end on October 12, "Columbus Day".

The fast is a penitential reflection to mark the end of the first 500 years of the Columbus enterprise -500 years of domination, exploitation, and genocide that continues to this day under the "New World Order".

We are also fasting to honor the 500 years of transforming resistance by the intended victims of the Columbus enterprise -the indigenous, the African-Americans, the mestizos, the poor who would not be broken.

The fast, which will begin on the fifth anniversary of the assault on Brian by the U.S. Navy munitions train at Concord, California will provide a culminating activity for the quincentennial year. It will enable people of conscience from all of the Americas to reflect on the legacy of the Columbus enterprise.

Together we can help to heal the spirit of our country as we consider an alternative to the "New World Order" -a Peoples World Order.

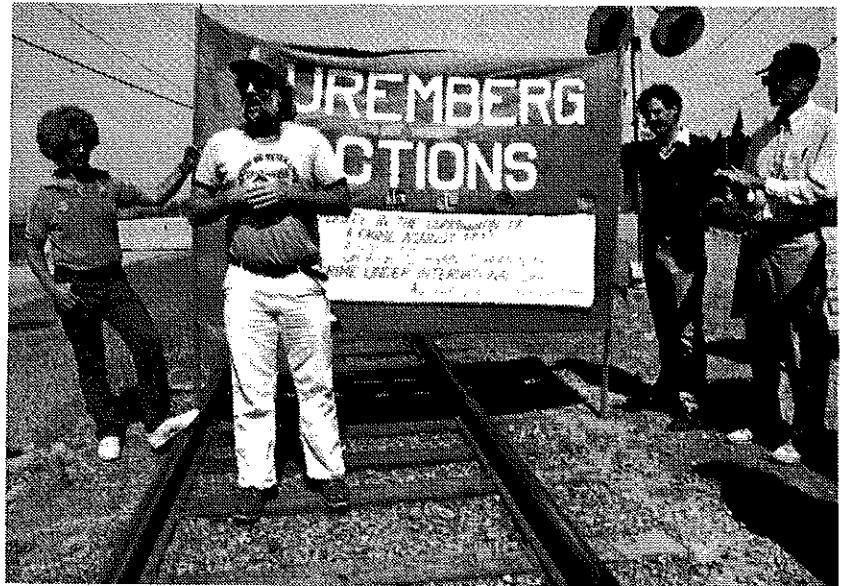
We have chosen to fast as part of our struggle for the radical transformation of values and conscience in this country and for a world based on justice and compassion, a world understood from the connectedness of all life. We have concluded that we are quite inept on this path. But this is no reason to hold back, simply a reason to be humble. We trust that we will see each of you on the path as non-violent revolutionaries. We know that we need you. Please join the fast.

WHY WE ARE FASTING

Brian and Scott have just returned from a three month journey to Latin America. They visited 8 countries: Ecuador, Columbia, Brazil, Argentina, Chile, Peru, Panama and Nicaragua. Jack visited Haiti this past November.

Each of us touched and was touched by the lives and hearts of hundreds of people. We bonded with them in a common struggle for liberation. We were anguished and inspired by what we saw and heard. We learned that the new world order is indeed an extension of the Columbus enterprise.

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Willson and others at Concord Naval Weapons Station, 9/1/87

**SEPTEMBER 1, 1992
9:00 AM TO 4:00 PM**

A DAY OF FASTING, REFLECTION & ACTION AT THE CONCORD NAVAL WEAPONS STATION

5 years after the train assault on Brian Willson,
we gather in support as he and others
begin a new fast at the US Capitol
on the other side of the country.
Bring music, hope, water and juice to share.

THE PEOPLE'S FAST FOR JUSTICE & PEACE IN THE AMERICAS



aggression. We will maintain our vigil site and literature for anyone wishing to use it under Nuremberg Action's nonviolent code.

At least one person will continue to function as Site Supervisor, operating from the N.A. vehicle on the other side of the base gates. They will straighten up the site each morning, stock the literature table, maintain the munitions vehicle log, signs, vests and flags for blockers, and video camera, and be present at the site 2 times a day around the time of munitions trains to remove and replace the barriers as necessary. A sign will be placed at the literature table directing visitors to the camper for further assistance or information.



Your editor, prior to arrest, June 27, 1992

50 YEARS OF 'EXCELLENT' SLAUGHTER

On June 27th and 28th, the Concord Naval Weapons Station held a macabre weekend carnival to celebrate its 50th anniversary, an event some could only liken to the Day of the Dead. Members of Nuremberg Actions and the Mt. Diablo Peace Center gathered in front of the base with signs, banners and a ten foot skeleton puppet, and went inside in shifts of three to hand out literature and hundreds of balloons stating 'Peace is Patriotic'.

