

# Saskatchewan PEACE NEWS

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## Support Our Troops – Bring Them Home!

*The following is based on an article authored by W.C. O'Casey and published on the Focus On Socialism website Nov. 13th:*

Canadians were delivered the US-NATO decision to extend Canada's "mission" in Afghanistan on November 11, 2010 by Prime Minister Harper. The timing of the announcement coincided with Prime Minister Harper's visit to the G20 meetings in Seoul South Korea where 60 years earlier under the mantra of "collective security" the Cold War government of Louis St. Laurent announced plans to re-arm the Canadian Forces and collaborate in US imperialist aggression against the Democratic People's Republic of Korea.

The Prime Minister's announcement of the NATO decision to keep Canadian forces in Afghanistan until 2014 has been met with the usual spin and buzz words by the corporate media and pundits. They uncritically accept that Canadian forces will remain "inside the wire" while training Afghan forces and not engage in combat.

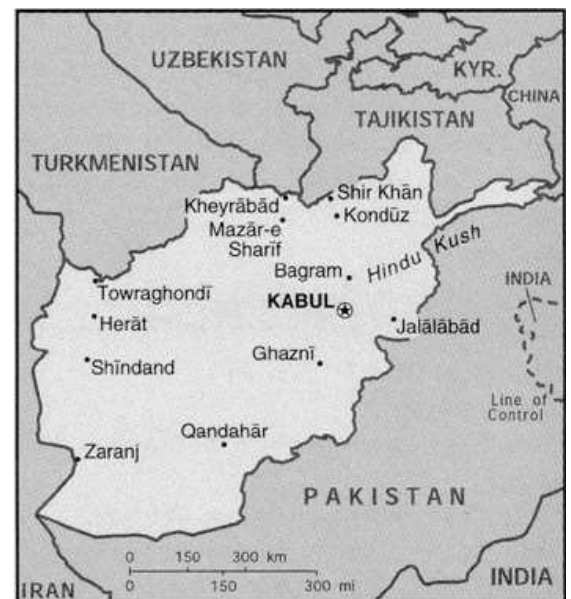
Parliament has not been consulted on the government's commitment to adopt the NATO military council's order to have Canadian troops remain in Afghanistan. Instead, we see Prime Minister Harper acting as NATO's "ambassador" to Canada and selling the military extension to Canadians under proclaimed duress.

Canadian Peace Congress president Dave McKee wrote in the previous issue of *Saskatchewan Peace News*, that belying the truth and supporting the neo-conservative policy of permanent war, U.S. president Obama announced on August 31<sup>th</sup> that "the American combat mission in Iraq has ended. Operation Iraqi Freedom is over." He surmised that with Canada's "combat" mission in Afghanistan set to end next year, Prime Minister Stephen Harper may take his cue from Obama and declare the "combat" mission officially over in July 2011. Canadian troops would 'Advise and Assist' the Karzai government in an 'Operation New Dawn' for Afghanistan.

NATO is holding a summit in Lisbon, Portugal on November 20<sup>th</sup>. The Alliance is pressing member states for greater military contributions in the form of increased taxation, more troops and new hardware under a New Strategic Concept doctrine which implements a European-based missile defence system.

On October 11<sup>th</sup> prior to a meeting of foreign and defence ministers, NATO secretary-general Anders Fogh Rasmussen said the intent of NATO's New Strategic Concept is "to put in place an Alliance that is more modern, more efficient and better able to work with our partners around the globe." The NATO secretary-general also emphasized his determination to gain agreement on missile defence. "We cannot afford not to have missile defence," he said.

Missile defence is being developed as part of broader war preparations for an all out assault on Iran and potential use against Russia. A battery of US Patriot missiles has already been installed in Poland 50 km from the Russian border. NATO's website states that new contracts for the system's second phase "will include the capability to conduct a real-time theatre missile defence battle." In 2011, sea-based SM-3 missiles will be deployed in the North and



Map of Afghanistan

**Troops – cont’d from page 1**

Mediterranean seas. Mobile land-based SM-3s will be stationed throughout Europe by 2015.

In all likelihood, the Lisbon Summit will officially endorse an integrated Theatre Missile Defence structure which will form the command, control and communications backbone of a comprehensive missile defence system centered in Europe, but usable by NATO expeditionary forces elsewhere. The missile defence sensors and shooters of NATO nations will be linked and tested in an ‘ensemble’ test prior to handover to NATO’s military command.

Russian President Medvedev will be attending the Lisbon Summit to discuss missile defence. In a closed-door side meeting at the APEC conference held this past weekend in Yokohama, Japan, Medvedev and US president Obama discussed missile defence and the lagging of US efforts to ratify the nuclear weapons reduction START treaty.

Using a government press release, the *National Post* reported on October 20<sup>th</sup> that, “the Conservative government says it supports a European ballistic missile defence system proposed for approval by Prime Minister Stephen Harper and the other NATO leaders at a summit in Portugal next month.

The Harper practice of announcing foreign policy through the media and unelected spokespersons rather than in Parliament was also used to announce Canada’s continued military involvement in Afghanistan. Parliament should be consulted in critical foreign policy decisions. Not doing so erodes democracy and the quality of governance in our country.

