

# A WORLD GONE MAD

## 1985, Forty Years Later

Forty years ago, after the catastrophic events in Hiroshima and Nagasaki, the world thought that war was all finished. In the forty years since, however, there have been over 150 wars started all over the world and over 26 million people have been killed in them. For many they were wars of national liberation (for independence); for others they were superpower wars fought by proxy. Think of the war over the Suez Canal, the Korean War, the famous war in Vietnam, the Arab-Israeli wars, etc... Today wars continue: the USSR vs Afghanistan, the USA vs Nicaragua.

## You Have to Arm

The two superpowers are putting the world in a dynamic of war. The arms race is accelerating and the arms sellers are busy. Not satisfied with their own military might, the superpowers force their allies, as much those of the Warsaw Pact as those of NATO, to do as

they do. You must arm; the enemy is powerful. All by itself the latest war project, "Star Wars", lacks neither nerve nor audacity. At the same time the Third World is also at war: at war against poverty, at war against the pillagers of their natural resources, at war also against Yankee and Soviet imperialism. The Afghans, the Nicaraguans, the Lebanese, the Cambodians, the Eritreans, etc. continue to die.

## Money Available to Build Arms

The huge military-industrial complexes of the arms-producing countries are growing. Investment in this sector continues. Money available for the construction of nuclear weapons, chemical weapons or conventional weapons abounds. At the very same time, hunger is growing in the world and underdeveloped countries have all the misery in the world just trying to find enough money to feed their people. All by itself, world military spending is more than double public spending on health

and bigger than public spending on education. It is not surprising to find that more than half of the physicists and engineers in the world work in defense.

In fact, more than 800 billion dollars are spent annually for arms. For their part, the Americans have a defence budget of more than 325 billion dollars annually. At the same time the Americans alone already have the existing nuclear capacity to destroy the planet tens of times over. We are supposed to believe that this isn't enough. The countries who have nuclear weapons are increasing their capacity while other countries are trying to get nuclear arms.

## We Have to Get Out of this Bind.

If you listen to President Ronald Reagan, there isn't any other choice. The United States is facing the evil empire; they have to protect themselves against Satan and his gang. The United

States also runs to support democracy in Guatemala, Haiti, and the Philippines or to install the same brand of democracy in Santa Domingo, in Chile or in Grenada. At the moment it is doing everything possible to install it in Nicaragua, that small country of 2.5 million people being a threat to American national security. Timid, aren't they, these Americans! Still in the name of liberty and of democracy, we have to protect Black South Africans against themselves. At no time can American policies on apartheid be changed for fear of hurting the Black population. As for the Soviets, it is in the name of equality and fraternity that they support Ethiopia when it encircles the Eritrean people. It is also in the name of equality and fraternity that they invade Afghanistan or menace the people of Poland.

Decidedly we live in a mad world. *We have to get out of this bind.* Working for peace in the world is becoming more and more urgent.

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# CANADA GONE MAD

## A Bit of Madness : 10 billion a year

"Canada is special: there is probably no other non-communist country where national defense credits cause so little public debate."

Françoise Côté in La Presse, February 4, 1984.

This is astonishing when we know with what economic rigour the MP's, academics and journalists act when it is a question of spending for education, health, social services or pensioners. But after so many budget cuts and savings, the country can afford a "little craziness". Cost: 10 billion dollars per year, around 10% of the national budget! Everything indicates that this

is going to rise: with a little bit of force from our friends!

## Costly Friends

If we have "dangerous" enemies, we have the right to think that we have very "costly" friends. When we question the necessity of such military spending, we run up against arguments set in cement. It all seems so reasonable.

First, Canada must assure its territorial sovereignty against an eventual enemy. However, the recent threats to our sovereignty have come rather from our friends; we just have to think of the Polar Sea incident, Reagan's Star Wars or the Cruise Missile tests on Canadian soil.

Next, Canada has to ensure the defense of North America together with the United States. Everything taken into account (10 billion dollars), we have very troublesome neighbours. They have managed to create national defense obligations for us by integrating our territory and our armed forces into their defence system.

