

DIEMACO: WHEN ONE FAMILY KILLS ANOTHER

"This is not a sporting rifle, and war is not a sporting activity." – Harvie Andre, former Associate Minister of War, 1986, on the Diemaco C-7 Rifle

"If it can be said of a death-dealing weapon, [the C-7] appeared to have no vices when I fired it on the highly sophisticated indoor range at Diemaco...the C-7 fires around 800 rounds a minute." Ron Lowman, *Toronto Star*, 1986.

"This announcement is an example of how this government is prioritizing its spending so it can better serve Canadians by making efficient use of their tax dollars." – War Dept. press release, June 2000, announcing a \$3 million Diemaco contract for 2,000+ grenade launcher systems

Imagine that just down the road from where you live there is a non-descript building that houses a family business. The purpose of this business is to produce a product which, if used properly, would result in the deaths of hundreds, maybe thousands of people in a matter of minutes.

If this product were a vicious hybrid of heroin or crack cocaine, or perhaps cyanide tablets which could be placed in the food or water of unsuspecting victims, you might be upset, even angry, that such a business operates where you live. Perhaps you then observe that the parking lot of the company reserves spots marked "Pusher," "Addict" and "Dealer." If you then found out that, worse, this business received millions in taxpayer money to carry out its production, testing, and distribution, you might

want to kick them out of your neighbourhood or call your Member of Parliament to complain.

The scenario sounds a bit far-fetched, yet it is one which faces scores of Canadian communities and, in this instance, the city of Kitchener-Waterloo, Ontario. Just down the road from the Toys 'R Us strip mall at Fairway and Wilson, is the home of Diemaco, "Canada's Centre of Excellence for Small Arms." In the parking lot are reserved parking spaces for the weapons addicts from Canada's War Dept.

In a world plagued by nuclear weapons, chemical and biological agents and other horrors, the term "small arms" sounds innocuous enough, yet the weapons which are produced by Diemaco kill on an individual basis in exactly the same horrifying way that "bigger" weapons do on a community level. One study of 101 conflicts fought between 1989 and 1996 revealed that

small arms and light weapons were generally the weapon of preference or even the only weapons used. *Scientific American* reports "these wars have killed more than five million people, devastated entire geographic regions, and left tens of millions of refugees and orphans. Little of the destruction was inflicted by the tanks, artillery or aircraft usually associated with modern warfare; rather, most was carried out with pistols, machine guns and grenades."

Diemaco prides itself on producing what it calls a "family" product, even though that product results in the deaths of thousands of families annually around the globe. Read their promotional materials and discover that Diemaco describes its C7 Family of Combat Weapons as "a highly engineered and ruggedly constructed small arms system."

The International Committee of the
(over)

"A nation that continues year after year to spend more money on the military than on programs of social uplift is approaching spiritual death."

– Martin Luther King, Jr.

Transform Diemaco from Merchant of Death to Builder of Community: A Nonviolent Direct Action, Monday Morning, January 15, 2001 Diemaco, 1036 Wilson Ave., Kitchener

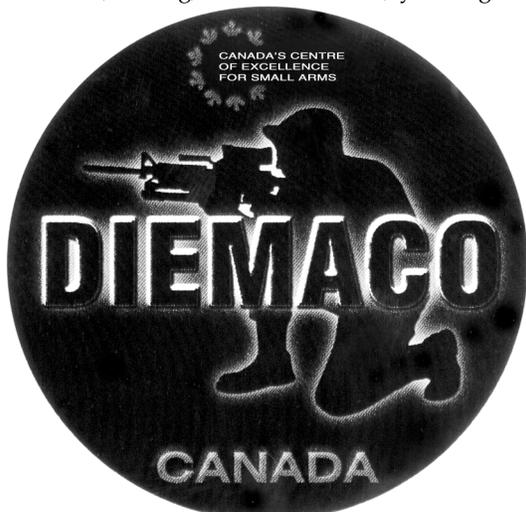
Since 1980, the federal government has given Diemaco of Kitchener, Ontario more than \$250 million in tax dollars to manufacture weapons: assault rifles, sniper rifles, grenade launchers, machine guns.

