

INNATE NONVIOLENT DAILY NEWS

All the news that will fit on two sides!

Belfast,
12 March 1992

THE RIGHT TO LIVE AND WORK

There have been a number of vigils and rallies in the last few months to call for an end to the recent upsurge in sectarian killings. Most of these have had a reasonable but not massive turnout. One question some people have been trying to answer is - what else can be done to make a positive statement about the future rather than simply a negative condemnation of violence?

The trade union movement has been involved in organising most of these rallies and is currently organising a series of meetings around the North for representatives of community groups (defined loosely) and trade unionists. These are intended as part of a long term initiative, the first step of which would be discussing a joint declaration by trade unionists and community groups on "The Right to Live and Work Free From Intimidation, Violence and Death".

Meetings are taking place in Dungannon (10th March), Omagh (12th March), Derry (Averglades Hotel, 7.30 pm on 19th March), Belfast (Ulster People's College, 30 Adelaide Park, 7.30 pm on 23rd March), and Lurgan (Ashbourne Hotel, 7.30 pm on 26th March); these meetings are all 'area meetings' rather than just for the town or city where the meeting takes place. The Newry meeting is in the Mourne Country Hotel at 7.30 pm on 16th March.

Counteract, the anti-intimidation unit sponsored by the ICTU, is handling the administration for these meetings; further details from them, and if you're going it would be helpful to them to know to have an idea of numbers. Contact: Jim Quinn, Counteract, 45/47 Donegall Street, Belfast BT1 2FG, phone Belfast 237023.

In a separate development, a meeting is taking place to consider a programme of anti-sectarian work in the South Belfast area (including the Ormeau Road); this follows discussion between Belfast Trades Union Council and community activists. The meeting is at 7.30 pm on Wednesday 18th March in the Ulster People's College, 30 Adelaide Park.

ACTION ON "FORTRESS EUROPE"

People First/Meitheal (Meitheal as in the old Irish word for cooperation at work) is a new citizens organisation formed to fight for Irish people's rights in the EC. It includes people from different political parties and none.

People First/Meitheal have recently launched their campaign to oppose the foreign policy and security implications of the Maastricht treaty. They hope to break the silence of the government and other enthusiasts for 'common European defence'. There is an urgent need for information and critical debate on topics such as the implications for third world countries of 'fortress Europe' and the prospect of conscription - already a reality in all EC countries except Ireland and the UK. In terms of the Republic's constitution a referendum has to be held this year, quite possibly in June (Denmark is the only other EC country which will get to vote on Maastricht).

People First/Meitheal have produced the only book that deals in detail with the Maastricht treaty, co-written by Prof John Maguire and Joe Noonan, and entitled "Maastricht and neutrality; Ireland's neutrality and the future of Europe". This is available from HF/M at £10 (unwaged £5). People First/Meitheal is being coordinated through the Irish CND/Campaign for Nuclear Disarmament office, 8 Sidneyville, Bellevue Park, St Lukes, Cork, phone 021 - 506411.

INITIATIVE '92 GETTING ON THE ROAD

Initiative '92, an attempt to mobilise the thoughts of community groups and other unheard voices in Northern Ireland on the future of the North, has been slower to take off than originally expected. However they hope to announce the names of the commissioners by the end of March, and appointments for the secretariat staff are in the process of being made. Until Initiative '92 have their own office address they can be contacted as follows; Box 92, c/o 7 Lower Crescent, Belfast BT7 1NR.

EDUCATION FOR CHANGE; VALUES IN CONFLICT - ENCORE summer school

The ENCORE/european Network for Conflict Resolution in Education summer school will take place at Magee College, Derry, hosted by the Quaker Peace Education Project from 18 - 22 July this year. Keynote speakers include Julian Weisglass, Seamus Dunn and Catherine Coxhead; workshop leaders and topics include Georgeanne Lamont (values), Anne Rawlings and John Verge (bullying), Janaki Mahendran (multicultural), Maureen Bassett (poverty), QFEP (affirmation etc), Octopus (prejudice reduction), Julian Weisglass (support systems), Paula Peters, Nicole Bollu, Traude Rebmann (mediation), Elzbieta Czwartosz (cross cultural). All in conference fee is £180; information about bursaries available. Contact; QFEP, Magee College, University of Ulster, Londonderry.

CONFERENCE ON VIOLENCE - DERRY

Conscious of the ambiguous attitude towards violence in themselves and in society as a whole the Sisters of Mercy in Derry have, in recent months, been holding a conference on violence in Magee College, Derry. The aspects focussed on are: violence and women, violence and politics, violence and ecology, and violence and poverty; these sessions are open to all regardless of political, religious or socio-economic affiliation.

The aim of the conference is to raise awareness about the nature and extent of violence in our society and to inspire participants to become actively involved together in critical reflection leading to action and thereby creating a better quality of life for all. Anyone interested in engaging in further reflection-action re violence in our society is welcome to contact; Nellie McLaughlin, 7 Carnhill, Derry 0504-359564 / 352310.

CENTRAL AMERICA WEEK 21 - 29 March

An excellent programme is together for Central America Week on this the 500th anniversary of the commencement of European colonisation of the Americas. Events are organised for Belfast, Derry, Dublin, Cork, Galway, Waterford, Portlaoise and Tullamore, and include cultural, social and political events, and also religious services. The full programme/further information available from; Ann D'Arcy phone Dublin 783738, or Paddy Kelly phone Belfast 230220, or Laurence Price phone Derry 269183.

CHURCH AND PEACE English-speaking European CONFERENCE

Church and Peace is a European network of groups and churches who believe that witness for peace and reconciliation is an essential characteristic of the church of Jesus Christ. A conference on "Peace - Church - Community ... Making the connections" will take place from 19 - 21 June at Cliff College, near Sheffield, England. The cost is £243. Further details from Stephen Tunnicliffe, 4 The Square, Clun, Shropshire SY7 8JA, or INNATE also has them.

INTERNATIONAL TRAINING FOR NONVIOLENCE by De Expeditie

Once again De Expeditie ('The expedition'), a centre for nonviolence and a trainers collective in Amersfoort, Netherlands, is organising an English-language summer training. This year's dates are; 1 - 7 August, plus 9th August for those interested in evaluation of working methods. Includes skills for conflict resolution, dialogue and action. Recommended! Further details from; De Expeditie, Schimmelpenninkkade 30, 3813 AE Amersfoort, Netherlands, phone 033-753001, or INNATE also has them. Cost; £275 - £425 according to means, or what people can pay (Dutch guilders).

WORKING WITH CONFLICT

This is a full-time intensive course from 9 January - 27 March 1993, taking place at Selly Oak Colleges, Birmingham, England; 'a new course in understanding and handling conflict for people working for survival and change worldwide'. Course fee £1500; limited number of scholarships available. Register soon as possible/formation from; Simon Fisher, Responding to Conflict, Woodbrooke, 1046 Bristol Road, Birmingham B29 6LJ.

NONVIOLENT DAILY NEWS is published by INNATE, an Irish Network for Nonviolent Action Training and Education, 16 Ravensdene Park, Belfast BT6 0RA, phone 1-5447106. Short items for publication welcome (and longer items for consideration for 'Dawn Train'). The next issue of Nonviolent Daily News is due at the start of June. INNATE mailings can also carry leaflets or other information; please enquire.