

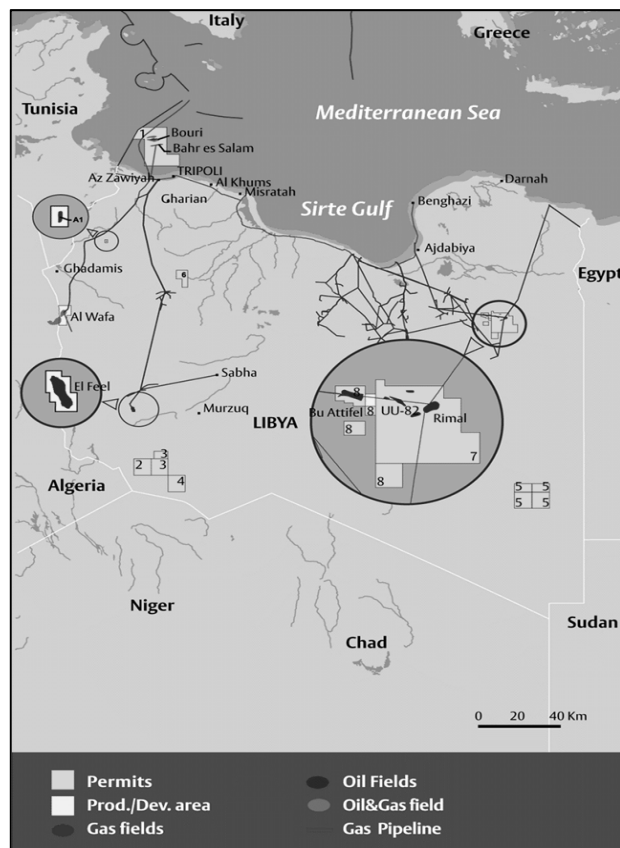
No Blood for Oil! – Hands Off Libya

Recent events in the Middle East and North Africa are changing long-standing regimes in the area and giving voice to those facing oppression and economic deprivation. In many pro-US areas such as Tunisia, Egypt, Bahrain and Yemen, real change seems to be stalled. Meanwhile, in Libya a full-scale uprising is in progress where the United States and its NATO allies including Canada wish to use the unrest to make a comeback and acquire yet another oil-rich area. Following is the statement issued by the Canadian Peace Congress about the situation in Libya. The Regina Peace Council is affiliated to the Congress.

March 4 - As the crisis in Libya deepens, the Canadian Peace Congress denounces the rapid moves by imperialist forces – including the US, EU, NATO, Canada and Israel – to intervene and exploit the conflict to their advantage. We call on the minority Harper Conservative government to withdraw the offensive Canadian JTF-2 Special Forces who have been deployed to the region, recall the heavily armed HMCS Charlottetown and refrain from deploying logistical air refuelling and support power, and halt the implementation of offensive CF-18's to the region. Furthermore, the Canadian government must oppose the United Nations Security Council's imposition of sanctions which will only result in the death and injury of Libyan people, and reject any form of foreign military intervention including the use of no-fly zones which will involve massive bombardment to neutralize existing Libyan air defences.

While the composition and demands of the movement against the Qaddafi regime are not clear at this point, there is a strong component that is decidedly reactionary in nature. This element, centred in Eastern Libya, includes the so-called "National Front for the Salvation of Libya" which is funded by the National Endowment for Democracy and is closely tied to anti-Qaddafi exiles; pro-monarchist forces which have never forgiven Qaddafi for overthrowing the king in 1969; and the Muslim brotherhood. These forces are pressing for theocratic, feudal and pro-imperialist objectives, and it is they who have attracted the keen interest and support of large oil corporations and the Western governments.

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Libya – cont'd from page 1

The recent, successful uprisings in Tunisia and Egypt have placed those countries at the delicate, opening stages of profound change. How these societies develop remains an open question, but two things are already clear: first, the events in Tunisia and Egypt have served as a catalyst for similar popular protests throughout the Middle East and North Africa; second, the emergence of powerful, sovereigntist people's movements poses a dramatic threat to the balance of forces in the region, which has until now favoured the policies of transnational energy corporations, the imperialist states of Europe and North America, and the government of Israel. This threat is the primary motivator behind the desperate attempts to generate pretexts for foreign military interference in Libya.

The current efforts by Western governments to demonize Qaddafi as a murderous madman who has committed crimes against humanity are eerily reminiscent of the similar treatment that Saddam Hussein received prior to the US-led invasion of Iraq, and should give pause for sobre reflection. Reports of Libyan military strikes against unarmed civilians are distressing and such actions, if substantiated, deserve strong condemnation. However, it is dangerously hypocritical to demand that Qaddafi answer for these allegations without demanding that imperialist leaders answer for their role in bombing civilians in Yugoslavia in 1999, or for bulldozing trenches filled with live Iraqi soldiers in 2003, or for massacring thousands of civilians in US-NATO actions over the past decade, or for knowingly handing Afghan detainees over to torture.