The fact that those millions were not spent on programs of social uplift helps us understand one source of the growing inequality in Waterloo Region: upwards of 2,000 people are homeless throughout the year, over 10,000 people are on waiting lists for affordable housing, food bank use is skyrocketing, hospital beds are closing, there are never enough shelter beds for women trying to escape male violence...

On January 15, we will conduct a nonviolent direct action which will include, among other things, an attempt to pursue a citizens' inspection to check Diemaco's facilities for failure to comply with basic precepts of international law.

For more information on nonviolence preparation and getting to Kitchener, call: Kitchener: (519) 576-8355, Guelph: (519) 836-2409, Hamilton: (905) 528-5925, 627-2696, Toronto (416) 651-5800, tasc@web.ca, Ottawa: (613) 237-6278

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Diemaco's Self-Portrait: It's time to help them nonviolently transform the Sword into the Ploughshare. Join us on January 15 to begin that process!

Red Cross Condemns Small Arms Production (continued from front page)

Red Cross, among many international organizations, is alarmed at the growth of the small arms trade and its deadly consequences. In a recent report, the ICRC concluded: "As international arms transfers, particularly of small arms, have become easier the promotion of respect for international humanitarian law has become vastly more difficult.

"The result is appalling levels of wanton violence and a stream of horrific images which threaten to immunize the public and decision-makers to ongoing violations of humanitarian law."

Yet back in Kitchener-Waterloo, the "Family" continues to receive hundreds of millions of Canadian tax dollars on that promise that "Each member of the family is ideally suited to serve in today's demanding military environment."

Indeed, an advertisement proclaims Diemaco provides its customers "army weapons training, maintenance and support" and "has built an international reputation of excellence by consistently providing superior quality small arms weapons systems, through unmatched responsiveness to customer's needs."

Meeting the Customer's Needs

When your customer's needs are the ability to wipe out the denizens of a community in a matter of minutes, Diemaco has just what you need. Take, for example, the family member they call LSW99.

"The 5.56 mm Light Support Weapon is a member of the C7 Flat Top Rifle Family. It provides the Infantry Section and others a lightweight, sustained fire or support fire role weapon, for engaging point or area targets to 800 metres. The LSW99 is a highly reliable, very cost effective alternative to the dedicated belt fed machine gun." You can also squeeze off between 600 and 750 rounds of deadly ammo per minute with this baby.

And unlike many deadbeat dads, Diemaco promises it is "committed to the total support of the equipment it produces throughout the systems' life."

Since 1976, Diemaco has proudly "been serving the International Military small arms community." During the U.S./U.K./Canadian slaughter of Iraqis in 1991, Diemaco proclaimed itself "proud that our Defence Industrial Preparedness enabled us to quickly respond to the Canadian Forces and the U.S. Army's urgent requirements in support of Operations Scimitar and Desert Storm."

Diemaco's website reads like any other family's dotting record of their growing brood: "The Canadian Forces selected the Colt M16 Rifle and the FN Minimi Light Machine Gun as the basis for their new family of Small Arms," and Diemaco was there to ensure the newest member of the family got the specifications it needed to be more "reliable."

Reliability. In other words, an "unreliable" weapon doesn't deliver well on its only purpose: killing human beings.

Diemaco says it is a legitimate business which only sells to NATO and "allied countries," which assumes that these largely white, "first-World" armies are responsible gun owners and users. But these "respectable" nations have caused untold misery through direct military intervention, arms sales or via proxy forces in dozens of countries around the world, from Vietnam and Laos and

"It is partly my love for you which gives me the determination to fight against the most unreasonable odds for a world in which we have eliminated organized violence as a way of 'solving' national and international problems. I am talking of these strange phenomena called war, defense and armed revolution. The strange thing is that there is only one thing which all 'enemies' seem to agree upon: that they should prove their fight is right by killing the guys on the other side. Everyone except a few sane people think it is okay to kill the 'bad guys.' I don't think it is okay to kill anybody.