**Peaceful Development - Canada’s Future**

For Canada to develop sustainably and to create meaningful and lasting employment for Canadians and thereby ending poverty and decay in our urban and rural communities, we must cease all aggression on the people of Afghanistan and end our participation in the imperialist councils and military structures of NATO, NORAD and NORTHCOM. Canadians must say ‘no’ to missile defence and nuclear war preparations against Iran. We must halt the wasteful, reckless and servile, ‘Canada First Defence Strategy’ and divert the multi-billion dollar military budget into education, health-care, culture, education and infrastructure. Canada must halt the purchase of the nuclear capable and unproven F-35 fighter-bombers and end the leases of the German Tiger Tanks and the Israeli UAVs. Militarization of the Arctic Ocean must be prevented at all costs.



**NPT – Additional Protocol**

In its previous issue *Saskatchewan Peace News* reported on a speech by Socorro Gomes, president of the World Peace Council, at the Hiroshima Day ceremony in Japan in August. In her remarks, Gomes referred to the Review of the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT) at the United Nations in New York this past May, by stating that: "once more the United States and other nuclear powers took advantage of the occasion to further press the non-nuclear countries in an attempt to make the Additional Protocol to the NPT mandatory, and to obstruct efforts towards disarmament and elimination of nuclear weapons. At the same time, these same powers, in violation of aspects of The Treaty they claim to stand for, exert an intolerable veto against other countries' access to nuclear energy for peaceful purposes."

In response to an inquiry as to what the Additional Protocol is, we offer the following:

The Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty came into force in 1970. Five years later, the Nuclear Suppliers Group (NSG) was established with the United States, the United Kingdom, Canada, the USSR., France, West Germany and Japan as members. They agreed to co-ordinate their export controls governing transfers of nuclear material and nuclear-related equipment and technology to non-nuclear weapon states. Today there are 46 members of the NSG. Countries with nuclear programs which are not members of the NSG include India, Israel, Pakistan, and North Korea.

The announced aim of the Nuclear Suppliers Group was to prevent nuclear exports for commercial and peaceful purposes from being used to make nuclear weapons. A requirement for such exports was the approval of the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) which is charged with assuring that non-nuclear-weapon states are not illicitly pursuing nuclear weapons.

This past spring, members of the Nuclear Suppliers Group discussed imposition of even stricter guidelines - termed the Additional Protocol - governing the export of items used for nuclear fuel cycle activities and giving the IAEA additional power. However, there was not agreement on this proposal with a number of countries, including Brazil, Argentina and Turkey, charging that the increased restrictions of the Additional Protocol were intended not to restrict proliferation of nuclear weapons, but to hold back economic development in non-nuclear states, economic development which would be in competition with that of those nations sponsoring the Additional Protocol. As Gomes stated in her address, the World Peace Council supports this latter position.□

October 15<sup>th</sup>

*Season's Greetings  
For a  
Peaceful New Year!*



## Canada and NATO's Imperial Design

This month the heads of the 28 states comprising NATO will be meeting in Lisbon, Portugal, to discuss future plans for the organization - an organization which has grown into the most dangerous threat to the world's people. Since *Saskatchewan Peace News* began publishing in the '80's, we have consistently taken a stand against Canada's participation in this outlaw band. Once again we are warning of what NATO means for the peace of the world

The following is a review of the growth of this behemoth, which last year celebrated its 60<sup>th</sup> anniversary. A number of factors connected to that growth are noted: (1) NATO is the weapon of the U.S.-dominated military-industrial complex. (2) since the fall of the Soviet Union, NATO is spreading throughout the world. (3) from the beginning the government of Canada has been involved in the formation and expansion of NATO. (4) NATO's policy and its hypocritical emphasis on using nuclear weapons threatens to destroy the world as we know it.

As Don Currie, Chair of Canadians for Peace and Socialism has written on the *Focus on Socialism* website, shortly after the Second World War, under Liberal Prime Minister Louis St. Laurent there was a shift in Canada's economic and foreign policy towards one of integration with that of the United States. Finance Minister Douglas Abbott went to Washington and cut a deal with President Harry Truman. In exchange for U.S.-produced consumer and industrial goods, Canada would supply the U.S. with all the vital raw materials it required to wage war with the Soviet Union. Then on April 4, 1949, Prime Minister St. Laurent and the leaders of the US, Britain and France and eight other countries signed the North Atlantic Treaty, which established the North Atlantic Treaty Organization or NATO. Article 5 of the Treaty stated that an attack on one would be considered an attack on all. This repudiated the solemn agreement reached only four years earlier as the Second World War ended by Churchill, Roosevelt and Stalin at Yalta which would see post-war international security established collectively through the Security Council Provisions of the U.N Charter covering all United Nations member states.

NATO was originally established on the initiative of the United States to 'contain' the Soviet Union, and to serve the interests of that U.S. military-industrial complex about which President Eisenhower had warned. At the time, the U.S. had sole possession of the nuclear bomb and had dropped it on Hiroshima and Nagasaki. However, within months, the Soviet Union had its bomb and the Cold War followed. As Currie writes, all NATO member states began an intensive military build-up with the deployment of nuclear weapons as its core strategy. In violation of their post-war agreement to disarm Nazi Germany, NATO partners led by the US, Britain and Canada began the rearmament of Germany and integrating the defeated German Wehrmacht into NATO with former Nazi generals promoted to NATO high command.

As Currie points out, the Soviet Union, "aware of what another world war would mean, having lost 20 million of its citizens in World War 2, and in an effort to halt the burgeoning arms race in Europe" in 1954 offered to join NATO. The offer was rejected, confirming that NATO was not a defensive alliance designed for the collective security of the North Atlantic states, but an aggressive anti-communist alliance bent on destroying the socialist system. It was not until May 1955, six years after NATO was established, that the European socialist states, headed by the Soviet Union, signed the Warsaw Pact. "The measured responses of the Soviet Union and its allies to NATO plans for war was the decisive factor throughout the cold war era, preventing the outbreak of world nuclear war. Soviet diplomatic offensive at the UN and among all states receptive to reducing tensions, resulted in a series of international agreements to reduce nuclear weapons and their proliferation. That legacy lives on today when a new struggle confronts the peace movement to completely rid the world of nuclear arms."



