

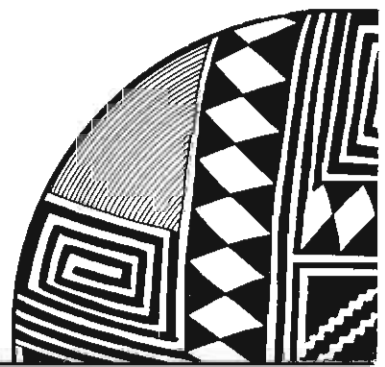


PEACE
BRIGADES
INTERNATIONAL



ANNUAL REPORT

1992





Dear friends,

Welcome to PBI's Annual Report for 1992. This was a momentous year for PBI, with major changes of direction taking place in our existing projects, a proliferation of requests to open new projects, and subtle but important changes in our internal structures and ways of working.

In Guatemala, for instance, our team has increased in size to take on extra work in relation to the anticipated return of refugees from Mexico. In El Salvador, the dramatic changes taking place in that country has signalled the end of an era for PBI. The El Salvador team was withdrawn in October, while preparations were made to send a new team exclusively to do Peace Education work in the country.

In Sri Lanka, PBI has opened a second house in Batticaloa, in the east of the country. The PBI team there is involved in new areas of work with Tamils and Muslims. This expansion of the Sri Lanka Project goes ahead on a trial basis into the first half of 1993. Meanwhile, the North America Project, became an officially recognised project of PBI in 1992 and began to take on a recognisable shape with some accompaniment work with the Innu in northern Quebec.

On top of these major developments to our existing projects, PBI had a short-term presence in Salzburg, Austria for ten days in September. This was in response to a request to accompany indigenous people testifying at the World Uranium Hearing there. PBI was also asked directly or indirectly during 1992 to send teams to Burma, Cambodia, Fiji, Georgia, Turkey, Tchad, Croatia, Bosnia, Azerbaijan, Haiti, Colombia, Northern Ireland, and the Gaza Strip. The most urgent and realisable of these requests were followed up according to a new and expedited set of procedures with the result that exploratory teams were set to go in early 1993 to both Croatia and Colombia, and other exploration work was under way for possible projects in Tchad, Haiti and Georgia.

Organisationally, the most significant event of 1992 was of course our triennial General Assembly held this year at a Quaker camp on the shores of Georgian Bay, Ontario. Around forty people from twelve countries struggled for a week with the process of consensus decision-making and proved that it is possible to run an international organisation on the same principles of nonviolence and a true respect for people from all cultures that we seek to bring to all our work.

PBI-Norway became the fifteenth country group to join the growing family of people committed to putting those principles into practice around the world. During the year we heard of interest in starting new PBI groups in Estonia, India, the Republic of Ireland, Denmark and Sierre Leone. I hope after reading this report, you too will find PBI an inspiring idea, an exciting reality, and worthy of your fullest support.

Most sincerely yours,

*Timmon Wallis
International Secretary*

THE CENTRAL AMERICA PROJECT

GUATEMALA TEAM



Guatemalan Team Members - Bruno, Rosa, Carol, Erika, Deborah, Fermen, Liam, Steven, Anders

1992 was a year of significant historical events and rapidly changing conditions in Guatemala. It presented considerable challenges and opportunities for Peace Brigades International (PBI). The 500-year anniversary of the arrival of Europeans to the hemisphere sparked an unprecedented level of organization and mobilization by indigenous groups in Guatemala, climaxing in Rigoberta Menchu's acceptance of the Nobel Peace Prize. The refugees and the government signed an accord that provides for the return of 40,000 refugees from Mexico, bringing new hope to the popular movement. However, amidst these promising developments, the repression against the popular movement has not ceased.

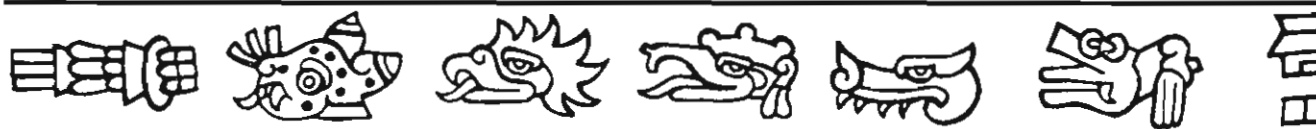
The level of tension and repression, and hence the demand for PBI's services, fluctuated throughout the year. April and May were marked by strong protests that grew out of a rising dissatisfaction amongst the popular and student movements. Among these were the struggle of the San Jorge La Laguna community to regain land that had once been theirs, students at the University of San Carlos protesting against a number of acts of reprisal against the university community, and the occupation of the plaza in front of the National Palace by the campesinos and the labor unions to press for resolution of labor problems on the fincas. These and other protests were met in turn by an increase of violent responses including a rash of bombings and bomb threats which prompted government officials to

publicly threaten a State of Emergency. The events around the 500-year anniversary and the granting of the Nobel Peace Prize initiated another period of attacks and intimidations. Both of these periods brought with them a surge of petitions to PBI for accompaniment.

Included among those groups which we accompanied in 1992, either in moments of particular tension or throughout the year were;

- AEU:** University Students Association
- BONIN:** Unionists at a pharmaceutical company
- CCPP:** Permanent Commissions of Refugees in Mexico
- CDHG:** Guatemalan Human Rights Commission
- CERJ:** Council of Ethnic Communities "Everyone Equal"
- CONAVIGUA:** National Coordinating Body of Guatemalan Widows
- CONDEG:** National Council of Displaced Guatemalans
- CPRs:** Village Communities in Resistance of the Ixcán and the Sierra
- CUC:** Committee of Peasant Unity
- FESTRAS:** United Food and Related Workers Federation
- 500 Years of Indigenous, Black, and Popular Resistance**
- GAM:** Mutual Support Group for Relatives of the Disappeared
- Human Rights Committee** of the town of Yalpamech, Alta Verzapaz: repopulated by refugees returned from Honduras
- Inexport:** Union workers from a textile company
- Majawil 'Qij:** A coalition of Mayan organizations
- Peasants of Cajola:** Struggling to obtain possession of land for which they claim title, evicted from the Central Plaza and currently residing in the University Assembly Hall in the capital.
- San Jorge La Laguna,** a town struggling to regain legal title of the finca "El Jaibal"
- Sectors Arising from the Repression and Impunity**
- UASP:** Labor and Popular Action United
- UNSI TRAGUA:** United Labor Organization of Guatemala
- UTQ:** Quetzaltenango Workers Union

PBI's accompaniment work in Guatemala took many forms during 1992. We often maintained a presence in organizational offices or escorted individuals. Our presence was also requested at a number of special events of political and cultural importance, including gatherings,



