



ALBERTA PEACE NEWS

YES TO PEACE AND INTERNATIONAL SOLIDARITY, NO TO IMPERIALISM AND NEO-COLONIALISM

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Edmonton Peace Council (EPC) Meeting Schedule for 2007-2008:

EPC Meetings will be held every 3rd Thursday of the month at the Stanley Milner Library, 6th Floor Room 7, from 7:00pm-9:00pm:

1. September: No Foreign Bases
2. October: Canada's Role in Afghanistan
3. November: Labour and Peace
4. December: Holiday Break
5. January - May: TBA

The Edmonton Peace Council (EPC) is a member of the Canadian Peace Congress which is affiliated to the World Peace Council.

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EPC Resumes Public Meetings

After a long absence the Edmonton Peace Council is preparing for a resumption of regular public meetings. The first one will be on Thursday September 20th at the Edmonton Stanley Milner Public Library.

The Canadian Peace Congress was reconstituted at a national meeting held in Edmonton in April 2006. Since then, the EPC has continued to work within the broader Canadian Peace movement.

PM Harper continues to defy overwhelming public opposition to the war of aggression in Afghanistan. The continued presence and escalation of troops and armaments budgets has burdened Canadian working people with increases in hours on the job, cuts to public funding and services and decreases in overall standards of living. Harper has placed Canada squarely in the aggressive US-NATO policies of foreign interventions, military build-ups and integration in the world wide network of US foreign military bases.

The greatest threat to world peace and the global environment is the continued aggressive expansionist policies and military stance of US imperialism. The US remains the overwhelming threat to the survival of the planet. with the presence of over 250,000 US military operating personnel in 156 countries, the existence of 700-800 permanent military bases in 63 nations, 2000 inter-continental ballistic missiles, 3456 submarine launched nuclear weapons roaming the worlds oceans (15 minutes from intended targets), 1750 nuclear bombs loaded on inter-continental B-52 bombers, with 2000 of these weapons set on "hair-trigger" all with a destructive capacity that can "overkill" every person on earth 32 times at a cost approaching 1 trillion dollars in 2007.

This year the EPC will focus on the aggressive policies of US-NATO expansionism, Canada's expanded role in the camp of US-NATO led resources wars and the effects of these policies on organized labour, the environment, and Canadian sovereignty.

September begins with a discussion on the world-wide network of US foreign military bases and their effects on PM Harper's foreign policy. Don Currie, Interim Executive Member of the Canadian Peace Congress will speak.

October will focus on the role of Canada in the US-NATO-EU led war in Afghanistan. Harper's apparent backtracking on the mission continuing past the 2009 "parliamentary mandate" is an attempt to deflect the national sentiment of Quebec, which is 65-70% in opposition to the war, and attempt to win 2 Quebec by-elections in November.

November will examine labour's position in the peace movement. The Harper-O'Connor-Hillier alliance of finance-oil-military capital attempts to fund the war through increasing speed up and hours on the job, cutting back public funding of social services and reducing wages.

In 2007 the EPC is planning 8 public meeting with December being missed to allow working people to deal with stresses of the holiday season. Resumption will be in January 2008 where discussions will focus on the fight-back to end the war in Iraq, preparations for the WPC world forum in April, and Canada's role in Arctic. This should be an exciting year we hope to see all friends of peace out at the meetings.

Peace & Solidarity

Sean Currie,

Secretary Treasurer



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U.S. Foments New Nuclear Arms Race

Liberal Leader Stephane Dion and NDP leader Jack Layton have both condemned Prime Minister Stephen Harper's G8 support for President George Bush's plan to locate radar and ballistic missile installations in Czechoslovakia and Poland. The Bloc Quebecois is on record against Canadian participation in missile defence systems. Two years ago, the peace movement mobilized public opinion against Canadian participation in a U.S. missile defence program and the Martin Liberal government officially refused the U.S. invitation to join. There is alarm among all opposition parties and the peace movement that Harper is moving the Government away from official opposition to ballistic missile defence and if re-elected will integrate Canada into the U.S. NATO and Israeli ballistic missile defence systems that are under construction and development.

The United States invests \$10 billion annually in missile defence: the single largest item in its \$529 billion defence budget. The money goes directly into the pockets of the biggest aerospace contractors such as Boeing, the lead contractor in the project. There is skepticism in the U.S. that the system will even work, with many critics claiming tests thus far have failed. Nonetheless, U.S. defence authorities boast it will be deployed in 2015.