NATO "Peacemaking"

The 1990's saw the collapse of the Soviet Union and dissolution of the Warsaw Pact. But, dissolution of NATO did not follow. Instead, a 'new strategic concept' to make better use of NATO was announced. This was done in 1999, at NATO's 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary celebration in Washington - a celebration sponsored by several of the largest war-profiteering companies in the U.S. The new strategic concept was basically a declaration that NATO had the right to interfere in the internal affairs of any country, although this was obviously at odds with the premise on which the United Nations had been founded. NATO also declared it reserved the right to use nuclear weapons and on a 'first-strike' basis. This, in spite of all the efforts that had been made through the United Nations, and by the Non-Aligned Movement, to bring about nuclear disarmament.

In June of 1999, NATO tested its new strategic concept on Yugoslavia. Yugoslavia had many resources, a good part of its economy was still publicly owned and susceptible to privatization, and it was one of the last corners of Europe where there was not a US or NATO presence. Of course, it would be a good idea to have a justification for such action

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and “concern for human rights” or “humanitarian intervention” was trotted out.

Protecting the rights of Albanians in Kosovo, a province of Yugoslavia, was the excuse for intervention. Before NATO began bombing, president Milosevic was given the option of signing the Rambouillet Agreement. This agreement meant NATO troops would occupy the whole of Yugoslavia, and it provided for privatization of state enterprises, including takeover by foreign companies. Milosevic refused to sign. For 78 days bombs rained on Yugoslavia, about one-fifth the size of Nova Scotia, more than 500 of them carried by Canadian planes in the service of NATO. The result was destruction of the road and rail network, schools, hospitals, petroleum facilities and cultural monuments. Use of depleted uranium lastingly polluted the land and water.

Columnist Lawrence Martin wrote in the *Regina Leader-Post*, November 1999, that it appeared NATO had won over public opinion by putting out one extraordinary falsehood after another. To justify the bombing attacks, which made mockery of international law, NATO leaders like Prime Minister Jean Chretien had charged the Albanians were victims of genocide. Columnist Richard Gwyn wrote in the *Toronto Star* that not one mass grave had been found in Kosovo. "No genocide means no justification for a war inflicted by NATO on a sovereign nation...." Richard Sanders, Co-ordinator, Coalition to Oppose the Arms Trade in Ottawa, wrote that it was extremely naive to think the bombing of Yugoslavia was carried out for humanitarian purposes. The US, the main force behind NATO, had carried out dozens of covert wars, backed countless military coups and supplied weapons to many of the world's most ruthless dictators. "They have used every dirty trick in the book. Millions of innocent civilians have perished in order to make the world a safer place for multi-national corporations to do business...." The most scary thing about the bombing of Yugoslavia," Sanders added, "is the precedent it sets.

Even in the US there was criticism. In the *Los Angeles Times*, columnist Robin Wright charged the bombing of Kosovo involved a new standard of international intervention that extended beyond the United Nations Charter, as well as beyond the principle sacrosanct for half a century: non-intervention in the domestic affairs of sovereign states. NATO committing an act of war without the backing of an authorizing resolution from the UN Security Council "sets a very dangerous precedent." Dennis Kucinich, at the time Democratic Representative in the House of Representatives for Ohio, warned that NATO's adopting a new strategic concept that would let it go anywhere weakened the United Nations at a time when the UN needed to reclaim its role as an international force for peace. NATO was out of control, "moving into that fuzzy circumstance of high violence where the possibility of nuclear war, on purpose or by accident, was beginning to be real....We must build an international network of peace seekers who will...provide an effective counterweight to armed intervention."

In October 2001 it was Afghanistan's turn. The US invaded, with president George Bush using 9/11 and Osama Bin Laden as his excuse. David Orchard, author of *The Fight for Canada*, wrote that UN resolutions on Afghanistan prior to the US invasion contained "not even an implied authorization of military force." So Bush turned to NATO, and by 2003 the US military effort in Afghanistan was expanded and assumed by NATO. Canada was not in Afghanistan under UN command, Orchard charged, but under US command as part of NATO's Operation Enduring Freedom. "Being part of a US military operation to subdue the country is by definition the opposite of peacekeeping." In early 2006, John Conway, a political sociologist at the University of Regina wrote: "What is the North Atlantic Treaty Organization doing in Afghanistan? It is fighting an American imperial war for hegemony in the region....Pacifying Afghanistan is essential to American plans for oil and natural gas pipelines through Pakistan to the Arabian Sea from the now independent and oil-rich Muslim republics in the former Soviet Union." After nine years of war Canadians - and Afghans - are still dying there, and Osama Bin Laden has not been captured.

In 2003 Canada, under Liberal Prime Minister Jean Chretien, avoided officially supporting the U.S. in its attack on Iraq, and then under Liberal Prime Minister Paul Martin, Canada rejected participation with the U.S. in a North American missile defence system. Our parliamentarians recognized, briefly, that the people of this country were against the U.S. invasion of that far-away country, and militarization at home. However, in 2005, Prime Minister Paul Martin and Mexican prime minister Vicente Fox met with George Bush in Waco, Texas, to establish the Security and Prosperity Partnership, another step in transforming Canada into a political appendage of the US, including the US drive to war and world domination. By 2007, Defence minister Peter McKay said the Conservative government, headed by Harper, intended to continue with integration of Canada's foreign policy, with making Canada a partner of Washington.

