

Dear Friends,

Looking back on 1985 from the standpoint of the Psychology of War and Peace, I think we can say that it was a good year - not by accident, but because we, along with the rest of the American and World's people, made it so. It was the year of the Summit in Geneva. True we did not elect a peace president in 1984, when the class worked hard on the elections, but the polls showed the results. The people voted for peace! Reagan had to go to Geneva - it was on that basis that he was elected. And it was not the year of the bombing of Nicaragua. True, the bombing goes on in El Salvador and the Contra terror goes on from Honduras, but Reagan's hand was stayed from unleashing the B-52's just as Nixon's hand was stayed from using nuclear weapons on Vietnam in 1969 - for the same reason - the American and World's peoples will not accept it! The type of consciousness raising about Central America that went on in our class is now going on in church sanctuaries and trade union halls throughout the U.S.

Looking forward to 1986, we have two groups being set up for the spring semester of the Psychology of War and Peace: Central America and South Africa. Once again, I expect that the students will be involved in history as it is unfolding, rather than waiting for it to be completed. Angelina Diaz, along with Charlie Berthoud as our "resident expert" on Central America, will be leading one group that plans to work on some kind of sister clinic, sister school, or sister city arrangement with Nicaragua, perhaps in conjunction with District 1199. Jadd Morgan, along with Nomathemba Sithole as our "resident expert" on South Africa, will be leading the other group that plans to work on refugee aid to South Africans.

A lot of work has gone into improving the course this year. Two groups of students worked with me last spring. One group, including Angelina, followed up on the work in the Hispanic community in conjunction with 1199. Another group did oral histories of peace activists, organized for the April Actions in Washington, and prepared a book for Wesleyan Freshpeople about opportunities : - for involvement in peace and social justice at Wesleyan (the "Green Book"). And this fall, being on sabbatical, I have been writing a pair of books to be used as main readings in the course: 1) The American Peace Movements: History, Root Causes, and Future; and 2) The Development of Consciousness in Peace Activists. If you wish copies of these little books, please send me a note, and I will have them sent to you.

I always appreciate hearing from you and keeping up with your lives after Wesleyan, so come see me or drop me a note. It was a special pleasure this year to see Evelyn Gonzalez in New York, where she is teaching school in the Barrio, and to read the letters from Paul Spivey who was writing from South Africa. I hope that both of them can come and lecture to the course this year. Julia Arnsten is also teaching school in New York and enjoying it. Martha Haakmat, who would otherwise have been a TA this year, is off to Rome, promising to write to us as our "European correspondent."

In addition to my teaching at Wesleyan this year, I will be involved in various exciting peace projects that are international in scope. I am the organizer of a special symposium to be held in May in Seville, Spain, in which the world's experts on aggression (anthropologists, psychologists, political scientists, physiologists, etc) will gather to draft a "Statement on Violence" to be disseminated throughout the world by UNESCO. The main theme of the statement, which is to be in simple language, will be to dispel the myth that violence, especially war, is unavoidable because it is part of human nature. Also, I am part of an ad-hoc coalition in New York that is trying to put together a "Peace Summit" of the US and USSR peace movements in May or June, timed to coincide with the Reagan-Gorbachev Summit and mass demonstrations for peace. The Peace

Summit would draft a Peoples Peace Treaty to be signed and exchanged by public organizations in the two countries (churches, schools, women's organizations, trade unions, etc.). And Lindsay and I are also planning to attend a meeting of European Psychologists for Peace to be held in August in Finland. All in all, it promises to be an exciting year in 1986!

I wish you a good year in 1986 as well, and, above all I wish you....

Peace, David