

PEACE CAUCUS

OUR ANTI-MILITARIST CHALLENGE

By Bob Gould

The collapse of the Soviet Union presents the Peace Movement with an unprecedented opportunity to press the agenda of international demilitarization and the restoration of the Peace Dividend at home.

The long-anticipated Peace Dividend was structurally eliminated in October 1990 by a Congressional budget agreement that received very little press coverage. The budget plan was a retrogressive move to make drastic reductions in a budget deficit that had been caused largely by the combination of reduced taxes for the wealthy and massive military expenditures that marked the Reagan years. The agreement placed "caps" on three major budget categories (Military, Domestic, and Foreign Policy) for the next three years. If any savings are

achieved in the military budget, the monies are committed to paying off the deficit, and are prohibited from being transferred to domestic needs such as housing and education. Moreover, increases in spending for escalating problems such as AIDS would necessarily have to come from cuts in other equally-vital social programs.

Closely following the budget agreement was the Gulf War, which was allowed special expenditures outside the provisions of the accord. The War itself was characterized by the well-orchestrated promotion of the Pentagon and high-tech weaponry. "Never mind the cost and awesome brutality of our weapons," we were told. "These weapons saved American lives."

It wasn't until some time after the blasting, incineration and burying alive of 150,000 human

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THE LOSERS AFTER WAR

By Larry Egbert

We are eight veterans. We have all served in the military, and we have all protested the involvement of the military in the United States/United Nations attempt to find an equitable solution to the invasion of Kuwait by Iraq. We went to the Middle East to see for ourselves the effect of war. Simply put, went to meet the losers of war. We went to understand what they went through, but, more importantly, to they them we were, we *are* very sorry. To this end, we arrived in Jerusalem, the City of Peace, and from there we traveled across Israel and its occupied territories, from Egypt to Syria. We then traveled to Jordan, Iraq and Kuwait.

In Israel, we felt the effects of the wars in 1967, 1973 and 1991. A startling and confusing example: we visited the "Shouting Fence," the line by which the Egyptians and Israelis divided territory after the Camp David Accords. This line went through the middle of a town in Gaza. People live in that town, and families became separated. They would come to the huge fences, stand as close to the barbed wire as possible, and shout to relatives 100 meters away. Some had carried on their family affairs like this for years. We met a man who had shouted to his wife for several years before he could work through the governmental paper work to reunite with her. They were losers.

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SENATOR PAUL WELLSTONE TO SPEAK AT APHA

Senator Paul Wellstone (D-MN) has been invited by the APHA to address the Annual Meeting during a General Session scheduled for Monday evening, November 11th. Paul Wellstone, a freshman senator from Minnesota, was the only person to defeat an incumbent senator who was running for reelection in 1990.

Paul Wellstone is an unabashed liberal, and has spent much of his life working for peace and social justice. His grassroots campaign was run on a shoestring, with him being considered by the pundits as the underdog at each stage of his campaign. In the general campaign, his opponent had a war chest of over \$7 million, as compared to his \$1 million.

A centerpiece of Wellstone's campaign was his call for a National Health Care Program. He has been active with the Minnesota Freeze and Jobs with Peace. In the early eighties, he was arrested for civil disobedience in solidarity with farmers who were losing their farms. He was also head of Minnesota's Jesse Jackson for President campaign in 1988. He is well-known for the passion with which he addresses issues related to social justice.

Wellstone's appearance at the APHA Annual Meeting was initiated by Larry Kushi, a member of the Peace Caucus and the Democratic-Farmer-Labor Party State Central Committee in Minnesota. Larry first met Wellstone in early 1987, when the Peace Caucus was in the middle of organizing a demonstration at the Nevada Test Site for February 5th of that year to follow-up the demonstration held there during the 1986 APHA Annual Meeting in Las Vegas. Paul Wellstone was a keynote speaker at a Freeze conference, at which Larry also spoke about the demonstration. Wellstone approached Larry afterwards with great enthusiasm and support for the upcoming demonstration.