To be an optimist in a world like ours, full of armies and bombs and fear and hatred, is seen to be a ninny. But we know that people have a good and loving and kind side to them. And I for one will spend the rest of my life trying to organize those qualities in people and do things the way in which Martin Luther King, Jr. and Mahatma Gandhi did them."

-Singer/activist Joan Baez, writing to her son, Gabe

Cambodia to El Salvador, Nicaragua, Chile, Colombia, Rwanda, Sudan, Ethiopia, Somalia, Haiti, Iraq, and the former Yugoslavia.

Diemaco is also the proud supplier of arms to the Canadian Forces, who blithely point out that they did "collateral damage" (murder of civilians who got "in the way" of bombs) over the Balkans. "I do believe we caused collateral damage. I'm certain that we did," said air force colonel Dwight Davies, head of the Canadian task force for most of the Kosovo campaign. "In evidence presented recently to a parliamentary committee, the government acknowledged that 28 per cent of the laser-guided 'smart' bombs dropped by Canadian pilots missed their targets. That means about 100 of the 361 laser-guided bombs exploded somewhere other than on a military target," reports the *Globe and Mail*.

Canadian Soldiers: Trained to Kill

These are the same Canadian Forces whose most celebrated contemporary general, Lewis MacKenzie, recently summed up the culture of our peacekeepers thusly: "As much as Canadians would like to ignore the fact, the role of a soldier is to kill as efficiently as possible with the resources available once he is ordered to do so by his government. There are many sidelines to his profession that make us all feel warm and fuzzy...But they are all subordinate to one overriding responsibility, and that is to kill on demand."

One can imagine Diemaco's rationale clearly: Diemaco would never export to countries that violate human rights, because that would be against the law. Leaving aside the question that most of Diemaco's customers are regular violators of international and humanitarian law, let us assume for an instance that Diemaco were sincere in its respect for guidelines which would prohibit sending arms to, say, a Saddam Hussein or Muammar Ghadafi.

A look at Diemaco's chequered history would reveal that when it comes to opening up new markets for its weapons, Diemaco has never had much respect for the law, as evidenced by its long-standing battle and ultimate victory in securing the ability to export automatic small arms weapons (which unleash a barrage of bullets with a single pull of the trigger).

Diemaco for years lobbied Ottawa to change the criminal code to allow for such an export. The Conservatives' John Crosbie, Trade Minister in 1984, in discussing the issue of proposed changes, noted, "The prohibition against export of such weapons has been a delicate subject of discussion for some time, by reason mainly of the inevitable perception that Canada would be seen as increasing its share in the international arms trade."

By 1988, an Order in Council was passed allowing for changes in the Criminal Code, later solidified by legislative changes in 1991. Yet before the changes were finally allowed, Diemaco had already lined up contract bids abroad, and moaned that it might lose jobs and future opportunities if its contracts had to be cancelled because they did not receive Ottawa's approval. In an ideal world, one would hope that such pressures would have had no bearing on Ottawa's final decision, but we do not live in an ideal world.

Hence, if there is a law prohibiting sales to a particularly brutish regime, but your company can arrange a sale to that government's military, you simply lobby Ottawa and state that jobs and future market opportunities are at stake and a way will be found. It's the magic of the market.

Alarming Level of Small Arms Transfers

But this is not good enough for groups which have to deal with the victims of these weapons. The Red Cross points out, "The current pattern of transfers of small arms, light weapons and related ammunition, because it is largely outside of international control, should be a matter of urgent humanitarian concern. While the primary responsibility for compliance with international humanitarian law falls upon users of weapons, States and enterprises engaged in production and export bear a degree of political, moral and, in some cases, legal responsibility to the international community for the use made of their weapons and ammunition."

Diemaco's latest contracts include automatic cannons, or chain guns, (firing 100-400 rounds per minute when mounted on Light Armoured Vehicles), a \$5 million contract for rifles for the British "special forces," and a grenade launcher system contract worth \$3 million, which is "particularly good news since it sets the stage to sell the

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“Fragmenting Munitions” for use in “peacekeeping”

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device to foreign customers,” according to the *Kitchener-Waterloo Record*.

