PRESENTING: CULTURAL CORRESPONDENCE and "WE WANT TO LIVE!"

A MAGAZINE COVER AND A SLIDE SHOW PROGRAM IN ONE!

CULTURAL CORRESPONDENCE IS A MAGAZINE OF IDEAS IN SOCIAL MOVEMENT. IT IS PUBLISHED AND EDITED BY JIM MURRAY, IN ASSOCIATION WITH PAUL BUHLE (FOUNDER AND EDITOR 1975-81), ERNIE BRILL, EVA COCKROFT, C.L.R. JAMES, LUCY LIPPARD, SUSAN McCARN, AND IRVING WEXLER.

Subscriptions are $10 for 4 issues. (Subscribers also receive *Jim's Letter*, a pseudo-monthly from CC's editor.) Newstand price $3. Direct order from us $2.50. OR $2 in bulk to distribute at showings of the slideshow--we pay postage, you make a buck per issue you sell. We encourage anyone to order in bulk.

"We Want To Live!" -- Art Works For Peace -- June 12, 1982

A SLIDESHOW WITH SOUNDTRACK THAT SURVEYS THE EXTRAORDINARY VISUAL IMAGERY CREATED FOR THE LARGEST ANTIGOVERNMENT DEMONSTRATION IN U.S. HISTORY. CO-PRODUCED BY CULTURAL CORRESPONDENCE AND PAD/D (POLITICAL ART DOCUMENTATION/DISTRIBUTION).

"We Want To Live!" reflects the cultural diversity this movement thrives on. It displays the work and viewpoints of many participants in the peace movement from all over the U.S. and beyond--

CHILDREN GRASSROOTS GROUPS RELIGIOUS GROUPS INDIVIDUALS

The show is inspiring and exhilarating.
There are 140 slides and a soundtrack on cassette with music and text.

IT CAN EASILY BE SHOWN AS A MAIN ATTRACTION AT FUNDRAISERS OR ORGANIZATIONAL EVENTS; OR AS AN ADDED BONUS AT ANY MEETING, PARTY, OR CULTURAL ACTIVITY; OR IN YOUR SCHOOL, CHURCH, SHOPPING MALL, LIVING ROOM...ALL YOU NEED IS A SLIDE PROJECTOR AND A CASSETTE PLAYER...

"WE WANT TO LIVE!"

COMING TOGETHER * THE BOMB * THE BANNERS * THE PENTAGON * THE ARTISTS

(SEE INSIDE BACK COVER FOR COMPLETE TEXT OF SOUNDTRACK)

"We Want To Live!" is available for rent ($35) and purchase ($100). It comes with a supplementary free brochure. To show it, call (212)420-8196 or write:

CULTURAL CORRESPONDENCE
505 WEST END AVENUE #15C
NEW YORK, N.Y. 10024

When we say, "Freeze!" we do not mean to keep things the way they are.

WE WANT TO LIVE!

(The text of the soundtrack)

ON JUNE 12, 1982 NEARLY A MILLION PEOPLE PARTICIPATED IN THE LARGEST ANTIGOVERNMENT DEMONSTRATION in U.S. history. Countless thousands came from other countries, making this the largest international peace demonstration that has ever happened.

This slideshow surveys the visual imagery of June 12. The artwork represents the entire demonstration. The art is to June 12 what June 12 is to the society at large: an organized attempt to build our own culture, to establish our own values, our own relationships, to be the new society growing within the decay of the old.

We come from all parts of American society, and we come from our own history of opposition to American power in the Nuclear Age.

We are scared to death of nuclear war, but we did not come to New York on our knees. When we say, "Freeze!" we do not mean to keep things the way they are.

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Consider the bomb: on August 6, 1945 the United States nuked Hiroshima in order to win an unconditional surrender against Japan. President Truman wanted to show the Russians and the rest of the world that we had such a powerful weapon and that we were willing to use it. The bomb, real as it is to the Japanese, became an image, and deliberately so. It was to be the logo of the newborn Nuclear Age, the symbol of America's ability to get away with murder.

