

yielding up our belief that the foundation of the future must be laid in the present, that a society without violence must begin with revolutionists who will not use violence.

Devi Prasad

Devi Prasad left college in India in 1942 to join the Indian independence movement under Mohandas Gandhi. He lived and worked as an educator at Sevagram, the ashram founded by Gandhi, from 1944-1962. From India he went to England, where he served first as the War Resisters' International's General Secretary and then as its chair until 1974. He has traveled extensively in Europe, Asia and North and South America, making contact with groups and individuals working for nonviolent social change.

Gandhi on Violent Struggles

GANDHI'S name is now being used in connection with the renunciation of non-violent strategy in situations of massive repression and injustice. A few quotations from his writings are repeatedly used to justify violent struggles. Two of the most often quoted phrases are: "Violence is better than cowardice"; "The Polish struggle against the Nazis was almost nonviolent." Recently I came across an article saying Gandhi did not think that non-violence would have worked against Hitler. In another it was claimed that Gandhi would have supported the Sandinistas of Nicaragua. It is true that sometimes Gandhi seems to be inconsistent to a casual reader of his writings. When asked about his "inconsistencies," he replied:

At the time of writing, I never think of what I have said before. My aim is not to be consistent with my previous statements on a given question, but to be consistent with truth, as it may present itself to me at a given moment. The result has been that I have grown from truth to truth; I have saved my memory an undue strain; and what is more, whenever I have been obliged to compare my writing even of fifty years ago with the latest, I have dis-

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