Canada must also, with the other countries of NATO, defend liberty and democracy against the horrible c...

Finally there is also the participation of the Canadian Armed Forces in peace-keeping operations in the world. This makes us forget the rest and flatters our

national pride. But think about it. If it was only a question of being the peace-keepers...

## The Obligations of Complicity

The integration of our defence policies with the American defence policies is supported by the integration of the Canadian and American military-industrial complexes. The "Defence Production Sharing Agreements", concluded between the two countries, ties the activity of the Canadian defence industry into that of the Americans. Because we have become the subcontractors of the American defence industry, we have also become unwilling accomplices to American military adventures. A part of the Canadian

budget is used to subsidize military research and industry; conventional war, bacterial warfare, chemical warfare and nuclear warfare are part of the preoccupation and interest of Canadian industry. Do we need some names? In industry we find De Havilland, Canadair, Bombardier, Litton Systems, Marconi, Mitel RCA, CIL... and many others. Doing research for the Ministry of Defence we find the following universities: U. of T., McGill, and UQAM as well as the following companies: Bio-Research of Ste. Anne de Bellevue, O. Johnson of Alberta, Physico-Medical Systems Corp. of Montreal, Moniteq of Toronto and too many others. To sum it up, Canada seems to be a more menacing than menaced country.

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## AN F-18 FOR PEACE

It is with much enthusiasm that Monseigneur Adolphe Proulx, Mme. Francine Fournier and myself have become associated with the "An F-18 for Peace" project. We are very hopeful that his project will help the cause of peace and disarmament progress in Quebec.

The title of the project may seem surprising. "The F-18 are for war", you might well say. Yes, of course they are. But we want to change things.

### Just What Does It Mean?

The project "An F-18 For Peace" can be summed up in this way : the union centrals, the CEQ and the CSN, pacifist groups, social groups and well-known people from the scientific, artistic, professional and religious communities have joined together to demand that the Canadian Minister of Defence grant 62 million dollars to start a fund to create jobs for peace.

Why \$62 million? This is the equivalent of the cost of one F-18. According to the Auditor-General, the price of one F-18, including training costs, spare parts and up-keep, is evaluated at 62 million dollars for the duration of the programme. The Canadian Minister of Defence has ordered 138 of these war machines. He has also ordered 6 frigates loaded with all of the latest murderous "gadgets" imaginable.

When we realize that the Minister of Defence now has an annual budget of 10.3 billion dollars (source : Treasury Council, October 17, 1984), our demand for \$62 million to finance a very original and "popular" experiment appears modest enough, taking everything into account.

### What Are Jobs For Peace?

We start with the principle that a necessary condition to ensure peace is the promotion of economic and social justice on a world-wide scale and the recognition that all peoples have the right to share the generous resources of the earth. We must work for the advent of a just and fair economic order where human dignity in harmony with nature is refused to no-one. Thus, jobs for peace are above all projects that aim to satisfy the most urgent needs of humanity (hunger, thirst, respect for human dignity, etc.).

The Defence Department's annual budget of 10.3 billion would, all by itself, allow the construction of 800,000 tractors for the Third World, without counting all of the jobs that the building of these tractors would create in Canada. We are, however, realistic enough not to ask that the Defence Department be closed down... We are only asking for the power to use a relatively small fund of money to experiment with new ways of creating jobs and at the same time, maintaining good relations with other countries.

The budget that we are asking from the federal government would be used to finance projects proposed by workers, the unemployed or students, projects which provide educational activities for peace, literacy campaigns, health services, housing, research for the reconversion of arms factories, etc. To sum it up, the projects which are presented should serve to satisfy social needs in the Third World and here (because we can't ignore the fact that such problems also exist here).

### A Threat of Unemployment?

Will the reduction of military spending create unemployment? Since World War II put an end to the depression, many people believe that military spending is an efficient weapon against unemployment.

Contrary to this perception, a study done by the American government's Bureau of Labour Statistics indicates that, in 1984, a billion dollars would create 11,000-16,000 jobs if invested in missile construction, 24,000 to 28,000 jobs if invested in the military sector, 28,000-30,000 jobs if invested in public contracts including public transportation, 46,000-50,000 jobs if invested in health care and 50,000-60,000 if invested in education.