Last February, Larry invited Senator Wellstone to address the APHA Annual Meeting, and suggested several possible forums for this. At the same time, a program on "Public Health and War" (scheduled for Tuesday, November 12th, 2-5 P.M.) was being organized under APHA sponsorship by Barry Levy and Vic Sidel. It was decided to tentatively schedule Senator Wellstone to address the Tuesday

session. It became apparent in September, however, that Paul Wellstone could only attend the APHA Annual Meeting on Monday. Attempts were initiated by Vic, Barry Levy and Bob Gould, Peace Caucus program chair, to integrate him into the Peace Caucus program on Monday. When the APHA National Office heard of our attempts to schedule Senator Wellstone for a Monday appearance, they suggested that he be invited to speak at the Monday evening General Session, which was just being finalized. Wellstone's office confirmed his acceptance of the invitation on October 17th.

As we go to press, efforts are being made to see if Senator Wellstone will be able to appear at any other Peace Caucus-related sessions in the late afternoon or early evening on Monday.

The Losers of War

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Eight veterans. Rick Droz's dreams are haunted by the view of women or soldiers in the sights of his rifle in Vietnam moments before he blew them away. Brian Willson remembers the look of anger and incredulity on his CO's face when Brian argued it was immoral to kill noncombatants. We had all shouted, "NO WAR IN THE MIDDLE EAST," but none more dramatically than John Schuchardt, when he stood up in church in Kennebunkport in February, and said, "DON'T BOMB THE CHILDREN" as President Bush was worshipping. Peace veterans, eight of us, but minus three legs. We had some feeling for the suffering of war.

We spent two days touring Gaza. As we drove there, we were met by cold, icy stares. If any U.S. citizen wants to feel what it is like to be the object of hatred, the Gaza strip is the place to be. Any why not? Why should a person who has been hurt in the Gaza look for support from us? We support the Israelis in their continued subjugation of the Palestinians. A few of us come and go, but nothing happens.

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Resolutions

The APHA policy development process occurs in large part through proposal and adoption of policy statements originated by members of APHA. This year, at least one resolution has been proposed by a Peace Caucus member, which is reprinted here. There are several additional proposed resolutions that should be of interest to members and friends of the Peace Caucus, including resolution entitled *The Impact of Political Violence on Health In South Africa, Social Policy of Mass Imprisonment, and Continuing Consequences of the Vietnam War*. The text of these and other proposed policy statements are printed in the September issue of *The Nation's Health*. We urge all caucus members to read these resolutions and urge their section's Governing Councilors to vote for their adoption. NOTE: References are omitted here due to space considerations.

Examination of the Lessons of the Persian Gulf Crisis

The American Public Health Association,

In accordance with its long standing policy of opposition to militarism as a means to solve complex international problems; and

Concurring with the resolution of the World Health Assembly that recognize the special responsibilities of health workers to maintain healthful conditions through peace and social justice; and

Witnessing the War in the Gulf directly contributed to the death and disability of more than 100,000 people, and the physical and organizational destruction of the health care system in the region; and

Concerned that the uprooting of population, the Kurds in the north and the substantial numbers in both southern Iraq and Kuwait has raised the specter of famine and pestilence and its most classic and brutalizing effects; and

Realizing that war reconstruction costs may range as high as \$50 billion for Kuwait and \$150 billion for Iraq; and

Observing that the environmental effects of the war, including all fires and spills pose a severe threat to the health of inhabitants of the region, particularly children and the elderly, with possible long term ecological changes that can disastrously impact the food supply of the Middle East and Southwest Asia; and

Realizing that the prosecution of the Gulf War increased the risks of use of chemical, biological, and nuclear weapons, with more than 500 nuclear weapons reported present in the theater of operations; and

Noting that the US plans to sell over \$20 billion in arms to various countries of the Middle East in the coming fiscal year; and

Observing that the initial financial costs of the Gulf War military operations have been estimated as ranging between \$45 billion and \$60 billion; and

Recognizing that a major casualty of the War has been the "Peace Dividend" that promised to provide Federal funding for a variety of programs necessary for the public health and welfare of the American people; therefore