Base response to our presence (and grasp of the First Constitutional Amendment) seemed confused. Base Commander Owens had given prior permission for balloon distribution at the carnival. While some protesters took advantage of the events to join the 1,000 or so inside to tour the base, even videotaping the area, others were abruptly rounded up and arrested on the sidewalk in front of the gates at the end of the day. Of the 5 people charged with trespassing on the front lawn, 3 had already spent time well inside the base. As usual, charges are not being pursued at this time.

NEW COMMANDER FOR CNWS

Captain Richard Owens will be leaving CNWS after about two years. He is cutting short the usual 3 year command at the Navy's request to become deputy to Admiral John D. Pearson in Charleston, South Carolina for nine months. Pearson runs the Navy's mine warfare.

(The U.S. is still in defiance of a June 27, 1986 World Court decision that it must pay the nation of Nicaragua costs for the illegal mining of its harbors in 1984. U.S. government officials blackmailed the new Chamorro government to drop the charges before releasing promised U.S. aid to the starving country.)

Following his nine months under Pearson, Captain Owens will take command of a group of mine warfare ships and helicopters in Corpus Christi Texas.

Although his stay at Concord has been relatively short, it was eventful. Under Owens, the base supplied about 1/3 of all munitions used in the Gulf War by the U.S. and allied forces, about 80,000 tons. The civilian work force increased from 1,200 to 1,800 despite the moving of some missile maintenance work and the personnel department to Seal Beach CA. Owens states that under his command the base increased its work from about \$71 million to \$157 million, an increase of over 100%. The base has maintained the higher level of workers and munitions shipments, despite the cessation of warfare, and the obvious need to redirect funds from the military to a sustainable economy.

Owens will be replaced on Sept. 10th by Alan M. Nibbs, currently commander of a ship squadron at Norfolk VA.

COMMANDER ATTENDS BIRTHDAY

A surprise birthday party for David Duncombe, Abraham Zwickel and Marion Spotswood at the vigil site, organized by Dorothy Brownold, was even more surprising when joined by Base Commander Richard Owens. Owens brought a thoughtfully selected gift for both Duncombe and Zwickel, two people who have consistently blocked his front gates and impeded his task of arming the Pacific throughout his two years at CNWS. Owens has always maintained a respectful and pleasant demeanor with vigilers, giving hope that through continued dialogue and sharing of ideas there is still a chance for world peace. Owens was accompanied by Alan Nibbs, who will take over command when Owens leaves in September.

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, nonexploitative policies from business and government alike, through nonviolent, creative and responsible means. Submissions accepted to 20th of month.

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WILLSON FAST...continued from page 1

*Our Government violates the sovereignty of other nations at will with devastating consequences.

*The andean initiative is a cover for U.S. involvement in the counter-insurgency campaigns through which the Columbian and Peruvian governments are terrorizing the people and killing their leaders.

*Our neo-colonial economic policies are an extension of low-intensity warfare. Our efforts to collect the foreign debt are pushing the poor to the margins of their societies - to squatter towns, to lives of misery and fear, lives not unlike the lives of the people of Los Angeles where the uprising occurred. Marginalized and unable to participate in the modern sector of their economies, they have become expendable.

But we also found hope and inspiration in the empowering, life-risking and transforming struggle that people everywhere in Latin America are waging to liberate themselves from injustice and oppression. It is being carried out democratically, collectively, and with a spirit of self-sacrifice. It transforms the people and their relationship to one another as it transforms their relationship to the state and to the society. At its core, it is nonviolent and prophetic.

We wish now to share our experience. We wish to make visible the people we have met. We want their voices to be heard. We want our fellow North Americans to learn about the transforming struggle for liberation and, with us, join it and become a part of the North-South nonviolent front, or "frente" for justice and peace.

THE FAST AS PUBLIC FORUM

For the duration of the fast, the Capitol will become a popular forum where concerned people of conscience can gather for reflection and dialogue. Each day there will be an opportunity to explore issues and ideas that will illuminate the nature of the conquest and the "New World Order". From time to time, we will also vigil at the institutions which are carrying out the neo-colonial policies of our government, such as the IMF, the World Bank and Pentagon. In the final days of the fast we will envision alternatives to the "New World Order" and consider how together we can make them a reality.

We encourage people at the grass roots to fast on water or juice with us or to organize relay fasts and vigils. We will provide materials for reflection. We will also set up a conference on Peacenet so that others can be a part of the dialogue at the Capitol. Please join us. We must respond to the "New World Order". We must end the conquest. We must reconcile with those we have injured and heal our wounded spirit.