Investments in war industry are thus far from being the most useful in terms of job creation.

### The Selection of Projects

To represent them in negotiations with the federal government and to select the projects which are likely to be financed by the jobs for peace fund, the groups which originated this initiative have formed a committee. Mgr. Adolphe

Proulx, Mme. Francine Fournier and myself (Claire Bonenfant) have agreed to form this committee, since we are entirely in agreement with the objectives.

### A Vast Campaign of Education and Mobilization

The demand for an F-18 to create jobs for peace will be supported by a vast campaign of education and mobilization.

The governing bodies of the CSN and CEQ have already agreed on the "An F-18 For Peace" project. Different pacifist groups have discussed it and adhere to this idea. Social groups and many prominent individuals have done the same.

Each, in its own milieu and in its own way, will work to educate its members and the population at large, in order to get as much support as possible for the demand. Some examples :

- the CSN has already undertaken debate and research on the possibility of reconverting certain arms factories into units which produce goods and services which are socially useful.
- for its part, the CEQ will soon make its pedagogical workbook public. This workbook aims to educate students at all levels to the danger that the arms race represents and to the social costs that it implies, and to encourage young people to actively support the "An F-18 For Peace" campaign.
- as a follow-up to past activities, pacifist groups have pledged to spread information and mobilize around this theme.

We would like to call on other union organizations, women's groups, youth groups...

### The Culmination : the demonstration of October 19, 1985

The culmination of this education campaign will be Saturday, October 19, which is International Disarmament Day. On this occasion the organizations represented here plan to hold demonstrations in 8 regions of Quebec (Montreal, Quebec, Sherbrooke, Trois-Rivieres, Chicoutimi, Rimouski, Baie-Comeau-Hautrive and Rouyn).

The objective of all of these demonstrations will be to express, in a tangible way, the popular support that exists for a fund to create socially useful jobs. The participation at these demonstrations should be big enough to convince the Minister of Defence that the demand is serious.

### The Poster Contest : A Success

An initial indication of the interest in this project, and one which you are able to measure for yourselves today, is the success of the poster contest to illustrate the theme "Exchange an F-18 for Jobs for Peace".

Universities and CEGEP's specializing in art, as well as pacifist and popular groups, were invited to submit a proposal for the poster. We received a total of 39 proposals. You can judge for yourselves the quality and originality of these works.

As you can imagine, selecting a winner was not easy. The jury's choice was finally the poster done by M. Danilo Bahamondes, an artist from Montreal.

He wins the prize of \$500. Thousands of copies of his poster will be printed and sent all over Quebec. Four other prizes of \$200 each were given to Louis Simon Chabot, 8 and a half years old from Montreal, Huguette Caron from Ste-Genevieve de Batiscan, Jean-Luc Trudel of Montreal and Denise Blais of Quebec.

All of the works presented to the jury will be presented in a travelling exposition in different regions of Quebec in September and October.

### A Daring but Realistic Project

We realize that our project is audacious. However, we consider that it is realistic. In any case we are determined to invest a lot of energy to prove to the government that disarmament is not a passing fancy but a preoccupation which we hold close to our hearts : what is at stake is our future and the future of our children.

Claire Bonenfant  
Member of the Quebec  
Committee for Peace

## The Quebec Committee for Peace : Who is it?

The CSN, the CEQ and the various pacifist groups have agreed to form a committee to oversee the campaign for education and discussion on the question of jobs and peace. This committee is independent from the union centrals and politically non-partisan. Claire BONENFANT, formerly the president of the Council on the Status of Women and now a commissioner on the "Régie du Cinéma". Francine FOURNIER, who has just finished her mandate on the Human Rights Commission and Mgr. Adolphe PROULX, of the Hull-Gatineau diocese and president of the Social Affairs Committee and the Assembly of Quebec Bishops, have accepted to serve on this committee.

### Negotiate the price of an F-18 for jobs for peace

The principal function of the members of this committee is to represent the union centrals and the pacifist groups in negotiations with the federal government. If these negotiations are successful, the committee will select the projects which can be financed by the "JOBS FOR PEACE" fund.