The Canadian Peace Congress is concerned that some voices in the broader peace movement have called for the governments of Canada and other countries to intervene in Libya, citing the doctrine of "Responsibility to Protect" or R2P. While the outrage over reports of civilian deaths is understandable, the R2P doctrine is framed in a manner that ignores the geopolitical realities of the current imperialist world order. From the experiences of NATO's intervention in Yugoslavia, two US-led invasions of Iraq, the invasion and occupation of Afghanistan, and the coup in Haiti in 2004, it is very clear that foreign interventions under the guise of humanitarianism immediately transform into violent, exploitative campaigns whose aim is to control regions, peoples and resources for the benefit of powerful international entities. By citing the "Responsibility to Protect", the peace movement inadvertently becomes a political fig leaf for imperialist intervention.

The danger of war, including the use of nuclear weapons, is very real and is being fuelled by the military involvement of the US, EU, NATO and Israel. There are reports that hundreds of American, British and French military personnel have already landed in Libya, along with Canadian JTF2 forces, to act as "defence advisors" to sections of the anti-Qaddafi forces. The United Nations Security Council has imposed sanctions on Libya and there are moves to militarily enforce a no-fly zone over the eastern part of the country, a military measure that would necessarily be preceded by massive bombardment. Several countries – including Canada – have already contributed heavily armed warships to a naval armada in international waters off Libya.

If there is to be any hope of peace, democracy and progress in Libya, this interference must be opposed and reversed. Libya must not be allowed to become a US-NATO military base in North Africa, the springboard for imperialist efforts to manipulate and corrupt the popular movements in Tunisia, Egypt and beyond. Ostensibly, imperialist moves to interfere in Libya emerge from their opposition to democratic, sovereigntist and progressive forces in Libya and throughout the entire region. Libya could serve as a dangerous precedent for imperialism to block all popular uprisings in the region and throughout the world.

It is the sole right and task of the people Libya to determine the course of their political and economic development, free from foreign interference. As the World Peace Council stated, "We underline the right of the Libyan people to express their anger and agony and their demands for changes in the social and economic field and their sovereign right to determine the political developments in their own country. The [imperialist governments] which are serving the interests of the multinational corporations and international capital are searching for opportunity to take more and open control of the oil and gas resources of Libya and expand their spheres of influence."

The key responsibility of the peace movement in Canada is to prevent Canadian involvement in aggressive, unjust and illegal military endeavours. In light of this responsibility, the Canadian Peace Congress:

- declares its solidarity with the Libyan people and demands an end to the bloodshed;
- denounces the UN sanctions against the Libyan people;

Libya – cont'd page 9

New Zealand Peace Activists Acquitted

There are a lot of anti-war actions going on around the world that we don't normally hear about from day to day. For example, in January, there was a demonstration at the Waihopai satellite interception spybase in New Zealand. Speaking at the demonstration were Green M.P. Keith Locke; John Minto, of Global Peace and Justice, Auckland; Dominican Friar Peter Murnane; and Murray Horton, spokesperson for the New Zealand Anti-Bases Campaign.

Waihopai is an electronic intelligence-gathering base located in the Waihopai Valley, near Blenheim, New Zealand. First announced in 1987 it is operated by New Zealand's Government Communications Security Bureau, in the interests of the foreign powers grouped together in the super-secret UK-USA Agreement (which shares global electronic and signals intelligence among the intelligence agencies of the US, UK, Canada, Australia and NZ). Its two satellite interception dishes, shielded by giant domes, intercept a huge volume of satellite phone calls, telexes, faxes, e-mail and computer data communications. It gathers this data from New Zealand's neighbours, covering a vast area of the Pacific, and forwards it on to the US National Security Agency. It makes New Zealand an integral part of a global spying network in the service of US war policy.

Dominican friar Peter Murnane was one of three Ploughshares members who, back in 2008, broke into the spybase and slashed an inflatable plastic dome covering one of the two satellite dishes. In March last year a jury in Wellington District Court took only two hours to find the three not guilty of charges of wilful damage and burglary. The three readily admitted attacking the base, but said they were driven by a belief that the satellite caused human suffering and their actions to shut it down, if only temporarily, were lawful.

As Murray Horton stated in a release concerning the demonstration this January, the US has pronounced Intelligence to be the key component of all wars that it is fighting, or planning to fight, throughout the world. The Waihopai spy base is New Zealand's key contribution to those US wars, Horton continued, and "it means that we have blood on our hands." Waihopai is an outpost of American intelligence, Horton declared, paid for by the long-suffering New Zealand taxpayer. Between \$500 million and \$1 billion of public money had been spent

on the government agency that runs Waihopai in the 23 years of its operation, Horton charged. "That money could have been much better utilised on health and education, not spying on behalf of Uncle Sam."□

WPC Declares Solidarity with Libyan People

March 3 - The World Peace Council expresses its deepest concern and indignation with the recent and ongoing developments in Libya.

