

Canada

Towards the end of last year the Innu of Labrador spent 3 months protesting against military expansion at the Canadian Forces Base at Goose Bay. The actions began with the occupation of a nearby bombing range and continued as groups of people, numbering up to 200 repeatedly walked onto the runways. Although a number of the protestors spent a night or longer in jail, this action did halt the dropping of projectiles from the F-16s and Tornados of the Dutch, British and W.German air forces.

The Innu of Labrador continue to protest about the illegal seizure of their land. Their claim has been recognised but not acted upon. Instead the Canadian Government continues to give it away from under their feet. This threatens both the Innu culture and the local wildlife. Much of the land is used for military purposes and the Innu look on as low level flying increases. A NATO Tactical Fighter and Weapons Training Centre is planned for the area, as are two hydro-electric developments which would flood the region.

The Sheshatshtu Innu will soon be subjected to supersonic flights taking place over their main hunting areas. This is part of the escalation since 1980 which has resulted in a massive increase in low-level flying, the (unauthorised) use of laser technology and hangers for the West Germans to house their Tornados, F-4s and Alpha-jets.

The Canadian Government is finding the demonstrations embarrassing. The riot squads are quick to leave behind their combat gear when they see peaceful men, women and children walking and singing amongst the razor wire.

April 1989 sees the return of the low flying jets and in addition to being the trial month for 24 demonstrating Innu, is when the land on which the airbase is built is scheduled to be transferred to the Defence Department. It promised a tough line.

Support for the Innu cause is growing, both nationally and internationally. Peace and environmental groups, churches, support groups and concerned individuals have all written to the Canadian Department of Indian and Northern Development.

Belgium

In June 1988 a resolution drawn up by CACTUS was presented to the Foreign Affairs Committee of the Belgian Parliament. The resolution was supported and signed by M.P.s representing both the Flemish and Walloon Green parties, the Flemish Nationalist Party and the Flemish Labour Party.

The resolution asks for a total ban on visits of nuclear powered or armed vessels to Belgian ports.

As the resolution was left lying CACTUS lobbied to get it onto the Committee's agenda by means of a postcard and letter writing campaign. This resulted in a meeting with the leader of the Flemish Labour Party who said they had other priorities on defence.

The militarisation of the seas is now an issue in Belgium. When a recent visit by a U.S. destroyer and flotilla took place a protest action by 25 people took place.

CACTUS will be at the 16 April demo which calls for the rejection of the Lance modernisation and no redeployment for the I.M.F. systems.

Everyone welcome - CACTUS - ST-AMMUNISTRAT 13, 8000 BRUGGE 050/33.20.14

to assure the public that there is little danger. Advance publicity suggests that the campaign will claim that living next to a dump will be no more dangerous than, for example, smoking one cigarette a year. Perhaps the environmental movement can come up with a counter-campaign - "Living next to a nuclear waste dump is safer than..." (Complete in your own words).

The campaign against the low-flying military aircraft which plague the Scottish Highlands has been strengthened by the number of aircraft crashes recently, but the government have refused to review the practice.

STOP PRESS NIREX have indeed announced on March 8th that Dounreay and Sellafield are their choices for waste dump sites. They have requested permission to carry out test drilling, which may be granted before Easter, and do seem to prefer Sellafield, though the geology may mean this is not possible. If opposition does not succeed in stopping the programme, the final choice will be made in 1991, and a public enquiry held in 1992. Both sites, it is said, may eventually be needed.

Iceland

Camb is preparing a big cultural event to remind people of what participation in Nato has meant for Iceland. The 30th of March will be the fortieth anniversary of the Icelandic Parliament's decision to join NATO. CAMB has organized an art exhibition where about 20 of the best artists in Iceland will show their work as their part in the struggle against the US base and Nato. The exhibition will be from the 22nd to the 30th of March, and then there will be a big meeting on the 2nd of April. Every day there will be something happening there. Poets and writers will read from their works and all kinds of musical programmes will be on. A theatre group has written a play based on American "secret documents".

that were revealed in Iceland a year ago and show the relations of Icelandic politicians with the American Embassy and CIA before Iceland went into Nato and the base agreement between Iceland and US was made. Writers of both classical music and pop music plan to write works connected with the militarization of our land.

CAMB has invited Peter Armitage 'from Canada to come to Iceland and speak about the effect of Nato's military exercises on the life of the Innu people of Canada. He will address the meeting on the 2nd of April and will probably also meet Icelandic politicians.

At the beginning of June CAMB plans to have an action as a part of the "Disarm the Seas" week. Last year CAMB sent letters to all Fishermen's Unions in Iceland and pointed out how much damage an accident in a nuclear submarine could do to our fishing industry. CAMB also had a meeting in Reykjavik where an MP and a worker from a small fishing village which is completely dependent on the sea gave speeches.

The question of a new Nato airfield in Northern Iceland has been taken up again after a new Government came to office last October. Icelandic people are told that Nato is planning to build airfield in Iceland or East-Greenland. The Icelandic Foreign Minister Jon Baldvin Hannibalsson has said that he very much supports the idea but the government as a whole has decided that "no big new military upbuilding will be allowed in Iceland". CAMB has been working together with the farmers that own the land where they have planned to put the airfield and we are sure that they are ready to do everything to stop these plans.

details:- CAMB, PO box 5487,
Mjolinsholli 14125, Reykjavik, Iceland.
E-mail:- greenet:camb

Wales

The Royal Navy's nuclear-powered submarine HMS Tireless ran into opposition on a visit to Cardiff Docks on January 28th, when three people were arrested while trying to stop the sub entering the harbour, in a demonstration organised by South Glamorgan CND.