

R E P O R T # 4

LAWYERS' COMMITTEE ON NUCLEAR POLICY

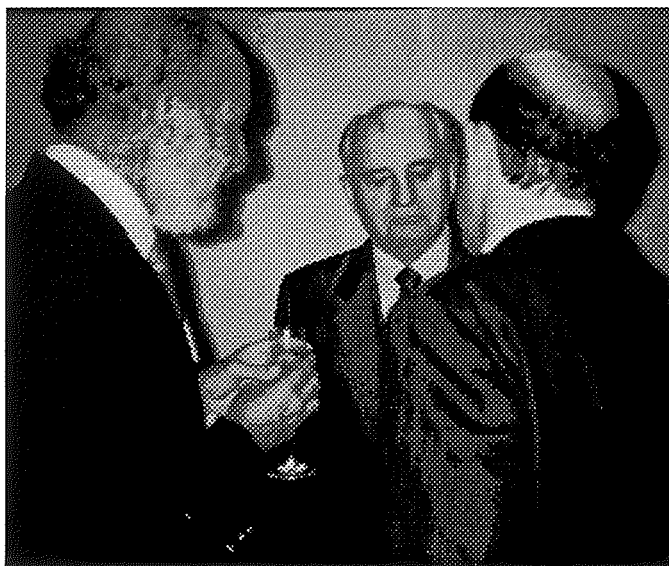
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OCTOBER 1993

Gorbachev and Dalai Lama Endorse World Court Project

In late August, Saul Mendlovitz and Richard Falk – Lawyers' Committee on Nuclear Policy (LCNP) board members – met with Mikhail Gorbachev on two LCNP projects: the World Court Project and the Arms Trade Treaty. At the meeting, Mr. Gorbachev wrote a World Court Project (WCP) support letter to the International Peace Bureau. Gorbachev gave his "wholehearted and unequivocal support to the initiative made by WHO and non-governmental organizations in their appeal to the International Court of Justice to issue an advisory opinion on the legality of using nuclear weapons."

The Dalai Lama, Tibetan spiritual and political leader, recently endorsed the WCP after Michael Mendlovitz – WCP-USA member – contacted him. The Dalai Lama, keynote speaker at the recent Parliament of the World's Religions in Chicago (see story page 2), now joins other key religious leaders, including Desmond Tutu and Paul Reeves, who support the WCP.



**Richard Falk and Mikhail Gorbachev getting serious
about ridding the world of nuclear weapons**

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ICJ Accepts WHO Request

In August, the World Health Organization (WHO) formally submitted a request for an advisory opinion on the legality of the use of nuclear weapons to the International Court of Justice (ICJ). On September 15, the ICJ invited all member states of WHO to submit documents on the legality of the use of nuclear weapons within six months. The ICJ's quick response relieved the fear the Court might refuse the case.

LCNP is preparing a legal brief (or "memorial" as the ICJ calls it) that countries might incorporate into their documents. Peter Weiss has produced an outline of the brief – a montage of LCNP's last decade of jurisprudential work – which now needs research, writing, and editing.

Parliament of the World's Religion's Considers World Court Project

From August 28 to September 8 over 250 religious leaders from around the world met in Chicago for the second Parliament of World Religions. The first Parliament, held in 1893, introduced many Eastern religions and religious leaders to the West. The 1993 Parliament's purposes were to promote the understanding and tolerance between religions and to consider how religious organizations could work together to solve critical issues facing the global community.

The People's Parliament, a concurrent assembly attended by over 6000 people of different faiths, presented seven resolutions to the Assembly of Leaders, including the World Court Project and a proposal for declaring 1995 the "United Nations Year of Non-Violence." Alyn Ware, LCNP Director, attended and promoted the WCP.

There was widespread support for the resolutions, but the Parliament, pressed for time, decided to consider the resolutions at a later date.

"Often the reason we cannot overcome a problem is that we are ignorant of its cause. Such is not the case with nuclear weapons."

—The Dalai Lama

World Court Project on Tour: South Pacific and Japan

In August, LCNP workers Alyn Ware and Pete Waack crossed the Pacific to promote the WCP. Alyn attended the South Pacific Forum in Nauru. Pete represented the WCP in Japan.

The Forum is an annual meeting of the Heads of Governments of 15 nations in the South Pacific. Alyn took the opportunity to speak with foreign ministry officials from Papua New Guinea, Vanuatu, Solomon Islands, Micronesia, Marshall Islands, Western Samoa, Cook Islands, Kiribati, and Fiji. Appointments were difficult to schedule by conventional methods. Alyn creatively appealed – successfully – for cab ride meetings with heads of governments. All the contacted countries now support the WCP. All, except Cook Islands and Kiribati who are not UN members, said they would likely vote for or possibly co-sponsor the General Assembly resolution.

The WCP peace wave struck Japan this year at the meetings and special events held annually over the anniversaries of the Hiroshima and Nagasaki bombings. Pete Waack invited by Gensuikin, the second largest peace organization, promoted the WCP. Jackie Cabasso – LCNP Consultative Council Member – also attended the Gensuikin events and included the WCP in her presentations. After a demanding and rigid schedule, Jackie continued her international organizing a week later in Kazakhstan. Cora Weiss – International Director of Peace Action – invited by Gensuikyo, the largest peace organization in Japan, incorporated the WCP into her activities.

