

# INFO-FNEEQ

VOL. 4 NO. 2 OCTOBER 1986

FNEEQ



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## INTRODUCTORY NOTE

During this International Year of Peace, and on the occasion of the education sector's Day of Peace, FNEEQ is pleased to provide you with a tool which we hope will be widely used by students and teachers.

Together with the regional councils of the CNTU and the FEC-CEQ, we hope it will be widely distributed and used by as many workers as possible from every walk of fire.

**Acting together, for a world of peace and justice !**

## Are we really living in peacetime ?

***The Second World War officially ended in 1945 with an Allied Victory. Since that time, what has happened ?***

There have been no less than 150 conflicts between nations around the world, conflicts which have left close to 40 million people dead. Furthermore, from 13 to 16 million people have died from nuclear causes: they have either been victims of atomic bomb experiments or testing, or killed during the production of these arms or during mining operations (uranium, plutonium, etc).

In 1983, the world's nuclear arsenal was estimated at 50,000 nuclear warheads. These 50,000 nuclear warheads represent 15,000 megatons of explosives, that is, 1½ million bombs the size of the one that was dropped on Hiroshima. At this time, the situation of the world's under-privileged can be summed up as follows: 40% of the population do not have access to basic medical care, 25% suffer from chronic malnutrition, 20% live in sub-standard housing and 15% are under-nourished. More specifically, according to the Association québécoise des organismes de coopération internationale (AQOCI), (Quebec Council for International Cooperation) more people died of hunger from 1975 to 1980 than from all the revolutions, wars and assassinations over the last 150 years. In 1980 alone, 30 million men, women and children died from lack of food, that is, as many as all the victims of the Second World War. And yet it is estimated that in 1987, 1,026 billion dollars will be spent on military expenditures. In today's world, we spend 25 times more on the military than on development aid. Rich countries spend an average of .5% of their gross national product on aid; meanwhile the United States invests 10% of its GNP in the military. Canada, for its part, allocates 7% per year to the military.

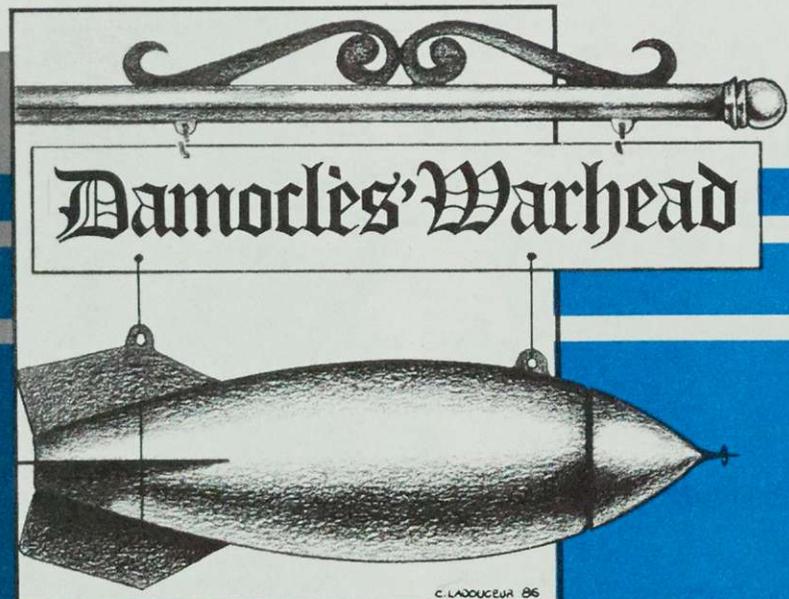
In addition, AQOCI estimates that the value of the world arms trade exceeds that of the world food trade. Over 50 developing countries are presently governed by military dictatorships that rose to power through military coups.

According to the AQOCI, these coups are most often directly supported by the USA and indirectly by Canada. In fact, Canada exports most of its military production to the United States (components that can be easily integrated into American systems). In addition, Canada exports about 1.7 billion dollars of these "American" components overseas to countries such as Brazil, Argentina, Chili, Indonesia, Thailand, South Korea, South Africa, El Salvador and Honduras. This helps reinforce American domination over these countries and maintain certain dictatorships. Lastly, Canada has budgeted 35 billion dollars in armaments for the next 10 years.

