

**BOUNDARY  
PEACE INITIATIVE  
NEWSLETTER**

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**Our Mission**

The Boundary Peace Initiative represents a growing number of area residents of diverse backgrounds brought together over the Iraqi crisis. We support multilateral action for non-violent conflict resolution, human rights, ecological integrity for the planet and international law, through education and dialogue locally and globally. We encourage everyone's participation as we strive for peace and justice to build a better world for future generations.

**The Boundary Peace Initiative meets: 2nd & 4th Thursday @ 7 pm. in Selkirk College**

**To Do**

No Boundaries Film Club presents 7<sup>th</sup> **Film Festival** on **Feb. 24-26<sup>th</sup>** @ GFSS—watch for details. Lunch and concession provided by BPI. **BPI members and friends are asked to donate food. For info call Laura at 250-442-0434.**



**U.S. Nuclear Sub Nearly Hit Freighter Near B.C. [Dec. 23, 2011--CBC News]**

A freighter captain's keen eye helped avert a run-in with a nuclear-powered American submarine in Juan de Fuca Strait, a body of water that splits Washington state and B.C. coasts, according to a U.S. periodical.

The incident, which saw the freighter and submarine come within 800 meters of each other, took place in early October but is only coming to light this week, says the Navy Times, which calls itself "an independent source for news and information for the navy community."

The Navy Times says that at around 8 a.m. PT on Oct. 12, the USS Kentucky ballistic-missile submarine had its periscope above water, but was otherwise hidden below the surface when it turned onto a new course that was blocked by a cargo ship.

The submarine's commanding officer, concerned about a trawler, ordered a change of course, but neither he nor the officer of the deck looked through the periscope to check if the course was clear.

The captain of the Totem Ocean ship Midnight Sun, which makes runs between Tacoma, Wash., and Anchorage, saw the periscope and began turning to avoid the collision.

After being informed via a radio call from the outside, the submarine's crew discovered their error and began maneuvers to avoid hitting the ship.

The Navy Times, which filed a request for a report on the incident under the U.S. Freedom of Information Act, wrote that Cmdr. Joseph Nosse, who was serving as commanding officer for the USS Kentucky, was fired on Oct. 19 for "inadequate leadership" stemming from a number of incidents.

The U.S. navy would not comment on the incident, and said it is policy not to discuss current submarine operations.

*Ed. Note: As Grand Forks sells slag to Pacific Abrasives who in turn sells sandblasting material to the Pacific Fleet of nuke subs—we are complicit in not only this incident but all activities of the US Navy. Is this what the citizens of Grand Forks want to be part of? We asked this last year and sadly received no response? Will you respond now? Please contact Laura to comment—contact info on page 4.*

**War drums are beating for Iran. But who's playing them? [December 6, 2011]**

By: **Terry Jones** from The Guardian

Dwight D Eisenhower: in 1961 the retiring president warned fellow Americans of the danger in allowing too close a relationship between politicians and the defence industry.

In the 14th century there were two pandemics. One was the Black Death; the other was the commercialization of warfare. Mercenaries had always existed, but under Edward III they became the mainstay of the English army for the first 20 years of what became the Hundred Years war.

Then, when Edward signed the treaty of Brétigny in 1360 and told his soldiers to stop fighting and go home, many of them didn't have any homes to go to. They were used to fighting, and that's how they made their money. So they simply formed themselves into freelance armies, aptly called "free companies", that proceeded around France pillaging, killing and raping.

One of these armies was called the Great Company. It totaled, according to one estimate, 16,000 soldiers, larger than any existing national army. Eventually it descended on the pope, in Avignon, and held him to ransom. The pope made the mistake of paying off the mercenaries with huge amounts of cash, which only encouraged them to carry on marauding. He also suggested that they move on into Italy, where his archenemies, the Visconti, ran Milan. This they did, under the banner of the Marquis of Monferrato, again subsidized by the pope.