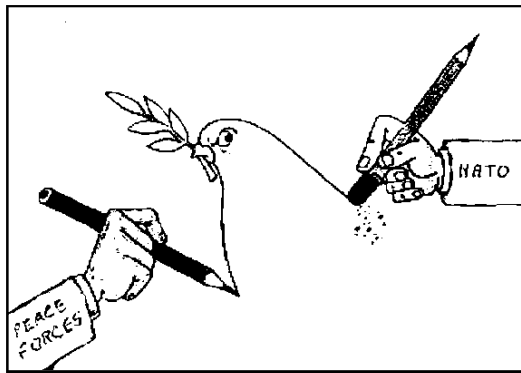
At that time Edward S. Herman, an American economist and author, charged that the US posed the greatest threat of any country in history. The US administration had far more destructive power than any of its predecessors, he charged, had already used it, and threatened to escalate its violence. "The rise of US destructive power, far beyond anything related to national defence and far beyond the capabilities of any potential rivals, was clearly purposeful and designed to serve both the transnational business and financial interests of the US elite and the contractor-Pentagon-politician vested interests of the military industrial complex." The US had used nuclear weapons, the only nation to do so, and the US leadership was willing, and even eager, to use them to teach the world who was boss, as Herman put it.

In the meantime, the process of making better use of NATO was continued by the military-industrial complex, and in 2006 NATO adopted a Political Guidance Document, gearing its overall strategy towards ensuring the flow of vital resources. A Rapid Response Force prepared to make

**NATO – cont'd from page 4**

NATO's mailed fist felt anywhere in the world was declared fully operational, and implementation of a ballistic missile defence program of Europe was formally decided on.

In August 2008 NATO began extending its cyber warfare capacities beyond its 28-member states and created the North Atlantic Council Guidelines for Co-operation on Cyber Defence with Partners and International Organizations. In September US Deputy Defense Secretary William Lynn, the Pentagon's number two official, speaking at NATO headquarters in Brussels, addressed the North Atlantic Council – NATO's top civilian body - and the private Security & Defence Agenda think tank. Lynn was advocating that at this month's meeting in Lisbon NATO leaders endorse instituting a cyber shield over all of Europe. He said "NATO has a nuclear shield, it is building a stronger and stronger defence shield, it needs a cyber shield as well" as reported by *Agence France-Presse*. The Brussels-based think tank lists among its partners in addition to NATO, American arms manufacturers Boeing, Lockheed Martin, Raytheon and United Technologies, as well as their European equivalents. Lynn himself was formerly senior vice-president of Government Operations and Strategy at Raytheon.



Last year Richard Rozoff, a frequent contributor to *Global Research*, wrote that in the past decade NATO has expanded to 28 members. A military bloc, ostensibly formed to protect the nations of the North Atlantic, has armed forces and partnerships in all six inhabited continents. It is "a military machine that can call upon two million troops and whose member states account for over 70 per cent of world arms spending." But the military-industrial complex is intent on yet further expansion. Also last year, at its 60<sup>th</sup> anniversary summit in April, NATO adopted its new New Strategic Concept to replace that adopted in 1999. As Currie writes, the New Strategic Concept is "a euphemism for plans to expand NATO's mandate to launch interventionist wars at will and in all corners of the globe."

At the upcoming meeting in Lisbon NATO leaders are gathering, as the *Regina Leader-Post* puts it, "to plot alliance strategy for the next decade." A policy paper outlining the Canadian position to be presented at the November meeting was published in March. The paper advocates an expanded NATO and an even more active role for Canadian governments, present and future, at the NATO headquarters

in Brussels. An expanded NATO, and a more active role for Canada will require massive military expenditures by Canadian taxpayers, and such a role for Canada conflicts with Canada's traditional role at the United Nations.

As Currie warns, the outcome of the November NATO meeting will impact Canadians directly and indirectly. "Directly, NATO will consume more of the defense budget of the Canadian state, depriving the Canadian people of tax dollars required for public education, health care, child care, pensions and affordable housing. Indirectly, it will impose on Canada a requirement to support the NATO doctrine of military intervention abroad that is bound to embroil Canada and its youth in more costly and terrible wars such as the NATO war in Afghanistan and the planned US-Israeli war on 75 million Iranians."

Canada as a member of NATO is obliged to go to war if Article Five of the NATO Charter is invoked Currie reminds us. If the new NATO doctrine of expanding its mandate beyond the Euro Atlantic states to all continents is adopted at its November meeting, it will increase the potential for Canadian involvement in future foreign NATO wars and thereby diminish Canadian security.

Rozoff agrees: "The Lisbon summit will inaugurate a new NATO military doctrine for the next ten years. It will confirm the bloc as a 21<sup>st</sup> century expeditionary force without geographical or thematic limits, one which will seek an opportunity to intrude itself anywhere in the world under a multitude of subterfuges."

