

COMMENTARY

Disarmament movement has urgent message

By TED JOHNSON

The threat of nuclear war affects us all. Many people have been slow to admit fully the reality of this threat, but a mass-movement has developed which is forcing everyone to recognize the significance of the arms race and nuclear war.

All over the world in the last year people have called for a reversal of the arms race. Hundreds of thousands have held mass protests in Japan. In Western Europe there have been similar activities and millions are expected to demonstrate in the cities President Reagan visits during his upcoming tour of the NATO countries.

Arms freeze resolutions have been passed by the states of Connecticut, Massachusetts, and Oregon and in hundreds of towns and cities across the country. Millions of Americans have signed petitions calling for a freeze and reversal of the arms race and recently 20,000 marched in support of this cause during a late winter blizzard in Chicago.

This outpouring of world public opinion is having an effect. Global leaders have been pressured to convene at the United Nations for a special session to consider the problems of militarism and disarmament.

A similar Special Session was held in 1978. However, very little was accomplished because of a lack of sincerity on the part of

many world leaders. People throughout the world have since realized that disarmament is too important an issue to be left to politicians and diplomats.

Disarmament activists have thus called for a massive march and rally so that the people can become actively involved in this issue. On June 12, five days after the opening of the U.N. Special Session, a crowd of several hundred thousand to one million will converge on Central Park in New York City.

Mainstream America and radical groups on the left will come together to make up one of the largest demonstrations in world history. The scope and power of the movement will be further demonstrated by the expected 25,000 demonstrators from Central America, South America and Europe, and the 1,500, including survivors of Hiroshima and Nagasaki, who will travel from Japan.

This mass of people from all over the world will be united in a "call for a freeze and reduction of all nuclear weapons and a transfer of military budgets to human needs." The march and rally will also focus on challenging Reagan to begin representing the interests of the people and the U.S. to initiate disarmament and to stop its policy of third world intervention.

The crowd will hear speeches by Coretta Scott King, Alan Alda, the Rev. Jesse Jackson, Dave Dellinger, William Winpisinger, and many others, and will be entertained by musicians including James Taylor, Linda Ronstadt, Jackson Browne, Pete Seeger, Hol-

ly Near and Third World.

Many seeking even more active participation in the movement will stay in New York to participate in massive civil disobedience on Monday, June 14. The "War Resisters League" and other groups are sponsoring sit-ins at the missions (similar to embassies) of the five nuclear powers (the U.S., the USSR, China, Great Britain, and France). Participants plan to block access peacefully to the missions and to demand adoption of proposals in support of disarmament and nonintervention in the Third World on the part of the nuclear powers.

Actions and marches in support of disarmament and the funding of human needs will not be confined to New York. The local promoter of the June 12 demonstration in New York, the Coalition for Disarmament, is sponsoring a march and rally in Carrboro and Chapel Hill this Saturday.

The march will begin at the Carrboro Town Hall at 11 a.m. and end in the grassy area on campus across from the Post Office. There will be a number of speakers representing various constituencies and music will be provided by Brother Yusef and others.

The Coalition is seeking to build community interaction and solidarity for future movements and to buildup for the New York demonstrations behind four slogans.

- CUT THE MILITARY BUDGET TO FUND HUMAN NEEDS—President Reagan has not made an attempt to balance the budget as he promised while campaigning.

Rather, he has shifted funds away from the people and into the military thus actually increased the deficit, unemployment and interest rates. We call for the shifting of funds away from the military and to the people and object to attempts by certain politicians to co-opt the movement by bargaining cuts in social spending for cuts in the military budget.

- U.S. INITIATIVE TO FREEZE AND REVERSE THE ARMS RACE—It is time for one of the nuclear powers to initiate arms reductions. The U.S. is the first and only country to use nuclear weapons and can be the first to begin disarmament. Insincere proposals such as Reagan's START "initiative" merely lead to a permanent state of competition and insecurity. We also object to any attempts by politicians to co-opt the movement by calling for cuts in nuclear weapons spending to fund conventional warfare spending.

- HALT U.S. POLICY OF INTERVENTION IN THE THIRD WORLD—Intervention runs counter to the democratic right of people to determine their own political system and merely exacerbates the potential for nuclear war.

- ABOLISH NUCLEAR WEAPONS—The people of the world will not be safe until all nuclear weapons are destroyed.

