

Part One: General

1.1

Program

THURSDAY, July 8

15.00 – 18.30: Arrival and registration

18.30 – 20.00: Supper

20.00: **Welcome**

20.10: **Key note speaker John Van Daele: *The movement for a global justice ‘Another world is possible’ and the peace movement.***

FRIDAY, July 9

8.00 – 8.45: Breakfast

9.15 – 10.15: **Plenary:** opening, greetings, messages, business matter, practicalities, committees, ...

10.15 – 10.45: Coffee

10.45 – 12.30: ***Focus, Variety, Change: a panel on the future of WTR-PTC movements.***

**Panellists: Marian Franz (USA), Daniel Woodham (USA), Pedro Otaduy (Spain),
Bart Horeman (Netherlands)**

12.30 – 14.00: Lunch

14.00 – 15.45: **Workshops I** (choose one of 4)

15.45 – 16.15: Tea

16.15 – 18.15: **Workshops II** (choose one of 4)

18.30 – 20.00: Supper

20.00 – 22.30: **Cultural program**

SATURDAY, July 10

8.00 – 8.45: Breakfast

9.15 – 10.15: **Plenary: oral country reports (highlights and major trends only)**

10.15 – 10.45: Coffee

10.45 – 12.30: **Workshops III** (choose one of 5)

12.30 – 14.00: Lunch

14.00 – 15.45: **General Assembly of CPTI (*Conscience and Peace Tax International*)**

15.45 – 16.15: Tea

16.15 – 18.00: **Plenary: *Voices from the Third World.***

**Panellists: Michael K. Badasu (Ghana), Arya B. Bhardwaj (India),
Ricardo Esquivia (Colombia)**

18.30 – 19.30: Supper

Worship (19.45 – 20.30) and/or **Social Evening**

SUNDAY, July 11

8.00 – 8.45: Breakfast

9.15 – 10.15: **Plenary: oral reports from the workshops**

10.15 – 10.45: Coffee

10.45 – 12.15: **Plenary:** international project, press statement, next conference, evaluation, etc.

12.30 – 14.00: Lunch

14.10: (optional) Departure for walking tour in the “**Marollen**” (15-18h). Start 15.00 in Central station

MONDAY-TUESDAY, July 12-13

8.00 – 8.45: Breakfast

9.00: (optional) Excursion by bus to “**Flanders Fields**” in and around Ieper (Ypres) and Diksmuide

Conference	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
Year + Month	1986 Sept.	1988 Sept.	1990 Sept.	1992 Nov.	1994 Sept.	1996 Nov.	1998 Dec.	2000 July	2002 Sept.	2004 July
Country	Germany	Netherlands	Italy	Belgium	Spain	U.K.	India	USA	Germany	Belgium
Place	Tübingen	Vierhouten	Aosta	Brussels	Hondarribia	Hoddesdon	New Delhi	Wash DC	Hirschluch	Brussels
Argentina	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Australia	1	1	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Bangladesh	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	-	1	-
Belgium	3	3	2	*	3	4	4	2	3	*
Canada	1	-	-	1	2	1	-	2	2	4
Columbia	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
Denmark	-	1	3	1	1	1	-	-	1	1
France	2	-	3	-	-	2	-	-	-	-
Germany	*	11	4	11	6	5	4	5	*	29
Ghana	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	1
Guatemala	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-
Honduras	-	-	-	1	-	1	-	1	-	-
India	-	-	1	1	-	1	*	2	1	1
Italy	-	2	*	4	4	4	6	1	1	-
Japan	1	1	-	-	-	-	-	2	-	-
Luxemburg	2	1	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-
Nepal	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-
Netherlands	7	*	5	10	5	4	3	3	7	5
Nigeria	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-
Norway	-	1	1	-	1	1	1	1	2	2
Palestine	-	-	-	-	1	2	-	-	-	-
Russia	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	1	-	-
Sierra Leone	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	0	-
Spain	2	2	-	4	*	1	-	1	1	1
Sweden	-	1	1	1	2	1	1	-	-	-
Switzerland	2	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	1
U.K.	6	10	5	12	6	*	2	6	6	3
USA	11	8	7	7	7	6	6	*	6	14
TOTAL FOREIGNERS	38	43	34	54	38	35	29	29	36	63
* HOST COUNTRY	*49	*16	*59	*8	*24	*40	*33	*95	*60	*10
TOTAL PARTICIPANTS	87	59	97	62	62	75	62	124	96	73
TOTAL COUNTRIES	12	14	13	13	12	16	10	15	15	13

Participation in International WTR-PTC Conferences

Remarks.