In Canada, between 200,000 and 300,000 jobs depend on the arms industry. The productivity program of the arms industry has at its disposal a fund of about 150 million

dollars. This government fund recently subsidized the Litton Company in Toronto to the tune of 43 million dollars over 3 years. For its part, Pratt & Whitney of Longueuil received 52 million dollars in 1983-84. Quebec alone produces over half the arms and arms components produced in Canada. Some major military companies are: Bell Helicopter, Spar Aerospace, Bombardier, Marconi and Pratt & Whitney. This industry costs each Canadian citizen an average of \$200 per year in direct taxes. In 1983, the Quebec arms industry received 3,389 military contracts spread out among 50 plants for a total of 2 billion dollars in orders.

In addition, this industry creates pollution that threaten fish, birds, animals, game, forests, and the entire environment on which we depend. If nothing is done, 10 years from



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now the maple sugar industry in Quebec will be dead.

To end this sheet on a more hopeful note, it should be pointed out that in addition to the various ecological groups, in 1985, Canada had over 800 pacifist organizations and at least 10,000 peace and disarmament activists. And the feminist movement is very involved in the struggle for peace, both nationally and internationally. Organized unions are becoming more and more involved either through campaigns (such as the CNTU's "An F-18 for Peace" campaign) or through the production of educational booklets for their members. Youth groups have also shown their ability to act. We have only to think of the silhouettes painted on Montreal sidewalks on the anniversary of the bombing of Hiroshima.

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#### QUESTIONS :

- 1) What are the federal, provincial and municipal governments doing for peace ? We know that the budget for Canadian defence is 10 billion dollars per year, not including the grants to munitions factories. How much are governments spending on peace ?
- 2) Have we really been living in peace since 1945 ? Are Canada's political life and economy leading us towards peace or war ?
- 3) In this context, what do you think of the great popularity of films such as Rambo or musical groups that incite to violence ?

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# It's much better to negotiate ! . . .

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***When we study human history, through sciences such as sociology, psychology or even history itself, we realize the permanent nature of human conflict (family, social, international, etc.). We are all individuals with our own culture, customs and different interests. Even with all the goodwill in the world, it is impossible to imagine a social life, be it on a small or large scale, without conflicts of interest or opinion. Unfortunately, in the past, these conflicts have become violent, and in many cases have resulted in mutual destruction and even genocide.***

***Is this violence natural and inevitable, or is it cultural and therefore subject to change ?***

#### OPINIONS :

- 1) Some ethologists \* and socio-biologists promote the idea that human beings are naturally aggressive. For example, Conrad Lorenz concludes that human aggressiveness can be explained by three types of basic instincts: innate reaction, innate signals and an internal tendency towards aggressiveness. According to this theory, aggressiveness and violence are thought to be "substances" that build up and must be regularly eliminated, just like steam from a pressure cooker.
- 2) Van Riellaer, in a book about human aggressiveness, says: "People are born with the capacity to act aggressively, as well as with a large number of other possibilities. There are mechanisms which pre-condition or influence aggres-

sive behaviour to a certain degree, but true aggression is always a response to conflict or frustration." "It would be wrong to say that aggressiveness is a substance which builds up inside the organism and must be eliminated". (1) Exasperation is not a necessary consequence of internal and external frustration. It depends on how the victim interprets what is happening, as well as that person's plans and prior learned behaviour. The words and actions of other people do not have an automatic effect on us. They are not the direct cause of our behaviour." (2)

#### SUMMARY :

To the extent that we share the Van Rieller school of thought, we believe that violence is learned and encouraged within and by our cultural context. We believe that it is a question of education and that personal development, respect for others, self-expression, negotiation, cooperation and the search for just solutions acceptable to everyone involved, can be taught and learned. We also believe that the individual and collective power of parents, teachers, bosses, legislators and decision-makers can and must be exercised without violence, without recourse to unilateral decisions and decrees. ○

#### QUESTIONS :

- 1) Do you believe that it is possible and desirable to settle social conflicts through negotiation ?
- 2) If so, do you think that the school system helps you develop the skills we have been talking about, such as negotiation ?

\* Science of Animal Behaviour In Its Natural Environment.

(1) VAN RIELLAER, Jacques, *L'Aggressivité humaine*, édition Dessart et Mardaga, Bruxelles, 1975, page 161.  
(2) VAN RIELLAER, Jacques, *ibid.*, page 169.

# Canadian Defense Alliances.

**Canada is a member of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) along with the United States and 14 other Western countries. Our country is also part of the North American Air Defence Command (NORAD) with the US. These two alliances mean that Canada is allied against the Eastern Bloc, which includes the USSR and the member countries of the Warsaw Pact.**

In a document entitled "Canada and the Arms Race" (September 1985), Alan Silverman explains NATO's military strategy. Since 1954, this organization has based its "deterrent" strategy on the following principle: "Since the USSR would win a conventional war, we must strike first, with nuclear arms". In 1984, the Canadian Minister of Defence wrote that if we renounced this option, we would become "psychologically naked".

