

WHO ARE PLOUGHSHARES AOTEAROA?



In April 2008, three Christian pacifists, Sam Land, Peter Murnane and Adi Leason, entered the Waihopai spy base and deflated a pressurised dome covering one of the satellite dishes.

This followed in the tradition of previous “non-violent direct actions” by the Ploughshares movement in which military planes, ships, hardware and bases were symbolically disarmed. In the last 20 years Ploughshares activists have undertaken over 120 of these actions. One of these, in 1991, involved New Zealander Moana Cole who disarmed a B52 bomber by hitting it with a hammer. She was imprisoned in the USA for a year.

Sam, Peter and Adi, who are practising Catholics, used sickles to deflate the dome, symbolically disarming the spy base. Their aim was to draw attention to New Zealand’s involvement in the US war in Iraq through the presence of this base in our country. While waiting to be arrested, they prayed and set up a shrine in remembrance of victims of US torture, assassination and mass murder.

The hope of the Ploughshares activists is the closing of the Waihopai spy base and the severing of military links to the United States.

“They shall beat their swords into ploughshares, their spears into pruning hooks; nation shall not lift sword against nation; and there shall be no more training for war.” Isaiah 2:4

For more information on Ploughshares visit

www.ploughshares.org.nz

For more information on Waihopai visit

www.converge.org.nz/abc

WHAT IS THE WAIHOPAI SPY BASE?



Waihopai spy base is not a weather station, as previously reported.

Waihopai is a major secret US spy base.

Waihopai is NZ’s biggest contribution to America’s wars in Iraq and Afghanistan.

Waihopai intercepts and records your international phone calls and e-mail.

Waihopai is part of a five nation network of global surveillance known as “Echelon” which is implicated in the mass killings of innocent civilians.

Waihopai does not operate in the interests of NZ or our neighbours.

Waihopai is not effectively accountable to Parliament or the people. It is exempt from key provisions of the Privacy Act and Crimes Act

Waihopai intercepts huge volumes of electronic data and sends it to Washington for analysis by the US military.

Waihopai has cost the NZ taxpayer \$500 million to build and operate over the last 20 years.

Waihopai is shrouded in secrecy and key information about the base - such as who exactly is being spied on and what happens to the information - is classified.