1. Participants are listed in their country of residence (not in the country of their nationality).
2. Volunteers are counted under the host country.
3. Interpreters are sometimes counted under their country of origin, sometimes under the host country, sometimes not at all.
4. Statistics compiled by Dirk Panhuis.

1.4

Who are we?

by Dominique Boisvert

(Conscience Canada & Nos impôts pour la paix)

Diversity

What I discovered with great surprise was **the enormous diversity of the "movement" around the world**. Some movements are better organized, financed and staffed (Germany, England, Holland, USA) but most of them are much smaller but surprisingly active given their limitations (like VRAK in Belgium, CC and NIPP in Canada, Norway, Spain or Italy). Some seem to be "on the rise" (from past slumps like Germany? and CC/NIPP?) and others are smaller than they used to be (UK? Japan?). Some seem to be limited to individual contacts, either in Northern countries, like France which was absent, or in the South, where a certain number of individuals have been linked to the Conferences, sometimes for many years (India, Ghana, Honduras, Bangladesh, Columbia). In the South, the "movement" may well be larger though not as specifically centered on WTR-PTC (like the Gandhi-in-action movement from India which has been present for the past numerous years and even held the 1998 Conference in New Delhi).

Some movements are mainly or only centered on "war tax resistance" in its various forms (and many of those involved might well never be "satisfied" with any "peace tax bill" that could be adopted) and some others are concentrating on obtaining some form legal recognition of fiscal CO or Peace Tax at the national and/or international levels (some of them being also individual WTR or withholding their "war taxes" and some others not doing so until they obtain legal recognition). Some movements are also doing both at the same time (Germany, United Kingdom, VRAK-Flanders, CC and NIPP) with more (CC) or less (NIPP) emphasis on obtaining a legal recognition. In the Netherlands the *Movement Refusal Defense Tax* (refusal to pay war tax and search for legal recognition for C.O.'s) has evolved to *Euros for Peace* (having as its purpose: "to induce all sectors of society to use money to peace and not to violence").

Some movement are relatively well structured (with or without legal incorporation), sometimes with local "branches" in some cities (Germany, USA) and others are a relatively informal gathering of individuals from certain cities or from across the country who have in common the desire to oppose war and work for peace through the financial/tax angle (Spain, Italy).

Common denominator?

At CPTI, there is much more common focus because its "raison d'être" is to push international bodies for more COMS (Conscientious Objection to Military Service) and COMT (CO to Military Taxation) legal recognition both at the international AND national levels.

At the WTR-PTC Conferences, it is more difficult to identify the precise common ground, except at a more general level: everybody (movements, groups and individuals) is committed to work against war and for peace, especially through the financial/tax aspect. Individuals may speak from a WTR and CO perspective: "I do not want to be part of it"; as a collective they may say: "we work to lower military spending, through our own withholding and/or through getting this 'right' to withhold for all interested taxpayers and/or through direct anti-war/pro-peace activism of all sorts".

This plurality of views/actions is not only reflected in the long Conference "title" (WTR and PTC) but also magnified by the extremely diverse legal and cultural contexts: Italy, for example, has obtained a sort of *de facto* recognition of the right to direct (some of?) their military taxes to international development or other charitable projects, while in many (most?) countries from the Third World, income tax does not even exist for most citizens who rather contribute only through indirect taxation.

Some would want the totality of their taxes (from all sources) to be directed to peace or a peace fund, while others would be satisfied with only the "military portion" of their taxes to be directed this way. That military portion varies from about 50% of federal taxes in USA to below 10% in many countries. Some are preoccupied with "where exactly" their "military money" will be spent (they want a right to monitor the trace of their money), while others would be satisfied with a solemn government annual declaration or commitment that none of the CO tax money would be spent on

military purposes. Finally we also realized that in many "northern countries", the military taxes we pay are having a direct effect on other countries. For example, it is not so much the Columbian people who pay for the horrifying war going on in their country, but rather the American taxpayers through the Columbia Plan.

Cooperation

This wide variety of approaches and situations raise the major issue: **how could (and should) we best work together?** That is where the experience of the anti-globalisation ("altéromondialisation" in French and Spanish) movement is interesting and useful. More and more, we are globally connected on many issues (peace being one of the major one) and we are learning how to work as large coalitions ("rainbow coalitions") of people and groups with very diverse purposes and/or strategies. Of course, it is not easy and we are just at the beginning. But the World Social Forum (WSF) experiences of the last 5 years shows us some interesting directions to follow, and it is not a coincidence if each WSF has made a clearer connexion between their "social agenda" and the "war and peace issue". The culmination of this connexion has become very clear at the latest Mumbai WSF Declaration of January 2004.