The nightmare had begun. Huge armies of brigands rampaging through Europe was a disaster second only to the plague. It seemed as if the genie had been let out of the bottle and there was no way of putting him back in. Warfare had suddenly turned into a profitable business; the Italian city-states became impoverished as taxpayers' money was used to buy off the free companies. And since those who made money out of the business of war naturally wished to go on making money out of it, warfare had no foreseeable end.

(Continued page 2)

## (From page 1) **War drums are beating for Iran.**

Wind forward 650 years or so. The US, under George W Bush, decided to privatize the invasion of Iraq by employing private "contractors" like the Blackwater Company, now renamed Xe Services. In 2003 Blackwater won a \$27m no-bid contract for guarding Paul Bremer, then head of the Coalition Provisional Authority. For protecting officials in conflict zones since 2004, the company has received more than \$320m. And this year the Obama government contracted to pay Xe Services a quarter of a billion dollars for security work in Afghanistan. This is just one of many companies making its profits out of warfare.

In 2000 the Project for the New American Century published a report, Rebuilding America's Defenses, whose declared aim was to up the spending on defense from 3% to 3.5% or 3.8% of American gross domestic product. In fact it is now running at 4.7% of GDP. In the UK we spend about \$57bn a year on defense, or 2.5% of GDP.

Just like the taxpayers of medieval Italian city-states, we are having our money siphoned off into the business of war. Any responsible company needs to make profits for its shareholders. In the 14th century the shareholders in the free companies were the soldiers themselves. If the company wasn't being employed by someone to make war on someone else, the shareholders had to forgo their dividends. So they looked around to create markets for themselves.

Sir John Hawkwood's White Company would offer its services to the pope or to the city of Florence. If either turned his offer down, Hawkwood would simply make an offer to their enemies. As Francis Stonor Saunders writes in her wonderful book, Hawkwood – Diabolical Englishman: "The value of the companies was the purely negative one of maintaining the balance of military power between the cities." Just like the cold war.

Two decades ago I picked up an in-house magazine for the arms industry. Its editorial was headed "Thank God For Saddam". It explained that, since the collapse of communism and end of the cold war, the order books of the arms industry had been empty. But now there was a new enemy, the industry could look forward to a bonanza. The invasion of Iraq was built around a lie: Saddam had no weapons of mass destruction, but the defense industry needed an enemy, and the politicians duly supplied one.

And now the same war drums, encouraged by the storming of the British embassy last week, are beating for an attack on Iran. Seymour Hersh writes in the New Yorker: "All of the low enriched uranium now known to be produced inside Iran is accounted for." The recent IAEA report, which provoked such outcry against Iran's nuclear ambitions, he continues, contains nothing that proves that Iran is developing nuclear weapons.

In the 14th century it was the church that lived in symbiosis with the military. Nowadays it is the politicians. The US government spent a staggering \$687bn on "defense" in 2010. Think what could be done with that money if it were put into hospitals, schools or to pay off foreclosed mortgages.

The retiring US president, Dwight D Eisenhower, famously took the opportunity of his farewell to the nation address in 1961 to warn his fellow countrymen of the danger in allowing too close a relationship between politicians and the defense industry.

"This conjunction of an immense military establishment and a large arms industry is new in the American experience," he said. "In the councils of government, we must guard against the acquisition of unwarranted influence, whether sought or unsought, by the military-industrial complex. The potential for the disastrous rise of misplaced power exists and will persist." It exists. The genie is out of the bottle again.

## **Obama Tells Israel: Nobody Loves Like I Do** **From: Press TV (Dec. 24, 2011)**

US President Barack Obama has signed into law a bill, which will provide additional military support to Israel on top of the annual three billion dollars of funding to Israel.

On Friday, US President Obama signed a bill, which will grant over USD 200 million worth of military assistance to Tel Aviv to develop its three missile-defense programs in 2012.

"I am proud to say that no US administration has done more in support of Israel's security than ours. None. Don't let anyone else tell you otherwise. It is a fact," Obama said last week during the 71st General Assembly of the Union for Reform Judaism, a US representative group, at National Harbor, Maryland.