1. Calls for food, medical care and humanitarian aid for refugees and people in the region affected by the war;
1. Calls on relief organizations to compile and publicize a comprehensive assessment of the demographic, health, social and environmental consequences of the war to provide a social accounting of its impact;
3. Underscores its opposition to the use of military force for the resolution of international problems, recommending instead the use of international negotiations;
4. Urges the US and the UN to work toward a lasting and just peace in the Middle East;
5. Demands the immediate cessation of sales and/or transfers of conventional weapons of mass destruction to the Middle East;
6. Calls for the creation of a nuclear and chemical/biological weapons-free zone in the Mideast, to be coordinated with international, mutually verifiable agreements to completely end the proliferation of such weapons;
7. Reiterates its call to the US to immediately stop the testing and production of nuclear weapons in coordination with good faith negotiations to institute a Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty so as to strengthen the aforementioned drive to halt the proliferation of the weapons of mass destruction; and
8. Calls for the restoration of the "Peace Dividend" through a 50% reduction of the military budget over the next five years, coupled with a reversal of budgetary caps imposed by Congress at the end of 1990 that forbade the transfer of savings in military expenditures to needed social expenditures.

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1991 PEACE CAUCUS PROGRAM

With the help of some friends, the Peace Caucus has been able to put together a program covering numerous exciting topics. Keep an eye out for a possible appearance by U.S. Senator Paul Wellstone (D-MN), who will be speaking at the APHA General Session on Monday evening. He may appear at one of the other late afternoon or early evening sessions listed here. Senator Wellstone is a true progressive, with a commitment to social justice, not just in words, but in deeds as well. Visit the PSR booth in the Exhibit Hall for an update. Check the final program and any other updates at the PSR booth for room scheduling.

Monday, November 11

12:30 - 2:00 PM ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH PROFESSIONALS AND ENVIRONMENTAL ACTIVISTS: AN UNEASY ALLIANCE

Moderators: Anthony Robbins, Professor of Public Health, Boston University
Elizabeth L. Bowen, Assistant Professor of Family Medicine, Morehouse School of Medicine
Howard Hu, Assistant Professor, Harvard School of Public Health

This session will be modeled on a "town meeting," with a roundtable discussion by the moderators, with input from the audience.

sponsor: Peace Caucus

2:00 - 3:30 PM THE CHANGING NATURE OF WAR: WHAT SHOULD HEALTH WORKERS DO?

President: Robert M. Gould, M.D.

2:00 Victor W. Sidel, Professor of Social Medicine, Montefiore Medical Center, Albert Einstein College of Medicine

2:35 Charlie Clements, Director, SatelLife

3:10 Discussion

sponsor: Peace Caucus, Socialist Caucus, Forum on Bioethics

4:00 - 5:30 PM HEALTH WORKERS FOR PEACE: ORGANIZING STRATEGIES

President: Kathleen M. Fagan, M.D.

4:00 Health Professionals and the Persian Gulf War -- Dennis Davidson, UC San Francisco

4:20 Peace Activism in Nursing - Care for Communities -- Linda Bergstrom

4:40 Strategies for Organizing Health Workers Around Issues of Peace and Justice -- Félix Aguilar, Jim Bloyd, Brian Cole, Janette Robinson-Flint, Jane Steinberg

5:00 Discussion

sponsor: Peace Caucus, Socialist Caucus

6:00 PM JOINT SOCIAL HOUR

sponsors: Rainbow Coalition Health Commission and the APHA Caucuses

7:00 - 8:30 PM REPORTS ON THE GULF WAR

President: Jonathan Fine

Panel Presentation: Refugee Status

Maternal and Child Health

Water and Food Systems

Provision of Health Services

sponsors: APHA International Human Rights Committee, World Federation of Public Health Associations, International Health

8:30 - 10:00 PM APHA EVENING GENERAL SESSION

Senator Paul Wellstone (D-MN)

sponsor: American Public Health Association

Tuesday, November 12**8:30 - 10:00 WAR, TORTURE, AND THE MENTAL HEALTH NEEDS OF REFUGEES**

AM

Presider: Lawrence D. Egbert

8:30 Lawrence D. Egbert, Professor, Department of Anesthesiology, University of Texas Southwestern Medical School

8:50 Suzanne D. Witterholt, Clinical Instructor, Department of Psychiatry, University of North Carolina

9:10 Giang Le, Refugee Public Health Nurse, Wake County Department of Health

9:30 Discussion

sponsors: Peace Caucus, Forum on Bioethics

2:00 - 5:00 PUBLIC HEALTH AND WAR

PM

Presider: Barry Levy

2:00 Health Effects of the Persian Gulf War -- H. Jack Geiger

2:20 Environmental Effects of the Persian Gulf War -- John S. Andrews, Jr.