The U.S. system has sparked similar missile defence shield programs in Israel and Japan. The Israeli system, heavily financed by the U.S. taxpayers, is directed at Syria and Iran. It underwent preliminary field testing in secret joint manoeuvres with the U.S. military last March and is slated for deployment in 2011. In Japan the Diet allocated large sums for construction of a system they alleged was necessary after North Korea tested ballistic missiles.

The NATO anti-ballistic missile defence system is part of a U.S.-NATO strategic plan of encirclement of Russia. The *Globe and Mail* of June 8 carried an interview with pro-U.S. Ukrainian President Viktor Yushchenko; he stated he wants to move Ukraine quickly into NATO and the EU following Ukrainian general elections in September. There are NATO bases in Romania and Bulgaria. Most of the former Warsaw Pact countries are now members of NATO.

Russian President Putin has warned the U.S. and NATO that Russia is developing missiles that will penetrate any of the defence systems deployed against it. He has also threatened to target countries that maintain missile defence systems on the borders of Russia. In a June 4 interview Putin scoffed at claims that either North Korea or Iran has the capability to reach Europe with missiles. Putin rejected claims that Russia is promoting a new cold war. He said it was not Russia but the United States that unilaterally withdrew from the Anti-Ballistic Missile

Treaty (ABM) in June 2002. The ABM treaty was negotiated between the USSR and the United States precisely to prevent an offence-defence arms race between states with strategic nuclear missile capability.

The United States withdrew from the ABM and began to pursue a multi-layered ballistic missile defence system to cover the 50 U.S. states and integrate it with a NATO system and its "allies." Multi-layered means land, sea and space-based radar and missile technology to detect and destroy incoming missiles at the launch mid-range and entry phases. The technology includes the use of lasers and low yield nuclear explosives. The U.S. withdrawal from the ABM treaty upset a series of long standing treaties including the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty. The NATO missile defence plan has split EU countries concerned about growing tensions in Europe caused by U.S. military expansion. Putin has charged that for the first time in history the U.S. has part of its nuclear capability on European soil. Large demonstrations have taken place in most of the EU countries against a new arms race.

The Canadian Peace Congress considers the installation of U.S. missile bases in Czechoslovakia and Poland as a hostile act directed to intimidate Russia and foment a new nuclear missile arms race in Europe. The danger of nuclear war in Europe has increased immeasurably. U.S. missile installations on the borders of Russia increase global insecurity at a time when everything should be done to end the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan and reduce the threat of nuclear annihilation by eliminating nuclear weapons stockpiles and their means of delivery.

The support of the Harper Government for the Bush Administration's policy of aggressive nuclear military expansion in Europe is contrary to the wishes of the Canadian people. Canadians by and large expect their government to advocate independent policies of peace and nuclear disarmament and to actively work for the elimination of all weapons of mass destruction. There is no support in Canada for a renewed arms race in space.

The Canadian Peace Congress has issued a statement expressing solidarity with the Peace Movements of Czechoslovakia and Poland who condemn and reject the collaboration of their governments with the Bush administration that permits U.S. nuclear missile installations on their soil, and exposes their people to the danger of nuclear war.

The Canadian Peace Congress urges all of its supporters to write their MP and demand the Harper Government withdraw its support for the Bush policy of aggressive military expansion and align Canada with the majority of the nations and peoples of the world who demand the dismantling of all foreign military bases and the elimination of all nuclear weapons and their means of delivery.



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Don Currie, Interim Executive Member
Canadian Peace Congress

Communiqué of the Meeting of the Secretariat of the WPC

The meeting of the Secretariat of the World Peace Council, held in Brussels at the European Parliament on 15th June, concluded successfully its agenda and issued the following statement:

With the participation of the members of the Secretariat from Cuba, Greece, Portugal, Mexico, France, Congo, USA and Vietnam and invited organizations from Cyprus, Germany, India, Palestine, Turkey, Belgium, Serbia, Bulgaria, Palestine, Poland, Czech Republic, Venezuela, Lebanon, Spain, Denmark and Georgia, the WPC held a very fruitful secretariat meeting.

Having reviewed the current International situation and the global threats to peace and security the WPC is repeating its condemnation of the growing aggressiveness of imperialism, foremost of the USA and is expressing its appreciation and satisfaction with the massive peoples' mobilizations against ongoing wars and occupations, plans for new US or NATO Military Bases around the world and threats for new attacks against sovereign nations and countries.