Earlier this week, Congress approved the financial assistance bill, which had been introduced back in May 2011.

The funding comes despite tough economic conditions in the US, as well as expected cuts to America's own military budget.

Since 2007, the US has invested more than USD 1 billion in missile and rocket defense programs in Israel.

The US gives as grant billions of dollars of American taxpayers' money to the Tel Aviv regime each year in the form of military and economic aid, legally justified as part of US government's foreign aid package.

Washington has never downsized its annual 3-billion-dollar grant to the Israeli regime despite going through its worst recession in decades which has prompted the government to impose major cuts on most public service programs for citizens.

The new US bill comes against a backdrop of nationwide Occupy demonstrations, which have been raging on since September 17 in protest against high-level corruption and corporate greed in the country.

GMA/AZ/MA

## **PEACE NOT DRUMS OF WAR**



## **. CPA Convention: October 14-16, 2011**

By: Laura Savinkoff (installment #3)

Documents and pictures depicting an historical overview of activities prior to the establishment of the CPA, as well as the last 25 years, was displayed in the main meeting room. Sadly there were no photos contributed from groups across the country so I had to rely on those I had available from the Kootenay/Boundary/Okanagan groups, therefore, the pictures of events by the BPI and the USCC dominated; these included the annual Mothers Day Peace Walk in Osoyoos, B.C and walks and gatherings in Grand Forks. These are the documents displayed: CPA minutes from inception to the recent past. Koozma Tarasoff's book, Spirit Wrestlers Doukhobor Pioneers Strategies for Living and the book John J Verigin A Memorial Tribute--both contain articles and pictures of Peace Actions; Lucille Faminoff supplied a 1983 brochure of the Vancouver End the Arms Race Walk for Peace, the 2006 Vancouver World Peace Forum program of the Doukhobor and Friends Peace Choir, a poster for A Convergence of All—Building a Bridge into a Future of Peace held in Castlegar, a program of the 2006 conference in Castlegar entitled Our Way Home; a brochure from 1973 conference in Moscow, Russia entitled Peace is the Concern of One and All attended by a delegation of Doukhobors.

Among our Grand Forks residents is a man who was involved in organizing the Peace Manifestation at Suffield, Alberta Chemical and Biological Research Station in 1964 as well as many other Peace and Social Justice initiatives over the years. Below are his personal recollections regarding the founding of the CPA.

### **Recollections of the Beginning of the Canadian Peace Alliance**

In 1985 the BC Peace Council was holding its annual general meeting at the University of British Columbia in Vancouver on the same weekend as that of the Toronto Disarmament Network (Ontario's peace organization).

For a number of years prior, I was trying to encourage the BC Peace Council to work toward the formation of a national organization. Members indicated that any time they would raise the issue there would be negative responses in fear of per-capita domination from the east. The BC Peace Council was headed by Frank Kennedy, chair, Carmela Allevato, Bruce York and Libby Davies.

Then, during the panel presentation, on stage, on Saturday, at the 1985 AGM, discussion hinted at the idea of a national organization. In response there were a large number of delegates speaking in opposition to the idea through each of the two microphones on the floor. I was sitting on the bleachers with John J. Verigin Jr. and said to him, "I will go and say something.

(Continued next column)

## **CPA Convention: October 14-16, 2011**

He replied, "Go ahead." I then made my way to the floor microphone to the right of the panel.

"My name is John J. Semenoff," I stated. "If my ancestors could hear your peace concerns of today they would jump this high from joy!" I raised my arm to shoulder level. Then I said, "I move that we send the Toronto Disarmament Network a message -- greetings and wishes for success in their deliberations." There was spontaneous applause and the microphones were deserted.

As I began to ascend the bleacher steps on my way back to my seat a hand was extended to me and I heard the words, "It's a good thing you are doing, John."