GUATEMALA TEAM

forums, and Mayan ceremonies. In addition, PBI accompanied a number of lengthy marches of several days' duration and maintained a daily presence in the Central Plaza during the 85 days that peasants and homeless city dwellers peacefully occupied it to demand labor rights and housing. Outside the capital, we continued our weekly presence in Santa Cruz del Quiche, accompanying CERJ and CONAVIGUA. We received petitions to establish a regular presence in several towns which we fulfilled as far as our resources permitted. In Quetzaltenango, we maintained a presence in the offices of the union federation, UTQ, and at activities of its member unions. We provided a regular presence in the town of San Jorge La Laguna in April after several individuals received threats following a violent eviction from contested land. The Human Rights Committee of Yalpamech, Alta Verapaz, representing refugees repatriated from Honduras, also requested our presence in their community. The latter two petitions in particular required and permitted us to increase our understanding of the complexities surrounding such fundamental issues in Guatemala as disputes over land tenure and the difficulties associated with the resettlement of refugees. Throughout the year, the Sectors Arising from the Repression and Impunity continued to conduct exhumations at clandestine cemeteries in Quiche. PBI accompanied these exhumations and the subsequent religious burials given to the victims.

OTHER WORK OF THE TEAM

As always, the team continued the important work of maintaining contact and open communication with high-ranking officials in the government, military, and diplomatic corps. We strove to increase our mutual understanding in order to avoid possible misunderstandings, with the objective of helping to ensure the safety of PBI volunteers and those whom we accompany. Preparations for the return of the refugees also increased our contact and communication with both Churches and Guatemalan and international non-governmental organizations. The team's work in the area of Peace Education continued in much the same vein as in recent years. Qualified team members facilitated a workshop for GRUFEPROMEFAM (Feminine Group for Family Improvement) on the theme of women and peace. A series of workshops for FENASTEG (National

"PBI...expects that work around the refugees' return will remain one of our major focuses for the team for some time."

Federation of Guatemalan State Workers) focused on conflict resolution, negotiation, and analysis of current social forces. At each event, the PBI facilitators provided the methodology to assist the participants to put together their own knowledge and develop the theme further. Another part of the workshop was to help the groups build



PBI Volunteer (Heike) with a child from CPR in Ixcán, demonstrating for recognition as a civilian population.

their own skills in creating the methodology needed to develop their own workshops. The final area of emphasis in the work revolved around the refugee issue. The team spent much time and energy preparing for the organized and collective return of the refugees, anticipated to begin in mid-1992 but postponed until January 1993. The main tasks included establishing and maintaining contact with governmental and non-governmental institutions working with refugees and responding to petitions for accompaniment from groups facilitating the refugees'



EL SALVADOR TEAM



Exhumations in Quiche.

return. Educating ourselves and informing the international community about this complex reality with our bulletin continued to be a priority.

As we begin 1993 the work of the return has already begun. The projected plan of the refugees is that the actual return will be spaced over a three-year period. PBI then expects that work around the return will remain one of the major focuses for the team for some time. Certainly the other major focus will be to continue providing accompaniment to the many other groups of the popular movement struggling to obtain their human rights. These groups are drawing renewed harassment because of their support for the refugees, but at the same time are finding renewed strength and hope fed by the return and the greater international attention currently being given to Guatemala.



END OF AN ERA:

With the signing of the Peace Accords in El Salvador on January 16, 1992 and the coming into effect of the cease-fire on February 1, 1992 an opening for dramatic changes within the country was created. The Accords set up a structure that would permit significant reforms to the military, electoral and social institutions of the country and the cease-fire has led to a reduction in the level of violence. Both of these achievements have led to widespread rejoicing and renewed hope among the Salvadoran people. But the same interests that existed before have continued to make it difficult for the Salvadoran people to obtain economic, political and social justice.

As the struggle continued during 1992 it took very different forms and created very different challenges for the Salvadoran people. Each of the groups has had to adapt to the changed situation and to seek new ways of building a just peace in El Salvador. Peace Brigades has had to adapt its own work in line with these changing needs. No longer was PBI receiving large numbers of petitions for accompaniment but rather requests for assistance in peace education.

With this major change in requests, an evaluation was done as to how PBI should proceed in El Salvador and whether to stay in the country. The Central America Project Committee, the overseeing body for the project, decided that it was important to stay and follow the peace process until it was assured that it was irreversible. It was also recognized that if PBI were to remain much beyond that point it would be necessary to develop greater capacity in the area of Peace Education in order to meet the rising demand with greater depth and continuity.

WORK OF THE TEAM

Some work by the team in the area of accompaniment continued. Accompaniment was provided to members of the Lutheran Church and of the CPDN (National Debate Committee) on particular occasions. Also, a number of visits were made to communities in the Usulután area to provide an international presence in areas where disputes over the land were still very much an issue. In the area of monitoring the peace process, the team watched the



EL SALVADOR TEAM

unfolding events closely and reported on the various obstacles and the hurdles needing to be overcome in order to complete the slow halting process of bringing life to the Accords.

PEACE EDUCATION WORK

In the area of peace education, PBI received various types of requests for assistance. These included requests to give workshops to groups to foster the development of needed skills/understanding to work for a just peace and to help develop schools for trainers within organizations so that they could carry out their own peace education work. The team also helped other groups in preparing their own workshops and in developing relevant materials to use in peace education workshops.

In the midst of all the changes and readjustments that are taking place in El Salvador and the confusion created for all the groups by this, it was not always very easy for the groups and therefore for PBI to proceed with these plans in an orderly way. Nevertheless, the team did some work in each of these fields.

ORMUSA (Salvadoran Women's Organization) requested assistance in helping to develop its own peace education program. This project went through a process of getting to know the organization, meeting with its leaders, visiting their communities and discussion with their promoters. Workshops were given on the planning of actions and on the obtaining of the participation of all. Written materials were also developed by the team to help ORMUSA in the process of developing such workshops.

Work was also done with FEASIES (Federation of Independent Trade Unions of El Salvador), CEBES (El Salvador Base Communities), and CODECOSTA (Cooperatives of Coastal Communities) to design and set up training programs to assist Salvadorans in developing the necessary skills to be promoters in Peace Education. Each of these projects are waiting for these groups to find needed resources in order to carry them out.

The CPDN (The Permanent Committee for National Debate) asked for assistance in the preparation and carrying out of workshops concerning the Peace Accords. A series of workshops were developed and given jointly with the CPDN to member groups of CPDN and to different communities of high school students with the objective of deepening their understanding of the Accords and their implications.