In addition to the two wars already being waged in Iraq and Afghanistan, there has been Israel's attack on Lebanon in July 2006, which despite the temporary pause has worsened the situation in the Middle East. The concentration of military forces in the region, the threats against certain countries and the plan to attack Iran, the increased military presence of the imperialists in Africa, the attempts to destabilize the Chavez government in Venezuela and the new exacerbation of the situation in the Balkans over Kosovo, where the idea is to create a protectorate, give rise to volatile hot spots and possibly to fresh interventions.

The EU is forming battle groups and planning to set up new naval groups for rapid intervention. It is preparing to send fresh troops to replace NATO in Kosovo. The newly elected French President has asked for a new aircraft carrier and the Italian government has agreed with the expansion of the US base in Vicenza. Germany is becoming stronger militarily. Despite the rejection of the "Constitutional Treaty" and the disapproval by the peoples the EU governments are trying to reshuffle and rename the treaty by maintaining all reactionary elements and nature.

The domination of the new imperialist world order is worsening the economic situation of the working people and of the peoples in general in both developed and developing countries. The promotion of capitalist

restructuring and neo-liberal policies with the withdrawal of workers' gains and the implementation of flexible forms of employment, the abolition of collective agreements and the generalized privatizations in all sectors are causing an increase in poverty, unemployment, hunger and misery. Social contradictions are on the rise. Today 10% of the world's population owns 90% of the total wealth produced. Discontent is growing and the working people are waging struggles with which the peace movement can and must link up.

In the recent period authoritarianism, policing and the offensive against democratic rights and liberties have become harsher with bloody attacks by the police and other repressive forces. In the USA, the EU and in other countries laws are being passed which in the name of dealing with terrorism do away with democratic rights and freedoms. The CIA activity has been officially disclosed, with its illegal abductions and arrests of hundreds of innocent citizens being made with the agreement of European governments, along with the use of European airports for their transport. A monstrous monitoring system has been set up, ranging from cameras spying on all of people's activities all the way to the establishment of databases including DNA files. In view of all this, for the WPC and the entire Peace Movement, the struggle for the withdrawal of the occupation troops from Iraq and Afghanistan is a matter of immediate priority linked to the need for solidarity with all the peoples of the region, who are resisting and paying for the imperialists' plans with loss of life in the hundreds of thousands.

The WPC notes positively the outcome of the Non Aligned Summit, last September in Havana and the need to strengthen the cooperation between its member states.

The WPC denounces a new increase of military expenditure which represent \$ 1,2 Trillion USD in 2006 and demands an immediate end of this absurd escalation. Only 10% of this expenditure would be enough to reach the Millennium Development Goals of the UN of the year 2000.

New warheads, including developments of nuclear weapons are built and deployed as well as new launchers and missiles. New satellites and satellite clusters are being deployed in space, for missions of surveillance and "security" control. The multiplication of ground and space bases and facilities, are increasing the imperialist domination and are signs for the new threats and military aggressions.

The Secretariat agreed to prepare till the next Assembly a campaign against the militarization of International Relations, the growing military expenditure and the



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dedication instead for social expenses and combating poverty.

The WPC reaffirms its clear and principled position in favour of the complete abolition of all nuclear weapons in the world. The WPC can not equal the responsibility of the USA and its targets. We are not in favour of nuclear tests and we consider them harmful, but at the same we condemn the “double moral and standards” of the US administration, which considers some of the states which hold nuclear weapons as allies and others as terrorists.

The World Peace Council notes with concern the continued division of Cyprus as a result of the Turkish occupation of 37% of the territory of the Cyprus Republic, as well as a result of the intransigence of Turkey. Its refusal to seek the reunification of the island under UN auspices, and the transformation of the Republic of Cyprus into a bizonal-bicomunal federation, at large due to the support by NATO allies, especially the USA and the UK, poses a grave danger to peace in the region and prevents Greek and Turkish Cypriots from living together a common peaceful, demilitarized island.

The WPC condemns vehemently the plans for creation of a NATO- or EU-protectorate out of the Serbian province Kosovo and demands a just, mutual and viable solution without foreign interference. The “Ahtisari plan” does not serve this purpose at all.

The WPC denounces the plans to destabilize the legitimate and several times elected government of Venezuela, which is defending its right for independent and sovereign development, despite the propaganda of the imperialists hand in hand with the oligarchy of the country. All measures which ensure the people’s control over the Mass Media and real transparency have to be appreciated.

