
Part I: The International Peace Movement

Britain's anti-technology networks sponsor new disarmament campaign

by Luba George

The past few months have witnessed a well-planned resurgence of the antiwar, prodismament movement internationally. February saw a demonstration of 15,000 in Frankfurt, West Germany against the Reagan administration and U.S. involvement in El Salvador, followed by a protest demonstration against the construction of a nuclear power plant in Brokdorf, near Hamburg.

Demonstrations were staged in March throughout Great Britain involving several hundreds to thousands; in Newcastle, protesters chanted "Away with Ronald Reagan, Away with Ronald Reagan, Jobs not Bombs."

On Easter, 6,000 marched to NATO headquarters in Brussels in opposition to the stationing of medium-range missiles in Western Europe, and calling for a European-wide "nuclear-free zone." Demonstrators came from 12 European countries.

In the United States, 12,000 antiwar demonstrators gathered in New York City protesting U.S. involvement in El Salvador. The April 24-26 weekend saw a wave of demonstrations throughout the country; about 60 "events" were planned targeting nuclear weapons facilities and construction sites. A May 3 march on the Pentagon brought 20,000 peace movement members to Washington from all over the United States.

The planners

The impetus for this reactivation emerged after Ronald Reagan's electoral victory, when a conference of the leaders of the Socialist International took place on U.S. soil for the first time, under the sponsorship of Averell Harriman's German Marshall Fund. The explicit goal was to undermine the incoming U.S. administration and orchestrate 1968-style "social convulsions" against the governments of France and West Germany as well. It was here that the revival of the Bertrand Russell ban-the-bomb movement was planned.

The international disarmament movement is, as it was under Bertrand Russell, an extension of the anti-

technology ecology movement created as an instrument of population control. The leaders and institutions of the "peace" effort are the same individuals who over the years have deployed, with the connivance of the mass media, to undermine American and European nuclear energy development, the U.S. space program, and general scientific and high-technology development.

During the same week in December the Socialist International conference was held, an important strategy session between Fabian church leaders and Euro-socialist spokesmen took place. E. P. Thompson, British historian and leader of the newly formed European Nuclear Disarmament (END) movement—an offshoot of the Russell peace apparatus—came to New York to plan "a course of action" with Riverside Church leaders, based on Thompson's manifesto entitled "Protest and Survive."

Thompson had arrived in the United States in late June, when Reagan's nomination was certain and his election a probability, to begin setting up the revived antiwar movement.

In 1968, the Riverside Church was in the forefront of Columbia University's "left" experiments, social engineering projects, and war resisters' movement. Reverend William Sloane Coffin, senior minister of the Riverside Church, set up a series of classes on "The Politics of Disarmament" in December 1980 at the offices of the Democratic Socialist Organizing Committee, together with Thompson.

Coffin's Disarmament Program also organized the recent march from Columbia University to the United Nations to protest massacres in El Salvador, whose featured speakers included terrorism advocate Abbie Hoffman. Cora Weiss, assistant director of the Riverside Church Disarmament Program, cochaired the Agenda Eighties conference held at the church last August; the Agenda Eighties is the domestic U.S.

“deindustrialization” counterpart to the *Global 2000 Report*.

Other key churches and religious institutions involved in the new disarmament movement include:

- **The World Council of Churches**, of which nondenominational Riverside Church is a leading member. Dominated by Episcopalians, the council originated the “global village” concept popularized by Marshall McLuhan, which promotes appropriate technologies, postindustrialism, and population control.

- **The Inter-Church Peace Council** maintained by nine Netherlands churches, including members of the Society of Jesus; it was the first religious council in Europe to take a strong disarmament and antinuclear stand.

- **Pax Christi International**, a long-standing group headed by Cardinal Alfrink, the key religious spokesman for the European disarmament movement. The secretary of the British Pax Christi, Monsignor Bruce Kent, a “progressive and Jesuit,” is the new leader of the Russell-founded Campaign for Nuclear Disarmament (CND).

Kent works closely with E. P. Thompson and Lord Fenner Brockway of the World Disarmament Campaign. Pax Christi is involved as well in “political prisoners” work, criminal justice, housing protests, and other radical issues. A branch of Pax Christi was established in the United States in 1977.

The case of Archbishop Runcie

Archbishop of Canterbury Robert K. Runcie, leader of the Church of England, is attempting to mobilize Americans into a Bertrand Russell-style antiwar movement during his current three-week tour of the United States. The archbishop is one of the most consistent international advocates of nuclear disarmament, curbs on atomic energy, and population control.

In a Washington, D.C. speech to the National Press Club on April 28, Runcie stated that “the world is dangerous because all regimes in varying degrees . . . deal in lies and propaganda which create the possibility of doing the unthinkable, destroying human life and civilization.” He called for the formation of a world disarmament movement to force a ban on tactical nuclear weapons, a complete freeze on nuclear testing, and strict nuclear nonproliferation.

Runcie’s subordinates in the United States are pursuing this effort. Seventy-six Episcopal bishops from both wings of the church sent a letter to President Reagan on April 20 demanding the immediate cessation of all U.S. military aid and economic assistance to the government of El Salvador. And when 20,000 protesters marched on the Pentagon May 3 with the same demands, hoisting “ban the bomb” slogans as well as voicing support for the El Salvador insurgents, the turnout was

to a large degree the result of organizing by Protestant churches, with the Episcopalians as the dominant force.

The Episcopalians are collaborating at various levels with the Society of Jesus, their predecessors in forming test-tube “movements.” The present form of Episcopal-Jesuit alliance in this sphere came out of the Interreligious Peace Colloquium (IRPC), a church-related strategy planning group founded in 1975 by former U.S. Secretary of State Cyrus Vance, himself a leading Episcopalian. Under Episcopal-Jesuit guidance, the organization also comprises Jewish and Islamic religious leaders. It was established for the purpose of “encouraging leaders in the faith communities to develop social doctrine, and sensitize their own people with respect to the prophetic teachings reflecting on the outstanding social problems of our times—the misuse of technology, disarmament, problems of mass poverty, human rights, the role of private property, quality of life . . . and the sharing of information across faiths.”

Vance founded the IRPC in Bellagio, Italy, while he was still an advisory council member at the Ditchley Foundation, a post he formally left when he took over Carter’s State Department. Ditchley is an elite London-based institution a couple of notches above the Council on Foreign Relations or Trilateral Commission. During the pre-Carter years, Vance also served as coordinator of the *CFR 1980s Project*, a 30-volume report that set the parameters for his State Department’s Global 2000 project.

To achieve the *1980s Project* Global 2000 goal of vast cutbacks in industrial capacity and population potential, the IRPC perceived that traditional apostolic church doctrine—the Augustinian doctrine of the perfectability of man through ever-increasing mastery of nature and “human nature”—had to be replaced by fundamentalism, or irrationalism.

The IRPC’s 1977 Lisbon conference on “World Faiths and the New World Order” issued a new credo:

We reject the facile credulity accorded exclusivist rationalism and the scientific method during the past century throughout the West, and infecting now most of the globe. Toward this narrow approach to religion, we who believe in God declare ourselves “the new skeptics.”

Religion as a “movement” under charismatic leaders has usually proved more creative and effective than “church religions.”

This manifesto sheds additional light on two phenomena: 1) Vance’s subsequent complicity in placing into power the Ayatollah Khomeini and his “Islamic fundamentalism” to supplant former projects for Middle East modernization in Iran, and 2) Vance’s role as co-founder of the Vienna-based Palme Commission on Disarmament, an East-West body established in 1980.