



NONVIOLENT NEWS



Nonviolence and campaigning news from INNATE

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PANA: Promoting active neutrality

PANA, the Peace and Neutrality Alliance, has issued another briefing paper (No. 2) on the 'European Defence Debate'; 'why', Carol Fox's paper asks, "are we prepared to play around the edges of organisations we are fundamentally opposed to?". This detailed 6-page paper asks the pertinent questions about emergent European military structures. "NATO's Partnership for Peace, which Dick Spring seems so eager to join, has been described by NATO this way: "Active participation in the PfP will play an important role in the evolutionary process of the enlargement of NATO" (*Study on NATO Enlargement, September 1995, NATO Report*). PfP does not require Ireland to join NATO, but it certainly implies Irish support for NATO and assistance for NATO's maintenance and growth." The paper is available on request from PANA, 113 Springhill Avenue, Blackrock, Co Dublin, phone 01-2808247, 01-2844765, 01-2894315, 01-2806700, or E-Mail: vmacdowe@iol.ie

PANA's objectives are: 1. It is within the OSCE and a reformed United Nations, and not the EU, that Ireland should pursue its security concerns. 2. Ireland should pursue a positive neutrality and independent foreign policy and not join or form an association with any military alliance, such as the WEU or NATO. 3. Ireland should seek to promote European and international security through a policy of disarmament and demilitarisation and should therefore oppose the militarisation of the EU. 4. Ireland should refuse to cooperate with or condone in any way policies or military groupings which maintain nuclear weapons or any weapons of mass destruction. 5. Irish troops should only serve abroad as peacekeepers under the auspices of the UN.

Meanwhile, during the EU summit, a meeting is taking place on *Irish Neutrality and European Union* at 8 pm on Friday 13th December in the European Union office, 43 Molesworth Street, Dublin. Speakers include MEPs from Ireland (Patricia McKenna), Denmark (Jens Peter Bonde) and Sweden (Per Gahrten). Details from phone numbers above.

INVITATIONS

You are invited to a party but all the preparations need to be done first. The Churches' Peace Education Programme (48 Elmwood Avenue, Belfast BT9 6AZ, Ph. 01232 - 662992) has just published the final part of the "Pathways" series, "Granny Meg's 100th Birthday Bash" explores the roles and responsibilities within the various communities to which we belong. The material covers the interdependence between the family, school, local and national communities. The children's work is based around the preparation for a great grandmother's 100th birthday party. The material is suitable for Upper Primary / Key Stage 2. R.S.V.P.

Other news: The Peace Education Resource Centre catalogue will be out early in 1997 (address as above).



DROMAHAIR HOSTS EURO CITIZENS CONFERENCE

Around 80 people from various EU countries attended a conference at the European Peace University in Dromahair, Co Leitrim in November. They were members of two 'citizens initiatives', ICC and Eurotopia. They addressed the question posed by mounting unemployment and dissatisfaction with the nature of European integration: Which new forms of democracy are necessary to answer the social questions which nearly all Europeans are faced with? Delegates, EPU students and local residents heard complaints about high level decisions on political and economic matters being made in capital cities without adequate reference to the inhabitants of peripheral regions.

A declaration was adopted and chief among the demands were:

1) Support for the proposal of the Austrian and Italian governments that a certain proportion of citizens in any three EU member states should have the right to put a written proposition to the European Parliament with a binding guarantee that it is to be debated and voted upon; 2) Fundamental civic and social rights contained in the laws of member states should be integrated into the EU treaties; 3) The EU should commit itself to "more active policies against the scourge of unemployment" which undermines the capacity of millions of European citizens to participate fully in society.

Further information (send stamp or reply coupon): EPU, Dromahair, Co Leitrim or Forum Alternatives Européennes, 1 bis, rue de Paradis [Ed - Oh yes!], 75010 Paris.