**S. Brian Willson, Jack Ryan
Scott Rutherford**

For more information or to participate in the fast: People's Fast for Justice and Peace in the Americas, PO Box 344, Fredonia NY 14063. (716) 673-1161.

SEPT. 1: VIGIL & FAST AT TRACKS

Nuremberg Actions invites all concerned people to join them at Concord Naval Weapons Station for a day of fasting, reflection and action on Tuesday, Sept. 1. We wish to express our support to Brian, Scott, and Jack, as they begin their 42 day fast in Washington, and to express our continued outrage as the U.S. continues to threaten and bully its local communities and world neighbors with the conventional and nuclear weapons at Concord Naval Weapons Station. Water and juice will be available. Please bring your music, signs, and reverence for life, and join us in front of the gates of death.

Sept. 1 marks the fifth anniversary of the day a Concord Naval Weapons Station munitions train ran down a group of people as they began a 40 day fast at the base to protest weapons shipments to Central America for use against civilian villages. Brian Willson suffered the loss of both legs and severe head injuries, but he survived, due in large part to the quick actions and medical skills of his wife of one week, Holley Rauen. The fast was carried through by others as Willson recovered in a nearby hospital.

This year, Willson and others, back from months in Latin America where they saw first hand the results of brutal U.S. military and economic policies, will fast again on the U.S. Capitol steps. The fast will begin on Sept. 1 and continue to October 12, "Columbus Day". Willson is joined by Scott Rutherford, who provided the support house known as Peace House to Nuremberg Actions for several years, and Jack Ryan, a former FBI member who lost his job of 21 years after refusing to illegally investigate Willson as a terrorist during the first Veterans Fast for Life at the Capitol in 1986.

RENEWED VOW TO CONTINUE VIGIL

On June 13, supporters gathered at the tracks of CNWS to celebrate the fifth anniversary of the beginning of Nuremberg actions. About 30 people came from surrounding counties to share reflections, music, thoughts for the future and birthday cake. Afterward, interested people gathered to discuss the future of the vigil. People spoke about:

*The buildup of nuclear weapons at CNWS and the need to push for nuclear disarmament and safe dismantling of decommissioned weapons;

*The current lull in U.S. military aggression, vs. the policy of chronic and unilateral aggression, also known as the "New World Order";

*The economics of the military budget, and how it is bankrupting the rest of American society and future;

*The lower turnout for Nuremberg Actions events in recent months and what that means;

*The continued high levels of munitions shipments from Concord, where they are going, and what that means for the future.

At the end of our discussion, we decided to renew our commitment to keeping a presence at CNWS and our campaign of educating the public about its illegal role in U.S. military

TRACK RECORD

August 1, 1992, is the 1878th consecutive day of citizen resistance to U.S. war crimes at the Concord Naval Weapons Station. A number of events have taken place at the base since our last newsletter that are described elsewhere in this newsletter: our 5th anniversary gathering on June 13th, our response to the Navy's celebration of 50 years of slaughter on June 27th, and a birthday party for three people that was attended by base officials.

Between May 22, and July 17th, 26 train movements were documented, with a total of 273 loaded cars of munitions. a number of trains were not recorded, due to the time of day, or limited vigil coverage. Of those cars recorded, 195 were Type A explosives (detonates on impact, such as bombs or missiles), 20 were Type B (ignites on impact, such as rocket propellants), 11 were Dangerous (bullets, landmines, etc.) and 49 were Inert (metal fins, tail pieces, etc.). In addition, a number of trucks were recorded, many carrying small missiles between June 10th and 15th.

Business is booming at CNWS, with the work force up 50 % and profits up 121% since the beginning of the Gulf War. It is easy to see why there is no money left over for educating the children or healing the sick, when the world is viewed from the Concord tracks.

Someone is clearly rattled by our persistent message, because nocturnal vandalism attacks at the vigil have been rampant, with 6 of them falling in one 5 day period. Creative media has ranged from spray paint to odorous animal parts.

On the positive side, one anecdote written into the log book by David Duncombe should be shared:

Abe (Zwickel) and I were sitting at the site alone when a biker pulls up -big bike, big biker. He quietly looks us over, and I'm thinking, he could waste both of us with one blow. He gets off and starts walking toward us, reaching in his pocket for something. Out comes a dollar bill. As he hands it to us, he says, "This is all I've got with me. You guys are doing a great job!"