While condemning the killing of hundreds of innocent civilian protesters by the heavy armed military of Libya, we express our categorical rejection for any foreign military intervention by the USA, NATO or the EU under any pretext. We underline the right of the Libyan people to express their anger and agony and their demands for changes in the social and economic field and their sovereign right to determine the political developments in their own country. The imperialists which are serving the interests of the multinational corporations and international capital are searching for opportunity to take more and open control of the oil and gas resources of Libya and expand their spheres of influence.

We denounce the military presence of warships of various NATO states in the international waters in front of Libya which proves the preparations for a possible attack and demand their complete withdrawal from the area.

Independently from the opinion one may have on the regime in Libya and its commitments and priorities in its foreign policy especially in the last years, it is the sole right and task of the Libyan people to formulate and impose whatever changes it considers necessary, without any foreign military or political imposition.

The WPC expresses its full-hearted solidarity with the people of Libya and demands the end of the bloodshed.

We express our disagreement with the sanctions imposed by the UN Security Council which will harm mainly the Libyan people and reiterate that no foreign military aggression can be accepted by any means!□

Secretariat of World Peace Council

Provocation in the Korean Peninsula

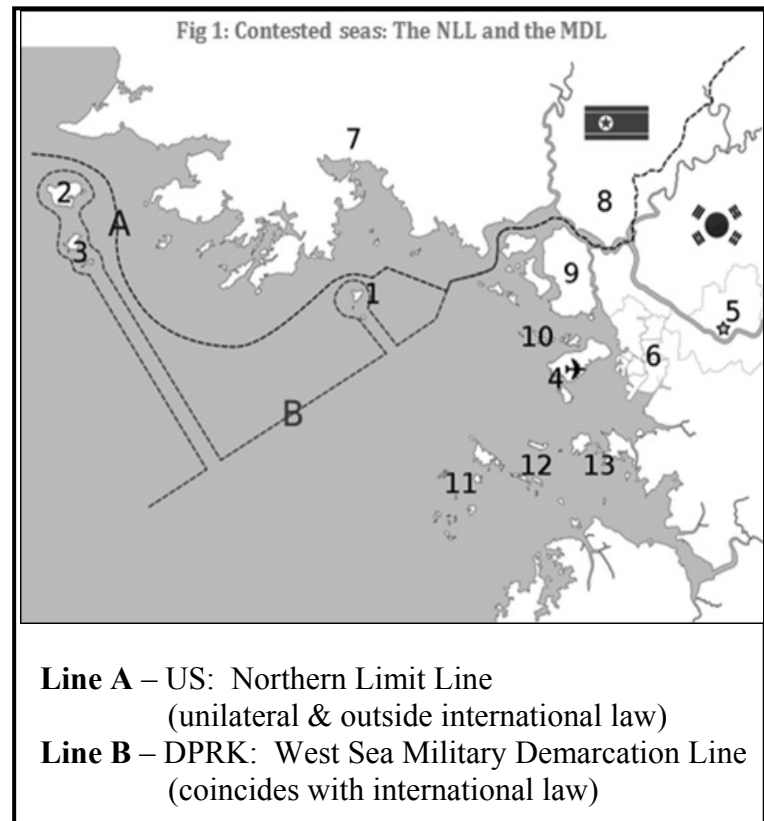
All during 2010 the US and South Korea were trying to get some military action going against North Korea, and for a time it looked as though they had succeeded. On two occasions they came close to arranging an incident that would serve as an excuse to invade North Korea.

Back in March 2010, the US and South Korea tried a "Gulf of Tonkin" episode as an excuse for attacking the North. The Lee administration in South Korea claimed that a North Korean submarine was responsible for the sinking of the Cheonan, an anti-submarine ship participating in war games being conducted by the US and South Korea in waters disputed by North and South Korea, surrounding Baengyeong Island. Then in November North Korea launched an artillery attack on Yeonpyeong Island which houses a South Korean military base, and where the South Korean military were engaged in war games, involving over 70,000 troops, including firing live ammunition into the sea from their military base on the island.

We discussed the Cheonan episode in our June 2010 issue of *Saskatchewan Peace News*. For a better understanding of the Yeonpyeong Island event, let us consider a statement issued at the end of December 2010 by Dr. Martin Hart-Landsberg, Professor of Economics and Director of the Political Economy Program at Lewis and Clark College, Portland, Oregon.

The Korean War ended in 1953 with an armistice, not a peace treaty, and the armistice established the Demilitarized Zone (DMZ) which separates North and South Korea. As Dr. Hart-Landsberg writes, at that time, the US government unilaterally established another dividing line, called the Northern Limit Line (NLL), intended to create a sea border between the two Koreas. Instead of extending the DMZ westward into the sea, the US line runs northward, limiting North Korea's sea access. When the fighting stopped in 1953, South Korean forces were in control of the islands off the North Korean coast and the US wanted to secure their position. Second, control over those islands enhanced the ability of the US forces to monitor and maintain military pressure on North Korea.

