The Arms Race and World Hunger

PART II

By Phil Edmonds

With last month's newsletter focusing on the direct connection between the arms race and world hunger, rather than write a book blaming governments, world leaders and others for these problems, this issue will touch briefly on this and try to bring home to us the causes of the arms race and resulting world hunger.

WE ARE EACH RESPONSIBLE

Simply stated: we in the U.S. make up 5% of the world's population and yet consume 45% of the world's resources. This at the expense of the blood and sweat of many people's lives and the rape of the Earth. And yet within our midst a few million people know what it is like to be hungry-evidence of this is clearly seen with the numbers of people increasing who come to local 'soup' kitchens for a meal.

Many of the foods we eat are grown by families who do not have enough to eat and many of these same people from countries such as El Salvador, Haiti, S. Africa, etc. are exploited by multinational corporations whose sole interest is profit. These same corporations are supported by and in turn support governments that use means such as murder, torture, imprisonment so as to keep this status quo. And this is where weapons and the arms race with the threat of force are used to keep as it is-to keep people from controlling their own resources-and all this for luxury and the profit motive.

Then one often hears the question "If we stop the arms race, won't the Russians take over?" Actually, underlying our hate for the Russians is the unconscious fear of losing our unecessary wealth and this takes the form of false security in weapons. Firstly, we need to realize that a Russian is a person just like you and me-with the same wish to live happily and in peace. Blaming the Russians or others for the problems of the world solve nothing-
WORLD PEACE BEGINS WITH YOU AND ME

WHAT CAN I DO?

We need to ask ourselves "How am I contributing to suffering and what am I doing to alleviate suffering in the world?. We need to get in touch with ourselves, to feel alive rather than living to just consume. For many of us this means a change of life-style, habits, attitudes, desires, ideals. We need to see everyday our connectedness with eachother and the Earth-that we are a part of and not separate from the Earth.We need to simplify our needs.

Jim Tull writes"The whole truth demands that we as individuals-as consumers, as taxpayers, as human beings- examine our own participation in the injustice of hunger. This examination might confirm the simple truth that the more we take for ourselves of the earth's resources the more, very often, we take from those in need. Consumers, taxpayers-individual people-are all that ultimately sustains governments and multinationals.".

For most of us, the means to world peace and the end to world hunger is through our own "small"efforts everyday. We can work on many levels-from changing our attitudes, consciousness, lifestyles to changing our government's policies.

WE DO HAVE THE POWER TO CREATE PEACE

With the arms race threatening all life on Earth, we can no longer turn our backs and forget. We have a choice: either stop the arms race and resulting world hunger or the arms race will end all life on Earth. If and I say if we survive a few hundred years, people most likely will look back and say "WHAT WERE THEY DOING WHEN 45,000 CHILDREN STARVED TO DEATH EVERYDAY WHILE BILLIONS $$$ DAILY WERE SPENT ON WEAPONS?.

YEA, WHAT WERE THEY DOING?

CALENDER

March 13 7pm O.I.C. 1 Hilton St Emergency Assistance Mtg.

16 2nd Annual Bowl For Peace for Sister City hospital. You can still pledge 5,10 15, 25cents per point.

Tues. 18 Plowshares Support Mtg. 6pm potluck 7 Film White Rose' Amos House 3317838

Thurs. 20 Break-the fast supper 6:30 47 Fourth St. 8pm Nicaraguan concert

Sun. 23. Slides and poetry of Nicaragua llam at the Mediator 50 Rounds Ave.

SUN - 23. Friendship St Forum 7:30 Slides and discussion on the lesser known forms of sexism and exploitation presented by Women Against Violence

Against Women. Amos House

Sat&Sun. 29/30th Area Premier of Latino opening at the Cable Car Cinema S. Main St. 4pm Benefit for the Sister City hospital in Nicaragua

30 Presentencing Celebration with Pruning Hooks 6pm supper at Friends Meeting House Morris and Olney St. Providence 331-7838

31 Vigil at Kingston Courthouse-for rid call

Fri. April 4th Benefit for Soupkitchen

Sat. 5th Joyce Katzberg performs at Stone soup coffeehouse.

6th Speakers Training-273-9814