NORAD, the bilateral alliance designed to protect us against Russian bombers and missiles, is run entirely by the United States: the Commander in Chief is always an American and the armed forces that our country assigns to NORAD are completely integrated into the US nuclear strategy.

The NORAD agreement is renewable every 5 years. In 1985, it was renewed without any public consultation and in spite of the fact that the committee in charge of producing a report on this question had pointed out several disadvantages. These included expenses of \$250 million per year, loss of sovereignty, loss of independence in the eyes of certain countries, and the fact that our purchasing priorities and defence policy are influenced by the US. Last but not least, Canada could be forced into a conflict we could have avoided if we were not members of NORAD.

## OPINIONS :

- 1) The military and other decision-makers say that we have to belong to NATO and NORAD because the US is our neighbour and our own defence system is weak. They say that our allies are the "good guys" and that we should help defend Western civilization against Communist aggression. But the decision to belong to these alliances was not formally approved by the Canadian population or by most members of Parliament and ministers.
- 2) We do not share the point of view that the Russians are the sole source of danger. We believe that the real danger of a world war stems from the rivalry between the United States and the USSR. Canada itself is not threatened by an attack from the USSR. The real threat is that we may find ourselves in the middle of a confrontation between the two superpowers. Canada should pull itself out of this situation and stand up to the two parties mainly responsible for the confrontation.

Canada can and must withdraw from NATO and NORAD, if it wishes to develop a truly autonomous and pacifist position. The citizens of Quebec, Canada, the US and the USSR do not want another world war.

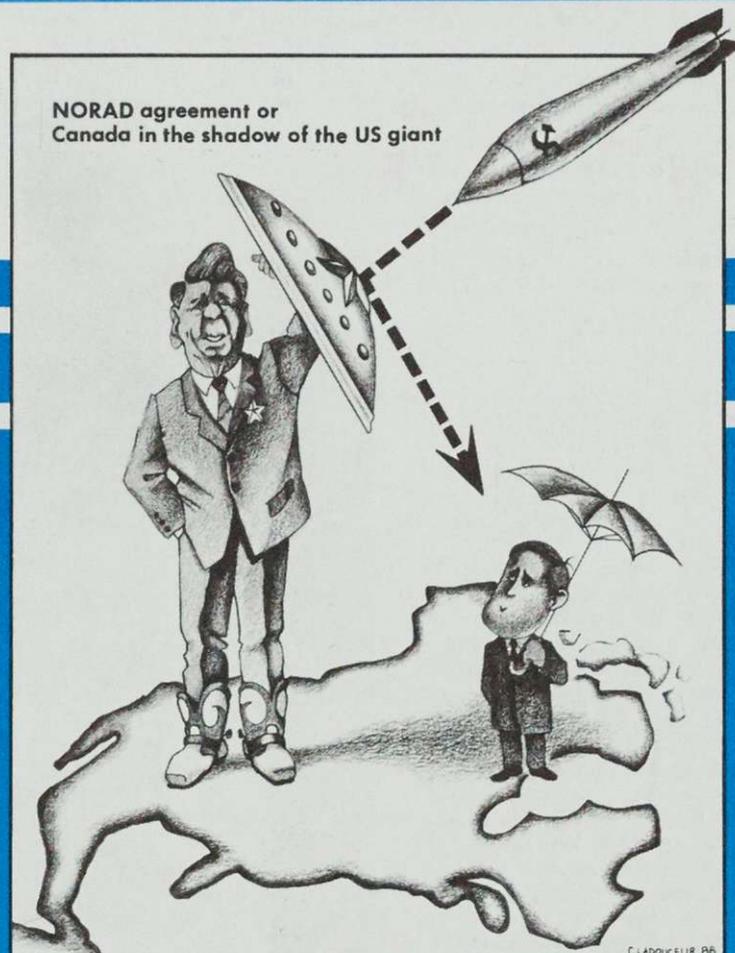
Only two groups could possibly want such a war: power-hungry politicians and

the owners of the huge military-industrial complexes that are devouring our raw materials, eating into the country's budget (our taxes) and shamelessly profiting from other peoples' fear and intolerance. We must demand a democratic debate on Canadian defence and promote a neutral, pacifist position for Canada. ○