Dr. Hart-Landsberg states that North Korea never accepted the NLL. It argued for an alternative border, illustrated by line B, the West Sea Military Demarcation Line (MDL). Acknowledging the reality of Southern forces on the islands off its coast, North Korea sought



recognition for a sea border that went around the islands but otherwise divided the sea by extending the DMZ line. "The critical point here," Dr. Hart-Landsberg emphasizes, "is that the South Korean and US-promoted NLL is not recognized by international law; it has no legal standing. Don't take my word for it. The following is from *Bloomberg News*. Then Secretary of State Henry Kissinger wrote in a 1975 classified cable that the unilaterally drawn Northern Limit line was clearly contrary to international law.' Two years before, the American ambassador said in another cable that many nations would view South Korea and its US ally as in the wrong if clashes occurred in disputed areas along the boundary."

Hart Landsberg continues: "Tensions in the region are not just the result of past political decisions. Critical decisions continue to be made. For example, in October 2007, an inter-Korean summit meeting between Roh Moo-Hyun (the previous South Korean President) and Kim Jong Il (the North Korean leader) produced a commitment by both sides to negotiate a joint fishing area and create a "peace and co-operation zone" in the West Sea. This agreement could have greatly reduced tensions between the two countries and helped to promote a peaceful reunification process.

Korea – cont'd from page 4

"However, a few months after the summit, the newly elected and current South Korean president, Lee Myung-Bak, rejected the agreements reached at that summit and the previous one held in 2000. Lee openly derided past South Korean efforts to improve relations with, and called for aggressive actions against, the North. The US government supported Lee's position."

Turning to the attack on Yeonpyeong Island, Dr. Hart-Landsberg states the South Korean position is that its military was merely engaged in 'routine' war games (involving 70,000 troops) which also happened to include the firing of live ammunition into the sea from a military base on the island. "In reality," he continues, "The South had been strengthening its artillery on the island for some time, engaging in ever more aggressive (non-live ammunition) artillery drills with the apparent aim of boosting its capacity to inhibit the movement of the North Korean navy even in its own waters. These drills were a direct threat to North Korean security, given how close the island is to its coast. Moreover, although the South claims that its war games and artillery fire were routine, it may be the first time that the South has staged major war games and simultaneously engaged in firing live ammunition into territory claimed by the North. The North fired on the South Korean artillery batteries located on Yeonpyeong Island only after its repeated demands that the South stop its live ammunition firing were rejected by the South."

Hart-Lansberg recommends encouraging the US government to accept North Korean offers to engage in good faith negotiations aimed at signing a peace treaty to officially end the Korean War as a first step towards normalized relations. "The fact that our government is reluctant to publicly acknowledge the contested nature of the NLL or pursue an end to the Korean War raises important questions about the motivations driving our foreign policy."

It should be remembered the two incidents mentioned above took place during a series of US-led war games in South Korea and the seas to its east and west. The Cheonan incident in March took place during Operation Foal Eagle, a joint exercise by the US and South Korea taking place close to North Korea.

From July 25-28, as Rick Rozoff, writing for *Global Research*, reports the US conducted a joint military exercise with South Korea in the Sea of Japan/East Sea

with the involvement of 20 warships including the nuclear-powered, 997,000 ton USS George Washington supercarrier with 200 warplanes including F-22 Raptor stealth fighters and 8,000 troops. In August, the US and South Korea conducted the world's largest command and control simulation drill in South Korea with 30,000 US and 56,000 South Korean troops participating. In early September, Washington and Seoul held an anti-submarine warfare exercise in the Yellow Sea with two US-guided missile destroyers, a fast attack submarine and two South Korean destroyers. In November, it was the war games during which Baengyeong Island was shelled. On December 1, the US and South Korea completed four days of naval manoeuvres in the Yellow Sea including live-fire shooting and bombing drills. The US dispatched the USS George Washington for the exercise accompanied by 6,000 sailors and 75 aircraft. That same day, as reported by *Voice of Russia*, it was announced that the US and South Korea would hold another military exercise. On December 2, as reported by *Radio Netherlands*, South Korea announced it would hold more live-fire drills as a warning to North Korea. On December 3, Operation Keen Sword began a week-long exercise by the US and Japan off the coast of South Korea with South Korean observers.' According to *Navy News*, official website of the US Navy, this exercise involved 60 warships, again including the USS George Washington, 400 aircraft and 44,000 troops and was the largest-ever joint US-Japan military drill.

As Rozoff reports, a briefing note prepared for Defence Minister Peter MacKay revealed that "if war breaks out on the Korean peninsula Canada could become embroiled due to a half-century-old United Nations military alliance" - the United Nations Command formed by the US and its allies in the Korean War after the armistice was signed in 1953. The memo states that the joint US-South Korea Combined Forces Command which would be the main fighting formation and lead military operations against North Korea would necessarily include "under its strategic organizational umbrella the legacy United Nations Command."