Our direction seems to be working on "how can we work together, with synergy and complementarity, out of our differences/diversity" rather than on "how can we resolve our differences or reach a minimum consensus on our analysis, purposes or strategy". This is even true of our various peace groups and movements within each country: Germany explained how many diverse peace groups had been able to work together to organize a common "Peace Fair", but how it was nonetheless impossible to agree on a common position/reaction, among the same groups, to the 9/11 event.

The permanent and growing challenge will be: "how can we respect, and even favour, diversity in our movement while making sure that we can use the "best of each approach" in a complementary and collective "social building" perspective?"

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1.5

Photos

Legend to the photos on the next two pages:

Photos 3 and 5 are taken by Hilde Mariën, all others by Friedrich Heilmann.

- 1: Maison Notre-Dame du chant d'oiseau (Our-Lady of the Birds' Song)
- 2: Plenary room (former convent refectory)
- 3: Jan Hellebaut ready for registration
- 4: Dirk Panhuis presiding. The banner is a gift from Marya Nijland for this and coming conferences.
- 5: Panel: "Focus, Variety, Change": (from left to right) Daniel Woodham, Bart Horeman, Dirk Panhuis, Marian Franz; Pedro Otaduy
- 6: Interpreters' booth (right: Yan-Christoph Pelz)
- 7: Panel: "Voices from the South": Michael Badasu, Dirk Panhuis, Arya Bhardwaj, Ricardo Esquivia
- 8: Plenary room
- 9: Workshop with Oliver Haslam
- 10: Workshop with Deanna Douglas
- 11: Game led by Gertie Brammer
- 12: Robert Antoch, Martina Weitsch, Sepp Rottmayr, Kshama Pandey, Ute Antoch
- 13: Gifts to Dirk Panhuis, Arya Bhardwaj, Nana-Fosu Randall, Ricardo Esquivia Ballestas
- 14: Dining room
- 15: Five of the 7 Board members of CPTI: Pedro Otaduy, Ricardo Esquivia, Hannelore Morgenstern-Przygoda, Marian Franz, Dirk Panhuis
- 16: Flemish organizers (VRAK): Dirk Panhuis, Januario Tavares Silva, Hilde Mariën, Koen Moens, Jan Hellebaut, Anja Nuttin

1.6

ABBREVIATIONS**UNO**

CHR	UN Commission of Human Rights: formulates resolutions/policy guidelines for the world. Yearly session (March-April) in Geneva, CH
CtteeHR	UN Committee on Human Rights composed of 13 legal experts. Receives complaints against govmts; reviews HR reports of govnmnts; can give “general comments”
DPI	Department of Public Information of ECOSOC
ECOSOC	Economic and Social Council of the UNO: with many commissions (like CHR, ...)
ICJ	International Court of Justice (of the UNO) (The Hague, Netherlands)
ICCPR	International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (of the UNO)
UDHR	Universal Declaration on Human Rights (of the UNO)
UNOG	United Nations Organization Office in Geneva, CH
UNONY	United Nations Organization in New York, USA

EU

CM	Council of Ministers (of the EU)
Commission	European Commission of the EU
ECJ	European Court of Justice (of the EU) (Luxembourg)
EEC	European Economic Community: now part of the EU
EP	(elected) European Parliament (of the EU: 25 countries) in Brussels and Strasbourg
EU	European Union (25 European countries): economic and political union

CoE

CHR-CoE	Court of Human Rights of the CoE (Strasbourg, France)
CoE	Council of Europe (Strasbourg, France): human rights and parliamentary democracy: some 30 member countries
ECHR	European Convention on Human Rights (of the CoE) - with additional protocols
ECHR	European Commission on Human Rights (of the CoE) (Strasbourg, France), which is a filter to the Court of Human rights in Strasbourg
LAC	Legal Affairs Committee (with a sub-committee on human rights) (of the CoE) (Strasbourg, France)
PA	Parliamentary Assembly (of national delegates to CoE) (Strasbourg, France)

OTHER

CO	Conscientious Objector/ion
COF	Campaña de Objeción Fiscal (Pamplona-Iruñea, Spain)
COMS	Conscientious Objection to Military Service
COMT	Conscientious Objection to Military Taxation
CPTI	Conscience and Peace Tax International (Leuven, Belgium)
EBCO	European Bureau of Conscientious Objectors (Barcelona/Brussels)
NCPTF	National Campaign for a Peace Tax Fund (USA: Washington, DC)
NGO	Non-Governmental Organization
NIPP	Nos impôts pour la paix (Canada)
NWTRCC	National War Tax Resistance Coordinating Committee (USA)
NWFS	Netzwerk Friedenssteuer (Rauenberg, Germany)
OSM-DPN	Campagna Nazionale di Obiezione alle Spese Militari per le Difesa Popolare Nonviolenta (Milano, Italy)
PTC	Peace Tax Campaign
QCEA	Quaker Council on European Affairs (Brussels, Belgium)
QUNOG	Quaker Office at UNO (Geneva, CH)
QUNONY	Quaker Office at UNO (N.Y., USA)
VRAK	AKtie VRedesbelasting (Antwerp, Belgium)
WTR	War Tax Resistance