As part of its New Strategic Concept in 1999, NATO insisted on its right to use nuclear weapons, and on a first strike basis. In his 2005 book *Beyond Hiroshima*, Douglas Roche, Canada's Ambassador for Disarmament from 1984 to 1989, states that NATO was maintaining U.S. nuclear weapons on the soil of six European countries, and was preparing "reliable replacement warheads with new military capabilities." This in spite of the fact that nuclear weapons "are devoid of the slightest shred of moral legitimacy." NATO's core policy is that nuclear weapons are "essential" and provide the "supreme guarantee" of security. Declaring that the "double speak of this position is breathtaking," Roche emphasized that all NATO states signed on to the "unequivocal undertaking" to eliminate nuclear weapons, yet they gave their loyalty to a military alliance that says nuclear weapons are the supreme guarantee of their security. This included Canada. Roche warned that NATO seems not to care that its insistence on maintaining nuclear weapons sends the wrong message to militaries, governments and the public around the world, namely that possession of nuclear weapons is legitimate, and the defining characteristic of powerful states. The alliance seems oblivious to its own hypocrisy as it opposes possession of nuclear weapons by any other state while reserving to itself the right to deploy them.

Richard Rozoff also underlines the hypocrisy of NATO's position on nuclear weapons. There are an tactical estimated

**NATO – cont'd from page 5**

20 U.S. tactical nuclear weapons in Belgium, he says, 20 in Germany, 50 in Italy, 20 in the Netherlands and 90 in Turkey, where they are brought in and kept under NATO arrangements. The affected countries have never conducted referendums to determine whether their citizens support the basing of American nuclear arms on their soil, notwithstanding NATO's claim to be a "military alliance of democratic states in Europe and North America." Rozoff also reports that NATO Secretary General Anders Fogh Rasmussen told a British newspaper that if "Iran eventually acquires a nuclear capability that will be very dangerous and a direct threat to the allies." But the 90 missiles NATO has stationed in Turkey, next door to Iran, apparently are not to be considered a threat to Iran.

As mentioned above, *Saskatchewan Peace News* and the Regina Peace Council have always opposed Canada's involvement in NATO - this dangerous organization that more and more threatens the peace of the world. NATO is not a democratic organization where the Canadian people can directly express their opinion by voting for or against its actions. But we can act to take Canada out of NATO. With Harper as Prime Minister, it will be a tough row to hoe, but such action should be a priority of the Canadian people. □

C. Fischer – November 14th

**Troops – cont'd from page 2****Peace Movement is Key**

A majority of Canadians want a complete end to any and all Canadian military involvement in Afghanistan. Unlike Prime Minister Harper, very few are militarists.

Professor Michel Chossudovsky, Global Research Director has recently commented on the weakness of the peace movement and progressive political forces to stop the dangerous march to nuclear war. Chossudovsky states, "The existing antiwar movement has since 2003 been substantially weakened and divided. It does not at present have the required organizational capabilities to wage this campaign (against nuclear war – ed.)."

"The antiwar movement is misinformed on the nature of the US military agenda. Several non-governmental organizations have placed the blame on Iran, for not complying with the "reasonable demands" of the "international community". These same organizations, which are committed to World Peace tend to downplay the implications of the proposed bombing of Iran."

Let's change Professor Chossudovsky's opinion...

**Support the call for Parliament  
to discuss and end Canada's  
military presence in Afghanistan!**

**Mapuche Journalist  
Visits Regina**

For hundreds of years, the Mapuche people have been struggling for the space to exist. Inhabiting the southernmost region of South America, the Mapuche are as close to the periphery as geographically possible. Through the hundreds of years in which the Mapuche have been fighting for their lands against Inca expansion, Spanish colonialism and successive Chilean and Argentinean governments that physical segregation has been coupled with a restriction of the space in the public sphere for the most basic rights of the Mapuche people to be aired. This lack of space from which to advance the Mapuche movement was most evident during the recent drama of the trapped Chilean miners.

While the world was fixated on the San Jose mine, a more prolonged human drama was playing out elsewhere in Chile, and the attention of the world's media was all but absent. The Chilean government of Sebastian Piñera, and those of his predecessors are using Anti-Terrorist laws put in place by the dictatorship of Augusto Pinochet to repress the Mapuche people. They are used to deny the Mapuche the legal right to struggle for their own identity, branding those who do as terrorists and seeing them put behind bars. This summer while the plight of thirty-three miners captivated the world, thirty-eight Mapuche political prisoners undertook a hunger strike that would carry on even longer than the entombment of the miners.

It was on the crest of this extraordinary political act and the simultaneously unfolding rescue mission that Pedro Cayuqueo, a Mapuche activist, came to speak at the University of Regina on October 20th. To the number of expat Chileans in attendance, he was presenting a familiar battle from Chilean history; for others, this firsthand account of the plight of the Mapuche was revelatory. Many Canadians are uninformed of the battles being waged between Canadian indigenous groups and the government, so it is not too surprising that they would be unaware of the struggles of an indigenous group from the other end of the world. Again, the Mapuche are having to fight simply for the space from which to present their story, and this is one of the main reasons behind Cayuqueo's speaking tour.

The struggles of Canadian indigenous groups and the Mapuche share many parallels. The two most obvious are the fight for recognition of their indigenous identity and their right to control their historic homelands. Under the current Chilean constitution, another leftover from the Pinochet years, the Mapuche people are not recognized. Under Chilean law, a Mapuche person is Chilean, not Mapuche. What could seem like a trivial distinction may be the *most* important indigenous right, for it is nigh impossible to advance the struggle for indigenous land rights when the government refuses to recognize one's aboriginality. This is reminiscent of the assimilation strategies used by many colonial governments, including Canada, in trying to eliminate their

**Mapuche – cont'd page 7**

## Coup Attempt in Ecuador Fails

At the end of September there was an attempted coup in Ecuador, aimed at getting rid of Ecuador's president Rafael Correa. Immediately following the attempt, messages of support for Correa were immediately issued by the governments of Venezuela, Brazil, Argentina, Peru, Mexico, Bolivia, Cuba and Spain. The World Peace Council issued a statement condemning the action. The Council's president, Socorro Gomes is from Brazil and is very familiar with Latin American politics.