2:40 The Role of International Organizations in Responding to Health needs Created by the Persian Gulf War -- TBN

3:00 Impact of the Arms Race on Health Services in Developing Countries -- Victor W. Sidel

3:20 Impact of the Arms Race on Health Services in the United States -- TBN

3:40 Disproportionate participation by Minorities in the U.S. Military -- Reed Tuckson

4:00 Chemical, Biological, and Nuclear Warfare -- Robert Gould

4:20 The Long-term Public Health Effects of War: The Vietnam Experience -- Myron Allukian

sponsors: American Public Health Association, World Federation of Public Health Associations, Peace Caucus, Socialist Caucus, APHA International Human Rights Committee

Wednesday, October 3**12:30 - 2:00 NUCLEAR WEAPONS PRODUCTION:**

PM

HEALTH IMPLICATIONS AND ORGANIZING STRATEGIES

Presider: H. Jack Geiger

12:30 Hanford - Shut Down But Not Out: Environmental Status and Studies in Progress -- Bruce Amundson, Hanford Thyroid Disease Study, Fred Hutchinson Cancer Research Center, Seattle, WA

12:50 Savannah River and the Future of Nuclear Weapons Materials Production

-- Brian Costner, Director, Energy Research Foundation, Columbia, SC

1:10 The Opening of W.I.P.P.: Approaching "High Noon" in New Mexico -- Bruce Trigg

1:30 Discussion

sponsor: Peace Caucus

4:00 - 5:30 MILITARY INTERVENTIONISM AND THE NEW WORLD ORDER:

PM

HEALTH AND SOCIAL EFFECTS

Presider: Robert M. Gould

4:00 Public Health Reconstruction in El Salvador

-- Alan Meyers, Boston City Hospital & National Central America Health Rights Network

4:20 Coping with War: How the Private Sector Sustains Family Planning Services in Lebanon

-- Toufic Osseiran, Hiam Musharrafieh, Lebanon Family Planning Association; Mohamed Kamel, Susan Farrall, Pathfinder International

4:40 The Phillipines and the New World Order -- Janet Gottschalk

5:00 U.S. Intervention in Nicaragua: Effects on Health -- Leonel Arguello, Executive Director, Center for Social Promotion & Research, Managua, Nicaragua

5:20 Discussion

sponsors: Peace Caucus, Socialist Caucus, International Health

6:00 - 7:00 PEACE CAUCUS BUSINESS MEETING

PM

Our Anti-Militarist Challenge

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beings that accurate information about the weapons surfaced. One example is that the much-ballyhooed Patriot missile consistently hit Scud bodies as often as warheads, allowing warheads to hit their targets, causing extensive damage, masked as "Scud debris."

Such facts notwithstanding, American militarists trumpeted the "success" of the Patriot as the rationale for devising a new "scaled-down" Star Wars program at a minimum cost of over \$50 billion. In order to put this system in place, the U.S. negotiated a loophole in the START Treaty that, instead of calling for the destruction of old missiles and warheads, allowed the U.S. to recycle its nuclear warheads and use the old missiles to boost the SDI system into place. On top of this, the Pentagon revealed plans to use nuclear reactors to power rockets to speed future deployment, a plan that would place the entire world at the risk of radioactive contamination if any such reactors would leak or explode.

However, in the wake of the collapse of Soviet power, there have been signs of a new view of nuclear weapons strategies from the U.S.'s "Wizards of Armageddon." Recently, a National Academy of Sciences Committee, chaired by Michael May, former Director of the Lawrence Livermore Laboratory, concluded that ultimately, America's strategic arsenals could be safely reduced to one to two thousand warheads. Such a reduction would negate any need to start up DOE facilities to produce additional nuclear materials, since the needs at that level could be met by recycling old warheads.