The Secretariat expresses its deep respect and solidarity to the Cuban people, which are continuously defending their revolution against all types of manipulation and blockades. The WPC demands the release of the Five Cuban political prisoners held unlawfully in the USA.

The WPC expresses its full support to the Vietnamese people for the ongoing suffering of more than one million victims of the toxic “Agent Orange” used by the USA in their dirty war against Vietnam. The Secretariat calls upon all members and friends of the WPC to join actively the international campaign for the compensation of the victims and the total ban of all chemical weapons.

The WPC expresses its firm solidarity with the people of Western Sahara, for its decades of suffering and oppression. The Secretariat underlines its support to the right of Self-determination of the Saharawi people and

for a political solution, mutually accepted between the Polissario Front and Morocco.

The WPC salutes the struggle of the peace loving people of Japan and of the Japan Peace Committee in their struggle for maintaining the article 9 of the Japanese Constitution.

Some of the priorities in the activities of the WPC in the coming period:

- To express full-hearted solidarity with the Palestinian people, which are suffering not only from the ongoing Israeli occupation and its brutality, but also from the fraternal “civil war”. The WPC reaffirms that the only just and possible solution to the problem is the complete withdrawal of all occupation forces from the territories of 1967 and the establishment of an independent state of Palestine with East Jerusalem as its capital, alongside Israel. The WPC shall prepare a campaign with special appeal and poster and explore the possibility for a visit of delegation to Palestine and Israel.
- To promote and continue being actively involved in the movement for the abolition of all foreign military bases and particularly the International Network (no Bases)
- To continue the initiatives for the elimination of nuclear weapons and particularly for the success of this year’s World Conference against Atomic & Hydrogen Bombs in Hiroshima and Nagasaki (3-9 August, 2007)
- To prepare the campaign of the WPC in relation to the violation of the UN founding charter by the “new world order” today.
- To hold on September 28-29, 2007 in Lisbon/Portugal an international conference against the militarization of the EU, the deployment of new US military Bases in Europe and the growing military expenditure world wide.
- To hold our next EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING OF THE WPC, in November 2007 in Hanoi/Vietnam
- To organize a special solidarity conference with the peoples of the Middle East and especially Palestine, in January 2008 in Istanbul
- To organize the Regional meeting of Asia & Pacific of the WPC in new Delhi/India on January/February 2008.
- To organize a Balkan conference of peace movements in Thessaloniki/Greece in February 2008.
- **TO CULMINATE IN ALL OUR ACTIVITIES WITH THE HOLDING OF THE NEXT**



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ASSEMBLY OF THE WPC, IN APRIL 2008 IN THE CAPITAL OF THE BOLIVARIAN REPUBLIC OF VENEZUELA, CARACAS, FOLLOWED BY A BROAD INTERNATIONAL PEACE CONFERENCE

**The Secretariat of the WPC
15th June 2007**

ECAWAR – Edmonton Coalition Against War and Racism

The Edmonton Coalition Against War and Racism (ECAWAR) was founded at the Mennonite Centre for Newcomers in December 2002. ECAWAR has organized at least twenty large demonstrations against the wars on Iraq, Afghanistan, Lebanon and Palestine.

In 2002, the University of Alberta Coalition of the same name had outgrown its campus base. It had also been internally conflicted. Some gifted organizers were able to hoist the organization out of the swamp and open it to the wider Edmonton community.

From the large founding meeting, a consensus driven approach to decision making was developed and many subcommittees put in place to develop antiwar materials and demonstrations all focussed on trying to stop the impending war on Iraq. For better or worse, ECAWAR remains an informal organization with no elected positions.

In February and March 2003, Edmonton Coalition Against War and Racism (ECAWAR) co-ordinated the largest protests in Edmonton's history, joining millions around the world in history's largest anti-war protests.

ECAWAR maintains a website (www.ecawar.org), a list-serve discussion group [Please write ecawar@yahoogroups.com to join the discussion group], a bank account, and has regular monthly meetings at Hostelling International (10647 81 Avenue).

Photographs from many of ECAWAR's events can be found on the website Raising My Voice, which documents Edmonton's activist scene. We also have many of our events filmed and available to view on YouTube.

