International Status Report
by Pamela Meidell
Field Director

On March 16, 1994, the day after the Lenten Desert Experience, President Clinton extended the nuclear testing moratorium through Sept. 1995. By extending the moratorium, Clinton has enhanced the positive atmosphere for the Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty (CTBT) negotiations currently underway in Geneva. The U.S. is pushing for a rapid conclusion to CTBT negotiations. Meanwhile on the hill, Rep. Bilbray (D-NV) introduced on May 3 an amendment to the Defense Authorization Bill, cutting the nuclear testing budget from $180 to $150 million.

Conference on Disarmament (CD): In a meeting with a delegation of representatives of anti-nuclear groups, Mexican Ambassador to the CD, Miguel Marin-Bosch (chair of the Ad-Hoc Committee on a Nuclear Test Ban), stated that he hopes to have a treaty in hand by the end of the year. The CD concluded its first session on March 31, will begin its second session on May 16 and continue to July 1, and will start its third session on July 25, concluding on Sept. 7. Ambassador Marin-Bosch said that "if need be, we will work through the General Assembly [session in the fall] to make sure we have a treaty by the beginning of next year. The international community is committed to no testing."

LDE XIII, Now Is The Time
by David Buer, ofm
Nevada Director

LDE XIII was my first visit back to the desert for an NDE event since 1991. It was good to be back with some 125 others who came to Las Vegas to visit the test site, get informed, study scripture, and worship together. Many slept in the "uncomfortable inn" of their sleeping bags, in a little space, yet life stories were shared and community was formed.

We watched David Brown's new 90 minute version of Bound By The Wind. Ched Myers broke open the scriptures and spoke about the temptations of security, power and superiority that lead us away from God and toward the bomb. Ian Zabarte articulated well the sense of sacredness that his people, the Western Shoshone, have for Mother Earth. Their concern for all victims of nuclear testing extends from human beings to animal and plant life as well as the earth itself. Pamela Meidell brought us up to date with current events and strategies being used by national and international disarmament groups and governments toward achieving a CTBT. We may be only months away, but we must keep focused and informed! Tim Carpenter reminded us that learning to get our message out through the media is an important part of our work to end nuclear testing. (See follow-ups on Pamela's and Tim's presentations in this issue of Desert Voices.)

Rufino Zaragoza, ofm and Jesse Manibusan led us in a Saturday night concert. Jesse composed a song for the gathering based on our theme, "Now is the time, we are the ones, this is the place" and we sang this rousing chorus several times during the weekend. At the Test Site Sunday morning, our liturgy under the desert sky and among the desert plants prepared us to "cross the line" and risk...
At The Test Site
for "the Topless Girls of Glitter Gulch"
by Richard Nester

If we could interview this place as on a talk show, what would it say: its benches in rows on a hillside like church or the front seats at a drive-in, its I-beams and rebar twisted like taffy, its dead domes and dark houses alive with terrible crickets, its bridges whose abutments about nothing, its cables that do not seem to end in consequences.

We have been to the great strip show of the atom and come away poor, because that's how it is at a strip show: the one bright girl who carries all the heavy light alone and the guards who keep us from ourselves--what we crave but can't abide, the heart's blast like an oven even miles away. We stand by a hole we have made in the desert, hoping the stones will have something to say, a warning or a word of forgiveness. But the stones just stare.

What is it exactly we're breathing? Like a man shot for a political purpose even the air at Frenchman Flats seems to have vanished, to have meticulously forgotten along with the snakes and the gophers by someone given the job of forgetting who did it well. A dust of silence, which we track over the whole planet, covers our feet.

By Hudson Bay a word from my uncle's gun opens the far north, its lakes of invisible quiet. Then everything quickens into what it always is, a thunder of wings, a mountain and a valley at once. He has a rule worth keeping--never make more death than you can eat at a single sitting.

To speak is our weight, not the stone's.

LDE XIII, continued

arrest. Eighty-nine of us were arrested, while the rest of our supporters prayed and sang until we were released from the holding pen an hour later. The weekend was food for the soul, the mind and heart. We each had plenty to ponder on our way back home humming..."Now is the time, we are the ones, this is the place, walking the ways of peace..."

1994 Corpus Christi Desert Experience

A Major Peacemaking Event in Las Vegas & at the Nevada Test Site June 26-30, 1994

FOCUS--The sharing of stories to re-discover the wonder and love in which our universe is fashioned and to recognize the responsibility for life we share. CDDE offers an opportunity for participants to tell their resistance stories and to create together a new resistance story at the Nevada Test Site.