At the CSN Congress in 1982, the following resolution was passed : The CSN should join in the struggle for peace and disarmament, particularly in the unions which are involved in places which produce arms. In these places, the possibilities of transforming war industries into civilian industries can be studied... The intention of the members of the congress was certainly not to close the factories that produce arms from one day to the next but rather to start people thinking about the reconversion of arms factories.

In the "Fédération de la Métallurgie" of the CSN, where the workers are more directly involved, a profound debate on conversion was begun in the fall of 1984.

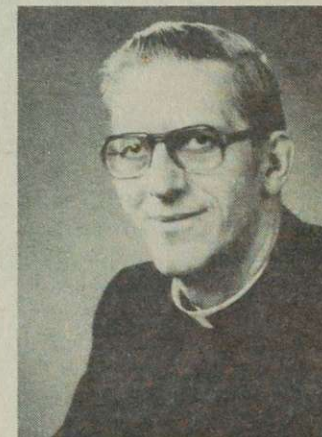
Elsewhere in the world, hundreds of union militants have begun to work on the same question.



Claire Bonenfant



Francine Fournier



Mgr Adolphe Proulx



## An F-18 for a bit of madness Let's buy 138 just in case...

One of the most spectacular examples of the military spending in Canada is the decision to buy 138 F-18's. At a cost of \$62 million each, this comes to \$9 billion just for them. This purchase, which is an excellent example of the integration of the American and Canadian military-industrial complexes, is presented to the Canadian population as a necessity for the security of our territory and also as a way to make jobs.

"But at least people will be working when they get killed!"

For millions of workers, the war in-

dustry represents their only hope for a job. However, the transformation of these jobs into "socially productive" jobs would not only permit these workers to keep their jobs but also provide thousands of the unemployed, people on welfare and young people to finally find a job and have a decent revenue.

**Military jobs and jobs for peace**

One Billion Dollars spent :  
in the military sector creates 76,000 jobs  
in the education sector creates 187,000 jobs

nection with the MX missile with job creation possibilities had the same investment been made in other sectors of the economy. Every single one of the 5 other investment possibilities studied proved capable of creating more jobs than the MX missile project.

These conclusions are confirmed by several studies from the United Nations, Germany and England.

What is clear is that military investments provide less work than other types of public spending.

Yes, military spending can create jobs. But what the politicians and the arms merchants never tell us is that if the sums of money devoted to military production were put to any other use whatsoever, more jobs would be created than arms production can ever create.

And if our society must manufacture destruction in order to create jobs, it is time we did some serious thinking.

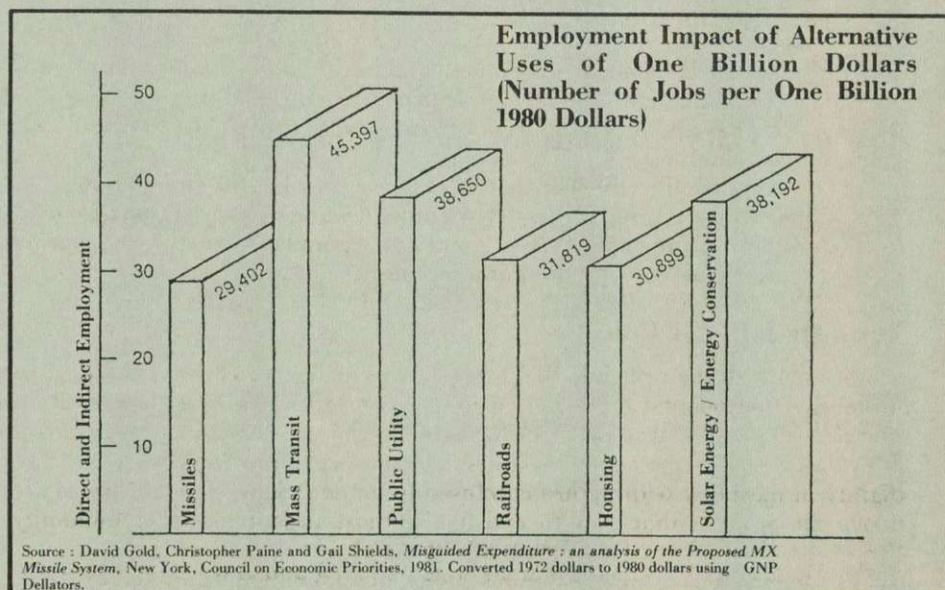
## Shut down the plants?(1)