With America's increasing domestic woes, and a rapidly-diminishing rationale for exorbitant military expenditures, it will become increasingly important to challenge a "new world order" exemplified by the Bush Administration's plans to sell over \$20 billion worth of arms sales to the volatile Middle East. International demilitarization, including the enactment of Comprehensive Test Ban of nuclear weapons, would be a more effective step toward peace and security.

The Bush Administration, triumphant in its rhetoric about the victory of democracy and human rights in the Soviet Union, should be pushed to heed

the recent remarks of Mikhail Gorbachev in his address to the Opening Session of the Conference on Security and Cooperation in Europe, held on September 10, 1991, in Moscow:

"I want to speak particularly about the problem of demilitarization -- it is directly linked to human rights, as militarism does not only dry out the economy, prepares an ecological catastrophe, but also threatens democracy in the political, physical and spiritual sense. That is why demilitarization is one of the main directions of strengthening of human rights and freedoms. We will strive for it both here and everywhere with even greater determination and conviction."

CONTRIBUTE TO YOUR PEACE CAUCUS

Every year, the APHA Peace Caucus organizes a program of speakers and events at the Annual Meeting of the APHA. In years past, this has included organizing a demonstration for a Comprehensive Test Ban at the United Nations, organizing an all-day conference on the Saturday preceding the APHA meeting on Economic Diversification, and inviting Ramsey Clark to address the APHA Annual Meeting at a Peace Caucus-sponsored session. Some of our ideas have been adopted by the APHA to become a major focus for the Annual Meeting. One example is the invitation of Carl Sagan and Ann Druyan to address the 1986 Annual Meeting in Las Vegas, in conjunction with a demonstration at the Nevada Test Site; another is the invitation by APHA this year of U.S. Senator Paul Wellstone to address the meeting.

If you believe these activities are an integral part of the APHA Annual Meeting, we urge you to provide financial support. Your money goes to mailing this newsletter, and to help support the Peace Caucus Annual Meeting program. Depending on the program and our funds, this may include covering invited speaker's expenses, or defraying costs incurred by local organizations that help to organize Peace Caucus-sponsored programs.

An easy way to contribute to the Peace Caucus is to renew your membership or become a member. Fill out the membership form today!

The Losers of War

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population is less than a tenth of its pre-1967 numbers. We felt the grim solitude of the ruins. We admired the orchards and the fertility of the Heights. No one argued that the conqueror had gained something of value; now, with few people, there was room for immigrants.

When we arrived in Amman, Jordan, we met more Palestinians, refugees from the 1991 war. When Iraq invaded Kuwait, many people ran for their lives. When the Kuwaiti powers returned, many more people left. Amman, a city of about one million, had an influx of 350,000 refugees. Many died on the trek through the desert. The surviving refugees were crammed into the homes of relatives by the exoduses of 1967 and 1948.

In Israel, we met with Hillel Schenker from the Israeli Physicians for the Prevention of Nuclear War. In Jordan, we met Drs. Nabih Muammar and Mahmoud Huneidi from the Jordanian Physicians for the Prevention of Nuclear War. These gentlemen

needed no convincing. They had seen the effects of armed conflict up close. War should have been, could have been prevented. If we are interested in the health of people, we should prevent the next one. Eight veterans from the U.S. agree.

We were: Ellen Barfield, U.S. Army sergeant; Mark Birnbaum, U.S. Army photographer in Vietnam; Rick Droz, Marine Corps infantryman in Vietnam; Lawrence Egbert, Army corpsman, later Navy physician; William Kelsey, Naval Academy graduate, pilot; Phil Roettinger, Marine colonel, CIA agent; John Schuchardt, Marine officer; and, Brian Willson, Air Force captain, Vietnam.

Now, we are veterans who believe that war is obsolete as a means for solving human problems, and that war is quite likely to be the end of our species and maybe also our planet. Right now, many people are suffering directly from the effects of war, and we recommend that we should all meet our fellow humans who are suffering. We have renounced violence and have chosen to work for peace.

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