
PACIFIC BULLETIN

A Publication of the Pacific Concerns Resource Center,
In Support of the Nuclear Free and Independent Pacific Movement
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NUCLEAR FREE AND INDEPENDENT PACIFIC WEEK ISSUE: MARCH 1984

March 1 - 10, 1984 is Bikini Day/Nuclear Free and Independent Pacific Week, commemorating the 30th anniversary of the "Bravo" hydrogen bomb test at Bikini Atoll. On March 1, 1954, despite weather reports that winds were blowing toward inhabited islands, the U.S. exploded its largest above ground hydrogen bomb at Bikini which severely contaminated hundreds of Marshallese people, 28 American weathermen and 23 Japanese fishermen (on the Lucky Dragon) with dangerous radioactive fallout. The 66 U.S. nuclear bomb tests in the Marshalls have left a legacy of thyroid cancers, miscarriages and other health problems for the exposed people.

Throughout the Pacific and Pacific Rim, rallies, demonstrations, forums, educational programs and cultural presentations will be organized. A primary focus for this year's Nuclear Free and Independent Pacific Week actions is opposition to the increasing militarization of the Pacific as demonstrated in the RIMPAC military exercises to be held in June 1984 in

Hawaii. For this reason, the RIMPAC campaign is a major feature in this issue of the newsletter.

As far as we know the following activities have been scheduled for NFIP 1984 Week: An anti-nuclear march is being held in Tahiti on March 3; in Belau a gathering to reconfirm support for the first nuclear-free constitution in the world is being held; a joint rally of the peace and disarmament groups active in the NFIP movement will be held in Shizuoka and Tokyo, Japan, including Pacific Island speakers; Australia is hosting a national speaking tour of NFIP activists from the Marshall Islands and Belau; the USNFIP Network is sponsoring a national speaking tour of Darlene Keju of the Marshall Islands and Giff Johnson, NFIP expert on U.S. policy on Micronesia; the Greenham Common Women's Peace Camp will hold an NFIP gathering and the Hawaii NFIP groups are organizing a potluck meeting and a forum.

Please inform us of your NFIP activities that we can include in our next issue.

February: Waitangi Treaty Protest Month

Over 6000 people in Aotearoa (NZ), the largest number ever, made known their opposition to the fraudulent treaty of Waitangi on 6 February, when they participated in the Waitangi protest march. This year, the march has been renamed "Te Hikoi Ki Waitangi", replacing "march" and its military connotations with "hikoi" which means to move forward with a purpose and a clear vision.

This year's hikoi began on 28 January, and covered a distance of over 200 miles, culminating in a tremendous show of support at Waitangi marae. Maori people in their countryside showed their aroha for the hikoi by accomodating the participants and providing them with food and shelter at their maraes along the route.

Participants in the hikoi included a number of Maori groups from both tribal and urban areas, which came together under the flag of Kotahitanga, an umbrella organization, which represents the concept of unity among all Maori people. Every Maori tribe was represented at the hikoi. They were joined by Pacific Islanders who live in Aotearoa, a number of

Pakeha (whites) from Aotearoa, and representatives from the Hawaiian, Kanak (New Caledonia), American Indian and South American movements.

Signed on 6 February 1840, the treaty of Waitangi guaranteed the Maori inalienable rights to their lands, fisheries and forests in return for the right of first option on Maori land purchases for the crown. In addition, the British were to protect the Maori from unscrupulous



Maori Elders leading the Hikoi to Waitangi

Stop RIMPAC 1984

RIMPAC stands for both the nations which rim the Pacific and the large-scale military training exercise sponsored by the United States in which these nations participate. Beginning in 1971, the United States has invited the nations of Australia, New Zealand, Canada, and, since 1980, Japan, to participate in this joint military training exercise, an exercise which has included the bombing of Kaho'olawe, one of the eight major islands of Hawaii. In 1984, France will join the RIMPAC nations in these military maneuvers.

The size of the RIMPAC exercises is awesome. In 1978 it included the nuclear aircraft carrier USS Enterprise and 41 other warships, 255 military planes and 22,000 personnel. In 1980 it included 41 naval ships, 200 aircraft and 20,000 personnel. In 1982 the exercises involved 60 warships and submarines, including the aircraft carrier USS Ranger, 120 aircraft, and 29,000 sailors and marines.

RENEWED EFFORTS TO STOP WASTE DUMPING

Catholic groups in Micronesia and Japan have consolidated their efforts to sponsor a petition campaign which calls for the Japanese government to forgo its plan to dump nuclear waste in the Pacific Ocean immediately.

It is set to start on March 1, 1984, and go on for a year.

