

discussions on the struggles of the Kurdish people to achieve their inherent rights as a minority. The role of western military sales to Turkey in the suppression of Kirdish rights was made clear and Canadian Peace Train participants were reminded of Canada's very significant sales of weapons to this country.

Our stop in Odessa allowed us to meet with the Chief of the Odessa District Council, who spoke of the difficulty of maintaining equity in social services to the 120 different ethnic groups in his region in this time of severe economic pressures. We also exchanged views on how to move from a culture of war to a culture of peace, agreeing that a culture based on militaristic views, a militaristic economy, and military production is not sustainable. Working towards a more just society, eliminating all violence, including economic and social discrimination, choosing negotiated, win-win solutions to all conflicts, personal or societal, were starting points we all agreed with and felt we could make progress on.

The next leg of our journey took us to Almaty, Kazakhstan where we learned of the problems left over from the time when Kazakhstan was one of the republics of the former USSR. This country will suffer for a long time from the genetic consequences and environmental destruction of over 200 nuclear tests carried out by the Soviet military. Needless to say, the people of Kazakhstan are very concerned about the resumption of Chinese testing; the Lop Nor test site borders on Kazakhstan.¹ We learned also of the struggles similar to those in Eastern Europe, with the transition to a market economy, of increased drug abuse, and the rise of crime. We learned of the difficulties in re-establishing the Kazak culture, suppressed for many years by a large ethnic Russian minority.

After Almaty we transferred from the Russian train to the Chinese one for the last three days of our trip to Beijing. In Beijing, one of the most important conclusions of the Fourth

World Conference on Women, from a peace perspective is the following paragraph of the final Beijing declaration:

Take positive steps to ensure peace for the advancement of women and, recognize the leading role that women have played in the peace movement, work actively towards general and complete disarmament under strict and effective international control, and support negotiations on the conclusion without delay, or a nuclear-test ban treaty which contributes to nuclear disarmament and the prevention of the proliferation of nuclear weapons in all its aspects. (Article 28)

We must continue to work assiduously to achieve the world acceptance that war, in all its forms, is illegal and

that parties that engage in conflicts or wars are to be penalized by the world community.

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¹Lop Nor is in the western-most corner of China, bordering on Kazakhstan, where the Chinese have been testing above-ground nuclear weapons. The Chinese government resumed testing in September 1995.

JENNIFER FEBBRARO

Pattern #53

I glue sequens to my cheeks and smile like a charm.
I don't make the rules, you said, and you shouldn't need
my approval anyways. Closed the door.
The clock got fat and I climbed round its womb
to twelve. Built a board for diving there
and named it love.

Quicker than a gun
I flew ten stories down
humming our song. While you beat the computer at chess,
I spelled escape with my body,
I wore the costume of a clown
and let my words like balloons at a carnival fly.

When I reached the gound
my face got up on its hind legs and begged.
I crawled out of my skin to start again
in search of what I owned that wouldn't die.

Jennifer Febraro was born and raised in Sault Ste. Marie and has an MA in Philosophy. This is her first published poem.