Collaboration in Peace Education was also carried out with

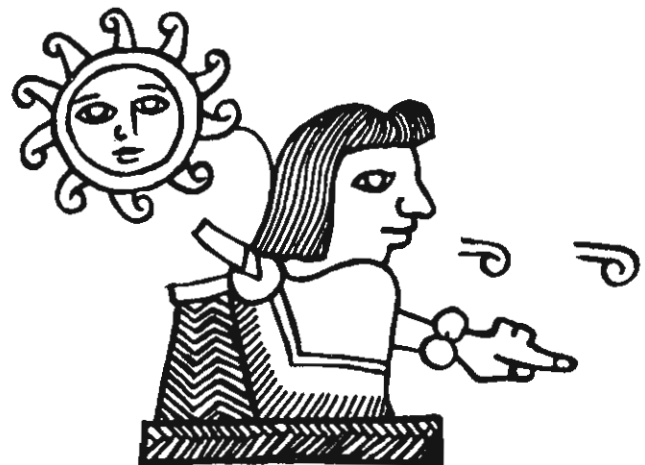
an educational program developed by a number of groups jointly. This consisted of working creating educational materials to be used as guides and teaching aids.

The team also worked in an advisory capacity to the promoters of a project for older widows belonging to CRIPDES (Christian Committee for the Displaced in El Salvador). The team helped them to analyse the needs of the women so they could develop appropriate projects in response to these needs.

A distinct difference to previous years can be seen in the work that the team did in 1992 in Peace Education. A greater emphasis was placed on developing long term programs rather than in doing individual workshops, in line with the requests received from the Salvadoran groups. Those on the team saw that in order to continue in this field the peace education program needed to become more and more sophisticated, requiring volunteers with more background and preparation.

By the end of September it was clear that while there was still much foot dragging on carrying out certain parts of the Accords, there was sufficient international pressure to assure that the country would not revert to war, and although the country remained racked by violence, the types of violent acts had changed and our traditional accompaniment service was less useful. These various factors led to the decision to withdraw the team in October.

El Salvador remains a country in search of its future with many unknowns as to how it will develop. PBI continues exploring the potential for being able to contribute to helping to build a broader based participative society and a peace based on justice.



500 YEARS OF RESISTANCE



Rigoberta Menchu, Nobel Laureate 1992

Not many years ago the world was still marveling at the accomplishment of an Italian navigator named Cristobol Colon. Yet in 1492, when Colon braved the Atlantic and "discovered" the "new" world, there were 30 million people already inhabiting it. As we entered 1992 the descendants of these indigenous Americans were claiming this anniversary for themselves. Throughout the world Colon's "discovery" became the "encounter" or in some places, the "invasion". In Guatemala, where over sixty percent of the population is indigenous, reflection has turned to anger and to a growing movement for the reclamation of lost rights.

The granting of the Nobel Prize for the first time to an indigenous woman, Rigoberta Menchu, united and propelled this growing movement. Menchu accepted the challenge to use this public recognition not only to call attention to the plight of the indigenous people throughout the Americas but to galvanize the indigenous movement within Guatemala. To carry out this mandate Rigoberta Menchu spent more time inside Guatemala during 1992 than in all of her 11 years of exile. The PBI team often accompanied her on these occasions as it has done many times in the past.

During a visit in October, Rigoberta's selection for the prize was officially announced and the people, especially the indigenous and popular movements, celebrated and organized a number of activities in honor of the occasion. Due to the various threats received by CONVIGUA (The National Coordinating Body of Guatemala Widows), the group that was hosting Rigoberta on that visit, a PBI presence was requested.

"Let there be freedom for the Indians, wherever they may be in the American Continent or else where in the world, because while they are alive, a glow of hope will be alive...it is an appeal to the conscience of Humanity so that those conditions of marginalization that condemned them to colonialism and exploitation may be irradicated; it is a cry for life, peace, justice, equality and fraternity between human beings..."
-Rigoberta Menchu

SRI LANKA PROJECT

PBI expanded its work into the war zone of eastern Sri Lanka in 1992, establishing a second team house in Batticaloa. From Colombo, the team provided an international presence with a wide range of Sri Lankan human rights groups.

Political and Human Rights Situation

The bitter civil war between the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE) and the Sri Lankan security forces continued through 1992. According to one estimate, 30,000 civilians have been killed and 10,000 "disappeared" since the war began again in June 1990. The LTTE seeks to establish an independent Tamil homeland, Tamil Eelam, in north-eastern Sri Lanka. LTTE attacks on the region's Sinhalese and Muslim population included a particularly gruesome massacre in remote Muslim villages in the east in which 200 villagers and 20 security personnel died.

Southern Sri Lanka is still haunted by the legacy of the Janatha Vimukthi Peramuna (JVP), or Peoples Liberation Front, insurrection against the Sri Lankan government. At least 40,000 civilians were killed or "disappeared" during the JVP uprising between 1987 or 1990. As many as 10,000 remain in detention in the south, and human rights agencies continue to report disappearances.

PBI in Eastern Sri Lanka

In mid-August PBI began to work out of Batticaloa in the war zone of eastern Sri Lanka. Hundreds of thousands have been displaced from their homes by the civil war in the north-east. Tensions between Muslims and Tamils make refugee resettlement difficult in Batticaloa District, where the two groups often live in close proximity. The team is exploring a PBI presence in areas of ethnic tension as a way of supporting refugees who wish to return to their homes voluntarily.

"PBI initially provided a 24-hour presence until the threats stopped, and then provided a daily presence for the rest of the year."

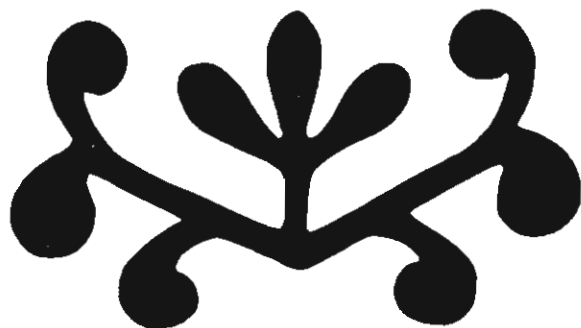
The team also developed a wide range of contacts with local groups and individuals, both Muslim and Tamil, involved in human rights and reconciliation work, such as the Federation of Mosques and Muslim Institutions (FMMI) of Kattankudy and the Batticaloa Peace Committee. A newspaper and radio report of PBI activities prompted a Peace Committee member and a FMMI member to visit the PBI house in Batticaloa. The two had never met before, and were able to have an informal conversation in a safe environment.

Amnesty International (AI) visited Batticaloa in November to document eyewitness accounts of security forces excesses. The team escorted participants from meetings with AI, and provided an overnight presence.