Canadians should be very concerned about the sabre-rattling going on around North Korea and the deliberate attempts to create an incident that could be used as an excuse to attack North Korea. We should be concerned not only from the point of view of the threat it poses for world peace, but also that Canada would be directly involved in what could end up as a great disaster. □

C. Fischer – March 6

No Military Intervention in Libya

US President Barack Obama has ordered US warships and jet fighters deployed closer to Libya. US Treasury officials announced they had frozen \$30 billion in Libyan assets, the most money ever seized in an American sanctions regime against a foreign power. US senators John McCain and Joe Lieberman pressed the White House to recognize and arm any transitional government formed by leaders of the opposition in eastern Libyan cities that have already fallen from Qaddafi's control. *The Wall Street Journal* in a February 23 editorial wrote that the US and Europe should help Libyans overthrow the Qaddafi regime. A 'no-fly zone' is being urged.* *The Regina Leader Post* noted March 1 that "Obama also spoke with Prime Minister Stephen Harper on the phone," and Harper immediately fell in line, echoing US Foreign Secretary Hilary Clinton's threat that "no option was off the table." As a commentator on the CBC observed, there is 'constant ramping up of pressure' with respect to Libya.

Why the difference in the response to the uprising in Libya, compared with those in the other mid-east countries?

Sara Flounders, Co-Director of the International Action Centre in New York founded by former US Attorney General Ramsay Clark, comments that there is no talk in the board rooms or the corridors of Washington about intervening to help the people of Kuwait or Saudi Arabia or Bahrain overthrow their dictatorial rulers. In an article for *Global Research* in Ottawa, Flounders points out that with regard to Egypt and Tunisia, those same Washingtonians are pulling every string they can to get protesters off the streets. Flounders points out another glaring contradiction on the part of the US, with the support of the Canadian government: there is no talk of intervention to help the Palestinian people of Gaza where thousands have died from being blockaded, bombed and invaded by Israel. As Flounders notes, it was just the opposite. The US intervened to prevent condemnation of Israel.

The assets of the Qaddafi family in the US and Canada have been frozen, but those of former Tunisian president

Zine El Abidine Ben Ali have not. In Egypt, Mubarak has been deposed but the army is still in charge. Even the mainstream media have reported that the US has been for years forking over (to that same Mubarak) a billion and a half dollars a year to maintain that army.

According to Flounders the reason for Washington's interest in Libya is not hard to determine. In 1969 Qaddafi overthrew the monarchy of King Idris Al-Sanusi, who had been a puppet of the US and British economic interests. Qaddafi took power in a military coup, nationalized Libya's oil, used much of that money to develop the Libyan economy, and improved conditions dramatically for the people. Libya is Africa's third-largest producer of oil and has the continent's largest proven reserves. As Flounders states, Libya is a country with a relatively small population but the potential to produce huge profits for the giant oil companies, and that's what underlies their professed concern for the people's democratic rights in Libya.

After the US invaded Iraq in 2003 and levelled much of Baghdad with its "shock and awe" bombing campaign, Qaddafi tried to ward off further threatened aggression on Libya by making big political and economic concessions. Flounders points out that Qaddafi opened the economy to foreign banks and corporations; agreed to IMF demands for 'structural adjustment,' privatizing many state-owned enterprises and cutting state subsidies on necessities like food and fuel. In 2008 diplomatic relations were restored, but now the Libyan people are suffering from the same high prices and unemployment that underlie the rebellions elsewhere, arising from the worldwide economic crisis.

In an interview February 24 by Press TV, the well-known American writer Noam Chomsky referred to the uprisings across North Africa. "There is reason why there is so much concern about the democracy uprising in the Arab world, say in sub-Saharan Africa. This is where the major energy resources of the world are. There is quite a good reason why the US and its allies will pull out the stops to prevent any real functioning democracy from developing in the Arab world... For the Arab public the major threat by over-whelming majority is the US and Israel..."

In the case of Egypt the US was in fact continuing to back the Mubarak dictatorship so the call was to drop

* A 'no-fly zone' sounds peaceful, but actually, according to the *Regina Leader Post*, it includes disabling runways and destroying Libyan anti-aircraft installations. In other words, it's an aerial attack on the country.

In Memory of Edna Meakes Well-known Peace Activist

Edna (Derry, Williams) Meakes

Long-time peace activist Edna Meakes died in Saskatoon on November 12, 2010 at the age of 98. Born on her parent's farm near Yorkton, Edna lived all her life in Saskatchewan. After attending normal school in Regina she began a 20-year teaching career beginning at Porcupine Plain where she met her husband Wilf Williams, the local hotel keeper and village overseer. Edna and Wilf were activists in the establishment of the Peace Councils and became leading members of the Peace Council set up in Porcupine Plain, Saskatchewan. Edna was also active in the movement for medicare and became the first chairperson of the Porcupine Caragana hospital board, a position she held from 1947-59.