313-822-2055 GROUNDWORK/CDDE
11224 Kercheval Detroit, MI 48214

NDE TRANSITIONS

We are happy to welcome David Buer, ofm and Ed Robichaud, ofm to our staff. David is our new Nevada Director, and Ed will be working in the Las Vegas office as an intern. We are excited to have their talents, enthusiasm and Franciscan energy on board for NDE.

Kudos to Julia Occhiogrosso and Gary Cavalier, our Nevada coordinators these past months and many blessings on their June nuptials. We are very grateful for all their hard work!

Jonathan Parfrey has left NDE to take a job with Physicians for Social Responsibility (PSR). His tireless efforts as Director of Finance & Development will be greatly missed.

Jennifer Allen, Tim Carpenter and Bishop C. Dale White have recently joined the NDE Board of Directors for three year terms. Welcome to each of you and thanks for your willingness to serve NDE in these necessary capacities.

Read All About It!

by Tim Carpenter

The Nevada Desert Experience launched its City Correspondence Campaign at our March 13th gathering in Las Vegas with a workshop entitled, "Why We Can't Wait to Go Home and Spread the News." The workshop was organized to recruit NDE activists to return home and begin to write press releases and to contact local media with our call for a Comprehensive Test Ban. Thirty-two people committed themselves to work at the local level. Their first assignment when they returned home was to write a press release about the weekend.

As you are aware, shortly after our gathering President Clinton called for an extension of the test ban moratorium through 1995. Needless to say, we are very proud of our City Correspondents for returning home and turning up the heat in very short order!

City Correspondents are currently sending out press releases announcing house parties and updating the media about NDE's year-long nonviolent campaign. In Northern California, a media team has been flooding its local media with press releases about upcoming NDE activities.

We are excited about our City Correspondents Campaign. We feel this will be a great way to empower local activists while challenging the media for its lack of coverage on our issues. We hope to double the number of correspondents in the coming months. If you would like to become a City Correspondent, please give me a call at (714) 558-3329. I will send you a one page outline on how to write a press release with pointers on how to work with the media. In coming issues of Desert Voices we'll be profiling our correspondents, so please join us!
August Desert Witness X

To commemorate the 49th anniversary of Hiroshima & Nagasaki
With Arun Gandhi, Richard McSorley, sj
August 4-7, 1994

St. James Church, Corner of H St. & Washington St., Las Vegas, Nevada

Co-sponsored by Nevada Desert Experience, Fellowship of Reconciliation

Friday, August 5: All day tour of the Nevada Test Site, Dinner, Group Reflection, Night Prayer /Meditation
Saturday, August 6: Morning Prayer, briefings and small group sessions, lunch, nonviolence training, planning for Sunday ritual and action at the test site, dinner, cultural evening, optional camping at Cactus Springs.
Sunday, August 7: Gather at Mercury gate of the Nevada Test Site for ritual and action.

Please clip and return to: Nevada Desert Experience, P O Box 4487, Las Vegas, NV 89127
Please make checks payable to Nevada Desert Experience, for more information call (702) 646-4814

Name: ____________________________ Phone: ____________________________

Address: __________________________ City: ____________________________ State: ________ Zip: ________

Enclosed is my pre-registration of $50. ______ I need housing. ( _sleeping bag _bed)

I would like to register for the test site tour. We need your name (as appears on photo ID), social security number, date of birth and city and state of birth by July 3rd as required by the Department of Energy. Foreign guests must register by June 3rd. Pregnant women are discouraged from visiting the test site.

____ I need an airport pick-up, Airline ______________________ Flight # ______ Date ______ Time ______
International Update, continued

July 1 - 25: This time period between the second and third sessions of the CD will be crucial for raising public awareness and keeping the issue alive. Groups around the world will be observing July 25, the opening date of the third session, as an International Day of Action. A campaign is underway to collect one million signatures and present them to the CD at the beginning of the third session. Major demonstrations are already planned for Geneva and Paris. We are encouraging people to plan local events on this day, and to include this campaign in Hiroshima/Nagasaki events around the world.

Russia: President Boris Yeltsin recently reaffirmed his commitment to continue the nuclear testing moratorium. Russian Ambassador Vladimir Petrovsky, chair of the CD, praised President Clinton's extension of the U.S. moratorium and encouraged other nuclear states to take similar steps.

United Kingdom: The U.K. has yet to announce a formal moratorium because they test at the Nevada Test Site and the U.S. isn't testing. They do have an influential voice in the testing negotiations and are reluctant to support a treaty at this stage.

France: France maintains its moratorium on testing due entirely to the presence of President Mitterand. He announced on May 5 that the moratorium will remain in effect until May 1995, when it is likely he will be defeated in the elections. Defense Minister Leotard and the conservatives have called for between ten and twenty more tests in the South Pacific so France can reach the U.S. level of computer simulation. Mitterand believes that world opinion will prevent such massive French testing.

