



WHAT IT MEANS TO BE A VETERAN FOR PEACE Wilson (Woody) Powell - USAF - Korea, 1952-53

As a general proposition, we are against militarization of Foreign and Domestic policies that promote economic interests ahead of human and planetary interests. We believe that militarization and violence go hand in hand and carry us further from peace.

EXAMPLES

Colombia, SA, where military intervention to stop coca production feeds the violence of a civil war, while at the same time buying security for foreign investment in oil, timber, coal, gold resources.

Chiapas, Mexico, where US-trained and equipped Mexican troops hold entire indigenous communities hostage, waiting for them to disintegrate, lose their cultural identity and become sources of cheap labor.

Missouri pig farmers were recently quoted as saying that large corporate farms are squeezing them and waiting for them to disintegrate and become sources of cheap labor.

Honduras, where a large US military base presides over the neighboring countries of El Salvador and Nicaragua, making certain that their politics do not interfere with US corporate interests in those countries. Meanwhile poverty and resentment builds.

California, where the US Marines Urban Warrior teams invaded the cities of Monterey and Oakland with tanks and Humvees, "hunting for terrorists", putting the civilian populace under martial law.

Iraq, where continual bombing and embargoes have disintegrated a highly developed, technological society, making it vulnerable to economic takeover in the future. The lure is oil, of course. The savaging of a population will inevitably lead to more savagery.

Korea, where the North has been demonized and reunification has been discouraged by US policy, backed by US troops still occupying Korean territory after 50 years. China sees it as nothing more than an elaborate pretext for keeping a nuclear-armed military presence close to their shores. It frightens them and it angers them - as it would us.

SOME OF THE THINGS WE DO

We become informed and inform others. We often go to where the action is and see for ourselves. If we can't, we find out who does go there and listen to what they say. We take nothing for granted.

We ask local media for coverage of the topics that concern us and comment when we discover an untruth or distortion of fact.

We write letters, make phone calls letting our representatives know we are watching their performance. As an informed electorate, we let leaders know they must be accountable for their decisions.

We try to vote intelligently. We ask candidates to commit themselves to policies before hand. We believe an informed electorate can put people in positions of power and leadership that will further the processes of peace and pull back from policies that lead to war.

We form alliances with other organizations interested in promoting peace and justice, and demonstrate our concerns and convictions in the most effective ways we can.