Edna's involvement in the peace movement began shortly after the Second World War in which victory over fascism resulted from co-operation between the Soviet Union and countries such as Britain, Canada and the U.S. However, immediately after the war Winston Churchill's "Iron Curtain" speech in Fulton, Missouri marked the beginning a new "cold" war and an imminent danger of nuclear holocaust. Weapons of mass destruction assumed such horrific proportion as to threaten continued human existence. In response to this threat peace activists from around the world established the World Peace Council in 1949 with Frederic Joliot-Curie, nuclear physicist and Nobel Prize winner as president. At the same time in Canada the Canadian Peace Congress, affiliate of the World Peace Council, was formed with Dr. James G. Endicott as president. In turn, a number of local Peace Councils, linked to the Congress, were established. Edna and Wilf were among the grass roots peace activists who established this movement.

In 1951 Edna attended a national conference of the Canadian Peace Congress, one of 1200 delegates in Maple Leaf Gardens.

In 1959 Edna moved to Saskatoon where she continued her teaching career while obtaining a degree in Education from the University of Saskatchewan, continuing her involvement in public health care and the peace movement. She helped to re-organize the Saskatoon Peace Council and was active in establishing the Saskatoon Community Health Clinic.

During her many years as a leading peace activist Edna participated in many initiatives, campaigns, meetings,

conferences, demonstrations and other activities. The first major campaign of the newly-formed World Peace Council was the First Stockholm Appeal in 1949, popularly known as the Ban the Bomb petition. The Second Stockholm Appeal was launched in 1975. This Second Appeal called for an end to the arms race and for general and complete disarmament. It was signed by 700 million.

At a provincial conference in 1980, Edna Meakes was elected Vice-president for Saskatchewan of Canadian Peace Congress. The same year she took part in a major international campaign against U.S. president Ronald Reagan's Star Wars plan. In 1983 the World Assembly for Peace in Prague adopted an Appeal for Peace upon which a petition was launched in Canada by the Canadian Peace Congress, "Peace is Everybody's Business". Edna was a leading force in these efforts, on a local, provincial, national and even international scale. Edna attended a number of international peace conferences, both as an individual and as a leading member of the Canadian Peace Congress. In 1952 she was one of 32 Canadians led by Dr. Endicott who attended the International Peace Conference in Vienna. In 1964 she attended a Peace Conference in Vancouver, sponsored by Canadian Physicians for Prevention of Nuclear War. In 1975 she represented the Canadian Peace Congress in the Famagusta Women Walk Home march on Cyprus. In 1977 she took part in the World Assembly of Peace Builders in Warsaw, again representing the Canadian Peace Congress which sent a large delegation. The next year, following the First Special Session on Disarmament called by the U.N., the Soviet Union invited a delegation of peace activists to visit. The Canadian Peace Congress asked Edna to lead the delegation. They visited Samarkand, Tashkent and Moscow meeting with Soviet peace activists and representatives from various other organizations.

Edna attended the Parliament of Builders of Peace, in Sofia, Bulgaria in 1980 one of 2,260 participants from 134 countries representing 100 international organizations.

In 1991 she resigned as vice-president of the Saskatchewan Peace Council after serving 20 years in this position. Shortly after, the Regina Peace Council sponsored a supper to celebrate Edna's many years of dedication to the cause of peace and in 1992 the

Intervention – cont'd from page 6

that stand and provide at least verbal support for the popular uprising. Libya is a different story... Right through the 1980's for example the Ronald Reagan administration took Libya more or less as a punching bag; all the bombings and provocations, almost never with any pretext. They don't like the Qaddafi regime. It is not what's called 'stable' or 'obedient'." Chomsky added that a western intervention "would probably be not only wrong but also disastrous."

Mahdi Darius Nazemroaya, Research Associate of the Centre for Research on Globalization, puts the case in stronger terms. "Although all three have dictatorships in common, Qaddafi's Libya is quite different from Ben Ali's Tunisia or Mubarak's Egypt. The Libyan leadership is not outright subservient to the United States and the European Union..... In Tunisia and Egypt the status quo prevails, the military machine and neo-liberalism remain intact; this works for the interests of the United States and the European Union. In Libya, however, upsetting the established order is a US and EU objective."

Following the rapprochement between the US and Libya described above, Nazemroaya says a "whole new arsenal of US military hardware has appeared in Libya." The governments of the US, Britain, France, Germany and Italy all denounced Gaddafi as a despot, "but this did not stop any of them from making lucrative deals with Tripoli. When the media covers the violence in Libya, they should also ask where are the weapons being used coming from.....If the so-called Western governments were serious about democracy, they would have cut their business ties to Libya, specifically in the energy sector, before 2011"

In March 2007, Nazemroaya states, retired General Wesley Clark, at one time supreme military commander of NATO, reported in an interview with Amy Goodman on Democracy Now that Libya had been in the cross-hairs of the Pentagon for years. Libya was on a list of nations to be invaded by NATO after Taliban-controlled Afghanistan, including Iraq, Syria, Lebanon, Somalia, Sudan, and Iran. A formal rapprochement had been reached in 2003, as noted above. "Yet the US and its allies have always wanted to expand their influence over the Libyan energy sector and to appropriate Libya's vast wealth. A civil war provides the best cover for that."