Since the failure attempts have been made to dismiss its significance. Former Ecuadorean president Lucio Guitierrez, who is pro-US, and chummy with foreign oil companies, even charged that Correa had staged the event. However, the attempt to get rid of Ecuador's president was not something new for that part of the world. Hugo Chavez in Venezuela was briefly ousted in an April 2002 coup organized by the CIA; in Honduras, Manuel Zelaya was forced out of office by the CIA in June of last year; and the U.S. opposes the return to Haiti of Jean-Bertrand Aristide, whom they forced into exile in 2004. All three presidents had been democratically elected, but had stood up to the dictates of the U.S., as Correa has done.

The role of the US is not as obvious this time. Secretary of State Hillary Clinton issued a weak statement saying the US backed Correa. But as Washington-based investigative journalist and syndicated columnist, Wayne Madsen points out, the statement came one day after Clinton heaped praise on former Secretary of State Henry Kissinger, who helped craft the September 11, 1973 coup in Chile and the assassination of its progressive president, Salvador Allende.

Madsen also writes that Correa was re-elected with an overwhelming majority last year after he gave the U.S. military its walking papers from the Manta airbase. "The Pentagon and CIA have been working to topple Correa ever since by pumping money into opposition political parties and other groups through NGO's funded by the U.S. National Endowment for Democracy." In addition to kicking the Americans out of the Manta air base, Ecuador has been annoying the Americans by being a complicated place to do business. The US State Department's Investment Climate Statement for Ecuador states: "There are restrictions or limitations on private investment in many sectors." A 2006 hydrocarbons law imposed new conditions in the petroleum sector that have been problematic for many companies. A 2007 decree imposed additional restrictions. A 2008 mining mandate stalled mining activity. Negotiations for a free trade agreement between the United States and Ecuador which would have included investment provisions stopped in April 2006. The current Government of Ecuador has not expressed interest in restarting negotiations.

Correa has not nationalized the country's oil, but he has moved to increase control over the oil companies. He expelled two US diplomats for meddling when he was first elected. He defaulted on the country's foreign debt declaring

it illegitimate. He boosted social spending. He has refused to negotiate a Free Trade deal and has established close ties with Venezuela and Iran. In June, Ecuador sponsored a resolution at the Organization of American States (OAS) summit in Lima condemning Israel's attack on the Turkish aid flotilla transporting humanitarian aid to Gaza, and ten nations voted with Ecuador in support of the resolution.

In October 2008, Ecuador's Defense Minister Javier Ponce issued an official report revealing how US diplomats dedicated themselves to corrupting the police as well as officers from the armed forces. In recent months, US officials, including Arturo Valenzuela, US Assistant Secretary of State for Western Hemisphere Affairs, have appeared in Ecuador to extend relations, in many cases accompanied by officials with known CIA ties.

As for the coup, the press attributes it to elements of the police force and air force personnel. Between them they occupied several barracks, set up road blocks in nine of the country's provincial capitals, occupied the National Assembly building and seized national TV. Air Force personnel shut down the international airports in Quito and Guayaquil, Ecuador's largest city. In Quito, the capital, President Correa went to police headquarters to speak to the police. He was seized and held, but was rescued by forces in the army forces loyal to him. Accounts of casualties vary, but about five people were killed and over 200 injured.

The scope of the coup action indicates it was more than a protest over benefits by a few disgruntled police officers. As Greg Grandin, New York University professor of history has stated, this was not a spontaneous protest. It was too well coordinated. Nor was it staged. It was a coup attempt that failed.□

C. Fischer – November 14<sup>th</sup>

### Mapuche – cont'd from page 6

Aboriginal 'problems'. This is why Cayuqueo was so consistent with his reiterations of his Mapuche identity, it has been a necessary practice of the Mapuche for hundreds of years.

While there is nothing overly glamorous about the struggle for identity and recognition, the battle over land rights is where the money is. The ancestral lands of the Mapuche are coveted by many actors who wish to exploit the vast forestry, fishery, mining and hydroelectric resources. Concessions are being handed out by the Chilean government without the due consultation of the people who have historically inhabited those areas. Battles over land rights such as this will be familiar to those who follow indigenous struggle around the world, especially in Canada.

With the Mapuche people living in economic conditions far below the Chilean national average, the battle over land rights is necessarily about stopping and extraction as it is about ensuring the end to the deliberate exclusion of the Mapuche

Mapuche – cont'd page 8

## Reginans Celebrate World Peace Day

Over 100 people were treated to two hours of nearly non-stop entertainment provided by: Kaitlynn McKeown (granddaughter of peace fountain initiator and former city councillor Joe McKeown), Distant Distortion (band from Gordon First Nation), Darryl Caldwell, Daniel Johnson, Carla McEwen and the Reel Anti-Suppressants in the city hall courtyard on Saturday, September 18<sup>th</sup>.

Bob Hughes from the *Saskatchewan Coalition Against Racism* and one of the festival's organizers summed things up by saying, "The turn-out was great, the weather fantastic and everyone had a wonderful time and is looking forward to next year!" Such were the thoughts of the people persons of all ages and ancestries who attended the event. All performers indicated that they would provide entertainment again next year.