Despite a strong opposition from the Pacific Island Nations and from the international community, the Japanese government is still contemplating to carry on its dumping plan by diverse means. To allow Japan to carry out its plan would pave a path that the U.S. and other countries would take and soon the Pacific Ocean would become a nuclear garbage dump.

They are asking the people from all over the world to join them in their opposition to nuclear waste dumping in the ocean. Their struggle is a symbolic act of solidarity and represents the combined efforts of all concerned people who are striving for a Nuclear-Free Pacific and a Nuclear-Free World.

For More Information Write:

Campaign Against Nuclear Waste Dumping
in the Pacific

Sr. Yasuko Shimizu, MMB

Campaign Director

P.O. Box 136

Saipan, CM 96950

The RIMPAC lasts nearly one month and integrates a variety of actions, including ship to shore shelling, anti-submarine, torpedo and counter vessel actions, as well as the jamming of "enemy" intelligence actions.

The RIMPAC military training exercises culminate with the coordinated shelling and bombing of the Hawaiian Island of Kaho'olawe.

Under the control of the U.S. military since 1941, Kaho'olawe has been used primarily as a bombing target for Navy ships. However, in 1976 Kaho'olawe became the focus for a Hawaiian cultural reawakening, when a group of Native Hawaiian activists and their supporters began a series of "illegal" occupations of the island to protest the Navy's control and abuse of the land. The protesters presented a clear indigenous response to the Navy's violent destruction. From the strength of a traditional Hawaiian relationship to the land, the Protect Kaho'olawe 'Ohana (extended family) was born.

Historically, Kaho'olawe has played a significant, if not major role in ancient Hawaiian religion and life. The western-most part of the Island, Lae o ke ala i kahiki (Pathway to Tahiti) was said to be a key directional point, forming a navigational triangle for journeys to Tahiti, Aotearoa and other southerly islands.



Hakioawa Bay on Kaho'olawe

Through the efforts of the 'Ohana, Kaho'olawe has been recognized as an important historical site, when the entire island was placed on the U.S. National Register of Historical Places. The 'Ohana has restored Kaho'olawe's cultural integrity by reviving traditional Hawaiian practices, skills and crafts through the construction of traditional house structures, continued pursuit of further research from native resources to reveal the Hawaiian significance of Kaho'olawe.

In questioning the military's jurisdiction to bomb Kaho'olawe the 'Ohana exposed the heart of American military domination of the Pacific. Because of its strategic location in the mid Pacific, Hawaii historically has played a crucial role in the expansionist foreign policies of the United States. Prior to World War II, Hawaii became the first line of defense for the U.S. as it fought for control of the Pacific with Japan. Today, the sphere of American military domination stretches across the Pacific and well beyond into the Indian Ocean and the oil-rich Persian Gulf.

In order to secure its control of the Pacific region, the U.S. must maintain strong alliances in the region and get them to bear a greater share of the cost of military protection against insurgent national liberation struggles. The RIMPAC exercises are the largest naval exercises conducted in the Pacific and Indian Oceans. These exercises are an important part of the U.S. strategy to secure the command of the seas of the Pacific region. Their significance can be better appreciated when we recall that prior to the U.S. invasion of Grenada, the Ranger forces which invaded Grenada had just recently conducted the "Ocean Venture" training exercises at Vieques in which the invasion of Grenada was simulated. In the context of the Pacific, RIMPAC is excellent training for intervention by the U.S., France, Australia, New Zealand, Japan or Canada in any of the major national liberation movements in the region, from the Fretilin in East Timor, to the Kanak Independence Front in New Caledonia and the National Democratic Front in the Philippines.

If successful, our efforts to stop the RIMPAC '84 military exercises, especially to stop the bombing of Kaho'olawe during those military exercises, can make a significant contribution to the de-militarization of the Pacific.

For More Information Contact:

Protect Kaho'olawe 'Ohana
P.O. Box H
Kaunakakai, Hawaii 96748

~~~~~ What you can do ~~~~~

**(1) Circulate Petitions:** Please Circulate petitions protesting the bombing of Kaho'olawe as part of the RIMPAC '84 Exercises.

**(2) Write Letters and Postcards of Protest:** Letters and/or postcards should be directed to:

United States of America  
President Ronald Reagan  
The White House  
Washington D.C.

Australia  
Prime Minister Robert Hawke  
Parliament House  
Canberra, ACT 2600

Japan  
Prime Minister Yasuhiro Nakasone  
Office of the Prime Minister  
1-6-1 Nagato-cho  
Chiyoda-Ku, Tokyo 100

France  
President Francois Mitterand  
Palais de Versailles  
Paris, France

New Zealand  
Right Honorable R.D. Muldoon  
Prime Minister  
Private Bag  
Wellington, New Zealand

Hawaii  
Governor George Ariyoshi  
The State Capitol, 5th Floor  
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

**(3) Write Letters Of Protest To The Editor:** please send clippings to the PKO in Hawaii

**(4) Organize Delegations Embassies Of Nations Participating in RIMPAC:** Such delegations should be broad-based representing a cross-section of the community such as church representatives, labor leaders, students, women's organizations, etc.

**(5) ORGANIZE PROTESTS AGAINST THE RIMPAC EXERCISES:** These could take place when fleets are leaving for Hawaii or during the course of the exercises.