In Tokyo, Pete met with KALENA, the International Association of Lawyers Against Nuclear Arms' Japanese affiliate. KALENA officers had met with Japanese officials to discuss the WCP; they were not supportive. KALENA members said they will keep going back until Japan agrees to at least abstain.

EarthAction August Alert on WCP

EarthAction, a global network of 800 citizens' groups, publicizes and encourages action on a timely issue each month. In September, EarthAction produced a colorful and informative alert on the WCP. Copies are available for 25 cents each from Earth Action, 30 Cottage St., Amherst, MA 01002 USA, (413) 549-8118.

WORLD COURT PROJECT INTERNATIONAL ACTION

Aotearoa (New Zealand)

Active lobbying and grassroots support appears to have moved the government of Aotearoa to support the WCP.

Mr. Doug Graham, Minister of Disarmament, said at a WCP ceremony at "The Beehive" (Parliament in Wellington) on September 28, that there was little doubt that New Zealand would vote for the WCP resolution at the UN General Assembly.

The government has changed its position considerably. In April, Mr. Don McKinnon, the Minister of Foreign Affairs, said "It is the government's view that it would be neither a certain nor necessarily an effective step at this stage to seek a declaratory judgment outlawing nuclear weapons."

The National Party (NP) governs Aotearoa. Until 1984 when it lost an election, NP welcomed nuclear weapons. Today only strong anti-nuclear public opinion holds the NP reluctantly anti-nuclear. In fact, Mr. McKinnon, has publicly stated that he thinks New Zealand's ban on nuclear weapons is wrong.

However, with an election in early November and the opposition parties solidly backing the WCP, the government appears to have reacted to the public support for the WCP. The opposition parties have gone even further, publicly declaring that they would co-sponsor the WCP General Assembly resolution.

Malaysia

The Malaysian Physicians for the Prevention of Nuclear War (MPPNW) organized a forum

on the use of nuclear weapons and the WCP. The forum was held in the City Hall in Petaling Jaya and included addresses by Dr. R.S. McCoy, Chairman of MPPNW, and Abdul Razak Abdullah Baginda, head of Strategic Studies and International Relations at the Armed Forces Defense College.

Ecuador

In a trip to Ecuador, Angie Zelter – from the UK based Institute for Law and Peace – helped convince Ecuador to co-sponsor the WCP General Assembly resolution. Ms. Zelter and Dr. Milton Paz y Mino Ecuador - IPPNW President – met with Sr. Rodrigo Yepes Enriquez, Director de Organismos Internacionales in the Ministerio de Relaciones Exteriores.

European Parliament

Mr. Ian White, European Parliament Member, filed a declaration supporting the WCP. The declaration will be open for other members to sign when the Parliament reconvenes.

United Kingdom

Frank Cook, Member of Parliament from Yorkshire, presented an Early Day Motion supporting the WCP to the UK Parliament. To date, 60 MPs have signed on.

Declarations of Public Conscience gathered in the UK will be presented at a Rally for a Nuclear Free World in Westminster Central Hall on October 9th. Speakers will include Mike Mansfield QC, Lord Donald Soper, Bruce Kent, and Hilda Lini, Health Minister of Vanuatu. Lini presented the WCP resolution to the WHA.

– continued on page 4, column 2

Please join LCNP and help cover World Court Project expenses.

(we foresee a \$11,000 1993 deficit; we need your help to continue the project)

Sustainer (\$100) _____ Member (\$30) _____ Low Income (\$15) _____ Unable But Interested (\$0) _____

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WCP Legal Brief, 2nd Edition: Get Yours Now

You're not fully briefed until you've read "The World Court Project on Nuclear Weapons and International Law" available in English, Spanish, French, German, and Japanese. This accessible, short, informative booklet applies relevant international laws to nuclear weapons, explains ICJ procedures, and outlines the WCP's objectives and significance. The revised edition sells for \$8. Damaged, first editions, and multiple copies are available at very reduced rates.

Non-Aligned Movement Forms

World Court Project Working Group

The WCP resolution was introduced to the Non-Aligned Movement (NAM) in a special meeting in New York on August 27. A NAM working group, after considering the resolution's text, will report to a full NAM meeting. If the working group's proposal is adopted, NAM, along with other co-sponsors, will present the resolution to the General Assembly in October.

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Commander Robert Green, WCP-UK Chair, and George Farebrother, WCP-UK Secretary, recently met with Simon Smith, Head of the Foreign Affairs Section on Nuclear Defense. Mr. Smith believes that the World Court opinion would be counter-productive and that the United Nations Disarmament Committee is a better vehicle for nuclear disarmament.

Zimbabwe

The Organization for Peace and Disarmament in Southern Africa recently held a rally to promote the WCP. Sidney Malunga, MP for Makokoba, urged citizens to "... join forces under the World Court Project to rid us forever of the specter of nuclear weaponry." Mrs. Nyoni, Director of the Organization of Rural Associations for Progress (OPEDISA), said that "where there is no peace, there is no development, and people do not enjoy their human rights." OPEDISA has gathered thousands of Declarations of Public Conscience.

Declaration of Public Conscience Public Presentation October 27th
Church Center, 777 UN Plaza NYC, 12:00 to 2:30 – Free – See insert

World Court Project Summary:

An initiative to seek an advisory opinion from the International Court of Justice confirming that the threat or use of nuclear weapons is illegal.

World Court Project #4

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