PBI in Southern Sri Lanka

In Colombo, the team responded to threats to Lawyers for Human Rights and Development (LHRD), an organisation of 55 lawyers and 10 staff providing legal aid in human rights cases and education on human rights for Sri Lankans. At midnight on June 29 four gunmen clad in black came to the LHRD offices, pointed guns at an office worker and asked to see the General Secretary. Similar sinister visitors appeared over the next few days making increasingly severe and intimidating threats. PBI initially provided a 24-hour presence, until the threats stopped, and then provided a daily presence for the rest of the year. PBI's emergency Response Network was also activated, initiating faxes about the case to Sri Lanka's President and Prime Minister from around the world.

In October and again in November, PBI escorted several women back to their homes in Trincomalee in eastern Sri Lanka. These women were testifying in habeas corpus cases concerning the detention of men from their community by the Sri Lankan security forces. twenty-two were released, with numerous internal injuries (from which one later died), but 28 are still missing.



SRI LANKA PROJECT



Moslem refugees in Kattankudy, near Batticaloa.

"PBI also provided observers at a protest fast by sugar cane growers in remote Moneragala District, a Free Media Movement rally..."

The team continued its regular presence at the offices of the Negombo United Peoples Organisation, a community development group north of Colombo, and with Dr. Saravanamuttu, mother of murdered journalist Richard de Zoysa. PBI also provided observers at a protest fast by sugar cane growers in remote Moneragala District, a Free Media Movement rally in Nuwara Eliya, and a demonstration on behalf of workers in the Free Trade Zone north of Colombo.

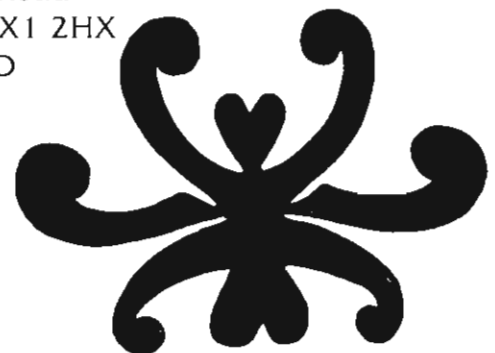
Other Work of the Sri Lanka Project

The Sri Lanka Project Committee (SLPC), the policy-making body for PBI's work in Sri Lanka, held its first face-to-face meeting in June, prior to PBI's General Assembly near Toronto, Canada. Joy Boustred, the Sri

Toronto, Canada. Joy Boustred, the Sri Lanka Project Co-ordinator, continued to provide long hours of dedicated service from the project office in Halifax, England. Henrik Frykberg, European co-ordinator for the project, organised a successful two-day PBI seminar on Sri Lanka in Lund, Sweden in April.

If you are interested in learning more about the Sri Lanka Project you may contact Joy Boustred at the following address:

Sri Lanka Project Office
32 Clare Road
Halifax HX1 2HX
ENGLAND



NORTH AMERICA PROJECT

Peace Brigades began exploring the possibility of a North America Project in September, 1990 after a hot summer of violent confrontations in several Mohawk communities. That winter NAP held its first non-violence training over three weekends for people interested in volunteering for a PBI-type project.

In June, 1991, a team of ten PBI trainers stayed ten days in the Mohawk communities of Kahnawake and Kanasatake near Montreal, Quebec. Workshops were provided for members of a local Human Rights Watch and there were non-violence trainings for people doing security at Pow Wows in both communities. Karen Ridd spoke to several hundred young people on nonviolent ways to solve conflicts. And Quetash Tal from El Salvador shared stories about the situation in his homeland.

Other workshops and presentations were provided to the Native Woman's association of Canada, the Conference on International Peace Bureau in Toronto, and at a meeting of the American Friends Service Committee Native American staff in Boston. In March, 1992 there was a week long training in British Columbia, for observers.

In May of this year, PBI trainers worked in Manitoba with several native groups sharing stories about Central America, listening to stories on non-violence, and training observers. One group, the Bear Clan Patrol, works nonviolently in the inner city of Winnipeg in response to concerns about the ill



The road blocked by Coalition members in Maliotenam.

"The Coalition is made up of Innu people from the village of Maliotenam struggling against a hydro-electric project..."

effects of violence, gangs, drugs, and prostitution. At the Dr. Jessie Saulteaux Resource Centre, a theological school that combines Christian and aboriginal ways in the training of personnel for native ministry, stories were shared about PBI's work in Central America and conditions in native communities and reservations throughout Manitoba. Volunteers from Project Peace Makers were trained in observing work and two presentations were made at the conference of the Canadian Network for Conflict Resolution.

In December, 1992, PBI was called on by the Coalition for Nitassinan to escort Coalition spokesperson, Gilbert Pilot, at the United Nation and as he returned to his home in Maliotenam, Quebec, from New York, and to provide observers at a barricade. The Coalition is made up of Innu people from the village of Maliotenam struggling against a proposed hydro-electric project that would flood a large area of their territory.



NORTH AMERICA PROJECT

Upon arriving in Maliotenam, two PBI volunteers reached out to the different parties in the conflict, to explain PBI's non-partisan approach and the desire to help protect nonviolent space for dialogue. Meetings were held with the elected Tribal Chief, the Traditional Chief, the head of the Amerindian Police, and the Quebec Provincial Police. Each party expressed a concern that the conflict be solved nonviolently.

Early on December 12th, the road in front of Maliotenam was blocked by Coalition members that pulled pine trees and branches across the road in two places. In between the road-blocks, 15 to 20 Coalition members stood by a fire to keep warm in the snowy winter weather. Outside the barricades 4 to 10 police cars patrolled.

There was some concern about police arrests and also the non-native reaction to the barricade. PBI volunteers positioned themselves about 100 yards from the barricade and maintained a presence 24 hours a day until the barricade came down on December 16th. There were no arrests or acts of violence or provocation.

The chief of the Amerindian Police had been concerned that the barricades were going to be a disaster because other actions in Maliotenam had led to an escalation of tension and violence. He said they had received no reports of disturbances during the time of the barricades and he attributed that to PBI's presence. There was similar feedback from other groups about the PBI presence.

After a year and a half as an Exploratory Committee, NAP became an approved project of PBI in April, 1992. Currently the NAP Project Committee is made up of people from PBI-Canada, and PBI-USA. In Europe there is a great deal of interest in NAP in Germany as well as Sweden, Italy and Switzerland.

