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Patricia Thomas Nuclear Disarmament Talk 1982 Article

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Topic At Denison University

should strive to attain.

"That's not womanly," said mother, feminist, heretic Sonia Johnson. "That's human!"

WOMEN MARCH FOR NUCLEAR DISARMAMENT

One Granville woman's commitment to global peace has taken her outside the country to exchange ideas and concerns with her contemporaries in Europe.

Patricia Thomas takes her Quaker religious learnings seriously, as well as her belief that the salvation of the world may well rest in the hands of compassionate, caring, concerned women. A member of the Ohio Baptist Peace Fellowship and co-chair of the Granville/Denison Peace fellowship, Mrs. Thomas was invited by several Danish groups to meet with participates in the Women's Peace March from Stockholm to Russia in 1982.

"It's o.k. to be afraid of the Russians, but...." Mrs. Thomas titled her presentation last Thursday at Slayter Auditorium. In a slide show and discussion, the local peace activist advised U.S. citizens to suspend their feelings about being Americans. She called on the audience members imagine how it must feel to live in a European country and question whether you had any control over your

future, when it came to the deployment of nuclear weapons.

Scandinavians, Russians and Americans are speaking the same language, Pat Thomas proclaimed. It is the language of peace.

The intent of the 1982 march was to protest the deployment of Pershing II and Trident missiles in Europe. She cautioned that there is now a balance of power between the East and the West, but that it is "a balance of terror."

Deploying nuclear weapons in Europe "to keep Russians out of America's backyard" is a protective umbrella which Europeans do not want, the peace member stressed.

The march from Stockholm to Moscow was a united call initiated by Scandinavian women to stop the insanity of the nuclear arms race. The slogan pleaded no to nuclear weapons in Europe—East and West, no to nuclear weapons the world over, yes to disarmament.

Through the march, and particularly when joined by thousands of Russian citizens, the plea for peace was clear and strong, Mrs. Thomas reported. She urged all persons to remember their humanity during this time of potential nuclear holocaust. "If you can, you will find paradise," she stated. "If you can't, the result will be universal death."

These times call for courage, the audience was informed. Energies need to be put into building understanding and trust. It is time to say "enough!" The future of the world is in the balance.

"We as a people will learn to live together," Mrs. Thomas concluded, "or we will perish together."



SEEKING WORLD PEACE. Mrs. Patricia Thomas, co-chairperson of the Granville Peace Fellowship and member of the Baptist Peace Fellowship, presented a slide show presentation on the Scandinavian Women's March for Peace and called on all persons to actively work toward nuclear freeze and disarmament.