China: Although China has pledged not to use a nuclear weapon first, China is not abiding by any moratorium on nuclear testing. Patricia Lewis, Director of London's Verification Technology Information Centre (VERTIC), said at the end of April that she expects at least two more tests by China by the end of 1994, the first one as early as the end of May. Ambassador Marin-Bosch believes that the test could occur at the Lop-Nor test site in Xinjiang within a few weeks.

A Year of Nonviolence: Journey of Witness & Remembrance
NDE is sponsoring monthly events between August 4, 1994 and August 9, 1995. (Please see the brochure enclosed with this newsletter for more details). In the months of September, December and June, NDE invites you to host a meeting in your home to promote a CTB. We will provide a resource packet including organizing and media activities, and a Nuclear Age Reflection Guide. NDE will sell or rent the new version of Bound by the Wind for you to show at your meeting. ($25 purchase, $15 rental).

From May 7 - 13, 1995, NDE invites your participation in a Walk for Peace, a six-day journey to the test site to draw attention to the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty Review Conference and International Citizen's Assembly occurring in New York, and raise funds for NDE's campaign. If you are interested in hosting a house meeting or participating in the Walk for Peace, please call our office or send the coupon from the brochure.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Event</th>
<th>Date</th>
<th>City</th>
<th>Zip</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Walk for Peace, May 7-13, 1995</td>
<td>Phoenix, Arizona</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Concert, Albuquerque</td>
<td>February 18, 1995</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Concert, Phoenix</td>
<td>November 5, 1994</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Walk for Peace, May 7-13, 1995</td>
<td>Las Vegas, NV</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Concert, Albuquerque</td>
<td>December 27, 1994</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Nevada Desert Experience invites you to join this campaign by observing a Year of Nonviolence. After years of prayer and action, momentum is building for a Comprehensive Test Ban and a renewal of the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty. Over the next year, the campaign will be more important than ever to help make these crucial steps toward a nuclear-free future reality. In an effort to make peace with our past, we intend to look clearly at our nuclear history of the last 50 years. To take responsibility for what we have done and with the help and guidance of the great spiritual traditions of our planet, begin the healing of ourselves and the earth. To this end, NDE has sponsored regular events between August 4, 1994 and August 9, 1995. In addition, NDE and Pax Christi have prepared a six-session reflection guide for the Year of Nonviolence. To order a copy, please call NDE office at (702) 646-4841.

Whether by hosting a house meeting or making the journey to the test site, volunteer Christopher H. of the Nevada Nuclear Project on behalf of his group NDE, a faith-based organization working to end nuclear weapons testing through a campaign of prayer, dialogue and nonviolent direct action. Inspired by Franciscan spirituality and scriptural values, NDE is an inter-faith, voice previously engaged in an intensive campaign to bring about a Comprehensive Test Ban.
A Year of Nonviolence: Journey of Witness and Action

August 4 - 7, 1994
August Desert Witness X
Las Vegas and Nevada Test Site
Commemorate the 49th anniversary of the bombings of Hiroshima and Nagasaki. Interfaith prayer, reflection, test site tour and opening of the Year of Nonviolence.

September, 1994
Housemeetings
Host a meeting in your home to promote a Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty. NDE will provide resource packet including organizing and media activities, and a Nuclear Age Reflection Guide. Show films Bound by the Wind and One Earth, One Sky.

October 8 - 10, 1994
Call to the Desert
Las Vegas, Cactus Springs, Nevada Test Site
Initiated by Corbin Harney, Western Shoshone Spiritual Elder, and co-sponsored by Western Shoshone National Council, NDE, and others to honor Indigenous Peoples’ Day.

November 5, 1994
Walk in the Ways of Peace Concert
Phoenix, Arizona
Singer and composer Jesse Manibusan, radiation victim Claudia Peterson and NDE Field Director Pamela Meideli will provide an evening of song, entertainment and education.

December 1994
Housemeetings
Host a meeting in your home to promote a Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty.

January 27, 1995
44th Anniversary, First Nevada Test
Las Vegas and Nevada Test Site
Morning vigil at NTS; evening program featuring former test site workers. January 26 test site tour for Las Vegas residents.

February 1994
Housemeetings
Host a meeting in your home to promote a Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty.

March 1 - April 16, 1995
Lenten Desert Experience XIV
Las Vegas and Nevada Test Site
Forty days of witness and reflection. Special events for Holy Thursday through Easter Sunday (April 13 - 16). Weekly seminars on nonviolence.