Some of the main issues and areas the NAP Project Committee is working on include: Racism, policy decisions, the make-up of the Project Committee, a gathering of native people, a training for trainers, facilitating exchanges between different communities

"...He said they had received no reports of disturbances during the time of the barricades and he attributed that to PBI' presence..."

working on non-violence, and training volunteers to be a part of a "Ready Response Brigade". There has been an effort to bring native people on to the NAP training teams and into the organizational structure. Elizabeth Little Elk,

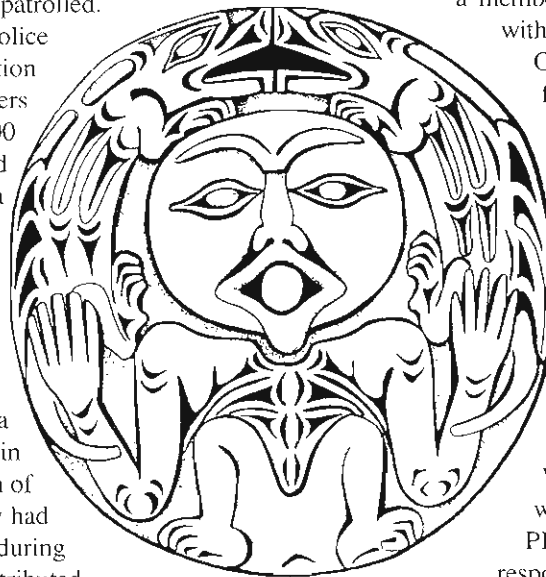
a member of the NCC of PBI-USA, helped with the British General Assembly in Ontario. Tona Mason, a pipe carrier from the Six Nations reserve, has attended several project committee meetings. Another training for volunteers scheduled at the end of February at Birdsfoot rural Northern New York. Tom Sullivan, a Mohawk, will join the training team there and share some of the cultural and political dynamics of working in North America.

Working in North America is a new social and political context for PBI. We are still working on listening to what native people would want from a PBI project and how we could best respond. To be relevant in the North

America context one major issue for us to work on is undoing racism. It is important of us to look at the issues on a personal level and as an organization. It is critical that we move toward interracial teams to be effective in North America and to adopt a strong anti-racist program. The North America Project is still just beginning and maturing with each new experience. We value any input, feedback, criticism, and help that can strengthen the project.

"Only... a living alternative world view, rooted in an ancient connection with the Earth, can continue to express what is insane and suicidal about the Western technological project."

Jerry Mander, *In the Absence of the Sacred*



NEW PROJECT EXPLORATIONS

Exploring Cooperation with Memorial

From December 1991 to January 1992 PBI member, Yeshua Moser conducted non-violence and team work training with members of the Human Rights Section of Memorial in Moscow. Later he accompanied a MEMORIAL human rights mission to Nagorno-Karabakh and Azerbaijan. During this visit Dmitri Leonov, head of the MEMORIAL Human Rights Section requested that PBI participate in an international observer mission to the conflict area to help deescalate the violence and prevent the conflict from becoming a long-term and large scale war. By August 1992, MEMORIAL's interest had shifted to the Georgia/South Ossetia conflict. Its intention was to place teams of international observers on both sides of the conflict in order to monitor and report on the human rights situation there. PBI was asked to assist in making these teams truly international.

A new ad hoc exploration committee was set up to explore this further. They will also follow up contacts with other peace and human rights groups in the former soviet union.

Exploration For A Columbia Project

Exploration for a Colombia project is underway and cautiously gaining speed. Since 1989, PBI has received several requests for an international team to be established in Colombia. In 1992, PBI received and is actively pursuing four requests for a PBI presence from a variety of organizations threatened by political violence. Among these figure a human rights group, an association for relatives of the disappeared, and a shelter for internally displaced persons. There is also a request to develop peace education workshops with former PBI Directorate member Jaime Diaz whose organization, CODECAL, is currently involved in such work. An exploratory team consisting of PBI representatives from three continents is expected to enter Colombia in mid-1993 to investigate the feasibility of beginning a long-term project there. Areas of possible emphasis include the capital city of Santa Fe de Bogota and Barancabermeja, located in the violence-torn region of Magdalena Medio. Those interested in following the development of this process more closely should contact Werner Hufner in Europe (PBI-Germany, Engersertr 74A, D-5450 Neuweid, Germany) or John Lindsay-Poland in North America (1167 Hays Street #2, San Francisco, California 94117)

Towards a New Project in Tchad

In August 1992, a young organization created the previous year, "Tchad Non-violence" (here after: TNV) requested the help of PBI. The request came through the president of TNV, Mr. Isidore Nodjinaye Yatassalah, who asked that PBI assist with the democratic process in Tchad with the accompaniment of leaders and other threatened people, workshops about non-violence, peace education and eventually, perhaps mediation activities in some conflicts. Around October 1993 (after the rain season there). PBI members in Switzerland took up the initial investigation into this request. At the end of the year an Ad-Hoc Exploratory Committee" (Tchad AHEC) was formed with: Philippe Beck, Stefania Dusi and Carlo Jelmini (CH), Jean Marie Muller (F), Pat Patfoort and Serge Vanden Berghe (B). Full scale the year an exploration is expected to extend over the spring of 1993, and the Council should then be able to meet a decision, whether to open this new project, which might start around October of '93 (after the rainy season there).

If you have any questions or would like to offer suggestions about this project, please contact Philippe Beck, PBI-Suisse Romande, CP 178, 1000 Lausanne 3 Cour, Switzerland.

Croatia Exploration

Both at the international level and at the local country group level, PBI was involved, throughout 1992, in with struggling for an appropriate response to the wars and atrocities going on in former Yugoslavia. After looking very cautiously at several possible areas of work in the region, PBI received at the end of November a direct request for escorts to accompany a local peace and human rights group under threat in eastern Croatia. Within two weeks of this request, Quique Eguven from PBI-Spain had visited the area and we had sufficient information to proceed with a full-scale exploration of a possible PBI project in Croatia. An ad-hoc exploratory committee was formed, with help from advisors already very familiar with the situation in eastern Croatia. A four-person Exploratory Team was recruited by the end of the year and they were due to spend two weeks in Croatia during January 1993. (At the time of printing (March 1993), PBI's International Council are considering the report and recommendations of this Exploratory visit).

salzburg project

THE WORLD URANIUM HEARING - SALZBURG, AUSTRIA

Look at how much can happen within three months! A PBI Project was explored, accomplished, and closed again! The request came from the organizers of the World Uranium Hearing which took place from September 13-18 in Salzburg, Austria. The purpose of this hearing was to give people affected by uranium mining and nuclear tests a chance to talk about the disastrous effects of these activities on the environment and public health. Their audience was an international Board of Listeners, composed of physicists, physicians and lawyers, as well as representatives from the cultural, political and economic sectors.

LISTEN TO THE UNHEARD

More than 70% of the world's identified uranium resources are on lands of indigenous peoples. Therefore, it was mainly their voices that were heard in Salzburg - Native Americans from the north and south of the continent, aborigines from Australia, black mine workers from Namibia and South Africa, Ainu (indigenous people of Japan), people from the Pacific, from India, Tibet, Mongolia and from the former Soviet Union.

