DALE JONES, SEVEN OTHERS, TRIED FOR OCCUPYING SEN. DURENBERGER'S OFFICE

The February 23 Minneapolis Star and Tribune quoted Sen. Dave Durenberger as saying that one of his aims is to "design a rationale for the United States to overtly help the rebels overthrow or at least share power with the Sandinista government in Nicaragua." On Monday, February 25, approximately 100 people went to Durenberger's office to demand a retraction of the statement and ask that Durenberger attend a March 9 hearing on Nicaragua at the state capitol or agree to a time at his own convenience to meet with Minnesotans who have travelled to Nicaragua.

Nine of us refused to leave the office until our requests were satisfied, resulting in arrest on charges of trespassing. Eight of us (Richard Hillman, Dale Jones, Bill Kennedy, Nancy Mosier, Joe Muldoon, Erin Smith, Mary Spiering and Lilli Sprintz) went to trial in Hennepin County May 20 in what may be a forerunner to numerous trials ahead since the Pledge of Resistance has been activated.

Defending ourselves, we planned to prove that we had a "claim of right" to remain in the office. This claim was based on a moral responsibility to prevent further violence and killing, an obligation under international law to prevent continuing war crimes and our right as constituents to address the derogation of fundamental duties and responsibilities of elected officials.

We emphasized that we had not only a right but also an obligation to remain in Durenberger's office. The Reagan administration's disregard for international law, including the OAS Charter and UN Resolutions, obligates those of us aware such crimes are being committed to take preventive action. The Nuremburg Principles specifically outlaw pre-war activities and instruct individuals to take what action they can: "the true test, which is found in varying degrees in the criminal law of most nations, is whether moral choice is in fact possible."

After deliberating two and a half hours, the jury of six women found us guilty. We were sentenced by Judge James Johnston to two days in the workhouse or a $100 fine, with an option of 30 hours community service for those unable to pay the fine.

-- DALE JONES

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Elise Boulding of Dartmouth College started the envisioning workshop for a world without weapons a number of years ago; it has since been given around the world as well as in the United States (but primarily on the East Coast).

The workshop's format is to imagine a world without weapons, first individually and then with a small group. Time is spent clarifying and strengthening the vision. Collectively the group develops the future's history: what happened? how did we get here? Once the bulk of the work has been done, individuals set down a five-year action plan to work toward their visions. The basic premise is that today we are living out someone else's vision of the future. To ensure that the future of the world is a world without weapons, we must re-invent our future.

As a consequence of this training, the theme at People Camp August 18-24 will be "Inventing a World without Weapons." Madge Micheels Cyrus, Tom Hastings, Jeanne Larson and I will lead adults, teenagers and older elementary-school children through a 15-hour version of the workshop.

In October, Andi Scott and I will facilitate an eight-hour weekend workshop.

Any of us is available to lead a workshop for your group, although the minimum number of people needed is 18. For more information on workshops, call 870-1501.

-- JEANNETTE RAYMOND

CHILDREN OF COLOMENCAGUA: the small boy at the far right needs the hearing aid.

CENTRAL AMERICA TASK FORCE COLLECTS FUNDS FOR HEARING AID

Central America Task Force is collecting money for a hearing aid for a five-year-old in Colomencagua, Honduras. The boy has been deaf since infancy and, as a result, is severely language-delayed. However, doctors believe a hearing aid would restore enough hearing to allow for considerable language development.

Colomencagua is near the border of El Salvador. Most of the year, residents go without electricity; there are no phones, refrigerators or TVs. It is a poor town in the poorest country of Central America. Medical care is not available to the residents, and they couldn't afford it anyway. Most children in town have never seen a doctor. When this boy went to a doctor in Tegucigalpa, the other children thought he would return able to speak.

Contributions for the hearing aid may be sent to FNVW: this is an opportunity to give a miracle to one small boy and his community.

COALITION PUBLISHES PEACE CALENDAR

Twin Cities Peace and Justice Coalition (871-5619) publishes a monthly calendar of metropolitan-area peace and justice events. Subscription rate is $20. To subscribe mail check to TCPJC, 2401 University Avenue, St. Paul 55114, including address and phone number.

FILM, 'WITNESS TO WAR', NARRATED BY CHARLIE CLEMENTS, IS NEW RESOURCE

"Witness to War" is a new film on the work of a Quaker doctor in El Salvador. Charles Clements compares his experience as a doctor in the middle of a war in El Salvador with his experience as an Air Force pilot in Vietnam. This excellent film could lead to many different discussions: on nonviolence in a violent situation, on comparison of U.S. involvement in Vietnam and Central America, on what commitment to peace demands. Friends for a Non-Violent World rents the film for $25.

Elizabeth Boardman's new book, The Phoenix Trip, tells the story of Quakers who sailed to North Vietnam with medical supplies. The book reviews the preparation, voyage and experience in Vietnam. It addresses how individuals can help bring about change, as well as how commitment can lead to risk.

F.N.V.W. CO-SPONSORS VIETNAM FORUM

"Vietnam Today" will be the title of a panel at 7 p.m. August 1 at the Minnesota Church Center, 122 West Franklin Avenue, Minnea polis. The event is co-sponsored by Women Against Military Madness and Friends for a Non-Violent World.

Speakers will include Conrad Dahlin, a Vietnam veteran; Dr. Judy Ladinsky, national chair of the U.S. Committee for Scientific Cooperation with Vietnam; and Dr. Allen Hooper, vice chair of that organization.

For more information, call WAMM at 827-5364.