

"VOTE PEACE IN '88"
1988 State Peace Marches
HIGHLIGHTS AS OF MID-MARCH, 1988
by J. Walter Cobb, Ph.D.

Los Angeles, California
April 7, 1988

Dear Bill & Yuri:

Thanks for your New Year's Greetings & notes. Also the enclosed info. about the Nat'l. Coalition in support of SSD III.

Enclosed here is an update report sent national peace organizations which responded to a 1987 mailing about the "Vote Peace in '88" campaign.

Note that June 11 is the scheduled starting day for our California State Peace March.

We're also supporting in L. A. the June 5 "Peace Sunday" at the L. A. Convention Center in support of the UN.

Have you heard of the State Peace Marches Project initiated by the Peace March of So. California?

Probably the march-inclined people in the State of N. Y. will be involved in SSD III events.

We won't be involved this time in SSD events. We did, however, take our family (Tom, 18 then, and Lark, 15) on a United Methodist Seminar Tour on Foreign Policy for two weeks in 1982. We spent a week in NYC during the UN session, then a week in Washington, D.C. The tour was very enlightening. International People's sessions were held Sundays, Tuesdays and Thursdays during the SS. These sessions were sponsored by the World Government Organization Coordinating Council. Dr. Lucile Green of the Bay Area in Calif. was convener. She was Pres. of the World Citizens Assembly which in 1975 in San Francisco brought citizens from 25 countries for week-long sessions as to how citizens of nations of the world can do for peace since the governments were making a mess of their relationships.

I'm today wearing a World Citizen T-shirt! Our family took in the WCA in 1975 during family vacation.

It's great to have friends such as you who are committed to the same things we are!

Love & Peace,
Walt
Walt Cobb
Enclosure

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Coast to coast and north to south, thirteen states are making concrete plans for State Peace Marches next summer. Reports from California, Kansas, Montana, New Mexico, Ohio, Pennsylvania and Washington were included in the February issue of Peacewalker, a newsletter sent to state organizers by the National Clearinghouse. State Peace March Organization Kits and T-shirts designed by marcher-artist Sadnah Lembo have been made available to state leaders.

The International Senior Citizens Association, Inc. of Los Angeles has approved a grant for part of expenses of the volunteer-operated clearinghouse office. Dedicated to peacemaking, ISCA also added to its Board of Directors Mordecai Roth and Dr. J. Walter Cobb. Roth (67) and Cobb (72) were LA to DC marchers in the Great Peace March for Global Nuclear Disarmament in 1986. They are board members of the Peace March of Southern California, Inc., an association of GPMGND veterans who decided to launch the now independent State Peace Marches Project under the leadership of Coleen Ashly of Ventura, California, a key mover in the 1986 trek.

Lorrien Finley is PR Volunteer promoting the project's motto "Vote Peace in '88" in creative ways. Earth Day, April 22, will be National Press Day for the State Peace Marches.

California's march will begin at the Mexican border on June 11 and end on Labor Day September 5 in San Francisco. Citizen petitions and messages acquired along the march will be presented to the State Legislature in Sacramento prior to its September 1 adjournment.

Illustrative of the impact and deep commitment of veteran peace marchers are the following developments:

A 90-minute documentary movie "Just One Step--The Great Peace March" premieres at Laemmle Theater in Santa Monica, California March 31. Producer-Director is Cathy Zheutlin.

Just published is a 208-page book, The Great Peace March: An American Odyssey, by Franklin Folsom, P.O. Box 507, Boulder, CO 80306, available at the above address for \$10.95 plus \$1.05 for shipping and handling.

The California State Peace March Coordinating Council held its second planning meeting on March 13 at Peace Camp in the desert opposite the Nevada Nuclear Weapons Test Site 60 miles northwest of Las Vegas. Later at the bandstand erected by American Peace Test near the

Test Site entrance they joined over 300 marchers of the 1986 trek for a rousing reunion. All were part of the 5,000-plus people at the March 12 test-ban action of the APT. Marchers and thousands of others had come from all over the USA.

Marchers in the California State Peace March plan to join the 200 Soviet citizens and 200 Americans in the second annual International Peace Walk when they walk in and tour California in July.

Through the National Clearinghouse and local and state-wide outreach, State Peace Marches will be supporting the work of established peace and justice organizations. The focus will be on nonpartisan joint action to reverse the arms race and meet needs of the human race by electing officials dedicated to these goals.

Examples of this approach: The Clearinghouse sponsored a workshop at the first National Congress of SANE/Freeze in Cleveland last November. Congress delegates, following action by the Board of the new SANE/Freeze, endorsed the State Peace Marches Project. Then representatives of various State Peace Marches met in the same city to develop national guidelines for their efforts. In Southern California, the April 9 march and rally of "COALITION '88--HUMAN CARE NOT WARFARE" is being actively supported from the Peace March Office. On January 18 the National Clearinghouse became a member of Peace Net, a computer networking system. The National Jobs With Peace campaign "BUILD HOMES NOT BOMBS" to be launched June 4 is a natural for Peace March collaboration.

Just as LA's Coalition '88 is aimed at education, voter registration and voting to assure choice of peace and justice candidates through the primaries, next summer's State Peace Marches aim for the prize of peace and human caring through the November General Election.

Resources for candidate evaluation education include:

Interfaith Center to Reverse the Arms Race, 132 North Euclid, Pasadena, CA 91101

The Professionals' Coalition for Nuclear Arms Control, 1616 P Street NW, Suite 320, Washington, D.C. 20036

National Impact, 100 Maryland Ave. NE, Washington, D.C. 20002, a nationwide interreligious legislative issues network.

Union of Concerned Scientists, 1208 Massachusetts Ave., Cambridge, Massachusetts 02138

J. Walter Cobb
5224 Hartwick
Los Angeles, CA 90041



Bill & Yuri Kochiyama
545 West 126th. St., Apt. 3B
New York, NY 10027