The official unemployment level is 11.8% in Canada and 15% in Québec. As a result all military production is welcomed in the factory; at least jobs can be saved and workers who have been laid off recalled. The second World War put an end to the great depression of the thirties and many people still believe that military expenditures are effective in fighting unemployment.

Certain professional economists encourage this kind of thinking; they say that more military spending will revitalize the economy of the industrialized countries. However, since 1960 a growing number of studies have indicated that military production is not the best way to fight unemploy-

ment. Even the U.S. government (see page 9) admits money spent to fight unemployment is least effective when turned to military production. Other studies corroborate this conclusion. For example, with the help of a model developed at Yale University, Marion Anderson estimated that for each million dollars spent on military production there is a net loss of 9 000 jobs, compared to the number of jobs this million dollars could create if invested in private industry, or a net loss of 35 000 jobs when investment in the public sector is considered.

In her contribution to *Misguided Expenditure: An Analysis of the Proposed MX Missile System*, economist Gail Shields compares job creation in con-



(1) From Quebec ArmsIndustry Published by CEQ, CSN, FNEEQ.

## No Way! Let's convert them and make them grow

The following resolution was adopted at the 1982 CNTU Convention: "That the CNTU commit itself to the fight for disarmament and peace... That the CNTU begin serious consideration and discussion of disarmament and peace, particularly within unions involved in arms manufacture where the possibility of converting from military to civilian production could be studied." Convention delegates had no intention of suggesting that Québec arms factories be shut down without delay; the idea was to begin to seriously consider conversion to peaceful production. Elsewhere in the world, hundreds of militant trade unionists have begun to work in this direction.

Throughout the world workers fight to keep their jobs. In the light of the studies which destroy the myth that military production is good for the economy, workers are seeking other avenues of approach. And the search is not easy. Most workers have no voice when it comes to choosing what will be produced in their factory.

### The Lucas Model

The movement for converting war

factories to socially useful production is an audacious new trade union movement forged in the fight against unemployment. The workers at the Lucas complex in England are highly advanced in their thinking in this area; they have proposed more than 150 products as alternatives to the military materials produced in the aerospace equipment complex where they work.

In 1970 the Lucas aerospace complex included 17 factories and employed 18 000 workers. A state of crisis developed in the aeronautics industry in 1970, and the company sought to deal with the slump by reorganizing operations and giving priority to the armament sector, which was still proving highly profitable. Sales of military aircraft, as well as of other military equipment and material, accounted for more than half of the company's sales. But the main company tactic for dealing with the situation was massive layoffs: 4,000 workers were laid off between 1970 and 1974 and additional layoffs were announced for following years.

Faced with this company offensive, a group of trade unionists working for the company developed a new strategy for saving their jobs and expressing their views on the social usefulness of the products they manufacture. The Lucas Aerospace Combine Shop Stewards Committee was formed, a multi-site

shop steward organization including white collar staff as well as manual workers. After a number of false starts, in 1974 the idea for a plan for factory conversion emerged: Ernie Scarbrow, then secretary of the Combine Committee explains that it was then that Committee members began to think of other uses for their skills, their knowledge, their experience and the company's advanced technology.

The Combine Committee, not yet used to challenging the old assumptions about expertise, looked outside the firm for suggestions and advice on products which the Lucas workforce could switch to making. One hundred and eighty leading technologists and academics were approached. The results... only three suitable replies were received.

So the Combine Committee decided to ask the workers themselves to submit their own ideas for alternative products. And at the same time the Committee consulted other trade unions, popular organizations, public service workers and users to learn of unsatisfied needs which could be met with the resources and the knowledge of the workers at Lucas.

