

# Friendship News

Vol. 8 No. 2 Summer, 1987



## Abolish War — A Joint US-Soviet Peace Campaign Can Do It

By DAVID ADAMS

**I**N THE NEXT FEW YEARS, American-Soviet friendship may prove to be the key to the development and success of the greatest peace movement in history. The probability stems from the psychological base of a mass peace movement and from our practical experience in the first year of the People's Appeal for Peace.

The historical and psychological base for the new mass peace movement is already in place. The arms race has reached the point where war is obsolete and the world's peoples have come to realize it. Following their successful movement against the war in Vietnam, the people turned to the urgent question of nuclear disarmament. Sensitized by publicity from organizations such as the physicians' movement and [later] the scientists' studies of nuclear winter, the people took up the simple idea of a nuclear Freeze which generated a mass movement. Millions of people took part in public hearings, letter-writing, canvassing, electoral referendums, and organizational endorsements for the Freeze.

The fears, frustrations, and basic anger that motivated demands for the Freeze have not been defused or diverted. The polls show no decrease in majority support.

The People's Appeal for Peace represents a new and emerging wave of optimism in the peace movement. It includes a vision of action and victory. It is the first ever joint American-Soviet peace campaign. The same petition, in both languages, is being circulated simultaneously in each country, calling

for an end to star wars, a comprehensive test ban, a freeze, economic conversion, and increased people-to-people contact. This demolishes the myth that the Soviet people are our enemies and instead shows them to be our allies in the quest for peace.

This strikes at the heart of the myth of the "Soviet threat," over-used by our

military-industrial-state-media complex to justify the arms buildups, foreign military interventions, and attacks upon the peace movement over the years. Pairing U.S. and Soviet groups on the basis of the Appeal to develop their own mini-peace campaigns opens the way to mass involvement of schools, churches, unions, local governments, and com-

### Perestroika Is Coming!

**T**HE TIDAL WAVE caused by the movement for renewal in the Soviet Union is now washing every shore. Reports of its effects come almost daily. The USSR Supreme Soviet has approved radical new regulations on the economy affecting central planning and pricing recommended by the Communist Party's Central Committee, three members of whose Politburo have just been replaced.

The current issue of *Moscow News* carries a debate on capital punishment and an article on the difficulties of the war in Afghanistan. Valentine Rasputin, writing about the "half-measures" being taken to clean up Lake Baikal concludes his article: "I am a human being and a citizen whose heart aches for the wounds inflicted on Nature."

It is now clear that the changes set in motion in the post-Brezhnev period are the opposite of the cosmetic and that they are being directed by a remarkable leader. In his fascinating memoirs, *Hammer* (Putnam), Dr. Armand Hammer writes:

"Khrushchev, Brezhnev and Chernenko were all dominant characters in their different ways, but Gorbachev's bearing had upon it the stamp of leadership — the sense that he was cut from an extraordinary cloth of humanity —

which I had encountered previously only in Lenin."

(Hammer had personal dealings with every Soviet leader except Stalin and Andropov; his sympathies are broad and the only public figures he knew whom he actively disliked were the Shah of Iran and Zbigniew Brzezinski.)

From its beginnings, our Council has had the task of teaching the U.S. public that the Soviet Union was a fact which would not vanish away like the morning dew. Now we have a new task: to say that a renewing USSR is our counterpart with which our people and the world must deal.

There are mixed reactions to this renewing. For some it makes the Soviet Union more formidable and dangerous, for others these changes mask what they regard as the real problem, socialist society itself.

It has been clear since the Reykjavik Summit that the administration has not yet decided how to deal with the new Soviet world of *glasnost* and *perestroika*. This is not something to rejoice about. A sense of security is the prerequisite of effective disarmament. What it does mean is that many, many preconceptions must fall if this country is to deal with Soviet reality.

Wisdom, courage, and hope are the virtues of the new day when the first moves toward real disarmament are taken.

ALAN THOMSON

David Adams teaches psychology at Wesleyan University, Middletown, Conn. He is chairman of the Connecticut Association for American-Soviet Friendship.

munity organizations with their Soviet counterparts.

Socialism has produced an international system that does not need to generate or depend upon war. For the first time, socialism has become a strong world force in a growing interdependent network of socialist states with ties to the non-aligned developing nations.

**S**ocialist states have usually been born in revolution, forced to defend themselves — even with defensive wars — against capitalist intervention. Socialist states do not have the intrinsic economic forces that generate war as is the case under capitalism. Socialism does not have over-production and structural unemployment crises that generate the imperialist expansion of the capitalist world. It does not have the private profit system that generates the military-industrial complex of capitalism.