## QUESTIONS :

**Is it acceptable that Canadian citizens are never consulted about the major thrust of Canadian defence policy ?**

**In your opinion, WHAT position should Canada adopt in its relationship with other countries : neutrality ? non-alignment ? other ?**



# We need a real debate on the economic development of Quebec and Canada

## CONTEXT :

*We are currently on the sidelines of a phoney and superficial debate over the question of who should be awarded the maintenance contract for our CF-18 fighter planes. On the surface, it involves a decision by Ottawa on whether to award this \$1.2 billion 20-year contract to a Montreal consortium headed by Bombardier or to Bristol Aerospace Corporation of Winnipeg. Universities, Chambers of Commerce, industrialists and politicians from Quebec are lobbying vigorously for this contract, which they see as vital to the Quebec economy. And the same kind of intense lobbying is taking place in the West. In the eyes of Westerners, Ottawa has already given Eastern Canada a substantial gift by selling Canadair to Bombardier. Some Quebecers feel that this contract is rightfully theirs; they feel that it will allow Montreal to develop its high-technology capabilities, create 250 permanent jobs and establish new companies directly and indirectly linked to the military aerospace field.*

*It should be pointed out that the 138 CF-18s were purchased at a cost of \$62 million each so that Canada could honour its NORAD commitments and salvage its image within NATO. What are we to think ?*

## OPINIONS :

- 1) The main way for Canada to escape the crisis affecting Western countries is by :
  - a) reducing social expenditures
  - b) investing in technology and more specifically, in advanced research in the military field (i.e.: the Canadian Arm, SDI).

The type of companies which should be created and subsidized should be technologically highly-advanced, with low labour costs, in order to be competitive on international markets. We must do everything in our power to keep ahead of the Eastern Bloc.

Given this scenario, it makes sense for Quebec and Canada to subsidize promising sectors such as research and specialized jobs in the aerospace field. Similarly, the CF-18 maintenance contract is not only necessary for the survival and development of this Quebec industry, but also the best choice for the Canadian and Quebec governments.

But there are alternatives: here is what three eminent economist, Melman, Cal-

dor and Bluestone had to say at a conference in Boston in 1984, on military expenditures and industrial conversion.

## 2) Negative economic impact of military expenditures

A) For every job created in the construction of guided missiles, 5 jobs could be created in education. According to the American Bureau of Labor Statistics, in 1984, \$1 billion could create either 11,000 to 16,000 jobs in the military or 50,000 to 60,000 jobs in the field of education.

B) **Military expenditures cause inflation.** Military production is not subject to the laws of supply and demand. The State is the only customer, the goods produced are not consumed and, because this industry swallows up an incredible amount of raw materials and high technology, it forces their prices upwards. For example, in 1982, it was estimated that it would cost the Canadian Navy \$1.5 billion for six new frigates; by August 1983, the cost had climbed to \$3.85 billion before work had even begun. This is what is known as the "cost-plus" process.

C) **Military expenditures create few technological spin-offs.** Military technology today has become so sophisticated and specialized that there are no longer many civilian uses. The best way to develop civilian technologies is to invest in them directly.

D) **Military expenditures hamper growth in national productivity.** The military industry is capital-intensive and devours raw materials, production equipment and skills. According to Melman, 30% of US engineers have been involved in military production since 1945.

E) **Military-industrial complexes are completely incompetent** when it comes to civilian technology, in addition to being non-competitive. For example, Boston's subway system was constructed by a giant firm from the military-industrial complex. This subway has never worked properly and is recognized as being a total fiasco. Military companies are used to working on a cost-plus basis, without precise delivery dates and in a closed and captive market; this is why they are ineffective in a civilian market.



F) For his part, Bluestone believes that as a result of the recent crisis, the economy is being restructured by those who own the means of production. This involves closing profitable plants in order to reinvest the capital in areas with higher rates of profit. In this way, conglomerates are formed, capital is concentrated, but no jobs are created; in fact, many have disappeared. Unions have been promoting an alternate solution, namely economic and industrial conversion designed to create more jobs and increase the production of socially-useful goods and services.

**An alternative : Industrial conversion with the goal of creating more jobs and producing socially-useful goods.**

In this age of high unemployment (particularly among the young, but also in other age brackets), any type of industrial production, even military, is welcomed as a way to conserve jobs and put laid-off workers back to work.

Shouldn't we stop accepting these handouts and start looking further down the line? As we demonstrated earlier (Sheet 1), our industry, and particularly our military industry, generally depends on the political and economic choices made by the United States. Like a patient on intravenous, we are living off military contracts awarded by the United States.

