

Christmas , 1991

Dear Friends,

For all of you who have taken the courses I taught at Wesleyan on Psychology of War and Peace, and laboratory work on brain mechanisms of aggressive behavior, I am pleased to give you an update on the continued development of those courses, building on the work of students who have gone before.

Because of increased demand, I taught the War/Peace course all of the last three semesters. In the spring there was a special section on the Middle East, as we took part in efforts to prevent the terrible War in the Gulf. And in the fall, we initiated a new section on the United Nations. Let me begin from the new UN group. After I spoke with the United Nations Association, we initiated a project to prepare for the Earth Summit which will take place in Rio de Janeiro next June and which will prepare an Earth Charter for the world's environment and development. It is an epic event which has received very little publicity in the U.S. (part of the general press blackout on the United Nations). The students ran a successful conference of students from around New England, and will keep in touch with the network they formed next spring in preparation for next fall's course.

The other sections of the War/Peace course were on Middletown Peace and Justice and Apartheid in South Africa. The Middletown group worked with kids in the low income project of Middletown called Long River Village. That project will be continued in the spring and fall. The Apartheid group sponsored the ANC representative to speak at Wesleyan. Even as I write this, there is a conference gathering in South Africa to plan the transition to a new democratic constitution that will give South African Blacks the vote for the first time. We can be proud of our contributions to that struggle over the years, and will not quit now; the section will be continued next year. In fact, one of the TA's will be in Zimbabwe this spring and will try to set up exchanges for us to use next fall.

The War/Peace course will have a new book of mine to read next year. The brochure of the Seville Statement on Violence has now been published by UNESCO. I am now making arrangements for an order form so that individuals can order it directly (See the enclosed order form).

Meanwhile, up on the 5th floor, students were busily bringing into publishable form the results of many years work on the brain mechanisms of offense. First, the chemical stimulation work begun several years ago by Kaleb Yohay was expanded into a Senior Thesis last year by Karl Oberteuffer, continued through the summer by Will Boudreau, and completed this fall by Cate Kokonowski and Chris Cowan. To put it simply, we now can obtain offense by chemical stimulation of the anterior hypothalamus with picrotoxin. These findings lay the basis for tracing the brain substrate of offense better than we have ever been able to do.

The other main experiment on the 5th floor enabled us to make a major revision of the theory of the offense motivational system. Competitive fighting, it turns out, has a different motivational mechanism than territorial offense, even though they each have the same motor pattern outputs. We came to this conclusion from experiments which showed that competitive fighting, unlike territorial offense, does not have any bias towards attacking the opponent in terms of the opponent's sex. This finding adds to others which indicate that the two systems are separate: females do more competitive fighting than males; and deprivation increases competitive fighting while it decreases territorial offense.

Trying to understand the rapid and bewildering changes on the world scene, I have had to expand my own research techniques into new areas. First, there was the need to explain why the Soviet Union and Eastern Europe collapsed. The more I read the explanations in both the mainstream

American press and the analyses of the socialist and communist press, the less impressed I was with their explanations. I am convinced that the fundamental events were economic more than political. But looking at traditional economics, I was not able to find an analysis. Instead, I have turned to the analysis developed in the book, *The Overburdened Economy* by Lloyd Dumas. Instead of measuring a Gross National Product that includes military production, Dumas suggests a Social Material Product that includes only useful production and services. The Soviet Union was so committed to military production that its Social Material Product had fallen below what was needed to maintain the peoples' needs. And now the U.S. is in a similar situation. If you are interested in further details, I could send you an article I recently published, entitled *Economics of the Arms Race: A Two-Edged Sword*.

Another research question arises as one tries to explain why the U.S. refuses to substantially cut the military budget despite the disappearance of the enemy on which it was always justified. As I may have mentioned, I helped organize an electoral referendum in the last elections in New Haven and we received an 83% vote for a proposition that the military budget should be cut in order to channel federal aid to the cities. More recently such referendums have passed in Boston and Chicago and one is on the ballot in Cleveland. To answer this question I am researching the internal military interventions of the US military, which may be the hidden reason for militarism, with external enemies being a cover story. Since 1943, the U.S. military has intervened domestically 679 times involving 681,835 troops. These included the urban riots of the 60's, the civil rights events from Little Rock to last year in Georgia, and suppression of anti-war demonstrations and labor struggles (for example, the use of military air traffic controllers to break PATCO under Reagan). I will bring this analysis to a conference on the culture of violence which UNESCO is sponsoring as a followup to the Seville Statement on Violence - to take place in Copenhagen in February

Following the Copenhagen meeting, I will be going to Paris to work for six months with UNESCO on their peace and human rights programs. Of course, further work on the Seville Statement on Violence will be my chief task. In addition, however, I expect to work on UNESCO's new programs on the culture of peace and democracy, following up on conferences held last year in Uruguay and recently in Czechoslovakia. Lindsay will be coming over periodically to visit me and to take a couple of vacations, but I am sure that I will be happy to see any visitors from the States. If you are in Paris, please look me up at the Division of Human Rights and Peace at UNESCO, c/o George Kutukdjian, telephone 4568-3814.

Since I am not leaving for Copenhagen and Paris until the beginning of February, I would appreciate hearing from any of you, either if you can drop by at the University or my home in Short Beach (telephone 488-3044), or send me a card or letter.

Peace, David