HUMAN RIGHTS - 'Lives in the balance"

Anna Livia local radio station in Dublin (103.8 FM) presents *Lives in the Balance* on Mondays at 8.30 pm, repeated on Saturdays at 7 pm; this looks at the work of different human rights groups and causes, presented by World Watch. [Ed note: Ed says - happy to carry occasional info about relevant programmes elsewhere]

SLIGO TWINS WITH KITWE, ZAMBIA

Sligo (pop. 20,000) has twinned with Kitwe, a city in the Copperbelt of Zambia. From 9 - 18 November three Kitwe residents were guests in Sligo, fares paid by NCDE and a local benefactor. The visitors included Francis Chinyimba, a sculptor and artist who made some ceramic items later exhibited at the Town Hall, and a primary teacher and needleworker, Charity Nyai, who visited local schools, quilters and women's groups. A large crowd attended the opening of a Sligo-Kitwe Week exhibition opened by Zambian embassy staff. It is hoped various community groups from both places will establish co-operative links; groups promoting income generating projects among marginalised people in both places have a particular interest in such links.

PEACE PEOPLE FAST

This year's Christmas fast will start at noon on Saturday 21st December and end on Christmas Eve outside the City Hall, Belfast; members are being invited to fast for 1, 2 or 3 days. This year money will be divided between the Peace People and a project which will bring musicians from Northern Ireland to Sarajevo for a cross-community and inter-cultural exchange around St Patrick's Day 1997. Sponsorship forms and further info from Peace People, 224 Lisburn Road, Belfast BT9 6GE. Phone 01232 - 863485. Meanwhile Youth for Peace's camps programme for 1997 has been finalised, including two new ones: an exchange with an Austrian group looking at racism and sectarianism (16 - 19 year olds), and one in Israel/Palestine (18+) looking at both conflicts and ways forward. Details from same address.

CHURCH WOMEN MEET

120 women involved in the churches met in October at Hillsborough; they were from all the counties of Northern Ireland and Dublin, Cork, Meath and Mayo. As well as deep sharing of feelings of fear, anger and sadness there was great hope recorded. There will be another meeting in February. Details: Joan Hannon, Drumilly, 107 Derryboye Road, Crossgar, Co Down BT30 9LJ.

HOUSMANS DIARY AND WORLD PEACE DIRECTORY

December already, says the headitor, and not a mention yet of Housmans Peace Diary 1997 including its World Peace Directory. Active with Argentina? Campaigning with Canada? Contacting in Chile? Exchanging with Estonia? Liaising with Lithuania? Thinking of Thailand? Or wanting to be just plain active and irate in Ireland? Housmans Diary with its directory of nearly 2000 national and international peace, environmental and human rights organisations in over 140 countries, is the one aid the busy activist should not be without. Amaze your friends with the address of the UN Association in Mali! Amaze your friends even more with the addresses of organisations in Ireland they don't even know about! Yours with a 2-page to a week diary for only UK£6.95 inc postage and packing anywhere (discounts available on 5 or more copies); you can pay by credit card, UK£ cheque, Eurocheque etc., payable to 'Housmans'. Housmans, 5 Caledonian Road, London N1 9DX. "I never go anywhere without it - that's why mine got waterlogged in the shower!"

ENVIRONMENT BULLETIN

This publication from the Department of the Environment in the Republic is a valuable resource for the environmental activist, covering "Developments in the area of Environmental Protection". Where do you get further information on aspects of water pollution control? Or on planning guidelines for wind farms - or telecommunications masts? What's happening at the EU level? Did you know legal proceedings will be taken against Proctor and Gamble, and possibly a couple of other firms, for unauthorised discharges to groundwater affecting Gorlandroe Well, in Nenagh, Co. Tipperary? Requests for inclusion in the mailing list should go to: David Walsh, Air/Environmental Awareness Section, Department of the Environment, Custom House, Dublin 1.

INNATE: COMMUNITY CONFLICT and NETWORKING

It is proposed that the spring INNATE seminar (possibly in March) will be on different aspects of community conflict in Northern Ireland, looking at how people are currently responding and taking it from there. Details have still to be organised, partly at -

BELFAST NETWORKING MEETING, 7.30 pm, Monday 16th December in Quaker House, 7 University Avenue, Belfast 7. Anyone interested welcome; queries to Belfast 847106.

Nonviolent News is produced about 11 times a year by INNATE, an Irish Network for Nonviolent Action Training and Education, 16 Ravensdene Park, Belfast BT6 0DA, Phone/Fax 01232 - 847106; your news is welcome. After this issue we take our customary mid-winter break; Deadline for next issue: 3rd February. Subscriptions: £5 minimum or enquire for further details. Enquiries welcome, either about Nonviolent News or

about resources on nonviolence available through INNATE. Meanwhile we wish you a Happy Christmas and a totally Preposterous New Year.