

# VETERANS FAST FOR LIFE/ VETERANS PEACE ACTION TEAMS

August 21, 1987

Captain Lonnie Cagle, Commander  
Concord Naval Weapons Station (CNWS)  
Concord, CA 94520

Dear Commander Cagle:

This letter serves to introduce myself to you, announces an impending 40 day water only Fast as part of the Nuremberg Actions at CNWS, and requests a personal meeting with you.

Last year I was one of 4 U.S. military veterans on a 47 day water only Fast on the steps of the U.S. Capitol in Wash., D.C., protesting our war policies in Central America. In 1966-1970, I was in the U.S. Air Force, serving as a security officer with intelligence functions in Vietnam in 1969. Since separation from the military I have worked in a number of capacities, including practice as an attorney and criminologist. I have also owned a dairy business and been director of a Vietnam Veterans Outreach Center for which I received a special commendation from Massachusetts Governor Michael Dukakis.

A couple of years ago I became very suspicious of the U.S. policy in Central America. I resigned as director of the Outreach Center and began a series of trips to see for myself. I have subsequently been to Nicaragua 4 times and to El Salvador and Honduras as once each.

I have walked and ridden 700 kilometers (430 miles) in the northern war zones of Nicaragua. I have talked with hundreds of Nicaraguan people: campesinos, government and church officials, military personnel and contras. I have talked with several hundred victims of the contra terrorists, most of them civilian casualties from anti-tank mines, ambushes, torture, grenade and mortar attacks. I also have talked with many widows and orphans. In El Salvador I talked with survivors of U.S. directed bombing missions. We are committing wholesale murder and maiming.

CNWS is the largest munitions depot on the west coast, and was a major supplier of munitions during the Vietnam war. An April 1985 U.S. Dept. of Defense contract with the government of El Salvador has provided hard evidence of substantial shipments of munitions from CNWS to Central America. Additionally, in November 1986, I spent time with Eugene Hasenfus in Nicaragua discussing the flow of munitions into El Salvador, and their subsequent movement to bases in Honduras, some of which then travel to Nicaraguan-based contras from air drops on several flight patterns.

Enclosed find copies of the April 4 and May 29, 1987, reports of Veterans Peace Action Teams observing and working in Nicaragua. The war is demonic. So-called Low Intensity Conflict is terrorist warfare of the most barbaric form. Our intervention into sovereignty violates a number of domestic and international laws.

As part of a movement to uphold international and U.S. Constitutional law, and to stop the illegal and immoral U.S. war in Central America, I have been involved with many others in the Nuremberg Actions who have been present on a daily basis at CNWS since June 10, 1987. We plan a sustained presence that will include persons placing their bodies on the tracks and roadway, asking you and those moving the munitions to stop their movement. In so doing, we will be upholding the law under the Nuremberg Principles agreed to by the United States, and Article VI of our Constitution which holds our treaties to be Supreme Law.

Commencing September 1, 1987, I plan to Fast on water only on the tracks for a period of 40 consecutive days. I will use this time in sacrificial reflection to atone for our complicity in death policies, and to envision resistance actions in response. Others will be joining, including one of the other members of the 1986 Veterans Fast For Life, Duncan Murphy. I want you to know in advance of this plan. If not incarcerated, deceased or otherwise disabled, I am committed, as the spirit moves me, to be physically on the tracks for part of each of the 40 days. This will be made clear to the public and the media. Other people are expected to be present either on or just off the tracks and roadway as part of the Nuremberg Actions. We believe, and shall affirm, our participation in civil obedience, upholding domestic and international law with our bodies.

Because of the seriousness of these matters I ask that we have a personal meeting to discuss them. This action is not intended to harrass you or any military or civilian personnel. As part of our philosophy of nonviolence, we are committed to treat every person with human respect. We must, however, do everything reasonable in our power to make known the crimes of our country and to stop them from continuing. We ask that you suspend movement of munitions, exercising your responsibility to uphold international law and the U.S. Constitution which considers treaties as part of itself. Under Nuremberg, every citizen, including military personnel, is duty bound to uphold the law, even when ordered otherwise by superiors. I would like to discuss with you your views and response to our concerns.

Some of us have decided to put our bodies on the line to save lives of other people who are worth no less than us. Our killing and our complicity in it must stop! I hope that you will respond so that we can set up a mutually convenient time to meet.

Sincerely,

S. Brian Willson

Enclosures

C:

R.C. Oliver, CHP  
 R. Rainey, CC Sheriff  
 G. Straka, Concord CP  
 K. DeLapp, Concord PD  
 B. Boxer, US HR CA  
 G. Miller, US HR CA  
 A. Cranston, US Sen CA  
 P. Wilson, US Sen CA

Michael Dukakis, Gov Mass.  
 J. Kerry, US Sen Mass  
 E. Kennedy, US Sen Mass  
 P. Leahy, US Sen Vt  
 J. Jeffords, US HR Vt  
 T. Harkin, US Sen Ia  
 D. Bonior, US HR Mi  
 D. Edwards, US HR CA

Variety of other pol. officials & media