As for the interest of Canadian business in Libya, the *Regina Leader Post* reports that a number of Canadian companies, many of them in the oil and gas sector, have

operations in Libya, including Shell, Bombardier and Pure Technologies. Suncor Energy Inc. has a project that produces about 50,000 barrels of oil a day, and expects eventually to produce as much as 100,000 barrels a day. Montreal-based SNC Lavalin has reported its projects in Libya total \$934 million, including a new airport in Benghazi, a water pipeline and a prison.

Some of the other ways Qaddafi has annoyed the US include the following. He has been a stalwart supporter of the Palestinians in their struggle against persecution by Israel. Back in 1970 he forced the US to give up the Wheelus Air Base, just east of Tripoli. The base had been operated by the US Strategic Air Command since World War II, and was a vital link in their war plans as a bomber, tanker, refuelling and reconnaissance, and fighter base. And when the US was calling Nelson Mandela a terrorist, Qaddafi funded the African National Congress.

There is now talk about 'humanitarian intervention' in Libya by NATO, similar to Yugoslavia and Iraq, Nazemroaya warns. "The aims behind such statements are not humanitarian, but are intended to justify foreign interference, which could potentially lead to an invasion. Should this come to fruition, Libya would become an occupied country. Its resources would be plundered and its assets privatized and controlled by foreign corporations as in the case of Iraq."

Here in Canada Prime Minister Harper was very restrained, to put it mildly, when it came to supporting the people in Egypt and the other the mid-east countries, driven to protest the worsening conditions imposed by their dictatorial governments and the worsening conditions of the world-wide economic crisis. But he was right behind Clinton and Obama in demanding sanctions again be imposed on Libya. He has announced that HMCS Charlottetown is being sent to Libya to join the US aircraft carrier fleet led by the USS Enterprise.

As the Canadian Peace Alliance warns, this is part of a much larger NATO build-up in the area. Next it will be bombing by NATO, as in Yugoslavia and Afghanistan, and Harper will support this military action, using Canada's membership in NATO as justification. In this Harper has been joined by Liberal leader Michael Ignatief, who has publicly reminded us that when it comes to Libya, Canada is part of NATO.

Intervention - cont'd page 10

Free the Cuban Five!

On September 12, 1998, Gerardo Hernández, René González, Ramon Labañino, Antonio Guerrero, and Fernando González were arrested in Miami by the FBI on 25 charges including espionage and conspiracy to commit murder. The five had infiltrated and were observing the activities of the Miami-based terrorist groups: Alpha 66, F4 Commandos, Cuban American National Foundation and Brothers to the Rescue who have been responsible for over the deaths of 3,700 Cubans and others visiting the island.

Noteworthy in this regard is the destruction of Cubana Flight 455 on October 6, 1976 which killed 73 persons including the entire national Cuban fencing team many of whom were teenagers. One of the terrorists involved, former CIA operative Luis Posada Carriles, is currently on trial in El Paso, Texas and wanted in Venezuela for downing the aircraft after fleeing the country in 1976 after being convicted of the bombing.

Understandably, the Cuban government has sought to prevent Miami-based terrorism by monitoring Cuban exile groupings based there. In 1975, Cuban authorities provided documents to FBI agents investigating Carriles' role in the 1997 bombings in Havana. Using this material the FBI tracked down the Cuban Five instead of following-up on Carriles.

The June 8, 2001 Miami court convictions are unusually harsh: 75 years of imprisonment collectively including four life sentences. From the day of their arrest the Five spent 17 months in solitary confinement in five US prisons spread around the country. A 2011 *National Public Radio* report claims some members of the Cuban Five have been placed in the highly restrictive Communication Management Unit. Adriana Pérez and Olga Salanueva wives of Gerardo Hernández and René González respectively have been denied visas to visit their husbands (12½ years).

Eight Nobel Prize winners are urging the US Attorney General to free the Cuban Five. In the UK, 110 members of Parliament have written an open letter to the US Attorney General in support of the Cuban Five.