After 18 months of work, in January 1976 the Committee issued its Alternative Corporate plan. This 1,200 page document contains 150 proposals from the workers and technicians. It gives concrete expression to a veritable explosion of imagination and creativity in many fields: oceanographic research, remote control equipment, transportation systems, braking devices, alternative sources of energy, medical equipment.

All of these proposals, and three in particular, showed, when the products suggested were produced experimentally, that factory conversion is possible, that rank and file workers are essential in the search for alternative products and that all members of the community where the factory is located can help in the process and strengthen the movement against unemployment.

The Plan showed the workers' ability to take their futures into their own hands and to wage a real fight against unemployment.

Although the company was not willing to apply the plan — it was officially refused in march 1976 — the evident militancy of the workers had now to be taken into consideration and the number of layoffs kept to a minimum. Since then, several of the project proposals submitted by the workers have been well received elsewhere and some are being realized. The movement quickly spread outside the walls of the Lucas aerospace complex, carrying inspiration to other trade unions in England (Vickers, C.A. Parsons, GEC) and in other parts of the world — SAAB in Sweden, for example.

Jobs for peace? It's feasible. It is only the military lobby and those who profit from it who have any interest in perpetuating the myth that any reduction in military spending will mean an increase in unemployment.



## WHY CAN'T WE HAVE ONE?

Imagine what we could do with the money for just one F-18.

Imagine 62 million dollars :

- to finance an increase in the minimum wage from \$4 to \$4.50 an hour for 50,000 workers for a year.
- to build 1,200 housing units and create 1,140 direct and indirect jobs.
- to double the budget for the University of Quebec at Trois-Rivières.

Try to do the calculations for the following :

- to improve the loans and bursary system for students.
- to give young people under 30 the same welfare benefits as others.
- to make education completely free.

Can you think of other examples of "madness" that we could do with the money for an F-18?

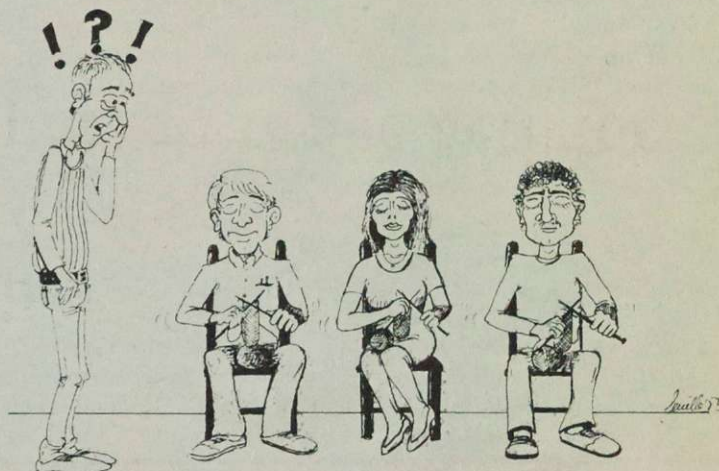
## LET'S END THE MADNESS

What you can do.

First of all, forget about the eternal "but what can I do about it." by at least getting informed. Then take some action by :

- participating in the demonstration "An F-18 for Peace" October 19, 1985
- bringing three friends to the demonstration
- participating in the activities around the October 19 demonstration in your CEGEP.

### PEDAGOGICAL ACTIVITY



— KNITTING MITTENS FOR THE NUCLEAR WINTER.

Because an F-18 for peace is not a lot to ask

Because madness is in the air and is threatening us

Because we have to put an end to it

October 19, we are going to participate in peace activities in

- Baie-Comeau et Hauterive, tél.: 589-2608 ou 589-9824
- Saguenay et Lac St-Jean, tél.: 549-3334
- Trois-Rivières, tél.: 378-5419
- Rimouski, tél.: 723-7811
- Montréal, tél.: 598-2401
- Québec, tél.: 647-5700
- Hull, tél.: 771-7447 ou 776-5506
- Sherbrooke, tél.: 566-8595
- Rouyn, tél.: 825-6137

**FNEEQ**



La Fédération nationale des  
Enseignantes et Enseignants  
du Québec.