And, despite frequent claims to the contrary, the Soviet Union and other large socialist countries do not exploit the smaller socialist and third-world countries, unlike the practices of imperialism. Documentation for this may be found in the lead article of *Science* magazine of November 29, 1985, in which the Dean of the Rand Corporation's graduate school, a Pentagon think-tank, details how the net flow of wealth continues to flow from the Soviet Union to the smaller socialist countries and the Third World and is actually increasing rather than decreasing.

Under capitalism, revolutionary processes are opposed, and capitalists will go to war if necessary to stop them. Under socialism, the processes of revolution move forward without war. An example is the new "glasnost" and "perestroika" in the Soviet Union.

The socialist world, for the first time, is so strong that it can launch a peace offensive that opens the door to a partnership for peace between the American and Soviet people. Such a partnership helps provide a new vision of action for the peace movement and boosts optimism in our activists. Most important, it provides a concrete political undergirding for lasting disarmament agreements signaling the dawn of lasting peace. This peace offensive of the socialist world takes place on three levels: the economic-military, the diplomatic-political, and the people-to-people level of citizen diplomacy.

The new economic-military strength of socialism makes obsolete for the first time in history the "military solution" to political conflict. In the past, the military solution defeated our peace

### U.S., Soviets Join Forces

A cooperative effort to study ozone and other gases that could affect the Earth's climate is being launched by scientists from the U.S. and the Soviet Union.

The new agreement, announced in June, calls for a particular emphasis on Antarctica, where scientists have detected a hole in the ozone layer high in the atmosphere. The ozone layer protects the world from damaging ultraviolet radiation from the sun.

As part of the new study, the United States will collect daily ozone profiles from its weather satellites orbiting over the South Pole. Soviet scientists working from their research station in Antarctica will collect data from the ground.

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency reported last fall that depletion of the worldwide ozone layer could cause an added 800,000 skin-cancer deaths by the year 2074.

movements against the Philippines War (1898-1902), World War I (1917-1919), the rise of fascism (1933-1939), and the initial Cold War (1946-1948). These movements ended on the battlefields of the Philippines, Europe, the Pacific, and Korea.

But the tide was turned in Vietnam and the first peace movement victory was won. Because of worldwide solidarity with Vietnam, led by the socialist countries, the usual military solution was blocked. President Nixon's only remaining option, the use of nuclear weapons, could not be used because the worldwide peace movement would have retaliated by destroying all of America's military alliances. So today it is no longer possible to win a "military solution" via first-strike weapons, star wars, or foreign invasions. The longest, continuous mass peace movement in American history will not end until victory is achieved and war is abolished.

On the diplomatic-political level, the Soviet peace offensive is already obvious to everyone. The Soviets accepted the proposal for a Nuclear Freeze. They not only accepted the proposal for a com-

prehensive test ban but put it into practice unilaterally. Now they have accepted Reagan's "zero option" plan to remove intermediate missiles.

On the level of citizen diplomacy, the Soviets have opened their arms to embrace many projects, the most far-reaching of which is the People's Appeal for Peace that makes possible the direct exchange and pairing of an unlimited number of public organizations.

Last month, as representative of the National Council for American-Soviet Friendship, along with fifty other Americans representing most major national peace groups, I attended the informational dialogue sponsored by the Soviet Peace Committee in Moscow. We heard high level officials explain how the "new thinking" of Soviet foreign policy is a permanent and necessary result of the "perestroika" that is occurring internally. The Soviets made it clear that not only the diplomatic initiatives, but the people-to-people citizen diplomacy is not a passing phase, but a peace offensive that will grow and expand over the coming years. Writing in *New Times*, an authoritative Soviet news magazine, Tair Tairov, a theoretician of the Soviet Peace Committee, emphasized that the elimination of weapons is not enough. "What is needed," he said, "is a fundamental change in the very system of international relations . . . to discard the enemy image, develop partnership, open wide the doors for all types of cooperation between peoples. . . . The time has come for extensive exchanges and contacts between ordinary people and not just between statesmen."

**O**n the practical level, the American people respond enthusiastically. In New Haven, Conn., there is an unprecedented involvement: following city council endorsement of the Appeal, school children, as well as church congregations, trade union and community organizations, signed the Appeal, presented copies to a visiting Soviet delegation, and requested pairing with comparable groups in a Soviet city. (Such pairings are now in process with groups in Riga.) In St. Petersburg, Fla.,

*Friendship News* is published quarterly by the National Council of American-Soviet Friendship, 85 East 4th Street, New York, N.Y. 10003. (Telephone: 212-679-4577). *Friendship News* is sent to all member-societies of the Council.

Individual subscriptions: \$4.00 year.  
 Editors: Edna Ruff Jelencor  
 Alan Thomson  
 Chair: John Randolph  
 Vice President: Marvel Cooke  
 Treasurer: Larry McGurty  
 Secretary: Sara Tactam  
 Executive Director: Alan Thomson

Birmingham, Ala., and Memphis, Tenn., a visiting Soviet delegation, on behalf of the People's Appeal, was greeted with similar enthusiasm. In the Quad Cities of Iowa, where the Appeal was drafted on board the Mississippi Peace Cruise of 1986, the action was repeated.

