

CBD - TAKING STOCK (continued from page 2)

WILHELM NOLTE

In my personal view as a professional soldier, working privately in the field of combining conventional military defense with civilian-based defense, I have to admit that my expectations about the chances of spreading such ideas must have been much greater than the chances themselves. That is disappointing.

The evidence (creation of a model, "autonomous protection," for the co-functioning of nonviolent resistance with non-nuclear defense, two books on this model, the first of which was written in cooperation with my brother, a historian, the second of which was written in cooperation with a Swiss/U.S. economist and a Danish/Swedish peace-researcher, 20 articles on this model in selected journals, 120 lectures and discussions on the model, at home and abroad, in less than the past five years) would seem to indicate public interest in civilian-based defense. Sorry to say, the interest is still at a minimal level. But if we continue to stress the humane values of our Western societies we may some day have greater interest. But it will take far more than the next five years. My proposal is that we concentrate on the next stage of societal development. Our next aim for defense should be neither all-military nor all-nonviolent but half-nonviolent beside half-military. Let's meet half-way and work together to establish the next platform from which to launch further development of a world of non-violence.

Wilhelm Nolte, Hamburg, West Germany

BRIAN MARTIN

In 1984, the peace movement was at its height. Social defense at best was something raised by a small minority within the movement. Now, five years later, the peace movement is continuing to wane, whereas interest in social defense has increased somewhat, going from very small to small. I expect this trend to continue during the next five years.

In Australia a decade ago, social defense had hardly been heard of except by a handful of people. Due to the efforts of a small number of advocates, it has been put on the agenda of what is called "alternative defense": it is an option to be discussed along with non-alignment, armed neutrality, defensive defense, guerilla warfare, etc. But it is still not all that well-known even among activist groups.

The major encouraging development has been increasing use of nonviolent action by various activists as part of a conscious strategy for social change. Environmentalists, feminists and peace activists have all been prominent in this. It is these people with personal experience of the dynamics of nonviolent action who are most receptive to the idea of social defense.

Some overseas uses of nonviolent action have been cited as inspiration, especially in Poland, the Philippines, Palestine and most recently China. In part (especially in the Philippines and Palestine) proponents of nonviolent action have played a role in the developments. But what has also changed is that more people are now attuned to nonviolent action and so have perceived the struggles in a different light.

I expect this process will continue. As more people are exposed to the idea of social defense they will begin to see the world differently, and obtain inspiration from nonviolent struggles. Some of them will support or join such struggles as the occasion arises, and so the process can grow. But I don't expect this to be a rapid process, because the "social defense movement" is still too weak to do much to mobilize against a direct threat, such as a military coup in an industrialized country. Until it is stronger, many opportunities for quick expansion in public interest and involvement will go begging.

Brian Martin, Wollongong, NSW, Australia

1948 AN ARMY IS ABOLISHED

Costa Rica's army was replaced with a 4000-member Civil Guard in 1948. At a commemorative celebration on December 1, 1987, President Oscar Arias, recipient of the Nobel Peace Prize, quoted the words spoken by Interim President Don Jose Figueres on the occasion of the dissolution of the army and the transfer of the national barracks to the educators: "The Regular Army of Costa Rica, which is the successor to the Army of National Liberation, surrenders the key to this barracks to the schools, for which to be converted into a center of culture.

The Junta of the Second Republic officially declares the dissolution of the national army, because the security of our country is sufficiently protected by the police force.

We firmly maintain the ideal of a new world in America. To that country of ideals of Washington, Lincoln, Bolivar, and Marti, we wish today to declare: 'O, America! Other countries, your children also offer you their greatness. Little Costa Rica wants to offer forever, as now, along with its heart, its love of civility and democracy.'"

From *Nobel Costa Rica*, by Seth Rolbein. New York, St. Martin's Press, 1989.

GREEN HEARINGS ON SOCIAL DEFENSE: TEXT AVAILABLE

Under the slogan, "Build down military armaments, build up social defense," the Green Party in June 1984 held a series of hearings on social defense at the Federal Parliament in Bonn, West Germany. Theodor Ebert, Wolfgang Sternstein, Roland Vogt, Gene Sharp, Adam Roberts, Johan Niezing and others made presentations. The German texts of these meetings is now available to order in a special issue of *Gewaltfreie Aktion* available either through Petra Kelly (Bundeshaus, 5300 Bonn 1) or the editorial offices of *Gewaltfreie Aktion* (Postfach 480 409, 1000 Berlin 48).

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