For example, the Defence Production Sharing Agreement ratified in 1958, provides a framework for real free trade between Canada and the United States in the area of military equipment.

For many, Canada has a reputation of providing technical and economic aid to less-fortunate nations. But in fact, we are part and parcel of a militaristic, polluting North American economy that creates unemployment and poverty. However, it is possible to change

direction. We just have to look at the industrial conversion programs at the end of the Second World War (in Japan and in Europe, as well as here) to realize that this type of change is possible if we are willing to make it happen.

Successful conversions have been achieved in Sweden and Germany and there is no doubt that we have the necessary skills to carry out such a conversion here in Canada.

What we are missing is a widespread knowledge of facts that could contradict government and industrial propaganda, which tends to make people believe there are no alternatives. In fact, the media presents a slanted view of the situation; they tend to emphasize that the only way out of unemployment is to continue investing in the military field. In light of the recent closures of towns and plants, and the high unemployment rate (cuts in social programs), people are easily convinced. We are being made collectively poor so that we will gladly accept any kind of subsidies that create jobs (most often in the military). The most obvious example is the current debate surrounding the CF-18 maintenance contract, which is being touted as manna from heaven for Montrealers and Quebecers in general.

Why did the awarding of the CF-18 maintenance contract take on such importance? Why do our governments fail to offer us alternatives in the area of economic development? Why do they promote this type of economic development as the only possibility? Why do

Quebec financial interests stress the importance of this contract?

Until now, why has Quebec technology been directed towards the aerospace and related fields? True, we are all concerned with creating jobs, but it is clear that investment in the military is not an efficient way to create jobs. Even more important, in addition to lowering the standard of living of a large segment of the population, this kind of economic development contributes to the overkill syndrome, which is characteristic of today's world technology. We believe that it is high time to take another direction: economic conversion towards the production of goods and services that are socially useful, safe, non-polluting and non-militaristic. To make such a change of direction possible, we must publicly demand that the governments concerned change their political and budgetary choices. Supporting the theme of "One F-18 or Jobs for Peace" is a way of mobilizing citizens and taking advantage of a chance to provide hope for the younger generation and its predecessors.

Don't you think that it would be worthwhile for all sectors of Quebec to put as much energy into creating jobs for peace as they do into obtaining CF-18 maintenance contracts? For us, this is a crucial and highly important question.

The union in your institution is a member of the CSN (CNTU), which has been working for the past three years to obtain government budgets to create Jobs for Peace.

**QUESTIONS TO STUDENTS :**

- 1) **What type of society and economical situation would you prefer to live in : a militaristic society centered on destruction or a society concerned with the production of socially-useful goods ?**
- 2) **How do you respond to the threat "Jobs for War or Nothing" ?**

# The Struggle of the Attikamek-Montagnais is OUR STRUGGLE !

**Native people in Northern Quebec have suffered the negative effects of low-altitude flights by NATO aircraft stationed at Goose Bay, particularly since 1983. And plans are to progressively increase the number of low-altitude flights until 1990.**

**CONTEXT :**

The Goose Bay airfield was built by the United States between 1941 and 1942 as a way station between the US and Europe. In 1973, the Canadian Armed Forces took over the Goose Bay base and the Melville radar station. More recently, the RAF (England) and the GAF (West Germany) used the base and

the surrounding area for their low-altitude training.

Beginning in 1982, the native people found that their hunting grounds were being used more and more for military manoeuvres. The repeated flyovers involved in these military manoeuvres disturbed their hunting lifestyle and some families were forced to return to the coastal villages.

In October 1982, members of the native community launched a national campaign to sensitize the rest of Canada to their problems. Faced with little reaction at home, they took their campaign to West Germany, where they pointed out that their way of life was in danger of disappearing because of the increase in the number of military flights.

Despite their protest, activities at Goose Bay increased by 15% between 1980 and 1985. Furthermore, in June 1985, Canada announced that it was allocating \$93 million to the modernization of the Goose Bay base. In October 1985, the Department of National Defence made public its project to turn Goose Bay into a tactical center for NATO's fighter bombers (flying and shooting training). The cost of the project, estimated at \$500 million, would be partially covered by NATO.

Between now and the end of 1986, the 16 ministers of defence for the NATO countries will decide whether to install the training center at Goose Bay or Konia (Turkey).

On February 13, following a request from

National Defence, Environment Canada set up a consultation mechanism.