In conversations, some Americans have misunderstood and stated that I seem to be saying we can all relax now and socialism will hand us peace on a silver platter. Nothing could be farther from the truth. It is as if we hired a contractor to build a house and he procured all the materials and the needed tools and then said, "You can relax now and the house will build itself." For the first time we have the materials and the tools to do the job that we alone in the U.S. must accomplish: the construction of a mass peace movement to force the abolition of war from inside the military-industrial-state. The mainstream of Americans must oppose the arms race.

Cities have begun to mobilize for peace. The 80,000-member health care workers union of New York, Local 1199, has endorsed the Appeal, as has the first national religious denomination, the Unitarian-Universalist Association. These are only the beginnings.

**A**n indication of the great potential power of citizen diplomacy comes from the recent success of the movement for peace and justice in Central America. By establishing thousands of direct contacts between schools, cities, unions, churches, and community organizations in the U.S. and Central America, activists have been able to raise the consciousness of the American people for peace and to block the plans of the Reagan administration for another Vietnam-type war. Imagine the power of such a people-to-people movement, magnified a hundred-fold.

In summary, a great mass peace movement is emerging that can finally put an end to war. Central to that movement is a joint American-Soviet campaign linking the peoples of the two countries directly for peace.

Detailed documentation for the assertions in this article are available in my two recent booklets, *The American Peace Movement: History, Root Causes, and Future*, and *Psychology for Peace Activists: A New Psychology for the Generation Who Can Abolish War*. Local bookstores have them. Or order from the author at the Department of Psychology, Wesleyan University, Middletown, CT 06457 (\$2 each).

An organizer's manual for the People's Peace Appeal, based on the New Haven experience, is available from the national office of the Campaign for a People's Peace Treaty, 1140 Broadway, Room 401, New York, NY 100012.



Signing of the three-year agreement of cooperation between the National Council of American-Soviet Friendship (Alan Thomson signing, R) and the USSR-USA Society of the Soviet Union (Yuri Smirnov, V.P. and Valeri Chibisenkov, Secretary-General) with an American witness (back to camera).

## NCASF Convention In Minneapolis

### The Spirit Is Growth

**T**WENTY-ONE of the twenty-five affiliated Societies of the National Council of American-Soviet Friendship took part in the Council's triennial National Convention which met in Minneapolis' Augsburg College, June 12-14. The American-Soviet Friendship Society of New Mexico was received as the twenty-fifth member-Society of the Council, and Howard Frazier, Director of Promoting Enduring Peace and Instigator of the Volga and Mississippi Peace Cruises, was elected to its Advisory Council.

The Council's National Board elected as its Chair for a three-year term John Randolph, Tony award-winning actor, for his role in the current Broadway production of Neil Simon's *Broadway Bound* and

longtime activist in peace and solidarity movements, together with his late wife, Sarah Cunningham. Mr. Randolph has received plaques for his career of service from both Local 1199 and the Veterans of the Abraham Lincoln Brigade. He is a board member of the Screen Actors Guild, Actors Equity, and AFTRA.

A two-person delegation from the Union of Friendship Societies in Moscow attended the convention — Yuri Smirnov, a Vice President of the Union, and Valeri Chibisenkov, Secretary-General of the USSR-USA Society. During the Saturday night banquet, at which Mr. Smirnov spoke, a new three-year agreement of cooperation between the Council and the USSR-USA Society was signed.

At the conclusion of the convention, the newly-elected National Board, which meets annually, elected officers for a three-year term. In addition to Mr. Randolph, they were Marvel Cooke, New York, Vice-Chair; Sara Tactam, Oregon, Secretary; Larry McGurty, Chicago, Treasurer. Alan Thomson was re-elected Executive Director.

Workshops discussed such issues as the Sister-City program, the peace movement, work with youth, the minority community, the trade unions. Mr. Smirnov and Mr. Chibisenkov visited the mayors of Minneapolis and St. Paul to discuss possible Sister-City relationships. In his address to the opening session of the convention, retiring Chair John Chervenky of Detroit announced his plans to work full-time in the US-Soviet Sister-Cities program.

### 'Mother Teresa' at Moscow Film Festival

*Mother Teresa*, the award-winning film that recently hit the shelves as a videocassette, was selected for screening at the 15th International Film Festival of Moscow, held July 6-17. Ann and Jeanette Petric, producers of the film about the 1979 Nobel Peace Prize winner who transcends all political, religious and racial barriers with her works of love, accepted an invitation to attend the festival, which was themed, "For Humanism in Cinema Art. For Peace and Friendship Among Nations." The film premiered at the 40th anniversary celebration of the United Nations.