

Christmas, 1986

Dear Friends,

I am enclosing three circulars that reflect a new unity of the work at Wesleyan that I have shared with you over the years, a unity of basic science and the quest for world peace: the Seville Statement on Violence; the People's Appeal for Peace; and The American Peace Movements.

The Seville Statement on Violence was written and signed by scientists from around the world at a week-long conference that I helped to organize this May in Spain. It states in categorical terms that there is no instinct for war, and that "the same species who invented war is capable of inventing peace." The Seville Statement is being endorsed and used in educational programs all around the world. Latest word is that it was endorsed at the annual meeting of the American Anthropological Association. A worldwide movement is underway to have the Statement endorsed and disseminated by UNESCO in the same way as their Statements on Race, which reached and influenced over a billion people in the struggle against racism and apartheid. The history of the Seville Statement goes back to those of you who worked with me in the Wesleyan seminar on Biopsychology and the Mass Media, and it owes much to Sarah Bosch and her classmates at Wesleyan who worked on the background paper (in press), entitled: The myth that war is intrinsic to human nature discourages action for peace by young people. Through partial correlation techniques used to analyze extensive questionnaire data from Wesleyan and two community colleges we show that belief in such a myth is an independent causal determinant that discourages action for peace.

The People's Appeal for Peace is the first major joint American-Soviet peace movement campaign, and is the culmination of years of work that I have done for American-Soviet friendship. Students in the Psychology of War and Peace at Wesleyan this fall circulated the petition and obtained signatures from almost half of the student body, which they sent to the Campaign to have it exchanged with a similar group of Soviet students. When the petitions arrive with Soviet signatures, the students will start a correspondence that can be used in next year's class to develop further student-to-student diplomacy. Please make use of the Appeal in your own school or community, writing or calling the Campaign office for materials, and by all means have them activate the exchange provision.

The American Peace Movements book was published this spring and has achieved something of a phenomenon in the peace movement. It was summarized as the lead article in the Unity Handbook that was put out to lay the groundwork for the merger of SANE and the FREEZE, the largest merger in the history of American peace movements. The first printing was sold out, and I just got copies this week from the second printing (available as indicated in the enclosed brochure). This book was developed as part of the curriculum of the Psychology of War and Peace at Wesleyan, and, for the first time, was read in its final form in the course this fall. Many professors and teachers from around the country have told me that they plan to have their bookstores order it as reading for courses next year.

Another book being developed for the Psychology of War and Peace course is to be titled Psychology for Peace Activists. Based on the lives of the greatest peace activists of 20th Century America, this book was read in draft form by the students in the course this fall.. I plan to write the final version next month when Lindsay and I take a brief winter vacation on the beaches of Cuba, and it should be published in the spring.

Despite these many activities, the rat lab continues to function well. In the spring of 1986, the lab course placed lesions in the reticular tegmental nucleus of female rats that showed competitive fighting, but the lesions were too small and the fighting was not abolished. Controls. In the fall, Mercedes Delgado, Karen Craddock, and Maria Santoro repeated the experiment but used larger

lesions, and this time the results were successful. Competitive fighting was abolished. These data expand on the hypothesis that the reticular tegmental nucleus is the site of the offense motivational mechanism as was published earlier this year by me in *Physiology and Behavior*, where it was shown that intermale offense is abolished by such lesions while defense and predation remain unimpaired. In the lab course this spring, Mercedes and Karen will be TA's and the students will try to replicate their results for publication.

The War/Peace course continues to mature. The students have established a tradition of activity that engages them directly in the issues of our times. In the spring, Jadd Morgan and Nomathemba Sithole directed a South Africa study group, and Jadd carried on the tradition in the fall. Their project was a material aids drive for the ANC school in Tanzania, and the materials will be shipped this spring along with similar collections from Yale and other schools. A Central America study group was headed by Angelina Diaz and Charlie Berthoud in the spring and by Carol Gray and Cathy Cowles in the fall. Not only did they collect material aids for schools in Nicaragua (which have been shipped through the New Haven Sister Cities program), but also Charlie went to Nicaragua as a volunteer for Witness for Peace and Cathy is on her way with a group to build an art museum in Nicaragua over the Christmas break. This year we started a new group in the fall, led by Kathy Wood, that used the People's Appeal for Peace, as described above. They students also ran an evening of rock music and political "rap" to raise money for the projects.

The course on Evolution of Social Behavior continues to evolve, as the students rewrite the curriculum every year with original papers on the topics where the course is weak. No less than 15 student papers, many by you who receive this Christmas letter, are now on the reading list - too many to list here! The cultural anthropology portion of the course is the one that is expanding most rapidly, as we have added sections on evolution of the state, economic systems, etc.

It is very gratifying to hear from those of you who are alumni of these Wesleyan courses, and to discover that you are making good use of them. Maria Mead wrote from San Francisco that she is starting to study journalism and is working with Central American refugees. Grace Simonson wrote from Boston where she has moved with her husband after "six years on a dirt-road farm in Maine" and where she is at Tufts in Veterinary Medicine, perhaps switching to Human Medicine. Mike and Pam Edwards are also in Cambridge, where Mike is "weathering the Reagan Dark Ages" for science funding and continuing basic research on brain development. Another Cambridger is Heather Schroeder, who writes that she is a freelance medical writer and hoping to move to work in public television. Richard Ladd has moved to New Jersey and remarried, October 4 to Carolyn May Meernik. Mike Lehman has taken a tenure trace position the Univ. of Cincinnati Anatomy Dept and has temporarily shelved his rock music to set up a lab. Jon Mink and Janet Cranshaw are finishing up at Washington University Medical School. Around New Haven I have a chance to see Chino Ayala, Carlton Barnswell, and others, Chino working as an architect, Carlton finishing in Public Health and Medical School at Yale. Susan Chao is finishing at Optometry School and SunHi Lee was, last I heard, getting ready to enroll in Medical School. Danny Rosenblatt came by recently as he prepares to enter graduate school in cultural anthropology. Mike Solomon, before going to law school, wrote from China, half way through a trip around the world. Jeanette Talavera has returned to New York with her MD from Dominican Republic and a very objective view of North America which she shared with me at a lunch in New York recently.

Since I am sending this out before Christmas, I am sorry that I cannot acknowledge the cards that I will be receiving in the next few weeks, but please send them anyway and keep in touch. It is your development that makes our work at Wesleyan worthwhile!

Lindsay sends her love. And I hope not only to hear from you all, but to see many of you if you have a chance to come by Wesleyan or the New Haven/Branford area.

Peace, David