1.7

Financial report in euros**INCOME**

1 Participants: lodging, meals, sheets.....	4.751,75
2 Participants: conference fee.....	3.845,00
3 Participants: excursion Marolles.....	185,00
4 Participants: excursion Flanders Fields.....	685,00
5 Participants: contributions travel fund.....	1.034,22
6 Grant for travel fund: Développement et Paix (Canada).....	933,72
7 Donation: Political evening prayer Munich (Germany).....	140,00
8 Donation: NWFS (Ninth conference, Germany).....	5.000,00
9 Donation: Joseph Rowntree Charitable Trust (U.K.).....	1.500,00
10 Other.....	14,60
TOTAL	18.089,29

EXPENSES

1 ND Chant d'oiseau (lodging, meals, breaks, sheets, plenary hall)*.....	5.478,75
2 ND Chant d'oiseau: extra meeting rooms.....	180,00
3 Translation (equipment, technician) + tapes.....	2.559,15
4 Staff.....	2.500,00
5 Speaker.....	100,00
6 Excursion Marolles (guides).....	140,00
7 Excursion Flanders Fields (bus, chauffeur, musea).....	1.021,50
8 Support participants from the South*.....	2.060,76
(one full plane ticket, insurance, visa, part of plane ticket, DHL, excursion Flanders Fields, adm., mail, transportation, lodging ICA, ...)	
9 Volunteers and interpreters (transportation, drinks, gifts)*.....	1.024,40
10 Administration.....	572,09
11 Conference report (copies + mailing).....	1.280,00
12 Other (Bank of the Post).....	28,35
TOTAL	16.947,00

RESULT ****+ € 1.142,29**

* Lodging, meals, etc. for volunteers, interpreters, and some participants from the South (at least 71,00 € p.p.) are included in Expenses item 1.

** The positive balance will be kept at the disposal of the next conference.

1.8

**Tenth International Conference on
War Tax Resistance and Peace Tax Campaigns
Brussels**

PRESS RELEASE

July 12, 2004

The 10th International Conference on War Tax Resistance and Peace Tax Campaigns concluded on Sunday, July 11 in Brussels, Belgium. Some 70 attendees from a dozen countries gathered. The conference meets biennially to further the efforts of groups around the world working on issues of conscientious objection to military taxation (COMT) and towards the recognition of the human right to refuse to financially support war and militarism. The conference serves as a place for peace activists from varied regions to make contact, listen to and help one another.

Today and tomorrow the conference visits Flanders Fields in West-Flanders.

The conference-members presented detailed updates on war tax resistance and peace tax legislation from many countries with histories of these campaigns; such as Belgium, Spain, the UK and the US, the Netherlands, Denmark, Norway and Canada. Conference participants exchanged general strategies, lobbying arguments and techniques, traded information, and discussed recent successes and failures. Lobbyists also outlined efforts at the international level: work done with respect to COMT in the United Nations; the European Union and the Council of Europe. A multitude of related workshop topics included training in lobbying techniques, summaries of recent COMT court cases around the world, and presentations of alternative forms of security.

Representatives from Ghana, India and Colombia also spoke of the situations in their countries. Military spending in western countries, currently at a frightening all-time high, has deep repercussions worldwide. It is all too clear that the taxes of one nation can serve to militarize another. All the while, in the face of this record spending, many countries of the global south languish in grinding poverty. There exists a global shift towards militarization, and the presentations portrayed the unfair and unwanted globalization of militarism. These speakers highlighted the opportunity of our time: to reject this, and seek instead to globalize our spirit of nonviolent cooperation.

The conference made plain the importance of these events for this community, and reaffirmed a commitment to continue meeting in this capacity. We met in a context of global violence; oppression; and grief. One notion surfaced repeatedly during the proceedings. We realize that this tragic setting in which we gather, despite the temptation to despair, is no time at all to back down or "lay low". On the contrary, this is a time to redouble our efforts. Our work is sorely needed—perhaps now more than ever before—and we invite others to join us in this work. It is our hope that this does not serve as a symbolic declaration; but translates into real commitment and action towards our objectives when we return to our home countries.

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