In a War Dept. press release, Minister of War Art Eggleton says “these new grenade launcher systems will help ensure that our soldiers have the combat capabilities necessary for modern operations.”

The Canadian Forces, the release continues, require “close combat function [that] requires the capability to use a complementary mix of small arms fire and fragmenting munitions...Allied experiences in the Gulf War and other UN operations indicate that the grenade projector played a major role in winning small arms engagements.”

Fragmenting munitions. What does that mean? The ICRC again condemned such weapons (similar to cluster bombs, which spew out thousands of flying metal shards) earlier this year.

I called the War Dept., curious to find out how they define the term. A press liaison calls them “anti-personnel,” and although she was reluctant to further define that term, the euphemism stands for “kills people.”

I was passed to a Major in the press office, whose response to my question about fragmenting munitions was to giggle. He then tried to explain that they explode into hundreds of fragments of flying metal. But if I really wanted to find out more, I should talk “to the boys in ammo.”

Perhaps the nervous laughter is the only way human beings

can deal with the fact that their job is to plan for and carry out acts of state-sanctioned murder. Perhaps it is embarrassment that what any child in a playground could tell you is a ridiculous way to deal with one another is in fact official policy.

The cost of maintaining such a policy should now be obvious to anyone who sees the decaying social landscape of Canada. Government military expenditures represent a massive theft from the poor of this country, as well as countries unfortunate enough to be targets of our military action (such as Kosovo, bombing them for 78 days at a cost of \$482.5 million, and Iraq, where we annually spend the equivalent of at least 2,000 affordable housing units—\$72 million—to enforce the punitive sanctions against the people of Iraq. In fact, Canada has spent over \$1 billion enforcing sanctions which have been almost universally condemned as genocidal. And then there is the use of the Canadian military against First Nations people, at Oka, in Nitassinan, Stoney Point, etc.).

Since 1980, Canada has spent over a quarter of a trillion dollars on war—over \$250 million of that has gone directly to Diemaco. The lengthy trail of closed hospital beds, patients dying in hallways or in redirected ambulances, homeless people dying within view of the seats of government, generations of latchkey kids growing up without daycare, lack of action on environmental cleanup, and so much more is a path which has been purposely paved by successive governments who have chosen guns, not bread, bombs, not homes, as their national policy.

In a shocking display of the ease with which Orwellian terminology can placate a supposedly educated people, all this has been done in the name of peace and peacekeeping. The construction and testing of cruise missiles, the refining of depleted uranium into the exploding munitions which have caused cancers to skyrocket in Iraq, Kosovo, and among returning veterans, the research into fuel-air explosives, the export of hundreds of millions of dollars worth of armaments every year, the \$5 billion-a-year military industrial base in Canada, all this is done in the name of peace.

And so it is in Kitchener Waterloo. Look at this divided region, an area where the gap between the haves and have-nots continues to grow, and imagine what the \$250 million the federal government has poured into one arms manufacturer over the past twenty years could have done to ensure all a safe, healthy life free from poverty, hunger, ill health, and homelessness.

Transforming Diemaco to Something Socially Useful

Thus we come back to the case of Diemaco, that nondescript building just down the road from the Toys ‘R Us, quietly pumping out thousands of deadly weapons. Do Diemaco’s employees deserve jobs? Yes, there is no question. Are there socially useful things which could be done in Kitchener-Waterloo that don’t involve the production of killing machines? Yes. Can Diemaco, which draws its name from the fact that the company was formerly a tool-and-die maker, find civilian uses for its talents? Definitely.

But will Diemaco transform from a merchant of death to a sustainer of life? Not unless there is outcry from the community, not unless we approach the company with open hearts to show that there are life-and-death consequences that result from their daily labour, not unless we take the first step.