The message to Toronto was sent that night. When the BC Peace Council reconvened Sunday morning Frank Kennedy read the following reply from the Toronto Disarmament Network, "Our sentiments are mutual." The Doukhobor practice of sending greetings was successful -- the two major organizations became united in spirit.

That evening at the concluding event, which took place at the Indian and Metis Friendship Center, I was able to share my perspective on the structure of a new national entity with the youth. I stressed the importance of each member group having only one representative to the central committee of the new society, regardless of the size of the group. It was most important to avoid per-capita representation and for delegates from the Toronto Disarmament Network and the BC Peace Council to insist on that. Such action would send a message of encouragement for the formation of peace groups in small communities across Canada.

I was most impressed by the response of the youth to my suggestions regarding structure of a new national organization -- their enthusiasm, ability to immediately understand the importance of this and their readiness to take necessary action.

Today the Canadian Peace Alliance, the 'new national organization' referred to above, has more than one million members!

*John J. Semenoff DDSC (Doukhobor Dedicated to Social Change)  
Grand Forks, BC, Canada  
September 22, 2011*

(More next issue)

**Resolutions to the CPA Convention 2011  
2011-06. Peacekeeping & Emergency Response**

**Whereas** Canada has in the past been a globally respected leader in non-violent peacekeeping conflict resolution but has, in recent years, disengaged from UN Peacekeeping missions where there are less than 100 Canadian peacekeepers;

**And whereas** Canada has the capacity and know-how to contribute towards classical Peacekeeping and non-violent dispute resolution;

**And whereas** Canada has in recent years considerably limited its response to emergency relief;

**And whereas** institutions, such as the Mir Center For Peace at Selkirk College in Castlegar, B.C. as well as other educational facilities, which offer Peace Studies, continue to struggle for funding;

**And whereas** funding for Peacekeeping, emergency relief and Peace Studies are funded through our tax dollars;

**Be It Resolved** that the Canadian Peace Alliance, working with institutions offering Peace Studies and Conflict Resolution Studies, urges the Government of Canada to increase funding for this course of study.

*Submitted by the B.C. Southern Interior Peace Coalition*

**2011-09. Combined Resolution on the Question of Libya**

**The Canadian Peace Alliance** strongly condemns the armed interference by NATO in the internal civil conflict in Libya, particularly the so-called “humanitarian” imperialist occupation and calls upon the anti-war movement in Canada to uphold a foreign policy for Canada based on diplomacy as opposed to the use of violence to settle conflicts within and between nations.

*Submitted by NOWAR-PAIX/Canadian Peace Congress*

The Boundary Peace Initiative (BPI) welcomes articles, which are the sole responsibility of the authors and may not be common consensus. To contribute please contact **Laura** at **250-442-0434** or **l4peace@telus.net**. The BPI is a member of: Southern Interior Peace Coalition, Canadian Peace Alliance, Abolition 2000, Lawyers Against the War, Uranium Free Kootenay Boundary, Canadian Voice of Women for Peace and an affiliate of the Fellowship of Reconciliation as well as other local and global groups.

**Resolutions to the CPA Convention 2011  
2011-11. Renew efforts for disarmament**

**The Canadian Peace Alliance** will campaign for the abolition of nuclear and all weapons of mass destruction.

**Because:** The danger of nuclear war still threatens all life on earth and this is the original mandate of the Canadian Peace Alliance when it was established 26 years ago;

**Because:** Canada is a member of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization which continues to have a first strike nuclear weapons doctrine.

*Submitted by Canadian Peace Congress*

Allow the president to invade a neighboring nation, whenever he shall deem it necessary to repel an invasion, and you allow him to do so whenever he may choose to say he deems it necessary for such a purpose—and you allow him to make war at pleasure.

*Abraham Lincoln*

Make the lie big, make it simple, keep saying it, and eventually they will believe it.

*Adolph Hitler*

It is my conviction that killing under the cloak of war is nothing but an act of murder.

*Albert Einstein*

It is unfortunately none too well understood that, just as the State has no money of its own, so it has no power of its own.

*Albert J. Nock*

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