

PEACE NEWS NEW ZEALAND
P.O. BOX 9563
COURTENAY PLACE
WELLINGTON 1.
18/12/81.

TO FRIENDS OF PEACE NEWS NEW ZEALAND.

Greetings -

The last ten months have been frustrating in the extreme for those of us committed to publishing PNNZ. Our hopes and expectations weren't too realistic. Our aim was a monthly publication that would be a useful resource for a variety of people, especially decision makers. Our original cost estimates were exceeded significantly in printing costs alone. Anticipated funding didn't eventuate. Our hope was that we could employ a full-time worker with two or three part-time helpers. This seems to be realistic in terms of the amount of work involved in publishing and administering a project along the lines of PNNZ.

I personally found harassment to be a major problem. PNNZ mail and my own arrived blatantly opened and presumably read. Some attacks of a more subtle nature I found less easy to cope with. Later in the year this was followed by a groundless attempt to discredit PNNZ and those of us involved in publication. To quote Charles Bell, Public Affairs Officer, United States International Communications Agency, U.S. Embassy "As you may be aware, Peace News New Zealand, The People's Voice and a few individuals with similar views are attempting a 'disinformation campaign'..." in the hopes of undermining public support for the good relations our two countries enjoy... He then expanded further offering the U.S. line on the subject in question and continued saying 'making the disinformation efforts of local communists rather absurd and almost amusing ...'

It became obvious that we had taken on a larger job than we could handle with available resources. Then the Springbok Tour occurred with activist involvement at that point taking priority over much longer term work.

For months we have been looking for opportunities to make PNNZ viable. That struggle continues. We now have the strongest worker base in our 16 month life, with several good people willing to share the production administration work-load. We now have an agreement with the Wellington Media Collective that involves their training two of our workers to operate presses for PNNZ publication. In October we presented to Te Ohu Rongomau o Aotearoa (The National Peace Workshop) an uncorrected proof copy of the October 1981 issue. We returned to Wellington anticipating printing PNNZ immediately and found the Media Collective engaged in protracted discussions with the Printers' Union over some areas of concern. When these issues were resolved there were difficulties in finding Collective workers free to teach/help/print. And finally, PNNZ began to be printed, pages one, three and five complete. Two or three weeks of frustration followed which was climaxed by the A4 press ceasing to function. We took the balance of the paper and completed pages to a Wellington printer who finished the job, but mixed two pages in the process. We can now, late in December, offer our October issue.

Where do we go from here?

Te Ohu Rongomau o Aotearoa passed the following resolutions in relation to PNNZ.

1. Request that the question of co-operation of Peace News NZ and other Peace Movement publications (eg. Free Zone News, NZ Foundation Peace Studies Newsletter, CAFCINZ, CPS bulletin, etc.) be regarded as a priority agenda item for the first meeting of "Wotnot".
2. Invite the editorial board of Peace News NZ to reconstitute itself in the light of the emergence of a national coordinating body for the Peace movement in NZ. (noting the desirability of combining PNNZ policy making with meetings and decisions of the national coordinating body)
3. Endorse the proposal that PNNZ be used as the primary vehicle of communication for the Peace Movement in NZ.
4. That PNNZ be published 10 times per annum.
5. That Peace News NZ continue to offer updated information on national and international issues, eg. peace movement activities and to continue the present broad coverage on peace issues, eg. peace with justice, causes of conflict, Arms Race, Nuclear Free issues, military bases, etc.
6. That PNNZ change its stated purpose from an emphasis on lobbying 'influential' people (politicians, media people, church and labour leaders) to a more popular style, focussing on an information sharing, awareness raising publication.

A number of people have offered valued practical and moral support to us as we have sought to establish PNNZ. In particular, we would mention the NZ Catholic Commission for Evangelisation, Justice and Development, Christian World Service and the Religious Society of Friends.

We acknowledge that without the quality of support that has been forthcoming our task would have been impossible, as it is it is only very difficult.

It is our hope that PNNZ is now through its most frustrating period, and we see a more hopeful prospect for 1982.

Thanks for your support.

Peace,

David Buller
Editor.