They spoke about uranium mining, nuclear tests and dumping of radioactive wastes on their land. At the old University of Salzburg, many of them shared their own stories; they reported contamination of the land, cancer and miscarriages, and children born with deformities and disabilities. One message was common to most of these reports. Almost everywhere, the population had not been adequately warned of the dangerous effects of radioactivity.

Since nuclear issues are considered military secrets in many countries, and as they are often connected to important economic interests, the organisers of the hearing anticipated a safety risk for the witnesses. Many of these had experienced threats and even attempts to kill them in their native countries. Experience with intimidations during similar international conferences, as well as the memory of the assault on the "Rainbow Warrior" committed by the French Secret Service, made the organisers feel that they would have to anticipate attempts of intimidation even in Salzburg.



"Prayer for the Earth" - opening ceremony on Sept. 13th, 1992 with indigenous elders from around the earth.

REQUEST TO PBI

For this reason the German branch of PBI received a request in July, asking whether PBI could provide non-violent escorts for the witnesses of the hearing. It was clear from the beginning that such escorts could not hinder possible assaults which might occur later, in the respective countries of the witnesses. But the organizers wanted to make sure that their guests could feel safe at least for the period of the hearing. Given the short duration of the project, it made sense to look for volunteers and money from PBI groups in Austria, Germany and Switzerland. We were able to go ahead with the project with the consensus of the International Council.

THE WORK OF THE TEAM

Six volunteers completed a training and formed the PBI Salzburg Team: three women from Germany, two from Austria and one man from Switzerland. From September 12-19, they provided:

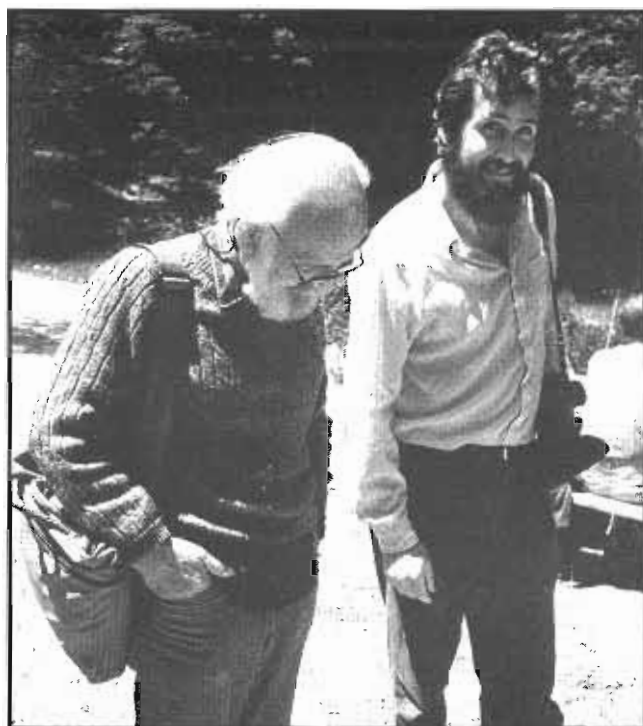
- a presence in the "Kapellhaus," where some of the witnesses were lodged, including those for whom a higher risk was anticipated;
- a presence at the hearing and in the related events where witnesses were present;
- a 24-hour presence in the peace office, in order to be able to respond at any moment to a request for an escort. (But none of the witnesses ever made use of this offer).

Comments from several witnesses and other participants in the hearing showed that they appreciated PBI's presence. There were no incidents of violence or intimidation.



GENERAL ASSEMBLY 1992

Every three years, the various national groups of PBI gather together for a week of dialogue and decision making. In three years, our work has evolved, new groups have been born; The General Assembly is an opportunity to bring things up to date. This years General Assembly was held in Canada from June 10-17th. Over twenty delegates attended, from Canada, USA, and 8 European countries, and for the first time a delegate from the new Pacific region. A number of visitors and observers also attended, including two Sri Lankans. As a result of an overwhelming amount of material to be discussed, we decided to form working groups to discuss 6 themes, but as everyone had something to say about everything, we also constituted affinity groups of the same size, with members common to both groups. Although an interesting method of working, it did lead to difficulties in our decision making process. The working groups tackled the following questions: PBI's mandate, International structure, Finances, Fundraising, Volunteers and professionalism, Project trainings, and a nominations committee. We worked in English and Spanish, with interpretation on hand. Reports were given by the Central America project and the Sri Lanka Project on the situations of the existing projects, and the North America Project situation was discussed. An elder of the Ojibway Nation was a guest speaker at the Assembly and there was an expedition to native community. We agreed on a new mandate text and new international structures on the following lines; The directorate was to be replaced by an Interim Council balanced in terms of geography and sex. The council would be responsible for the supervision of PBI in general. The project exploration committee's role would be assumed by individual exploratory project committees. The International Finance Committee would oversee the international flow of



George Willoughby and Steve Kaal enjoying some sunshine at the General Assembly

money and deal with the technical aspects of this, the role of the International Secretary was reevaluated as Tim Wallis showed this his old specification was unworkable.

The most wonderful aspect of this gathering was meeting each other. It was a rare opportunity to dialogue, debate and resolve issues about our differences and the emerging vision of PBI for the future.

ERN EMERGENCY RESPONSE NETWORK

Between January 30, 1991, and December 21, 1991, PBI's Emergency Response Network was activated eight times, including four times for the Guatemala team, twice for the El Salvador team, once for the Sri Lanka team and once for PBI's Southeast Asia representative, Sulak Sivaraksa, in Siam (Thailand). Activating the ERN in each case sent a flood of faxes, phone calls, telexes, and letters to the governments and /or other officials of Guatemala, El Salvador, Sri Lanka and Thailand with Over 175 people participated directly in PBI Canada's ERN. PBI Canada has 16 "key callers" who call over 100 people. 55 people participate in a pre-paid telex service, in which people authorize and pay for telexes in advance, allowing PBI Canada to respond immediately to crises. Other networks that work closely with PBI Canada contact many additional people.

Nearly 2,000 people participate in the PBI USA Emergency Response Network. 100 regional "key callers" activate the portions of the network in their areas. PBI USA also has a pre-paid telex service.

In Europe the Cantabria (Spain) group is responsible for the coordination of Emergency Response Network. ERN coordinators in ten European countries receive the information from Spain via fax, and each of these inturn activate their own emergency response network. France, for instance, has 300 people on their ERN network. Germany has 150 people who send letters and 50 who send faxes. New Zealand the latest country to join the PBI response network, currently has 6 key callers that call 28 people.

