

Dear Friends,

As you see by the stationery, the Seville Statement on Violence has grown in scope and influence. A high point came at the end of August when a year's politicking culminated in endorsement of the Statement by the Council of the American Psychological Association, as described in the enclosed article. The Seville Statement was also sent out in a mail ballot to all members of the American Anthropological Association and was endorsed overwhelmingly. So, any of you who are teaching should use the Statement in your teaching since it is now the official policy of American Psychology and Anthropology (I sent you a copy last year, but will send another if you've misplaced it).

The Seville Statement says that nothing in biology prevents us from abolishing war. The reverse, positive side, that something in society enables us to abolish war was implied in the great historical event that took place this month in Washington: the Summit signing of the INF treaty which, for the first time, abolishes a whole class of nuclear weapons and sets the precedent of on-site verification. A new era has begun; the vision of peace is emerging!

The timing could not be better for my new book, *Psychology for Peace Activists*. This is surely the most important work I have ever done, and I do hope that all of you will order a copy (order form enclosed). It is not only a handbook for peace activists (and probably few of you feel that you fit that description). What is much more is that it is literally a new psychology as well as a critique of existing psychology. Unlike many psychologies that emphasize "abnormal behavior," here is a psychology that is based upon "normality," taking the great peace activists of our Century as examples of consciousness development that we can emulate. The book has become the cornerstone of my teaching, not only in the *Psychology of War and Peace*, but also in a new course, *Seminar in Consciousness Development*, and I use it as an example of contemporary psychology to begin the *Evolution of Social Behavior*. It turns out that the consciousness development of peace activists is necessarily similar to the consciousness development of anyone who would make a contribution to human progress, whether in science, public services national liberation, civil rights, etc.

As you might imagine, much of my energy this year went into projects related to peace. The *People's Appeal for Peace* culminated with half a million signatures in the US and something like 15 million (!) in the USSR on the first ever joint US/Soviet peace petition. In the summer, Lindsay and I served as staff aboard the Maxim Gorky cruise ship, with US and Soviet passengers, sailing down the Volga River. I was responsible for the seminar series, which was truly revolutionary, as Soviet experts discussed an insight 'view of "perestroika." Earlier, in May, I was one of 50 representatives of as many major peace organizations of the US at a world meeting of peace group: convened by the Soviet Peace Committee. All of this activity has helped create the positive pressure that led to the historic INF treaty. And, of course there was the negative pressure put in the defeat of "Star Wars" candidates in last November's elections and the investigations of the "Irangate" affair and condemnations of aid to the Contras. I know that many of you have been involved in opposing the Contras and want to congratulate you on a job done - so far. But, of course, none of these struggles are over yet!

Teaching this year has been rewarding as it has been set within the context of such important international events. The *Psychology of War and Peace* had two sections this fall: one on apartheid and one on US/Soviet relations. Karen Murray and Kelly Craig led an especially successful group on apartheid, which, among other things, raised money at a party and collected clothing for the ANC school in Tanzania. The letter that they sent with the clothing is so beautiful that I enclose it for all of you to read. Dennis Murphy and Carlotta Abrams led the other group on US/Soviet relations, which was especially timely in view of the Summit and INF treaty. Several students went

to the demonstration in Washington where a human chain linked the White House and Soviet Embassy to celebrate the treaty. They made a videotape which was then shown to the class along with interviews made on campus. To quote from one student paper: "By participating in these things, I indeed felt, in my small way I was involved in 'the making of history.' For the first time, I had a picture of myself in the larger picture of the world because I was working, not for just myself, but for the advancement of all people."

There was more overlap than in the past by students in the lab and in the War/Peace and Consciousness Development courses, with students taking part in both. Three students are working in the lab this year: Cyrillene Crichlow, Michael West, and Valarie Jackson. We are trying to wrap up the study on midbrain tegmental lesions that abolish competitive fighting, as well as begin to work out the pathways to the various motor patterning mechanisms of offense. As is so common in science, the initial positive data have been hard to replicate because of the many technical difficulties that can (and do!) arise in experiments.

I am planning a full integration of the themes of aggression research and the war/peace issues this spring when I put out a book to be entitled *The Aggression Systems: Human Aspects; Evolution; Brain Mechanisms; and Dynamics*.

I will hold off on news until I get Christmas cards or letters from you in response to this letter (I didn't get many last year!). Instead, I note with pride how many of you are taking part in the Neuroscience meetings with important research: Mike Edwards with Identification of Radial Glial Cells in CNS with New Immunohistochemical Marker; Mike Lehman with Suspensions of Fetal Suprachiasmatic Nucleus Restore Circadian Locomotor Rhythms (Mike, I'm sorry to have been out of town when you came to Wesleyan!); Jon Mink with Effect of Pallidal Inactivation on Trained Wrist Movements in the Monkey; Jane Witten with Clonally Related Neurons in *Manduca sexta* Express Different Putative Transmitters; and John Zook with An in vitro Preparation of the Auditory Brainstem in the Bat.

Noting the tendency for publication and financial support to encourage reductionists, I will close with remarks from a brief article I wrote for the COPRED Peace Chronicle last year: "Each new generation needs a new science, one that is dedicated to solve the most important task of the times. Today's generation is engaged in the abolition of war and needs a new science, the science of peace research. All of us coming to peace research must shed some of the false methods and prejudices of other academic fields, as well as bringing scientific methodologies to bear on peace research. For me, it was necessary to shed the reductionism that has hobbled brain research and led it into more and more molecular "causes." Of course, brain research can still contribute to peace research, and I continue to work in this area...." With this introduction I go on to talk about the kind of work described in the opening of this year's Christmas letter.

Peace, David