**OPINIONS :**

1) In its submission to NATO for the tactical centre project, Canada said, "The area is Montagnais territory, but is also peopled by Innu and Nascapi Indians. In total, there are approximately 36,000 people; for all intents and purposes, the area is almost uninhabited. The site is located less than five hours by air from NATO's European bases. It covers an area of 100,000 square kilometers and is an ideal terrain for low-altitude flights: generally clear skies, little vegetation and exceptional flying conditions."

Until now, Canada's contribution to NATO has been judged insufficient by a number of its NATO allies. This project would allow Canada to refurbish its image, call on the financial support of NATO to improve its military infrastructure and make use of an otherwise inaccessible and advanced technology. The white population in the adjacent villages would benefit from the resulting economic spinoffs (there is a high percentage of unemployed workers and welfare recipients in these villages). And local elites would also profit from the project since there would be a high turnover of military personnel who would spend money on entertainment and souvenirs during their stay.

2) This entire project was designed and initiated without consulting or obtaining the agreement of the native people or their band councils.

And yet, they have very clear ideas on the subject. Among other things, they point out that their economy and lifestyle are based on hunting, fishing and trapping. The region in which they have lived in for the past 9,000 years has always provided them with enough game to ensure their survival. The NATO project threatens to

force them off their hunting grounds and into the coastal villages, where they would depend on welfare to live and run the risk of being assimilated by the white population.

**A) Vegetation :**

No serious scientific study has ever been conducted. However, native people have already noticed that fir and spruce trees growing in the flight path of the NATO planes are dying. The planes fly as low as 40 feet above the water and climb up over the mountain at the end of the lake. The trees are covered with exhaust fumes from top to bottom. Only the younger trees survive, but when they grow taller than the lower branches on the old trees, they too are affected.

**B) Small and large animals :**

There has been a dramatic drop in catches over the last 3 to 4 years. For example, the number of beaver caught has decreased by half. Animals are found dead, without wounds or other apparent reasons. Adult animals, frightened by the noise, hide and are thus unable to feed their young. As for the caribou, they no longer see their tracks in the area; they have changed their ancestral routes and fled the region. These statements have been confirmed by an American biologist, Stuart Luttrich, who says that in clear weather, he has witnessed planes flying over the land on which he works up to 64 times in one day.

**C) Effects on people :**

"We don't see the planes and we don't hear them until they have flown by", say the native people. The noise is terrifying and deafening. They are afraid of capsizing in the middle of

lakes. Children and adults are wakened by a sound like roaring thunder. Several planes have crashed over the past few years. People are afraid of accidents and forest fires.

In light of all these inconveniences, the Attikamek-Montagnais Council is demanding an immediate ban on low-altitude flights and a moratorium on all NATO projects until the necessary studies have been conducted as to their ecological and human effects.

In addition, a "white" coalition has been formed in support of native demands. It is made up (among others) of the Bishops' Conference, CEQ, CNTU, Civil Liberties Association, the Coalition for Environmental Protection, etc.

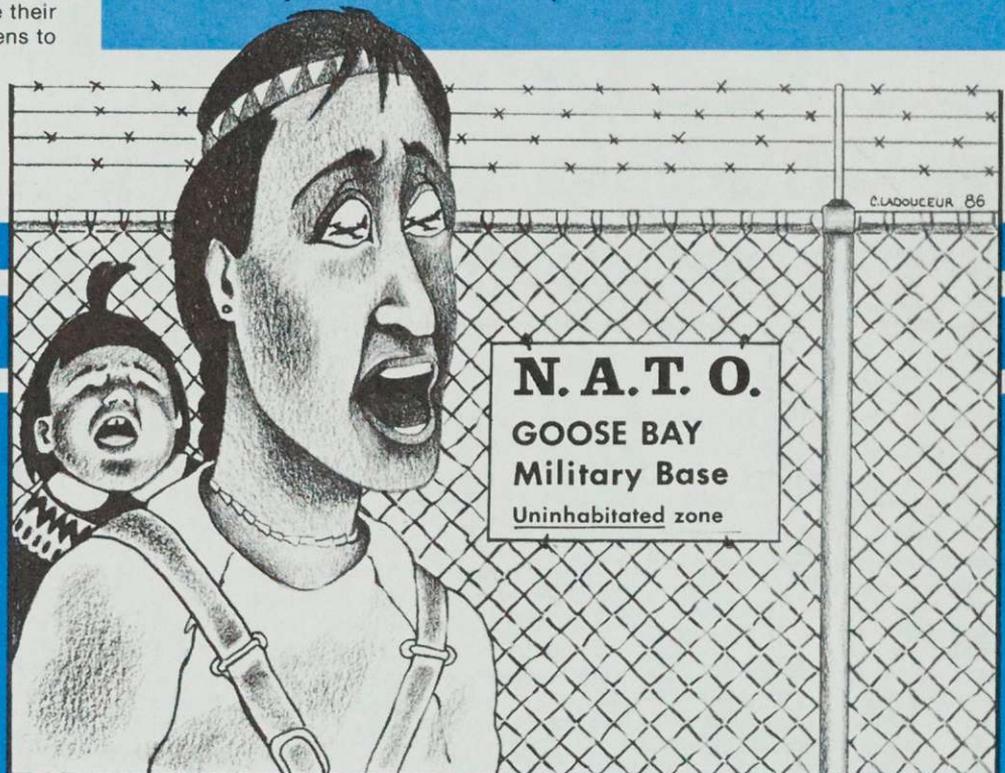
Taking up the demands of the Attikamek-Montagnais Council, this coalition has submitted briefs to the Environmental Commission in La Romaine, a native coastal village, in Quebec.

