

Trident Fury Launched as Minister of Defence Talks of 'Buying People'?

Written by

Wednesday, 10 May 2006 05:28 - Last Updated Thursday, 30 July 2015 09:20

2006 May 10

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PEJ News - Joan Russow - This morning on the political Channel, the Hon Gordon O'Connor demonstrated that he has not left his lobbying vocabulary for military hardware behind. Gordon O'Connor was a registered lobbyist for the arms industry, and slipped into his position as Minister of Defence before the Accountability Act. On May 8 when he appeared before Senate Committee on Defence, he was asked about the need to replace the attrition of 5000 military personnel each year. He responded by stating: 'we need 2 million more to buy people?' and then he reinforced his comment by stating that 'we will shuffle dollars so we can buy people?.'

www.PEJ.org

Trident fury launched same day Minister of Defence talks about 'buying people'?

Joan Russow

PEJ News

May 10, 2006

One wonders if this is a Faustian bargain or does he perceive the military personnel as slaves that can be bought and sold. Perhaps recruiters believe this as well but are far more subtle and do not refer to military personnel as chattels.

Also when asked about protecting Canadian waters, he mentioned the possibility of nuclear powered subs but appeared to initially reject the thought not on the grounds of inappropriateness, or danger but on the grounds that these subs are expensive.

The obsequious Liberal and Conservative Senators appeared to not find his remarks disturbing.

Presumably, Canada will just continue to be satisfied with selling CANDU reactors around the world, with hosting interoperability displays, -like Exercise Trident Fury -with nuclear arms capable air craft, with permitting nuclear powered and nuclear arms capable vessels to circulate in Canadian waters and to berth in Canadian ports and with exporting uranium to nuclear arms states while declaring with smugness Canada's commitment to the Non Proliferation Treaty

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(NPT)

He appeared to be oblivious to the launching here in Victoria on May 8 of the Exercise Trident Fury. A continued series of actions opposing the Exercise are being planned and the following petition is continuing to be circulated around the world in the hopes that Exercise Trident Fury and similar exercises will never again happen.

Please circulate and sign the following petition:

Military madness

CAMPAIGN OPPOSING THE EXERCISE TRIDENT FURY

People are urged to sign the petition and e-mail it to the Minister of Defence the Hon Gordon O'Connor at OConnor.G@parl.gc.ca and to the Minister of Foreign Affairs, Hon Peter Mackay at Mackay.P@gc.ca

IN the US please send petition to the US Department of defense etc

SIGN-ON PETITION ATTACHED

PETITION OPPOSING THE EXERCISE TRIDENT FURY

We the undersigned citizens draw the attention of the House to the following:

Recalling that under Article 20 SS 1 of the International Covenant of Civil and Political Rights, the following obligation was incurred:

Any propaganda for war shall be prohibited by law.

- Convinced that a display of militarism like Exercise Trident Fury by states that are involved in offensive military actions constitutes propaganda for war;

- Concerned that the Exercise Trident Fury is a flaunting of militarism that in a time when Canada is playing an offensive role in the US- led invasion and occupation of Afghanistan, a deep military integration display in Victoria could increasingly create the risk of the area being targeted and thus would seriously jeopardize the security of the citizens of Victoria, British Columbia and Canada.

-Aware that the Exercise Trident Fury involves participation of US military hardware with nuclear arms capability at a time when the US is becoming increasing willing to not rule out the use nuclear weapons;

-Concerned that Canada's participation along with nuclear arms capable US arsenal would thus demonstrate Canada's willingness to condone the US threat to use or potential use nuclear weapons in contravention of the 1996 decision of the International Court of Justice that the

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threat to use nuclear weapons is contrary to international human rights law.

-Recognizing that in 1992, the BC legislature declared BC to be a nuclear arms free zone, and also in 1992 eight out of the ten municipalities in the Greater Victoria Area supported motions calling for an environmental review assessment of visits of nuclear powered and nuclear arms capable vessels in the port of Greater Victoria.

- Noting with serious concern the potential short-term and long-term environmental, psychological and health consequences of Exercise Trident Fury.

- Affirming that the Exercise Trident fury violates the precautionary principle and displays blatant dereliction of duty and gross negligence on the part of the government

THEREFORE, your petitioners request that Parliament

CALL upon the Department of Defence to cancel the present and any future Exercise Trident Fury

SIGN-ON: NAME:

CITY

E-MAIL.

SEND COPY TO j.russow@shawlink.ca

Background:

NOTE: F 15 ARE NUCLEAR ARMS CAPABLE
Trident Fury 2006 - Fact Sheet Off DND web site

* Exercise TRIDENT FURY is a two-week joint, coalition based exercise hosted by Joint Task Force Pacific Headquarters (JTTFP) and executed by the Pacific Fleet Commander. The exercise will run from 8-19 May and incorporates Naval, Air and Land Force elements from Canada, the United States, Great Britain and NATO. It will be an assembly of the largest and most diverse list of exercise participants ever seen on the West Coast.

* TRIDENT FURY will see participation from four Canadian Navy warships (HMCS ALGONQUIN, WINNIPEG, VANCOUVER and YELLOWKNIFE), auxiliaries (HMCS ORIOLE and Fleet Diving Unit vessels) and the United States Naval vessels (USS INGRAHAM and USNS BRIDGE). Operations will include live surface-to-air and air-to-air missile firings and the employment of air-to-surface Precision Guided Munitions.

* Approximately 20 aircraft will be operating out of Victoria International Airport. They will include F-15 and F-16 fighters, E2

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Hawkeyes from the United States, an AWACS from the United Kingdom, Canadian SeaKing Helicopters and AlphaJets from Top Aces.

* Approximately 20 other aircraft will be operating out of 19 Wing Comox, including CF-18 Hornets, CP-140 Auroras and a NATO AWACS. Due to space constraints the base could not accommodate all participating aircraft. Some aircraft will also be flying back to their home bases in the United States at the end of each mission such as the B-52

Stratofortress, bringing the total number of aircraft participating in the exercise to approximately 60.

* The exercise is expected to result in over \$2 million being spent on Vancouver Island during the two-week period. There will be over 2000 participants, 1000 of which will be coming to the local area specifically for the exercise.

* The aircraft will primarily have two take off times each day. They will take off as a group at around 9:00 a.m. and 1:30 p.m. The missions will take about 2 1/2 hours so the majority of the aircraft will return around 11:30 a.m. and 4 p.m. daily. The public is welcome to come out and watch the flying from the public viewing areas around Victoria International airport

* To try to reduce noise disruptions, there will be no exercise flying at night or on the weekend of 13-14 May