

Nonviolent Daily News

All the news that will fit on two sides!

Belfast, 8th September 1990

INNATE FIELD TWENTY OBSERVERS FOR PORTADOWN ACTION

INNATE fielded twenty observers on the Garvaghy Road, Portadown, on 8th July in support of local member the Drumcree Faith and Justice Group and as an attempt to prevent violence and promote communication. The Drumcree group were putting on street theatre, a tea party and a sit down concerning an Orange parade through their area. Things passed over relatively peacefully and the observer presence was attributed as one reason for lower tension. INNATE is now looking at possibilities of promoting dialogue locally. There will also be some work on exploring the possibilities of observing at actions, events and demonstrations.

'BACK TO BASICS' OF NONVIOLENCE CONFERENCE

INNATE is organising a conference on 'Back to basics' of nonviolence in Belfast this autumn. There has been some difficulty in settling on a date but it's most likely to be mid-November; there will be workshops on applying nonviolence to a number of different areas. INNATE members will receive details automatically; other enquiries to the Belfast networking group.

SYMBOLIC PEACE ACTION

The symbolic peace action mentioned in the last NDN is now being explored in relation to the closure of Bishopscourt radar base in Co Down. The idea was to have a symbolic action which would link the tumbling of walls between East and West Europe with the cause of peace and reconciliation in Northern Ireland.

Meanwhile, the closure of Bishopscourt RAF radar base was announced at the end of July. A victim more of advances in technology than of East/West changes, Bishopscourt is gradually being run down though no closure date has been announced - it may be sometime in 1991. Bishopscourt was the location of a peace camp from 1983-86; this focussed on the necessity of NATO having radar bases like Bishopscourt if it was to have first strike nuclear capability. Now Bishopscourt is redundant because mobile radars can be placed wherever and whenever the military decide.

The possibility is now being explored of an action which would support positive alternative proposals for the land that the base contains, as well as celebrating the closure of the base and linking internationally. Contact Fernando Cordovez at Kilcranny House, 21 Granagh Road, Coleraine BT52 3NN, phone 0265 - 58353, or the Belfast networking group of INNATE.

KNEECAPPING AND PUNISHMENT SHOOTINGS

Some people in Belfast are interested in exploring the issues surrounding kneecapping and punishment shootings, with the possibility of holding a seminar to explore ideas, ways of coping and alternatives. Contact Belfast networking group.

PEACE BRIGADES INTERNATIONAL (PBI) MEETING IN BELFAST

A meeting on 'Nonviolent action for human rights' is being held in Belfast in October with former volunteers with PBI in Guatemala and Sri Lanka, Sue Alfred and Joy Bousted. There will be a slide show and information on PBI and its important work in developing nonviolent responses to violence at the meeting on Friday 12th October at 7.30 pm in Fredheim, 224 Lisburn Road, Belfast 9.

Sue and Joy may also be available for an additional meeting the following day, Saturday 13th - anyone interested (anywhere commutable to Belfast)? Contact Belfast networking group.

INNATE LAUNCH FORTHCOMING

It is intended producing the INNATE introductory leaflet in late autumn which will list members, both groups and individuals. Following this there will be a 'launch' (even if it's only a press release) to inform the world of our existence as a network.

PEACE BRIGADES INTERNATIONAL DECIDE AGAINST NORTHERN PROJECT

Peace Brigades International have for the moment laid down the idea of having a project in Northern Ireland, something which has been explored at a preliminary level for a couple of years. The decision was taken in the light of there being no clear project focus, no clear demand, and in relation to PBI commitments elsewhere. However the situation is now much clearer regarding any possible project in the future. Contact Belfast networking group for information.

PAX CHRISTI INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON NORTH

Pax Christi Ireland is organising an experiential programme and seminar entitled 'Towards an understanding of Northern Ireland'. The experiential programme (living with families) is from 28th - 31st October, and the seminar takes place 1st - 4th November in St Clement's Retreat House, Antrim Road, Belfast. Participants are expected from various parts of Europe and Ireland. Further information from Pax Christi at 26 Wheatfield Gardens, Belfast 14, phone 716925.

INNATE NOW ASSOCIATE OF WAR RESISTERS INTERNATIONAL (WRI)

INNATE is, since July, an associate of the War Resisters International, a world-wide body of people struggling for peace and justice through nonviolent means. INNATE has also applied to become an associate of the International Fellowship of Reconciliation (IFOR), a world-wide inter-faith body of nonviolent activists; however we cannot be formally admitted until the IFOR Council meeting in 1992. INNATE also has links with other international organisations through its own members.

The Belfast networking group will have one or two copies for sale of the magazines of the WRI and IFOR; 'Peace News' (formerly a British magazine, still produced in Britain but now as an international English-language publication linked with the WRI) and 'Reconciliation International', the magazine of the IFOR. Ask if you'd like to see a copy or we can give you subscription details.

ESTONIA - BELFAST; RELIGION AND CONFLICT

Mari Fitzduff, director of the Community Relations Commission, addressed a Pax Christi workshop at the END (European Nuclear Disarmament) convention in Tallin, Estonia, in July 1990 on the topic of Northern Ireland and the relationship of religion and national and/or ethnic conflicts. Mari, present as a guest speaker at this workshop organised by Pax Christi Netherlands, will talk about the conference at an evening meeting in Belfast being organised by the Belfast branch of Pax Christi in October (details from Belfast 716925).

INNATE INPUT TO ENVIRONMENTAL ACTIVISTS CONFERENCE

On behalf of INNATE, Rob Fairmichael provided input to a well-attended workshop on nonviolence (including a local councillor from both Derry and Dundalk) during an environmental activists conference held in Derry in July hosted by the Foyle Action Group.

BELFAST NONVIOLENCE SUPPORT AND STUDY GROUP RESTARTS

The Belfast based nonviolence support and study group is recommencing its fortnightly meetings. This INNATE-associated group is currently open to people interested in joining. It studies different aspects of nonviolence and its application, but also has support and sharing of personal concerns as part of the agenda. Further details available from the Belfast networking group.

ARMS LINKS WITH IRELAND

Concern was expressed during August at the news that the Data Device Corporation plant in Cork will produce military components for jet aircraft and possibly for other military equipment. According to a report in the Irish Times "The IDA (Industrial Development Authority) acknowledged that some of the work carried out by the company here could be for the weapons industry in the US. Other electronics firms here also produce components that find their way into high technology weapons and aircraft." Though the IDA spokesman went on to say that they didn't target weapons and munitions manufacturers for placement in Ireland, this aspect of the negation of the Republic's neutrality has been of concern for some time.

-----YOUR NEWS can be included in the next NDN! Deadline 1st December-----