The American image of the bomb is the mushroom cloud, the exploding bomb. The image requires distance: the mushrooming cloud is an inferno over there, or on TV. The image does not disappear as our eyeballs melt. Instead, our senses are heightened by the apocalyptic power mushrooming skyward.

Explaining Hiroshima, Truman said, "The bomb is the greatest thing in history." He told the world he did it for God. And he did it the way God would have done it: an announcement of a new fact, something he decided to do, a top-down action which changed the world militarily, politically, psychologically.

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The same image that proclaimed the Nuclear Age now demands an end to the Nuclear Age. The meaning of the mushroom cloud did not get reversed because of any inevitable process or magical act. History did not do that by itself.

Instead, a politically conscious people's movement has struggled in fits and starts to redefine life, to establish our own expectations and values, to make us the subjects of our own sentences, to give us our own sense of time.

Since the 1950's political and social movements of ordinary people have rejected the Cold War mentality and fought for self-determination. Among them are the Civil Rights Movement, Black Power, the New Left, Women's Liberation, the Ecology Movement, the Anti-nuclear Movement, the Veterans' Movement, Trade Unionists, progressive religious groups, senior citizens, Native Americans, gay liberationists, and other grassroots activists of all kinds.

An important democratic aspect of June 12 is that there were first-time demonstrators of all ages, and veteran demonstrators of all ages.

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Washington knows that the American people will not support a conventional war or an anti-guerrilla war. As to nuclear war, the Reagan policy towards the Soviet Union is unconditional surrender. He advocates first strike, and he is building a new arsenal designed to defeat the Soviets in a winnable nuclear war. There is no such thing.

We say the Cold War is being waged by Washington against us, and we will not take it anymore. We will not surrender our lives, our hopes for a future, to the foolish idea that the Soviets will throw in the towel. We know that every dollar spent on useless military garbage would provide more jobs and more security if it were spent on things we need. We will organize against Reagan or any other administration which says that war is a solution to the depression.

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A thousand artists marched together on June 12, and thousands of others made artworks for peace. Artists have the same responsibility and right as any other citizens to organize for peace. We want our images, our songs, our poems, to express the unspoken aspirations of our people, a people currently struggling against nuclear terrorism. We support the right of all people to their own culture. Culture is not a hierarchy of individual talent, nor is it just diverting entertainment. Culture is the total fabric of our daily lives.

June 12 says, "We want to live!" In America in the 1980's this is a radical demand. It is based on an accurate analysis of what we're up against, and it offers hope. We want to live in a society that isn't a jungle, a world that isn't racing the clock. No messiah is coming to save us, no scheme is going to land from the sky. We are going to build it ourselves, we are going to give ourselves time.

"We Want To Live!" was produced by PADD (Political Art Documentation/Distribution) and Cultural Correspondence. The photographers were Eva Cockroft, Marilynne Herbert, Lynn Hughes, Linda Impastato, Stuart Judd, Lucy Lippard, Marcelo Montealegre, Herb Perr, Michelle Slater, Len Speier. Visual editing by Herb Perr with Eva Cockroft, Marilynne Herbert, Jerri Allyn. Audio Editing by Jim Murray and Marcelo Montealegre. Text by Jim Murray, Eva Cockroft, Irving Wexler. Narrated by Diane Neumaier and Jim Murray. Sound recorded and mixed at Double M Studios. Music by Holly Near: "Mountain Woman/Kentucky Woman," "It Could Have Been Me;" Carla Bley: Live Jazz; I Wayan Suweca: "Gamelan Sekar Jaya;" Pete Seeger: "Masters of War"(Dylan); Serious Bizness, "An American Folk Song (Brought to you by Hollywood);" The Weavers (1980): "Wimoweh." The Countdown (led by W.S. Coffin) was part of Dentures Art Club: "Say Goodbye to Nuclear Weapons" balloon release. *No photos may be published without written permission of the photographer. The text may be used for anything: please credit CC.*