2011 has been declared **Year of the Canada Campaign to Free the Cuban 5** (www.thecuban5.org). US Cuban Five activist Alicia Jrapko visited Regina in 2009 as a member of the Cuba Caravan sponsored by IFCO Pastors for Peace. The Caravan will again be visiting Regina during the first week of July. Please plan to attend and participate (more info next newsletter).□

P. Gehl – March 6

Libya – cont'd from page 2

- calls on the Canadian government to withdraw from its military interference, including cancelling the deployment of the HMCS Charlottetown;
- opposes any foreign military intervention, including efforts to impose a no-fly zone over Libya.□

Continuing, Seumas Milne in the U.K. *Guardian* of March 2 comments, “western intelligence has had its fingers in parts of the Libyan opposition for years... But Libya has a compelling history of foreign occupation and resistance. Up to a third of the population are estimated to have died under Italian rule. Those calling for western military action in Libya seen brazenly untroubled by the fact that throughout the Arab world, foreign intervention, occupation and support for dictatorship is regarded as central to the problems of the region... The embattled US-backed Yemeni president Ali Abdallah Saleh claimed on Tuesday that the region-wide protest movement was “managed by Tel Aviv and under the supervision of Washington”. That is easily dismissed as a hallucinogenic fantasy now. It would seem less so if the US and Britain were arming the Libyan opposition. The Arab revolution will be made by Arabs, or it won't be a revolution at all.”□

P.Gehl – March 6

Remember! *Making Peace Vigil* every Thursday at noon - SCARTH STREET MALL

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Intervention – cont'd from page 8

As Sara Flounders has stated: "There can be no doubt that the struggle sweeping the Arab world for political freedom and economic justice has also struck a chord in Libya.....Progressive people are in sympathy with what they see as a popular movement in Libya. We can help such a movement most by supporting its just demands while rejecting imperialist intervention, in whatever form it may take. It is the people of Libya who must decide their future." □

C. Fischer – March 6

Meakes – cont'd from page 7

Saskatoon Peace Council presented her with a plaque recognizing 42 years of work in the Peace Councils in Saskatchewan.

In 1994 Edna wrote the first of two books, *A Quest for Peace*, dealing with the peace movement in Canada from 1950 to 1992. She dedicated the book "to all those volunteers who trod the streets, the highways, the byways with petitions to Ban the bomb in 1950 and 1975, to volunteers who wrote letters, composed and presented resolutions or briefs to governments and the UNO; to those who spoke at doorsteps, at picnics, on steps of City Halls, on radio or TV; to those who made posters and joined in demonstrations of protest against nuclear weapons or their production; who composed and sang songs of peace; and to those who understand that financial support is necessary to carry on the work for a better world."

Edna was one of those who did all those things, and who inspired others to follow her example: serious but with a good sense of humour, tolerant of diverse opinions but resolute in her beliefs, a good listener but never hesitant to express herself, willing to lead but never craving the spotlight. Without a doubt the world is a better, safer place on account of Edna and the thousands of other "peaceniks" of her generation. She is missed.

D. Gehl – March 8

Israeli Anti-Apartheid Week Celebrated in Regina

On March 8th, International Women's Day, Reginans were treated to an inspiring and well-documented talk on Israeli crimes in Palestine by Ali Abunimah, Chicago-based journalist and human rights activist. A graduate of Princeton and Chicago universities Abunimah is co-founder of the Electronic Intifada and author of the book *One Country: A Bold Proposal to End the Israeli-Palestinian Impasse*.

Using a plethora of vivid comparisons between present-day Israel and apartheid South Africa, Abunimah urged participation in the on-going international Boycott, Divestment and Sanction (BDS) campaign of Israel which is endorsed by South African archbishop Desmond Tutu and the Congress of South African Trade Unions (COSATU)

Abunimah indicated that this is a critical moment for Palestinians. The so-called "peace process" is dead and Israeli state ideology has run its course with ever increasing numbers of people around the globe realizing the apartheid nature of the Israeli state. Israel resorts to increasing oppression while the real answer lies in the recognition and implementation the Universal Declaration of Human Rights in Israel and Palestine. □

Remember this Libyan Flag?



The above flag is of the Kingdom Libya (1951 – 1969) headed by King Idris Al-Sanusi who was overthrown by Colonel Qaddafi and fellow army officers. It is being used by 2011 protestors (here in Regina also) and some Libyan embassies that no longer support the Libyan government. □

Saskatchewan Peace News is published quarterly by the Regina Peace Council and edited by Peter Gehl. The Council endeavours to provide residents of Saskatchewan and others with timely and informative articles which we feel have significant importance to peace in our community, country and beyond.

The Regina Peace Council was originally formed in 1949 and has a long history of action for peace. The Council is a member of the Canadian Peace Congress which is affiliated to the World Peace Council.

Publication of the *Saskatchewan Peace News* depends on the volunteer labour and financial support of our members and supporters. Contributions are always welcome as well as comments and suggestions from you – our readers. The Regina Peace Council accepts articles concerning the struggle for peace for publication, subject to approval by our editorial board.

Please consider making a donation and becoming a member of the Regina Peace Council. We meet monthly except for July and August. For further information, please write to: **The Regina Peace Council, 46 Williston Drive, REGINA, SK, S4X 1C4**; or phone **949-1222** or **347-7693**; or email to peace.council@accesscomm.ca.