Elder Bob Smoker opened the Festival with a prayer and hand-drum song for peace. Peter Gilmer from the Anti-Poverty Ministry which is collecting the completed petitions calling for the official dedication of a 'Regina Peace Fountain' at City Hall was master-of-ceremonies.

Children's games were provided by Melanie Fisher, sidewalk chalk by Robin Schladt and face-painting by the Street Culture Kidz. Donations to the festival were provided by: women from Regina Métis Sports and Culture; the local Van Houtte Coffee store; the Retail, Wholesale and Department Store Union (RWDSU); the Regina Labour Council and numerous individuals.

The McKeown family (Darcy McKeown), Making Peace Vigil (Edith Mountjoy), Saskatchewan Coalition Against Racism (Bob Hughes & Melanie Fisher), Regina Peace Council (Peter Gehl), and performer (Carla McEwen) each said a few words in support of the Regina Peace Fountain festival and petition to officially designate the water fountain at City Hall the "Regina Peace Fountain".

City Councillor Fred Clipsham came to the event and said he supported dedicating the water fountain at City Hall as the "Regina Peace Fountain." □

### Mapuche – cont'd from page 6

from decision making and from reaping the benefits of any development. As Cayuqueo pointed out, some of those responsible in the pillaging of Mapuche lands are Canadian companies. The exploitative and destructive business practices they engage in, on Mapuche lands, would not be tolerated if they were to take place within Canada. Yet, once again, because the space for debate on the issue does not exist, the opportunities for that debate are missing.

The major difference between Canadian indigenous struggles and those of the Mapuche, is the repressive application of

Pinochet's legacy to silence them. The main goal of the hunger strikers was the release of all Mapuche political prisoners and the abolition of those Pinochet-era Anti-Terror laws. Those Mapuche who choose to stand up and fight, non-violently, against a repressive government, are branded as terrorists and locked away. Tactics such as these have no place in the 20<sup>th</sup> century, let alone the 21<sup>st</sup>. The fact that these laws are part of the lasting legacy of Chile's most notorious tyrant would seemingly be enough for most Chileans to desire to remove them. But, that is not the case, as Cayuqueo pointed out. By pushing the Mapuche people out of the public eye and filling the space with advertising and consumerism, successive Chilean governments have been able to use that vacuum to continue using these dictatorial decrees to suppress an indigenous rights movement that will not be silenced.

Is it fitting or ironic then, that Cayuqueo came to Canada to speak about the fight for indigenous rights? Canada's record on treatment of its indigenous peoples is terrible, being one of a few countries who have failed to ratify the UN's Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous People (DRIP).

Chile is a signatory to the DRIP, yet it has not helped the Mapuche people in their battle for identity, economic and land rights. The Mapuche have presented their case to the United Nations, but to no avail. Up to now, the international community has been unable to pressure the Chilean (and Argentinean) governments to correct their relations with the Mapuche people. This pressure is how people in Canada can help the Mapuche.

In a year where Chile managed to capture the attention of the world twice: with the devastating earthquake and the incredible trapped miner saga, Pedro Cayuqueo is making huge strides in trying to create space for presenting the Mapuche cause. He represented his people and their cause with a pride and dignity which can only be fueled by the Mapuche history of never having surrendered to colonialism. Like the Mapuche refusal to submit to the Spaniards, they are showing no signs of giving up their struggle with the Chilean and Argentinean governments.

People here in Canada may be thousands of miles away from Araucanía, but thanks to the efforts of Pedro Cayuqueo, there is at least one more roomful of people who know of the Mapuche struggle. It is now up to us, as Canadians, to pressure our politicians to act on the issues surrounding indigenous rights, both in Canada and globally, and to demand accountability of those Canadian companies culpable in the destruction of Mapuche lands and society. □

M. Gehl – November 8<sup>th</sup>

Postscript: *As of November 12, 2010, Canada has finally endorsed the DRIP. Despite government claims that this is due to Canada's firm commitment to indigenous rights, the over three year wait from the UN adoption until Canada's endorsement makes these statements ring rather hollow.* □

M. Gehl – November 13<sup>th</sup>



# Reverend Lucius Walker, Jr. Remembered

August 3, 1930 - September 7, 2010



Following is IFCO's tribute to Rev. Walker:

In 1967, Rev. Walker was called by a group of progressive religious leaders and community activists to be the founding director of the new Interreligious Foundation for Community Organization (IFCO).

From that time until the present, his leadership of IFCO gave expression to his lifelong calling, rooted deeply in his Christian faith, to serve and empower those who suffer the pain of civil rights and human rights violations by developing and sustaining collective power through community organizing.

Rev. Walker has been best known in recent years for his leadership of IFCO's special program Pastors for Peace and for challenging the US blockade of Cuba. For many years before that he led IFCO in a prophetic ministry of action/education rooted in the faith community. IFCO served as a catalyst and a conscience in movements for social justice, playing key roles in the civil rights movement, the American Indian Movement, the national farm labor movement and the Puerto Rican struggle for independence.

IFCO's first major accomplishment was to organize the National Black Economic Development Conference in 1969. Rev Walker chaired this historic conference, which brought together African-Americans of all walks of life from diverse political, social, economic, and geographic sectors, to plan a program of Black economic self-determination. It was at this conference that the Black Manifesto was presented, which asked for \$500 million in reparations to the Black community from mainline white religious institutions.

