

Christmas 1992

Dear Friends,

Like many of you, I suppose, I was very angry about the Gulf War and the use of the United Nations for military intervention. But what was probably unique, I put myself last year in a position to do something about it. While on sabbatical in the spring at the United Nations Educational Scientific, and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) in Paris, I drafted a proposal to supplement UN military operations with a culture of peace program. This program was adopted by the 51-nation Executive Board of UNESCO in October (the press release is enclosed). And I will start work on it in Paris at the beginning of January, taking a leave of absence from Wesleyan.

Just to show how "all things come around" we will probably undertake a pilot project next year in order to get some results for UNESCO's General Conference in November. And it is most likely that the project will be in Southern Africa, near the great events that we have studied and supported in the Psych of War and Peace over the years (the ANC, Namibia, etc). My guess is that it will be in Mozambique.

Last spring in addition to drafting the culture of peace program, I worked with a young interne from Greece, Myriam Karela, to produce a flyer and a poster for the Seville Statement on Violence. A copy of the English version of the flyer is enclosed (it is also in French and Spanish). The poster, which has been distributed to schools and organizations around the world through UNESCO's network, is called "A Message of Hope from Scientists and Singers." It contains a brief slogan from the Seville Statement (Violence is not inherent in human nature. Peace can be constructed. Each of us has a task to do.) and photos and handwritten excerpts from songs for peace sung by famous performers such as Alpha Blondy, Yoko Ono, Theodorakis, etc. Myriam will now be working with me on the culture of peace program in Paris.

Perhaps because of my UN involvement, I enjoyed the Psychology of War and Peace course more than usual this year. Jay Ericson and Laurie Wainberg who took part in the New England-wide conference to precede the Earth Summit last fall were the TA's to help organize a followup conference this fall. Not only was the conference another success, but I believe that all of the students in the group gained a great deal of consciousness in their affiliated action. I mentioned last year that one of the students from the anti-apartheid section, Cheryl Jones, was going to Zimbabwe. She and Felix Saratovsky then became the TA's this fall for that section. And Paul Sheiffle and Doug Stead became the TA's for the Middletown Peace and Justice group which engaged more than ever before the kids from Long River Village, The anti-apartheid section, among other things, ran a very successful evening discussion with South African student: as a panel, including Tumi Pitsie, Batsi Pooe, Motjapane, and Chris Hackney, all of whom were TA's at one time in the course.

As you will recall, I have always wanted to treat the problems of war and peace in a scientific way, much as we seek to understand the brain in our work in the lab on the fifth floor of Judd Hall. Well, I found common ground on this with the Director-General of UNESCO, Federico Mayor, who was also engaged in brain research before coming to work in the UN system. I got to know Mayor through the Seville Statement in 1986 since he was one of the signatories and took part in our meetings in Seville.

Despite my absence for much of the year, the students in the lab did a magnificent job of continuing the work that we have been doing for several years now. Chris Cowan and I finished up reworking the paper on chemical stimulation of offense, and have sent it back with revisions to Physiology and Behavior where we believe it will be published. The other paper we did last year on differences between competitive fighting and territorial fighting was rejected for publication, although one of the referees suggested that we redesign and retest some of the experiments and then publish a

revised version. Thus, when the students for the lab course arrived this fall, they found that Chris and I had designed a new variation on last fall's experiments. The students did a careful job of data collection, and, as a result, we have new data and are resubmitting the paper under a new title: Competitive and territorial fighting: Two types of offense in the rat. The authors on this paper in addition to me and Chris are Jen Stark and Mary Ellen Marshall. The authors on the chemical stimulation paper, in addition to me and Chris are Karl Oberteuffer, Kaleb Yohay, Will Boudreau, and Cate Kokonowski.

Chris will continue working in the lab this spring to follow up the lesion studies that students did in the course this fall. Since chemical stimulation produces offense in the anterior hypothalamus, we want to find out if lesions there abolish both competitive and territorial fighting, or perhaps one and not the other. Stay tuned....

I always enjoy hearing from you, and here are some of the news I received in the last year. Joe Wright lives with his wife Frances and two little boys, Justin (5) and Chris (3) in the D.C. area where he is a pediatrician practicing emergency medicine with an interest in interpersonal urban violence among kids. Maribeth Champoux is also in the Washington area and with a family including Alexis Lillian Kriete who is now one year old. She, too, is working on the question of violence. She is in the lab of Fred Goodwin looking at physiological correlates of aggression. Ken Gordon has begun a one-year primary care sports medicine fellowship in Santa Clara, CA. He says he doesn't know if he'll, stay in the West and that he keeps in shape with Tae Kwon Do and keeps his saxophones busy.

I heard from Maria Mead in Seattle and Carlotta Abrams in Oregon. Maria is working in a community clinic and wants to go to med school to practice community medicine. Carlotta is working for Eugene Peacework and doing lots of writing and teaching. As a teacher, she says she is "trying to combine the creative endeavor with politics" and that "it feels very strange to be on the other side of the classroom. And Kathy Wood writes from the University of South Florida where she has "finally" entered a graduate program in clinical psychology. .Cyrilline Crichlow is now working on a Ph.D. in industrial/organizational psychology at Penn State.

Last but not least, Mike Ostrowski sent a letter out with a friend from Guatemala ("the mail is a bit sketchy here") on his way south to see more of Latin America. He still recalls with pleasure the US-Soviet Student Summit. As does Eric Dusansky who "is still in San Francisco" looking at a "nebulous future as tutor, comedian, music promoter or graduate student....any advice?"

The student summit reminds me of how much I have learned from all of you who have engaged in the collective problem-solving of the laboratory and the Psychology of War and Peace. I feel as if it has been my training ground, along with political activism in the American peace movement, for the challenge of creating a program for culture of peace at the United Nations.

Peace, David