Just as the crack cocaine profiteer bears liability for the screwed-up lives of those hooked on the drug, so the weapons profiteers bear responsibility for the blood which flows when their weapons are used.

The countries of the so-called “developed” world regularly take it upon themselves to inspect and, if necessary, destroy other nations’ capacity to develop and deploy weapons which may be a threat to us. Do we as Canadians not have a similar responsibility to stop the production and flow of weapons which pose a threat to the rest of the world?

With that responsibility in mind, we went to Diemaco on the eve of Remembrance Day, Friday, November 10, to remember all victims of war. At that time, we presented a Notice of Citizens Inspection. On Monday, January 15, 2001, Martin Luther King Day, we will return to try and enter the premises for that inspection, to shed light on what goes on behind the walls of this place, to expose and transform the Diemaco “family” from the illicit shadows of the murder trade to the light of positive community development.

- By Matthew Behrens, of Homes not Bombs

Canadian War Dept. contracts, Diemaco, 1980–95

As you peruse this list, imagine all of the affordable housing, subsidized daycare spaces, well-maintained hospital beds, women’s shelter spaces and anti-violence program initiatives, youth centres and more which could have been supported with these public funds—but weren’t, because they were spent on a product whose only purpose is murder.

1980: Weapons and consulting	\$1,369,841
1981: Weapons, ammunition, explosives	\$2,298,462
1982: Weapons and consulting	\$9,051,291
1983: Weapons and consulting	\$6,922,404
1984: Weapons and consulting	\$116,620,012
1985: Weapons and consulting	\$4,393,621
1986: Weapons, small arms spares, technical services	\$7,438,447
1987: Weapons, tech. services	\$7,710,868
1988: Weapons, tech. services	\$5,019,902
1989: Weapons, tech. services	\$12,748,892
1990: Weapons, ammunition, explosives	\$3,211,471
1991: Weapons	\$6,791,595
1992: Weapons, services	\$18,225,770
1993: Weapons	\$36,582,190
1994: Weapons	\$1,431,651
1995: Weapons	\$4,482,444
Total 1980–1995	\$244,347,152

Selected International Weapons Contracts

Since 1991, Diemaco has also received contracts via the Ottawa-based Canadian Commercial Corporation for at least \$82,327,591 to supply tens of thousands of assault rifles, gun mounts for armoured personnel carriers, “light” machine guns and parts, and other deadly “small arms” to NATO and to the armies of the United States, New Zealand, Netherlands, Denmark (including the Danish brigade in NATO’s Rapid Reaction Corps), United Kingdom, Australia and some sources which are only unknown at this point. Due to government restrictions on the disclosure of Canadian military export information, these figures are likely incomplete.

Meeting With Diemaco, and Learning that Expanding their Arms Market is Simply a Matter of Course

On November 10, as four Kitchener-Waterloo police squad cars stood on alert to monitor a small peace vigil taking place at the entrance to Diemaco, two individuals presented a Notice of Impending Citizens Inspection to Diemaco officials. Andrew Loucks, one of those presenting, remarks:

The half-sincere greeting look on their faces turned to the strain of insult after reading the letter. They spoke about what they saw as strict rules governing who Diemaco can sell to. Reselling to "third parties" is prohibited, they said, noting that this could be kept track of through serial numbers. But despite the displayed con-

fidence in describing such restrictions, Diemaco's General Manager said he could not answer questions as to whether or not any customer contracts had been denied due to violations of third party rules. "I've only been here two years," he replied. He added that Diemaco was not an intelligence service, and that it left the questions of rule violations and of "good" and "bad" customers up to CSIS and the Federal Government.

But, of course, there's no such thing as a "bad" customer in the world of capitalism. After hearing the description of Diemaco's major market, I asked, "Any plans to expand

that market?" "Of course," he chuckled, indicating honestly that's what it's all about. He chimed in to downplay the rate of fire of Diemaco's weapons, which for some reaches 800 rounds per minute. Such rates are just the result of design, he claimed, as if such capability for destruction were merely incidental. He said what's really important is accuracy. "A good soldier" doesn't spray a barrage of bullets, he remarked, but instead coldly picks his victim off with one or two shots. "A good soldier," the manager stressed. He didn't mention that some soldiers might be scared to death because...well, maybe because the "enemy" might have similar weaponry with similarly devastating capabilities.