The question of establishing and reinforcing NATO military bases in Northern Quebec concerns not only those who live in the area but all Quebecers. Things happen without any real public consultation: only a few hearings were held in the far north (which is inaccessible to most people) by a commission which does not seem to have any real power to change the policies of the Department of National Defence.

The way this question has been handled confirms the indifference of Canada towards the native population, as well as the completely anti-democratic behaviour of the Department of National Defence. ○

**QUESTIONS :**

1) Are native people (Attikamek, Montagnais, Nascapi, etc.) really the only ones concerned with the debate over developing the NATO military base? If not, how do you think we should take part?



# What future do the decision-makers, politicians and military authorities have in store for Quebec's youth ?

## SOME DISTURBING FACTS FOR QUEBEC STUDENTS

*The Quebec government's contribution to education (average cost per student) has dropped sharply in the past few years.*

Claude Ryan himself made this clear in his opening remarks before a parliamentary commission on his department's budget for 1986-87: "If we use constant 1981 dollars, the expense per student in the primary and secondary sectors was \$2,648 in 1981. In 1986-87, the same expense will be no more than \$2,555, a decrease of 14%."

As for the collegiate level, if we compare the years 1981-82 and 1985-86, we obtain the following table :

	1981-82	1985-86
Total budget	\$620,309.6	\$658,223.8 *
Cientele	124,466	137,300 **
Individual cost	\$4,985	\$4,790
		(\$3,640 in constant 1981 dollars)

At the university level, since 1978-79, the government has imposed budgetary cut-backs of close to \$280 million while the number of students increased from 116,400 to 160,000. Therefore, over the last 8 years, (if inflation is taken into consideration) student subsidies dropped from \$5,295 to \$3,518 per person. All of this results in a deficit of about \$85 million and the government is planning to solve the problem by increasing tuition fees. During the same period, the government has increased loans (12%), reduced grants (6%), and added a series of restraints that deprive many young people of government financial aid for their studies.

Clearly, plans for spending on education, as well as the loan and grant plan, are very weak and inadequate; they make education less accessible but also compromise the future of an entire generation.

### Let's compare

Now that it is clear how little support students receive, let's take a close look at government investments in other sectors :

- 1) In 1983-84, the Department of National Defence spent \$130.5 million solely for feeding and clothing soldiers. (For 83,000 soldiers, this represents a total of \$16,255 per soldier).
- 2) As for Mulroney, as soon as he was elected, he wasted no time in spending \$55 million to upgrade soldiers' wardrobes (morale among members of the Navy had dropped due to the fact that their former uniform was identical to that of the Air Force and the Army).

3) As for the annual cost of a student officer in military college, our sources indicate an average figure of \$52,000. These students receive, among other things, an annual salary of \$7,000 dollars, from which a certain percentage is deducted for pension purposes.

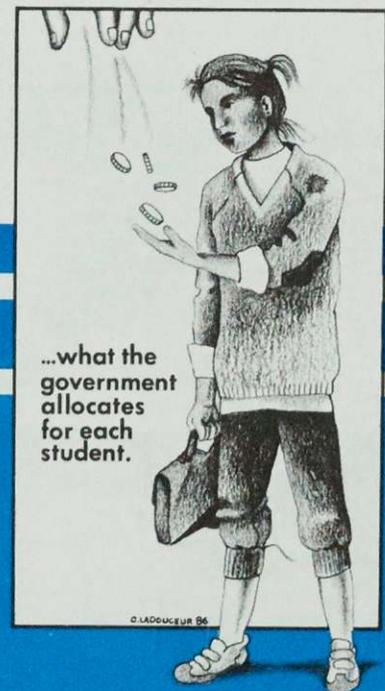
4) According to Quebec government statistics for 1985, an average annual amount of \$2,748.12 is spent on social programs for anyone under age 21. From age 21 to 29, this figure increases to an average of \$3,221.21 per year. Of course, this amount is higher than the figures we are familiar with since it includes individuals with dependents. As for a young person working 40 hours a week at minimum wage, this gives him or her an annual income of \$9,000, compared to the poverty line of \$14,000. per year.