Doug Meggison – Coordinator ECAWAR

Canadian Peace Congress to Attend World Peace Council Meeting in Caracas Venezuela

Following a highly successful World Peace Council (WPC) Secretariat Meeting of the European Co-ordination of the WPC at the European Parliament in Brussels June 14th 2007 the WPC has convened a North and South American regional meeting in Caracas Venezuela for August 26-27, 2007. The Canadian Peace Congress will send a delegate to the Caracas Meeting where plans will be laid for a WPC World Conference April 2008.

Sixteen European Peace organizations attended the European meeting in Brussels as well as organizations from other regions including the Congo, Cuba, India, Lebanon, Mexico, Palestine, the USA, Venezuela and Viet Nam.

The WPC European Co-ordination Meeting dealt with the issue of global militarism, the proliferation of military bases internationally and in Europe, the abolition of nuclear weapons and the campaign to maintain Article 9 of the Japanese Constitution that prohibits Japan from rearming and participating in foreign wars.

The meeting dealt with the situation in Palestine and the Balkans and the attempts to create a protectorate in the region of Kosovo.

The meeting helped to prepare the mass demonstrations that greeted President George Bush and NATO's attempts to establish radar installations in Czechoslovakia and Hungary.

The meeting agreed to establish a WPC website for the WPC European Region. The meeting also agreed to send a "fact finding" mission of the WPC to Palestine as part of a campaign of support for the struggle of the Palestinians. Further meetings were planned for Portugal to coincide with Portugal's presiding over the next session of the European Union.

The meeting in Caracas Venezuela in August is sponsored by COSI, the Venezuelan Peace movement that has recently re-affiliated to the World Peace Council. A broad attendance from many countries in the region is expected.

Sean Currie, financial secretary of the Edmonton Peace Council will attend the Caracas meeting representing the Interim Executive of the Canadian Peace Congress.

A full report of the Caracas meeting will be presented at a public meeting in Edmonton advertised elsewhere in this issue of the Alberta Peace News.



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The September meeting of the Edmonton Peace Council will also feature a talk by Don Currie, member of the Interim Committee of the Canadian Peace Congress. Currie will focus on the Harper Government's foreign policy and Canadian Government participation in the War in Afghanistan. The meeting will also consider plans to mobilize support for the Canadian Peace Alliance demonstrations scheduled for October demanding the withdrawal of Canadian military forces from Afghanistan.

International News

Massacre by U.S. aircraft in Iraq

Havana. August 9, 2007 - Granma Internacional

BAGHDAD, August 8.— At least 30 people, including women and children, died in the city of Sadr, east of the capital as a result of an aerial attack by the U.S. Army, Prensa Latina reports.

The operation carried out by the joint U.S. Iraqi forces to detain alleged members of the resistance began at daybreak and is the most deadly attack to date to be launched on this Iraqi neighbourhood.

The Shiite leader Asmaa al Mawsawi condemned the U.S. helicopter forces for bombing a poor residential area at dawn. "I don't believe that there were any security threats that can justify this operation," he said.

Elsewhere, an Iraqi police officer died and six others were wounded by an explosion in the center of Kirkuk, northeast of Baghdad, according to local police reports.

Pentagon asks for more money

The Pentagon has requested \$750 million from the U.S. Congress to increase air support and supply armoured vehicles to troops stationed in Iraq, according to the daily Army Times.

According to Department of Defence experts, combat forces urgently need this support in order to respond to the increasingly widespread insurgent strategy of placing bombs at the side of highways.

Translated by Granma International

Peace and Labour Events

Alberta Federation of Labour

Treading Water: Workers, Wages and the Boom
September 28 & 29, 2007
Grant MacEwan Downtown Campus, Edmonton
Co-Sponsored by AFL and Parkland Institute
See: <http://www.afl.org/wageconf.cfm>

ECAWAR 2007-2008

Meetings and preparations for the October Day of Action are held at Hostelling International (10647 81 Avenue). The 2007-2008 schedules will be announced contact the ECAWAR information line at 780-998-2713 or go to www.ecawar.org

Canadian Peace Alliance

Preparations for the Afghanistan War October Day of Action contact:

Canadian Peace Alliance
427 Bloor Street West, Box 13
Toronto, Ontario, M5S 1X7
phone: 416-588-5555
email: cpa@web.ca
web: www.acp-cpa.ca

World Peace Council

WPC Regional Conference sponsored by the Venezuelan Peace Congress (COSI) in Caracas, Venezuela, August 27-28, 2007. This meeting is part of the preparations for the WPC world conference in April 2008.

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