CALENDAR

AT THE TRACKS:

8/6---Hiroshima Day. Gather at the tracks, as on each Thursday, from 9 am to noon. Circle of sharing and weapons blockade.

9/1---People's Fast for Justice in the Americas, as Brian Willson and others begin their fast at the U.S. Capitol, we will join them in spirit at the tracks. 9 AM through day. This is the fifth anniversary of the assault on Willson and others by a Concord munitions train in 1987.

ELSEWHERE:

8/6 and 8/9---noon to 1pm. Hiroshima and Nagasaki Commemorations at UC Berkeley campus west lawn (Oxford St. at Addison.) There will be colorful cranes and signs, as well as postcards to the University Regents urging an end of nuclear weapons tests. Circle of Concern: (510) 841-1881.

IF BUSH VETOS TESTING MORATORIUM ACT: Protest at Livermore Labs, 11 AM on following Saturday. East & Vasco Sts., Livermore. Contact Ecumenical Peace Institute, (510) 444-5701.

1492-1992: NEW VISIONS & ALLIANCES

A new 30 page booklet, published by Mobilization for Survival should be of great help in rethinking Columbus Day, 1992. Written by Jennifer Viereck, Benito Torres and Warren Harry, it provides insights into the Europe from which Columbus came, a realistic portrayal of North American post-invasion history, and examples of the battles Native Americans still must fight for survival today. It also includes an excellent bibliography and resource list.

Available from the Nuremberg Actions Office for \$4, or \$2.50 for 10 or more. PO Box 13, Boulder Creek CA 95006.

Nuremberg Actions
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**SEPT. 1: PEOPLE'S FAST FOR
JUSTICE & PEACE IN THE AMERICAS**
Join us at the tracks.

Nuremberg Actions

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July 29, 1992

Dear friends of Nuremberg Actions:

Our vigil and weapons blockade continues here at the Concord Naval Weapons Station, following a renewed vow to continue at our 5th anniversary in June. With the approach of August 6th and 9th, when the U.S. vaporized the citizens of Hiroshima and Nagasaki 47 years ago, our thoughts turn to the pivotal role CNWS has played in the U.S. nuclear threat from the very beginning.

Robert E. Pearson, in his account of the horrible weapons explosion at Concord in 1944, writes this:

"One year after the fiery disaster, almost to the day, Port Chicago was visited by a grimly mysterious military train. Captain (Merril T.) Kinne arranged for the train to roll onto the base without the customary stop at the Southern Pacific depot at the main gate... The nine car train snaked down to the new loading piers, past the revetments filled with ammunition, past the new barracks and administration buildings, to the newly constructed loading dock. All personnel, except for a carefully selected few, were removed from the immediate area. The side of a special railroad car was swung back to reveal a large box the train guards called "Big Boy". The box was loaded onto the deck of a small lighter provided by the Navy...(and) disappeared into mists on its way down the river to San Francisco Bay and the Navy's heavy Cruiser, Indianapolis. A week later, Hiroshima disappeared in a blinding flash of atomic energy."

CNWS is still the hub of the Navy's Pacific nuclear arsenal. Since Bush's stand-down of some nuclear systems nearly a year ago, hundreds of warheads have been brought into the base. The problem is what to do with them now. The Washington Post stated that the U.S. "must decide what to do with perhaps 5 tons of the most lethal substances on Earth ...but no disposal method that exists would be safe, environmentally benign, economically feasible and politically acceptable, according to scientists."

Activists at the Pantex plant in Texas write, "Dismantling proceeds at a faster pace than planning for the permanent storage of the nuclear materials, and plutonium pits continue to pile up here in facilities that were never designed for long-term storage. There have already been rumors of at least one accident occurring during dismantling."

And yet, plans escalate for Trident II nuclear warheads and Star Wars spending is going up. Native Americans and supporters across the land are fighting increased uranium mining, nuclear testing, and nuclear waste dumps on their lands. Although no other nation in the world is testing nuclear weapons except China (which has conducted 1 test in 2 years, and 2% of tests overall), Bush not only plans to veto the Nuclear Testing Moratorium Act, but has been pressuring Russia to resume testing when their current 1992 moratorium expires.

Only through continued public pressure and citizen resistance can we hope to reclaim our future in a nuclear-free world. We have renewed our commitment to resist these and other crimes against peace at the Concord Naval Weapons Station. We hope you will join us on August 6th (Hiroshima Day) and Sept. 1st (see newsletter) and continue your support in whatever ways you can.

For the children,

Nuremberg Actions is an affiliate of the National Mobilization for Survival and a member of the Coalition for Peace and Sovereignty in the Asia-Pacific.