In the 1970s, Rev. Walker and IFCO were instrumental in working with C.T. Vivian and others to organize the National Anti-Klan Network (now known as the Center for Democratic Renewal), which continues to monitor racist violence and hate crimes. Rev. Walker was also one of the strategists and founders of the National Black United Fund.

Rev. Walker led IFCO for more than four decades in assisting hundreds of community organizations and public policy groups — providing technical assistance, training organizers, making and administering grants, and using its global network of grassroots organizers, clergy, and others to advance the struggles of oppressed people for justice and self-determination. IFCO was the first national foundation to be controlled by people of color, and the only foundation in the country at that time to focus exclusively on community organizing; it became the largest foundation in the country led and directed by people of color and, in terms of total grants, one of the top 200 foundations in the US.

IFCO's first international work, in the 1970s, grew out of IFCO's identification with the civil rights and Black Power movements and focused on support for emerging African liberation struggles, through projects such as Relief for Africans In Need in the Sahel (RAINS).

In the early 1980s, pastors from Central America approached IFCO's board and spoke of the challenges faced by the liberation movements in their own nations. At the time when the Reagan administration was fomenting war and unrest in Central America, IFCO organized a series of study tours and state-wide 'Central America Information Week' campaigns around the US to raise awareness about US policy in the region. Throughout his career, Rev Walker stayed true to 'the Macedonian call' (Acts 16:9). In that Scriptural passage, Paul has a dream that a distant person in Macedonia is calling for help from across the sea; when Paul awakens, he immediately starts organizing to go to Macedonia to be of help. Rev Walker understood that his faith called him to 'love thy neighbor' - and he practiced that faith in a radical and transcendent way by reaching out to neighbors across boundaries, barriers, and blockades.

It is also impossible to understand Rev. Walker's work without being aware of his fundamental commitment to being deeply rooted in congregational ministry.

**Lucius – cont'd page 10**

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

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Enclosed please find donation Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
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(Saskatchewan Peace News is now published electronically and available at: [www.canadianpeacecongress.ca](http://www.canadianpeacecongress.ca))

**Lucius – cont'd from page 9**

It is also impossible to understand Rev. Walker's work without being aware of his fundamental commitment as a parish pastor. As the founding pastor of Salvation Baptist Church in Brooklyn in 1984, his profound understanding of the Christian faith was deeply rooted in congregational ministry.

In 1988 Rev. Walker was wounded in a terrorist attack by US-government-supported Nicaraguan *contras* as he led an IFCO study delegation returning from the Nicaraguan coast. He said that he "spent that night praying for a response to getting hit by a bullet that was paid for by my own government." The next morning he announced the formation of IFCO's new program Pastors for Peace, which was conceived, in his words, as "a ministry to victims of US foreign policy" and a vehicle for engaging US citizens in hands-on solidarity and advocacy. Since its founding, many thousands of people have participated in more than 40 Pastors for Peace caravans carrying material aid to Mexico, Central America, Haiti and to New Orleans and the Gulf Coast after Katrina as well as 21 'US/Cuba Friendshipment' caravans that have delivered more than 3000 tons of humanitarian aid to Cuba, as a direct challenge to the immoral and illegal US economic blockade of Cuba.

One of Rev. Walker's most significant recent accomplishments - a project to which he devoted much of his passion and energy in the last 10 years has been to respond to an offer from the Cuban Ministry of Health for young people from communities of color and low-income communities in the US to study on full scholarship at the Latin American School of Medicine in Cuba and then return to the US to provide medical care in under-served communities. Currently 125 young people from the United States are enrolled in this groundbreaking program. The 47 MDs who have already graduated are in medical residencies in the US, or in the process of qualifying for residency and 12 of the graduates have provided urgently needed medical services in Haiti since the earthquake.

The Board of Directors and staff of IFCO/Pastors for Peace will always honor and celebrate the rich legacy of our beloved, heroic, prophetic leader Rev. Lucius Walker, Jr.— and we remain committed to moving the work forward.□

IFCO - October

**Thanks to all those who have helped, donated money and participated in peace activities**

*If you're interested in Canada-Cuba friendship, please contact us now, so that we can make an early start for 2011...*

*Next year's 22<sup>nd</sup> Cuba Caravan will celebrate and honour the young people of Cuba and the life and legacy of Lucius Walker*

**Former Peace Council President  
Paul Megaw Dies**

I recently was notified of the passing of Paul Megaw, a Regina peace and community activist. Paul Megaw had an interest in a multitude of peace and peace-related issues: nuclear disarmament; peace in the Middle East; conversion from military to civilian production; and justice for Canada's aboriginal peoples.

Paul was born in Northern Ireland and maintained an interest in peace being achieved there. He also welcomed the end of apartheid in South Africa. Paul had an empathy for people struggling against imperialism and colonialism.

During the 1980's and 1990's Paul was particularly active in the struggle for peace. He was an activist with the Regina Peace Council and served as its President for a few years. Paul wrote articles for the *Saskatchewan Peace News*, then published by the Regina and Saskatoon Peace Councils. He advocated cutting the military budget to finance an increased investment in education, health care and infrastructure rebuilding. He argued that such conversion would create tens of thousands of new jobs for Canada's unemployed.

Paul spent many years working with the physically and mentally challenged. As well as working on peace and peace related issues Paul was a volunteer literacy tutor.

Paul was predeceased by his parents, Margaret and Joseph. He leaves behind his son, Derek, Derek's mother, Marjorie, two brothers and a sister and their families, and many friends.□

Ed. Lehman, former president of Regina Peace Council

*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](mailto:peace.council@accesscomm.ca).