Overall, we see that the political and economic choices of the Quebec and Canadian

governments are to the detriment of young people who are investing in their studies. We are more inclined to pay the high cost of training young soldiers than to encourage young people to educate themselves and provide themselves with good study conditions. It is not surprising that many students are forced to work part-time, if not more. Nor is it surprising that many students abandon their studies, and even less so that school marks are sometimes very disappointing. The overall motivation to study can only be influenced negatively in such a context.

### OPINIONS :

- 1) The State shouldn't make life too easy for young people. They must not be spoon-fed. They must learn to work hard for their money and their studies. Just like parents, the State cannot give financial support to young people up to age 30.



They must show they have the will and ability to get along on their own if they really want to be considered assets to society. No more handouts. We have difficult choices to make, but they must be made.

- 2) Being young today is very difficult. Proof of this fact is the alarming suicide rate among young people. According to figures from the "Objectif-santé" program, over the past 10 years the suicide rate for young Quebecers aged 15 to 24 increased from 10.3 to 17.2 persons per 100,000 (an increase of 67%). More specifically, there were 29.4 suicides per 100,000 among young boys in 1981, while among young girls the rate was 24.8 per 100,000.

According to a investigation conducted by Marie Bussi eres in a Quebec City CEGEP, 83% of the young people interviewed feel very concerned about anything related to nuclear arms. Ninety-six percent are against the arms race and do not agree with the statement that the safety of the State is directly related to the quantity of arms it has. The Quebec and Canadian governments are wrong to spend so much on the military and so little on education. Although the defense budget is increasing by an average of 7% per year, the education budget is decreasing at a dizzying rate. This makes no sense. We are spending money on destruction rather than on building a true, viable future for young people. This state of affairs not only compromises the living conditions of the current generation of workers right up until they retire, but also the advance made by our society towards its objectives of accessibility to education and the general improvement of living conditions.

#### QUESTION TO STUDENTS

Does it seem fair that the State should spend so heavily to maintain the living conditions of young military trainees and at the same time neglect the living conditions of young students ?

# Student Survey.

## 1- IDENTIFICATION :

- A) Sex : M  F   
 B) Age : \_\_\_\_\_  
 C) Level of education :  
 a) high school   
 b) college   
 c) university

2- Are you in favour of arms manufacturing and maintenance activities in Quebec ? yes  no

4- If you were unemployed and were offered a job in a munitions factory, would you take it ? yes  no

4- If you were unemployed, would you take a job in the armed forces ? yes  no

5- Do you agree with NATO's "first-strike" strategy of deterrence ? yes  no

6- What concrete action(s) would you be prepared to take against the escalating arms race ?

- a) Sign a petition   
 b) Defend the disarmament point of view in a public discussion   
 c) Write an open letter to the Prime Minister   
 d) Wear a sweater with an anti-militarization slogan   
 e) Participate in an anti-militarization, pro-disarmament demonstration   
 f) Work to support the "One F-18 or Jobs for Peace" campaign   
 g) Meet with your MP or a minister having defence-related responsibilities   
 h) Launch a concrete project along the lines of Jobs for Peace and Social Justice   
 i) Study subjects designed to help the cause of peace

j) Form a "Disarmament and Jobs for Peace" committee in your school  college  university  neighbourhood

7- I feel that Canada should withdraw from the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) yes  no

8- I feel that Canada should withdraw from the North American Air Defense Command (NORAD) yes  no

9- I feel that our economy should be directed toward the production of socially-useful goods and not arms. yes  no

10- I support the position of native people regarding the ban on low-altitude flights in Northern Quebec. yes  no

11- I demand that the State invest more in the education of young people and less in the military. yes  no

12- I will participate in the activities taking place in my area on October 25 as part of "One F-18 or Jobs for Peace" Day. yes  no

#### P.S.

Return your answers to your local teachers' union. The overall results should then be sent to :

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 Typesetting: C. Pierry Printing Inc.  
 Printing: Service d'impression CSN  
 Translation: "Le dernier mot".