Exploring some international laws and covenants to which Canada is a signatory

Laying the Groundwork for Citizens Inspection of Diemaco

How does the funding of weapons construction and export at Diemaco violate international law? For starters, the **Nuremberg Principles**, approved at the end of World War II, declare that crimes against peace include "planning, preparation, initiation or waging of a war of aggression or a war in violation of international treaties, agreements or assurances."

In Canada, War Dept. spending is discretionary. There is no legal requirement that we spend \$11.2 billion a year on seeking new ways of blowing one another to bits. But because Ottawa continues to spend these monies not on programs to which it has committed itself on the international stage—but on weapons—any War Dept. contracts at the purely military Diemaco keep Canada from complying with, for example, the United Nations Covenant on Economic, Social and Human Rights and the **Universal Declaration of Human Rights**.

The International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights guarantees everyone's right to "an adequate standard of living...including adequate food, clothing and housing," yet these rights are not applied to Canada's 200,000 homeless and over 5 million residents forced to survive in poverty, with over 3 million Canadians forced to rely on food banks. (The United Way-funded report Understanding Homelessness in Waterloo Region 1999 estimates between 1,500 and 2,000 people are homeless in Waterloo Region each year. Almost 10,800 individuals are at increased risk of homelessness because they are stuck on waiting lists for affordable housing. 41.2% of households in Waterloo region (or almost 60,000 people) pay more than 30% of their income on rent, the definition of unaffordable housing, and therefore at higher risk of being a paycheck away from being homeless.

As the 1998 UN Committee monitoring compliance concluded, there is "grave concern" that "such a wealthy country as Canada has allowed the problem of homelessness and inadequate housing to grow to such proportions that the mayors of Canada's ten largest cities have now declared homelessness a national disaster...The Committee recommends that the federal, provincial and territorial governments address homelessness and inadequate housing as a national emergency by reinstating or increasing, as the case may be, social housing programmes for those in need...[and] to implement a national strategy for the reduction of homelessness and poverty."

But the discretionary spending of billions by the War Dept. on, among other things, the weapons produced by Diemaco, stand both the government and Diemaco, as a willing partner in this enterprise, in clear violation of the Covenant.

Similarly, Diemaco's well-funded production of weapons which bring terror to the world stands the company in violation of the **Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women**, which is "Concerned that in situations of poverty women have the least access to food, health, education, training and opportunities for employment and other needs," and which affirms "that the strengthening of international peace and security, relaxation of international tension, mutual cooperation among all States irrespective of their social and economic sys-

tems, general and complete disarmament, and in particular nuclear disarmament" are requirements for compliance under this covenant.

Every dollar spent on the Diemaco C-7 "family" of combat weapons is a dollar not spent on shelter space or transitional housing for women escaping male violence, and as the UN Committee on Social, Economic and Human Rights points out, "the unavailability of affordable and appropriate housing and widespread discrimination with respect to women create obstacles to women escaping domestic violence."

The Convention on the Rights of the Child reaffirms "that children's rights require special protection and call for continuous improvement of the situation of children all over the world, as well as for their development and education in conditions of peace and security."

A case can certainly be made as well that under the Aid and Abet portion of the **War Crimes section of the Canadian Criminal Code**, Diemaco is at the very least an accessory after the fact to crimes against humanity.

A selection of other laws which Diemaco violates through its production and sale of high-powered killing machines:

Declaration Renouncing the Use in Time of War, of Explosive Projectiles Under 400 Grammes of Weight, adopted by the International Military Commission, Dec. 11, 1868 (Declaration of St. Petersburg), which declares itself against "arms which uselessly aggravate the sufferings of disabled men, or render their death inevitable."

