Grassroots Actions for Peace News October, 2005

In the face of the unconscionable acts of this administration, we bring you news of actions we have taken to further our goals of peace and justice.

WE HAVE A TERRIFIC NEW WEBSITE! www.grassrootsconcord.org
Gazillion thanks to our webmaster, Ed Fields. Ed has devoted himself to producing a professional, engaging, and comprehensive website which provides background material for our campaigns, easy access to information you need, the best current articles of interest, photographs and even humor to lighten your day, and it's UPDATED very frequently, if not daily. We are grateful for Ed's patience, generosity and good humor, and willingness to take on the hours needed to produce a website we are proud of.

A Meeting on Monday November 14 "Bring Our Troops Home" is described on the flyer enclosed. Panelists include a member of the MA National Guard just returned from Iraq, the parent of a Marine in Faluja now, a representative of Congressman McGovern's office and a minister. There will be opportunity for discussion of ideas for actions we might take in the MetroWest area.

Veterans for Peace group Meets with Congressman Meehan:
Al Armenti, Jack Scotnicki, and Jim West of Concord and Bruce McDonald, members of the Boston area chapter of Veterans for Peace met with Congressman Meehan for about an hour on October 14. Congressman Meehan supports a phased withdrawal, and feels we have an obligation that the people of Iraq are not left in chaos, and have a reasonable security force. Al Armenti says, "We tried to impress on him that the situation in Iraq is just getting worse; that our troops are aggravating the situation instead of making it better. We urged Congressman Meehan to be a leader and get the troops out now". (Note: On October 27, Congressman McGovern introduced a bill to stop funding U.S. troops in Iraq and bring them home!)

DC Demonstration: Not only Protesting but Lobbying: Following the huge demonstration to Bring the Troops Home Now on Saturday, September 24th in DC, protest organizers provided information on current legislation and assembled hundreds of people to lobby their Congresspeople. Our strong expressions of disappointment, may have helped shift Senator Kerry's stance. In the Fifth Congressional District, Congressman Meehan has not yet agreed to No permanent military bases in Iraq.

Alice Daly, local Grassroots activist, traveled to support Cindy Sheehan at Camp Casey in Crawford TX Cindy Sheehan, whose son Casey died in Iraq, wanted to ask President Bush what is the noble cause for which these soldiers are dying. Alice wrote in a letter to the Concord Journal about her experience at Camp Casey in Crawford Texas: "Many events affected me deeply, but these stand out; … the individual stories of mothers, white and black, who lost a child; …the sound of taps at sunset as we encircled the rows of white crosses; …"

UN Workshop on Depleted Uranium On May 3, 05 Gretel Munroe and Carol Dwyer were among the speakers at an overflow workshop organized by the International Coalition to Ban Uranium Weapons at the Nuclear Non-proliferation Treaty Hearings in NY. Another workshop participant, Dr. Katsumi Furitsu stopped in Concord on her way to present a petition with 170,000 signatures from Japan to ban all uranium weapons.

Report from the International Coalition to Ban Uranium Weapons
Gretel Munroe, who was elected a board member of ICBU, learned at a June conference in Brussels and the European Parliament about the work of member groups:

- "For Mother Earth" was part of a campaign aimed at the five largest banking groups in Belgium which resulted in three of those groups no longer allowing direct investment in companies manufacturing DU weapons
- In Italy, the widow of a Balkans veteran, won a suit in which doctors related the Vet's rare cancer to radiation exposure.
- In Germany, work against depleted uranium is resisted because of the German government's reluctance to damage its relationship with the U.S.
- In Japan there is great deal of concern about DU and Japanese doctors have been training Iraqi doctors. Japanese troops have been posted in Samawah, Iraq, but again, a Japanese quasi governmental organization is issuing information to journalists that DU is safe.

Hiroshima Day Commemoration, August 6, 2005

On August 6, to commemorate the 60th anniversary of the bombing of Hiroshima and Nagasaki, fourteen members of 'Grassroots' drew chalk figures on the sidewalk pavement in Concord representing the shadows that were created by human bodies in those nuclear blasts. We remembered the victims, and dedicated ourselves to stop the use of nuclear weapons and all weapons of mass destruction.