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THE WEEK IN REVIEW

By KEN SIMAN

As hopes for a peaceful settlement dimmed, ground fighting in the Falkland Islands became more intense this week. British commandos captured Mount Kent and another key ridge overlooking Stanley, the Falklands capital, on Tuesday and are on the verge of what probably will be the decisive battle for the Falkland Islands, British press reports said.

British Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher was hardly conciliatory. "We have now gone into the islands to do what the islanders wish—to repossess them and restore British administration." Even a papal visit did little to quell Thatcher's hard line stance.

John Paul II, who arrived in Britain last Friday on a six day visit to England—the first ever by a pope, appealed to both Argentina and England to "put aside the weapons of death" and urged "all people of good will to join me in praying for a just and peaceful settlement." The Pope was received by crowds that, while enthusiastic, were smaller than had been anticipated. He will visit Argentina on June 11 and 12 on the second leg of his quest for peace in the Falklands.

In the United States, debate over the Falklands was the cause of internal bickering within the Reagan administration, Newsweek magazine reported. Newsweek quoted one government official as saying Secretary of State Alexander Haig described United Nations Ambassador Jeanne Kirkpatrick as "mentally and emotionally incapable of thinking clearly on this (Falklands) issue because of her close links with Latins." Haig is reportedly attempting to force Kirkpatrick to resign, but apparently she is not intimidated.

She said Haig's affinity for Britain made it difficult for him to appreciate United States interests in Latin affairs, and called Haig and his associates "amateurs... totally insensitive to Latin cultures.

"Why not just disband the State Department and have the British Foreign Office make our foreign policy," Newsweek quoted her as saying.

Skepticism over the consequences of strong United States support for Britain was not limited to Kirkpatrick.

Sen. Sam Nunn, D-Ga., a member of the Senate Armed Services Committee, said Sunday that a British victory in the Falklands, coupled with a long term commitment by Britain to maintain rule over the Falklands, would work to the detriment of NATO by draining Britain's resources. "A diplomatic victory would be in both Britain's and the United States' long term interest," Nunn said. "I think we are suffering in Latin America and Central America and I think that damage is becoming somewhat permanent in nature," he added.

Indeed, America's strong support for Britain has strained relations with Latin America. The Organization of American States voted unanimously (with five countries, including the United States, abstaining) to ask the United States to cease aid to Britain and lift sanctions against Argentina.

...The Honeymoon is Over

After his impressive congressional victories on the sale of AWACS planes to Saudi Arabia and last year's budget, it seemed President Reagan was invincible in his dealings with Congress. He was heralded as being as persuasive a president as Lyndon Johnson was in his heyday. Recently, however, Reagan's clout with Congress has ebbed. This week, Congress handed him two major defeats.

Last Wednesday the Senate Foreign Relations Committee, in what *The Washington Post* termed the Reagan administration's "biggest foreign aid defeat," unanimously voted to reduce Reagan's 1983 aid request for El Salvador by \$100 million.

The reduction in aid was attributed in large part to the Senate's disenchantment with the right-wing dominated government's lack of commitment to initiating a comprehensive land reform policy.

Reagan was also dealt another blow by Congress when the Michel-Latta budget resolution he endorsed was rejected by Con-

gress Friday, as were all other budget alternatives.

...Reagan in Versailles

Congressional failure to approve a budget may haunt Reagan in this week's seven nation economic conference in Versailles, France. It will be the eighth year that leaders of the United States, Japan, West Germany, Britain, France, Italy and Canada have met to discuss economic issues.

Reagan has nothing tangible to demonstrate United States resolve to limit the large deficits that many of the nations attending the summit view as threatening to their own economic security.

Reagan hopes to gain a formal endorsement of a less expansive trade policy with the Soviet Union and its satellites, but as one administration official said, "It would have been very helpful to this country if the President could go to the summit with a budget compromise in hand... How do we have the strength to ask the Japanese for more open markets or to ask the Europeans to reduce credits to the Soviets unless we can show we're doing something?" Reagan flew to Paris on Wednesday and will arrive in Versailles on Friday.

...Arms Talks Set

In a Memorial Day speech, Reagan said the United States and the Soviet Union will begin strategic arms reduction talks in Geneva, Switzerland on June 29. Reagan added that the United States will "refrain from actions which undercut existing strategic arms if the Soviet Union does the same."

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