~~~~~ Update ~~~~~

HAWAII AND JAPAN SOURCES HAVE CONFIRMED THAT THE RIMPAC '84 EXERCISES WILL BE HELD IN HAWAII FROM MAY 28 THROUGH JUNE 30. THESE SOURCES ALSO INDICATE THAT FRANCE WILL ALSO PARTICIPATE IN THE EXERCISES.

foreigners seeking land. It soon became clear to the Maori that the British had no intention of honoring their treaty, and that the treaty was merely a stop-gap measure to buy time in order to bring in the military forces they required to impose the true aims of British imperialism.

Te Hikoi Ki Waitangi is one facet of the continuing struggle of the Maori against British colonialism. One purpose of the Hikoi is to expose the treaty as a fraud, and to educate people as to what the treaty promises, how it has been manipulated to the advantage of the British, and how this abuse of the treaty affects Maori people today, impacting directly on their current socio-economic status. Another Maori demand is that the treaty be honored. Until it is, the signing of the treaty cannot be considered anything but invalid and fraudulent and cannot be celebrated.

Further, the Hikoi serves as a vehicle by which the concept of Maori Mana Motuhake can be explained and expanded on. This is the concept of Maori sovereignty and self-determination, that is, the inalienable right of the Maori and of all indigenous peoples

to control their own lands, lives, governments and destinies.

Hikoi '84 was the largest ever. More people were involved in the Hikoi than in the "celebrations". It brought together Maoris of all ages to strive towards Maori Mana Motuhake. As promised by Maori leaders, the Hikoi was peaceful throughout, with no violence or arrests.

In spite of the huge show of opposition, the "celebrations" did not stop, although for the first time ever, governor general Sir David Beattie agreed to meet with 100 representatives from the Hikoi. Following a good deal of discussion, however, Beattie's proposal was rejected because the majority felt that the entire Hikoi should be able to observe the meeting.

It is evident that the Maori movement has made great strides, growing stronger every year. Their perseverance brings them increasingly closer to their goals: To stop the "celebrations"; to end their oppression and to strive for Maori Mana Motuhake, Maori sovereignty. As one young Maori woman put it, "We don't just fight against the treaty on the 6th of February, we are fighting against it all year long." Kia Kaha, Kia Mana, Kia Mau.

RESOURCES AVAILABLE FROM OTHER GROUPS:

281. **Hawaiian Sovereignty**, by Poka Laenui (July 10, 1983). A brief background of the Nation of Hawaii. This paper is a condensed version of almost two centuries of human activities. 36 pages - U.S., Canada, Hawaii and Micronesia \$3.20; Europe \$4.40; Pacific and Asia \$5.20.
282. **Muroroa, The Dirtiest Island In The Pacific Will Be One-Hundred Bombs Old In 1984**, by Marie-Therese and Bengt Danielsson (December 1983). Updated report of the destruction that the French nuclear tests have caused at Muroroa. This resource also contains an article that deals with Australia's and New Zealand's scientific missions to Muroroa. 18 pages - U.S., Canada, Hawaii and Micronesia \$1.20; Europe \$1.90; Pacific and Asia \$2.10.
283. **Statement On New Caledonia Delivered by the Hon. Father Walter H. Lini, Prime Minister of Vanuatu, To The 14th South Pacific Forum, Canberra Australia.** (29-30 August 1983). 3 pages - U.S., Canada, Hawaii and Micronesia \$0.65; Europe \$1.50; Pacific and Asia \$1.15.
284. **Statement to the 38th Session of the United Nations General Assembly by the Hon. Father Walter H. Lini, Prime Minister of the Republic of Vanuatu** (Sept. 30, 1983). 26 pages - U.S., Canada, Hawaii and Micronesia \$1.20; Europe \$1.90; Pacific and Asia \$2.20.
285. **The Other Side of Hawaii** by Christoph Muhlemann (Swiss Review of World Affairs, August 1983). An article that looks at the issues surrounding the growth of the Hawaiian political and cultural movement. 6 pages - U.S., Canada, Hawaii and Micronesia \$0.50; Europe \$0.80; Pacific and Asia \$0.85.

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