Treaty Providing for the Renunciation of War as an Instrument of National Policy, Done at Paris, August 27, 1928 (aka Kellogg-Briand Pact). Article II states "The High Contracting Parties agree that the settlement or solution of all disputes or conflicts of whatever nature or of whatever origin they may be, which may arise among them, shall never be sought except by pacific means. (approved by Canada 3/2/1929)

Convention on the Prevention and Punishment of the Crime of Genocide Done at New York Dec. 9, 1948, Entered into force: Jan. 12, 1951 (ratified by Canada 9/3/52) (Canada's Diemaco-supplied military participated in the bombing of Iraq and plays an active role in the military enforcement of genocidal sanctions against the Iraqi people)

Convention Relative to the Protection of Civilian Persons in Time of War, Done at Geneva, Aug. 12, 1949 (accepted with qualification, 5/14/65—Canada) The indiscriminate mass killing which soldiers are capable of executing with Diemaco's "family" of combat weapons would certainly stand their production and use in violation.

Resolution on the Non-Use of Force in International Relations and Permanent Prohibition of the Use of Nuclear Weapons UN General Assembly Nov. 29, 1972. Any Diemaco product, when used properly, can be properly construed as force, if not excessive force.

Convention on the Prohibition of Military or any Other Hostile Use of Environmental Modification Techniques, done at New York, Dec. 10, 1976 (Canada signatory). All wars seriously affect the environment (witness Iraq and Yugoslavia)

Protocol Additional to the Geneva Conventions of August 12, 1949, and Relating to the Protection of Victims of Non-International Armed Conflicts, Done at Geneva, June 8, 1977 (in addition to above).

“A nation that continues year after year to spend more money on the military than on programs of spiritual uplift is approaching spiritual death.”

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Transform Diemaco from Merchant of Death to Builder of Community:

**A Nonviolent Direct Action and Citizens' Inspection,
Martin Luther King Day**

**Monday Morning, January 15, 2001 (Exact time TBA)
Diemaco, 1036 Wilson Ave., Kitchener**

Why is Canada spending hundreds of millions of dollars at Diemaco on “improved” methods of killing while people die on our streets for lack of funding for affordable housing, health care, women’s shelters, youth centres, and the other basic elements of a civil society?

WHAT IS DIEMACO?

Since 1980, Diemaco, “Canada’s Centre of Excellence for Small Arms” and Manufacturer of the “C7 Family of Combat Weapons,” has received over \$250 million in taxpayer dollars from the War Dept. to construct deadly rifles which fire 800 rounds per minute, cannons, machineguns, grenade launchers, and other weapons which have no purpose but to kill members of human families.

If that money had been put to socially useful purposes, it could have created over 6,200 affordable housing units (over 10,000 people are on affordable housing waiting lists in Kitchener-Waterloo), made tens of thousands of subsidized daycare spaces, kept open thousands of hospital beds, funded youth programs, supported women’s shelters and programs to end male violence, funded technol-

ogy to end pollution and clean up the environment, built youth centres and so much more.

Instead, hundreds of thousands of deadly weapons continue to stream out of Kitchener for use around the world (since 1986, Diemaco received over \$150 million in arms contracts for the U.S. army, NATO, Australia, Netherlands, U.K., New Zealand, and Denmark).

The International Committee of the Red Cross, among others, has expressed growing alarm at the production and sale of “small arms,” and a recent report concludes, *“As international arms transfers, particularly of small arms, have become easier the promotion of respect for international humanitarian law has become vastly more difficult.*

“The result is appalling levels of wanton violence and a stream of horrific images which threaten to immunize the public and decision-makers to ongoing violations of humanitarian law.”

On January 15, we will, among other things, conduct a citizens’ inspection of Diemaco to check for violations of international laws and treaties to which Canada is a signatory. For more information on nonviolence preparation and getting to Kitchener, call: Kitchener: (519) 576-8355, Guelph: (519) 836-2409, Hamilton: (905) 528-5925, 627-2696, Toronto (416) 651-5800, tasc@web.ca, Ottawa: (613) 237-6278; Windsor: (519) 258-1555

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