PEACE BRIGADES INTERNATIONAL

COUNTRY GROUPS:

The Support Base of PBI

PBI Austria

c/o Marckus Rieglhofer - PBI-Osterreich
Pontaltzer Strasse 32p
6020 Innsbruck, AUSTRIA

PBI Australia

Initially PBI Australia was made out of three groups. PBI Victoria, PBI New South Wales and PBI Queensland. At this time PBI Victoria isn't functioning. PBI New South Wales' main publicity outlet is a well-written newsletter. PBI Queensland is flourishing and active. They have held three basic trainings in '92 and they have a newsletter collective also.

PBI-Belgium

During '92 PBI Belgium had the pleasure of seeing its two new local groups become productive in terms of outreach: edition of a booklet to present the international organisation, presence in four regional events mainly focused on Central America, more than ten slide presentations, of our recent volunteers in El Salvador and Guatemala, and personal contacts yielding a significant increase in our membership. Our local group in Verviers also co-organised four events related to the 500 Years of Resistance campaign.

PBI Britain

PBI Britain fund-raising efforts in 1992 succeeded for the first time in making a significant contribution to PBI finances, especially to the Sri Lanka Project. We currently have one British volunteer on the Guatemala team and two on the Sri Lanka team, but our support base in Britain is still very small. We have two active local groups, one in London and one in Yorkshire, and we had our first extended gathering of nation-wide members in September. Despite the fact that Britain is hosting both the Sri Lanka Project office and the PBI International Office, as a country group we still lack people, paid or unpaid, to do basic administration work for the group.

PBI Canada

PBI Canada's greatest challenge this year was provided by the opportunity to host the 1992 General Assembly of PBI at Georgian Bay, Ontario. We spent many hours in April, May and June scrambling to put in place the necessary logistical support to permit people from around the world to come together and reflect on their past and plans for PBI's future.

On the homefront 1992 was for us a year of modest but steady progress. The separation of PBI-Canada operations from those of the Central America Project (CAP) in the Toronto office had a chance to take effect to the satisfaction of all concerned. Renewed efforts were also made to build up local groups. Building on work in 1991, trainings took place in British Columbia, Ontario and Quebec and a strong group in Hamilton, Ontario organised a number of successful events.

PBI-France 1992

PBI-France's highlight activity in 1992 was its ERN Network: it involves approximately 300 people who are concerned with both CAP and SLP and are also interested and ready to work for the new projects. PBI-France is now an official association which held its first general assembly last autumn. About 40 people gathered in Paris for this gathering.

Some changes have been made to improve and strengthen the work of PBI-France: the board held its first conference call in addition to two annual meetings. The quarterly bulletin is also now being published together with French-speaking Switzerland.

However since our main problem is a lack of growth in the number of PBI members (around 180 people) we are now paying someone part-time to do fundraising, publicity and organisation of speaking tours.

PEACE BRIGADES INTERNATIONAL COUNTRY GROUPS: The Support Base of PBI

PBI-FRG (PBI-Germany)

In 1992, we have been able to increase our activities, due to the work of many people committed to PBI. Three steering committee meetings and two federal meetings took place and helped us in the coordination of our different efforts. We were able to organise two weekend seminars about PBI in general, one about Guatemala and one about North America. PBI Trainers also facilitated a security training for a group going to Guatemala, as well as a preparation training for the German participants of the "Solidarity for Peace in Sarajevo" action. With all these trainings and seminars, we reached about 85 persons with some interest in PBI. We organised three international PBI trainings, two for Guatemala and one for Sri Lanka, with 44 volunteers altogether. Representatives of PBI-FRG participated in the European Assembly in Italy in the General Assembly in Canada.

PBI Italia

PBI Italia has a membership base of approximately 150 people, 40 of whom are active in local or work groups. There are seven local groups and three of them were born in 1992. We publish "Altre voci", the Italian bulletin, four times a year. It is sent to all members and to various organisations and public libraries. In 1992 the Sri Lanka Project Group took part in an international seminar about Asia, explaining the PBI experience in Sri Lanka.

This year one Italian volunteer came back from Guatemala after working on a team for one and a half years. In the summer of '92 several members of PBI-Italia organised three non-violence holiday camps to collect money and to publicize PBI. In November of '92 there was a Solidarity for Peace in Sarajevo (Bosnia), demonstration where more than 500 people from Italy participated. PBI Italia's trainers prepared people to participate in the demonstration.

PBI Netherlands

We are still a small but very active group. We have started a campaign in order to become more well-known in Holland. Our improvements are especially in the field of fundraising. Lately we had talks with organisations like Amnesty International, Greenpeace and Medecins Sans Frontieres and received from them very useful information on how to improve the structure of our own organisation. We published two newsletters and a popular brochure. One Dutch volunteer returned from Sri Lanka and two Dutch volunteers went to Guatemala. Their trip was almost entirely sponsored by FNV, the major Dutch trade union.

PBI New Zealand

After some administrative delays while the Sri Lanka Project Office was relocated our first ever volunteer joined the Sri Lanka Team mid year. We were able to have a representative at the General Assembly which helped in the process of becoming part of the world-wide PBI family. September saw both the return of our first volunteer and the departure of our second.

We ran one general training at the rural community who gave us strong support including the ERN, and by producing four newsletters during the year. With two volunteers, one of whom is on the Sri Lanka Project Committee, we look forward to 1993 as a time of growing involvement in many respects, including raising money to enable the work of PBI to continue.

PBI Norway

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NORWAY

PBI Spain

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28034 Madrid SPAIN

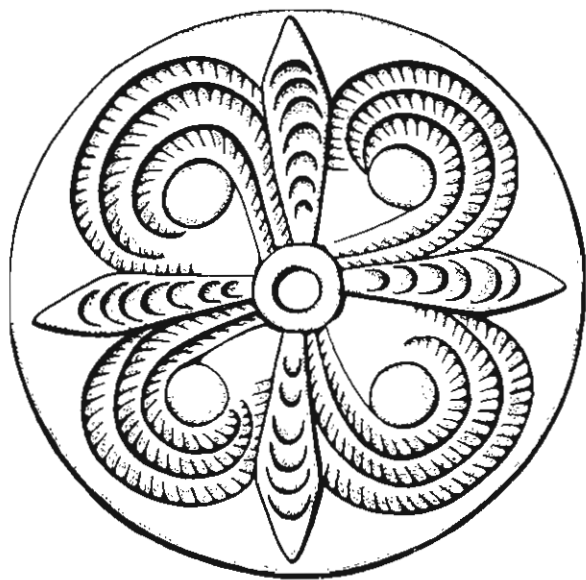
PEACE BRIGADES INTERNATIONAL COUNTRY GROUPS: The Support Base of PBI

PBI Sweden 1992

In 1992, PBI Sweden had three active base groups with an office located in Goteborg. Two returned volunteers made speaking tours and informed people about the projects.

