



Over 1,000 people attended a rally outside the base's main gate July 7, the 2nd anniversary of the adoption of the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons. The TPNW has been ratified by 32 governments. It will enter into force when it is ratified by 50.

Continued from preceding page

occupy the runway and three different Protected Aircraft Shelters or bunkers where nuclear weapons can be stored. Since these highly publicized incursions, the military constructed a new but long-planned, multi-million dollar perimeter fence directly outside the old one, hired additional private security personnel, and increased its regular police patrols.

Earlier in the year, on April 30th, a group of 11 German peace activists was the first to foil the base's newly expanded protections when they both cut through and dug under the barrier to gain entry.

Go-in Actions Continued

There were three additional go-in actions during International Week, one July 14, two on July 16, and two subsequent go-ins July 22 and 27.

On July 14, Brian Terrell, Crane and van der Hijden cut into the base and were briefly inside. Terrell wrote, "The military policeman who found us was unreasonably obsessed about the hole we made in the fence, not so much concerned about the weapons of mass destruction he was guarding. Some people



Once inside, Crane and Bos declared the base a "crime scene."

are funny. We left after hearing his threats of future prosecution and after getting another 'stay away' order."

Military and civilian police were reluctant to take anyone to jail. The authorities issued "stay away" orders over and over again to people blocking the gate and to others who'd cut the fence. Repeat violations of the stay away orders were often ignored.

"... our estimates were that we would kill every European, a hundred million Europeans, without a single US or Soviet warhead landing on West Europe. Just from the fallout of the attacks we were planning on Russia and East Europe. One hundred million. ... Our best first-strike, then and now, has never for a moment—since the '50s—never been able to keep the Soviets from annihilating every last person in West Europe."

—Daniel Ellsberg, in *Things That Can and Cannot Be Said*, by Arundhati Roy & John Cusac

Büchel Resisters Win German Peace Award



For their "persistent protest against nuclear weapons at the Büchel Air Base," Germany's prestigious Aachen Peace Prize has been awarded jointly to Marion Küpker (at right in photo) and Elke Koller, and to the organizations they represent. Küpker is the international coordinator of DFG-VK, the German Peace Society, and spokesperson for the "Büchel is Everywhere!" campaign. Koller coordinates the group "Initiative Circle Against Nuclear Weapons." Küpker, who also coordinates Non-violent Action for Abolition of Nuclear Weapons which targets the Büchel base, wrote to friends when she heard the news, "I thank all those who have been in Büchel. This prize belongs to all of us!" Küpker's organizing advocates creative nonviolent civil resistance, and Koller's group uses more conventional public education. The annual prize comes with a grant of €2,000 (\$2,200) and is announced every May 8th, which is celebrated in Germany as "Liberation from Fascism Day." The award ceremony took place September 1st, the day German trade unions nationwide celebrate as "Anti-War Day."



Johanna Arlickes and Petra Kalter take a break from cooking duties in the camp kitchen.

July 10 Go-In Action Appeal

The early morning group's prepared statement said in part:

We come from the United States and many other countries ... to bring a halt to the ongoing criminal conspiracy to commit war crimes using these weapons of mass destruction.

As an act of crime prevention and responsible citizenship, we ... act in accordance with common humanitarian law, Treaties governing the use or threat of use of nuclear weapons, and the authoritative (1996) opinion of the United Nations International Court of Justice, which says: "... the use of nuclear weapons could constitute a catastrophe for the environment. The Court also recognizes that the environment is not an abstraction but represents the living space, the quality of life and the very health of human beings, including generations unborn. ...The destructive power of nuclear weapons cannot be contained in either space or time. They have the potential to destroy all civilization and the entire ecosystem of the planet."

Even after repeatedly violating standing stay-away orders, Crane was only jailed again following her July 27 action.

July 16 is the double anniversary of the first-ever detonation of an atomic bomb (1945), and the Churchrock uranium waste spill (1979), both of which took place in New Mexico. The day was chosen for an early morning action by five resisters who walked through the main gate carrying a banner that read: "16 July 1945, the nuclear terror begins, first atom bomb test, New Mexico." The five were escorted outside the base but not issued a stay-away order.

Again July 16, van der Hijden, Crane, Richard Bishop and Dennis DuVall cut through fences and hastily entered the base around 7 p.m., intending to occupy a weapons bunker. DuVall and van der Hijden were able to cross the airbase perimeter road, and begin climbing toward the bunkers but were stopped by soldiers using a police dog. Crane suffered an injured hip when she was harshly knocked to the ground by a body slam from a military policeman. Two soldiers crawled through holes cut in the fences by the resisters and detained John LaForge; they also confiscated his phone reportedly for taking photographs. All five were released with another 24-hour stay-away order. The phone was returned Sept. 25 still holding the suspect photographs.

On July 22, Crane was given a 6-day stay-away order after she cut through the fence in a different area of the base. Then on July 27, Crane walked through the main gate to deliver a German language version of the UN Treaty Ban. The police issued her another 24-hour stay-away order, and took her off the base. Later the same day she started a walk around the outside of the base near the fence and was stopped and arrested for violating the order. She was kept in jail in Cochem as a "danger," and later had a "video conference" with the judge rather than a court appearance. Judge

Continued on page 8