In April PBI Sweden hosted a PBI Europe Sri Lanka Seminar in Lund which gathered around 30 participants from all over Europe. In October, Mr. Kalyananda Tiranagama, of Lawyers for Human Rights and Development, the threatened Sri Lankan group, visited Scandinavia and we helped organise his speaking tour.

During the year we had contact with people in Norway interested in PBI and we were glad to help them in the process of founding PBI Norway. Our Newsletter in Swedish is sent out to 160 subscribers. The English and Spanish Project Bulletin is sent out to 40 subscribers. We held one introductory weekend for eleven participants interested in becoming volunteers. Two volunteers came back from the Guatemala project and made speaking tours.



PBI-Switzerland

PBI-Switzerland acts as a whole towards the wider PBI-organisation, but splits into a French and a German speaking part within Switzerland.

Swiss German speaking part:

The support work was carried out by an active group of about 10 members who met regularly each month. In April '92 a planning weekend took place, and in September an information weekend for newcomers was organised.

The French Speaking part:

In the French speaking part of PBI-Switzerland, the coordination passed to a new secretary, Philippe Beck. An office space was opened in July and new publicity material was created. In autumn, we took part in the exploration and training for the Salzburg short-term project. And as from August, we are playing a leading role in the exploration of a would-be Tchad project.

PBI USA

December, three PBI/USA members joined with Canadians to form the North America Project's first rapid response team, which accompanied the Innu people during a land rights protest in Canada's Quebec-Labrador Peninsula. Returned volunteers spread the news of PBI through speaking tours and media contacts in 14 states, spanning from the southwest to the northeast of the country. Those tours reached over 2000 people and raised \$10,000 in contributions to PBI.

Local PBI activity included three volunteer trainings, regional organizing in the Northeast and Northwest U.S. and PBI/USA's second National Gathering. The National Gathering featured PBI story-telling, outreach and organising strategy sessions, an anti-racism workshop, and talks by Native American activists.

Peace Brigades International
International Financial Statement 1992

Item of expenditure	Internat'l Office	Sri Lanka Project	Central America Project	North America Project	Salzburg Project	Total
Personnel & Stipends	\$34,411	\$18,445	\$30,297	\$1,411	\$0	\$84,564
Phone/Cable/Fax	\$4,517	\$10,350	\$14,637	\$1,543	\$895	\$31,942
Copying	\$3,593	\$708	\$2,766	\$655	\$0	\$7,722
Postage	\$1,842	\$787	\$1,575	\$313	\$106	\$4,624
Supplies	\$962	\$429	\$1,574	\$181	\$111	\$3,256
Int'l Council & G.A.	\$9,288	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$9,288
Education	\$0	\$0	\$7,425	\$1,989	\$0	\$9,414
Travel	\$1,245	\$5,054	\$12,069	\$780	\$1,130	\$20,279
Food	\$0	\$7,227	\$13,124	\$0	\$701	\$21,052
Rent & Util	\$3,350	\$8,725	\$17,390	\$0	\$0	\$29,464
Equipment	\$1,049	\$2,818	\$1,678	\$0	\$0	\$5,545
Committees/Mtgs	\$222	\$3,022	\$4,689	\$2,052	\$0	\$9,984
Special Projects	\$2,744	\$0	\$8,064	\$6,376	\$0	\$17,183
Prof. Services	\$0	\$535	\$4,025	\$0	\$0	\$4,559
Bank charges	\$359	\$412	\$0	\$57	\$0	\$828
Other	\$911	\$10,798	\$10,185	\$563	\$244	\$22,702
total	\$64,492	\$69,311	\$129,497	\$15,919	\$3,187	\$282,406

<u>International Allocations raised by PBI country groups</u>						
Europe	\$46,795	\$60,436	\$56,531	\$163	\$3,187	\$167,112
Canada	\$3,872	\$285	\$56,115	\$12,973	\$0	\$73,244
USA	\$7,597	\$13,862	\$7,014	\$4,716	\$0	\$33,189
Pacific	\$189	\$1,450	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$1,639
Misc.	\$9,994	\$4,947	\$11,168	\$549	\$0	\$26,657
Total	\$68,446	\$80,980	\$130,828	\$18,400	\$3,187	\$301,842

Opening Balance	\$1,201	\$2,261	\$38,135	\$1,748	\$0	\$43,345
Closing Balance	\$6,037	\$14,261	\$38,581	\$4,229	\$0	\$63,109
Adjustments	\$882	\$331	(\$884)	\$0	\$0	\$329
Net Change	\$3,954	\$11,670	\$1,330	\$2,481	\$0	\$19,435

Our deepest gratitude to all the following who helped financially to make our work possible in 1992:

Victoria Monthly Meeting, Victoria; Sisters of St. Joseph, London; Rotary Club of Toronto-Eglinton, Toronto; Samuel Rogers Trust, Toronto; Oriole York Mills United Church, Willowdale; Ontario English Catholic Teacher's Association, Toronto; Mary Nimmons, Edmonton; Maragaret Lunam, Kelowna; Dennis Lee, Toronto; Kase, Alleson, Sands, Astarte, Vancouver; ICHRDD, Montreal; Will Boyce Grindstone, Kingston; George Cedric Metcalf Charitable Foundation, Toronto; I.I. Dommel, Vancouver; Peter Cross, Hamilton; Janine Chenier, Winnipeg; Canadian Friends Service Committee, Toronto; Canadian Catholic Organization for Development & Peace, Toronto; Canadian Auto Workers, North York; Argenta Monthly Meeting, Argenta; Basilian Fathers of Toronto, Toronto; Winnifred & Joseph Awmack, Victoria

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PBI Team members, Rosa and Carol accompanying Manuel of CERJ near the town of Chunima.

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**There is a Spanish translation of the Annual Report.*

PROJECT BULLETINS

PBI Project Bulletins are published monthly, with 14 to 16 pages each of detailed information about the teams' work. Each team writes its own report, including observations, newspaper articles, photos and cartoons, analyses of the political situation and general issues, and of course, the work of the team itself. The Project Offices receive this material from the teams, compile, edit and send it on to be put into the unified Project Bulletin. The English edition is distributed by the PBI Mailing Project in Syracuse, New York, USA; the Spanish edition was done by PBI-Estado Espanol in Spain.

To subscribe for a year: send \$25 US (or less for low income to PBI Mailing Project, 340 Midland Avenue, Syracuse, NY 13202, USA. Or send 4000 pts. (Spanish, 3000 in Europe) to PBI-Austurias, Apdo. 4036, E-33208 Gijon, Espana.